

Editorial and Opinion

The Sandy Post will look different next week

The Sandy Post will make several format changes next issue to strengthen the overall appearance of the paper and better group the growing number of pages. We feel these changes will make The Post easier to read and easier to locate news items.

The Post is expanding from two news sections to three. One section will contain news from the mountain and Eagle Creek along with features and with a section cover that serves as a second front page. A third section will contain sports and recreation news along with a television directory

localized for our area.

A new front-page index will help readers locate these new items, plus serve as a guide in finding food and garden news, obituaries, "Keeping Posted," the editorial page and our "People" page.

We are also moving the editorial and opinion page from two to the back of the first section.

The Post staff is committed to increasing coverage of the mountain area in circulation and news coverage. Our area is growing and changing and The Post is growing with it. (VB)

Spiraling cost of Hershey bars shows inflation

Inflation and the soaring costs of goods and services are on everyone's mind these days. Economists, politicians and businessmen all have their own method of determining how bad inflation really is. To the common man, most of these seem like gobbledegook and doubletalk. However, the working man has one true indicator of how bad conditions really are: the Hershey chocolate bar.

The price of a Hershey bar is an accurate reflection of the cost of doing business in today's world. At first, Hershey Food Corp. sold its candy for 5 cents. Over the years, that price has crept slowly upward.

Hershey bars soon became a dime, then 15 cents and finally 20 cents. Now the shocking news. The new price will be 25 cents.

But the news is not entirely bad. The firm says the weight of the bar will increase from 1.05 ounces to 1.2 ounces, a 9.4 percent increase compared with the 25 percent increase in price.

Most people have had a hard time understanding President Carter's proposals for wage and price controls to help fight inflation, but now everyone has something they can grasp onto and rally around. Inflation has really struck home.

Loser Ruth McFarland shows winning style

Every election produces winners and losers. Anyone who finishes second has to decide how to accept that loss, and there are some good losers, some poor losers.

Ruth McFarland fits into the former category. Though she's disappointed at losing in the race for state superintendent of public instruction, she's taking a very positive stance.

Ruth says she doesn't feel like a loser. "When 318,000 people vote for you, it has to be a very humbling and, at the same time, a very exhilarating experience.

"People come up to me every

day and tell me how they admired the race we ran. You have to stop and think. To have that many people put their trust in you is a sobering thing."

Moreover, Ruth looks on her campaign as an unequalled learning time she won't soon forget. "I learned a lot about the office, about government in general."

Ruth may or may not take another try at an elective post. (She also ran unsuccessfully against State Senator Vern Cook two years ago). But whatever her decision as to the future, we're glad we supported her this time around.

From other editors:

Topple the debt structure

It is only four years since the U.S. and the rest of the world avoided a financial collapse. Going into the deepest recession since the 1930s, they were encumbered by a towering debt structure that in this country alone came to \$2.5 trillion at the close of 1974. Only good luck, force of habit, and an unusually high degree of international cooperation saved them from a panicky liquidation.

Economic policymakers should have learned something from that experience. Obviously, they did not. In the long upswing that followed the slump, the U.S. has developed a new debt economy that is bigger and in many ways riskier than the old one.

The structure of today's

debt, moreover, is shakier than that of 1974. Corporations, which were the heaviest borrowers then, have largely kept to the sidelines. The leaders of this debt economy are the consumers — whose ability to carry the load is most open to question — and the federal government, whose borrowing has the greatest inflationary impact on the economy.

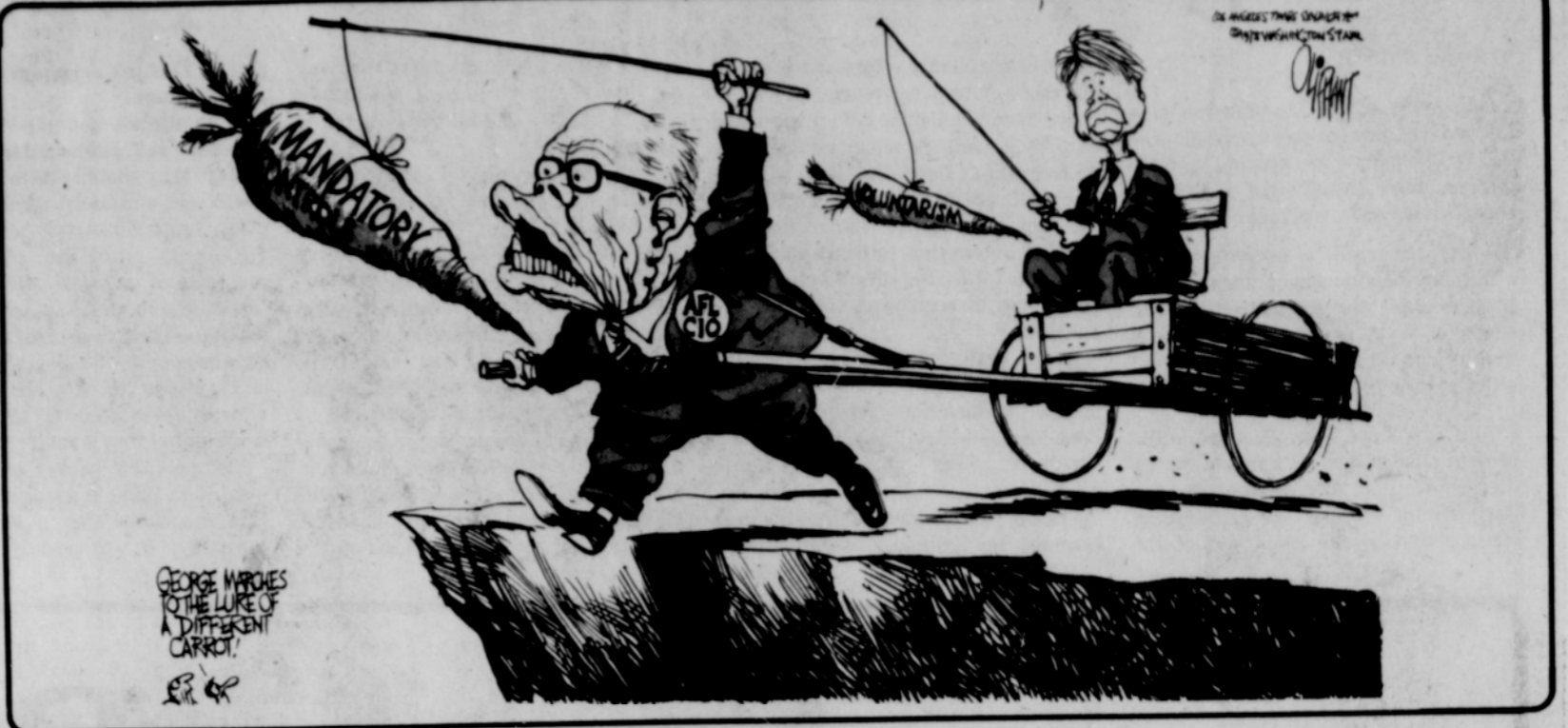
This debt economy is a creation of Washington policy. It has been built by massive Treasury borrowing and massive borrowing by consumers in response to fiscal and monetary policies designed to promote immediate consumption instead of long-term investment. It has been generated in response to the

inherently inflationary policies the federal government has pursued.

Restraining the top-heavy growth of debt, therefore, is part of the broader problem of bringing inflation under control. The White House and the Federal Reserve must tighten fiscal and monetary policy until they check both inflation and the borrowing binge. At the same time that they take the emphasis off consumption, they must try to encourage new investment, primarily through tax relief.

Bringing the old debt economy into balance will be a painful process. But the longer Washington waits and the longer it tries to give all things to everyone, the more violent the final reckoning will be.

—Business Week



Washington Report

NW legislators moving up in power

WASHINGTON — You may have heard that Congress has moved away from the seniority system in recent years. Take that news with a grain of salt.

Proof of the seniority system's vitality in the Senate and House of Representatives is the increased power which will flow to the Pacific Northwest congressional delegation at the beginning of the 96th Congress.

The shift of power in Congress, away from the South and to the Northwest, has been a major political development in America over the last decade. The recent general election left the Northwest delegation

intact, except for the defeat of freshman Rep. Jack Cunningham, R-Wash.

Because of election upsets elsewhere in the country and the usual attrition from retirements and death, the region will gain considerably when the Congress is organized in January.

If a region does benefit from aggregated power in Congress, the Northwest's rise to influence comes at a propitious moment. It would be hard to draw up a list of legislation more critical to the Northwest than the pending major legislation that will affect the region's energy future, timber resources, farming and salmon fishing.

The Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act (which

declare certain federal land as wilderness, other land as harvestable timber. The

would rewrite the electricity rate schedule as well as plan the region's energy future (will make a return appearance. A new arrival will be the RARE 11 legislation (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation), which would

By STEVE FORRESTER



environmentalist movement and the forest products industry will likely square off over this one.

Members of the Washington state delegation are planning to introduce a bill to affect the stresses and strains which their state has felt since the Boldt decision in federal court affecting Indian fishing rights.

Finally, Northwest farm interests will follow closely another attempt to rewrite the laws governing irrigation of farms with reclamation project water the so-called 160-acre limit legislation.

The Northwest will be well supplied with heavy movers for this mountain of political pulling and hauling that waits to be done. Sen. Warren G. Magnuson, 73, becomes the most senior U.S. senator in January — president pro tempore of the Senate as well as chairman of the Senate's most important committee, Appropriations. Close behind in seniority, ranking fifth, will be Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash. At 66, he will be chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

In the House, Rep. Tom Foley, D-Wash., 49, returns from a narrow election victory to resume chairmanship of the House Agriculture Committee, which will pass on the RARE 11 Program. Rep. Al Ullman, D-Ore., 64, is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Seniority is heavy even among the Northwest's minority membership. Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., has gained seniority dramatically from retirements and election defeats (of Sen. Clifford Case, R-N.J., in the primary and Sen. Edward Brooke, R-Mass., in the general election). Hatfield becomes ranking Republican on the Senate Energy Committee and No. 2 ranking Republican on Appropriations.

With Magnuson and Hatfield in such key spots on Appropriations, Oregon and Washington should not suffer at the pork barrel. Meanwhile, Jackson will maintain purview over energy matters and over the Alaska lands issue, which returns. Church's committee handles all foreign agricultural agreements and trade treaties, while Foley's will handle RARE11 and agricultural programs and Ullman's will deal with tax policy.

Oregon's junior senator, Bob Packwood, is running for chairmanship of the Senate Republican Conference Committee, the

group which develops long-term party policy. Packwood, who faces a re-election campaign in 1980, is making reforestation one of his main concerns, and he would like to move to the Senate Agriculture Committee, which passes on the U.S. Forest Service's agenda.

Rep. Jim Weaver, D-Ore., who survived a tough re-election race, might face a tough choice of whether to keep his chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Forests, which will deal with RARE 11, or take Meeds' old subcommittee if it comes his way and have great influence upon the Northwest energy bill.

Rep. Mike McCormack, D-Wash., is getting close to the top of the House Science and Technologies Committee.

Subcommittee chairmanships may be within the grasp of Reps. Don Bonker, D-Wash., and Bob Duncan, D-Ore. Bonker will move up six notches on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, and an outside possibility for him is chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation and the Environment.

Duncan may have a shot at chairmanship of the House Appropriations Transportation subcommittee, which passes on the budgets of Amtrak, the Civil Aeronautics Board, the Urban Mass Transit Administration and the Federal Highway Administration.

Among the region's Republican congressmen, Rep. Joel Pritchard has picked up a spot on the International Relations Committee, which Bonker also sits on. Pritchard hopes to change his subcommittee assignment from Europe and the Middle East to Asian and Pacific Affairs. Pritchard is ranking Republican on the oceanography subcommittee of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee.

Another Northwest Republican who has gained status is Rep. Steve Symms of Idaho, who becomes ranking Republican on the Forests Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee.

Like Bonker, Rep. Les AuCoin, D-Ore., has gained marked seniority on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. He also has risen on the Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee, but he is probably just out of reach of a subcommittee chairmanship.

Rep. Norm Dicks, D-Wash., will gain seniority on the House Appropriations Committee during his second term but probably will not see a subcommittee chairmanship.

Finally, Washington state's two new Democratic congressmen, Al Swift (who replaces Lloyd Meeds) and Mike Lowry (who defeated Jack Cunningham) will be angling for committee assignments that will give them some visibility in the region.

Steve Forester is a Washington D.C. based political columnist who writes a weekly report for the Sandy Post.

From other editors:

Postal Service makes gains

Grumbling about the U.S. Postal Service is almost as popular a pastime as complaining about the weather. And the reasons are obvious to anyone who has had to put up with mail arriving late, letters misdirected to those "faraway places" Americans used to sing about, and nevertheless higher payments to get that kind of mail service. Despite such obvious shortcomings, however, the Postal Service under the direction of Postmaster General William Bolger is showing some hopeful signs of progress, the latest being the report that the service's deficit for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30 is considerably smaller than the previous year's \$688 million.

In light of earlier projections that the postal deficit would reach \$1.2 billion, this is encouraging evidence that efforts to institute automation, trim the size of the work force, and introduce other innovations aimed at increasing productivity and cutting costs are starting to pay off. Of course, the Postal Service still has a long way to go to become the streamlined, efficient operation Americans have a right to expect.

But Mr. Bolger should be given credit for realistically tackling such enormous tasks as whittling down the size of the work force. He has managed to reduce it, primarily through attrition, from 729,000 to 655,000 with further cuts to come. New, speedier automatic letter-sorting machines are allowing employees to cope better with the growing volume of mail through improved productivity. And moves within the next few months to standardize the size of envelopes and initiate

use of new nine-digit Zip codes should help too.

The postmaster general sees increased reliance on automation and these other steps as eliminating, for the foreseeable future, any need to reduce mail service to five days a week or to close down smaller, neighborhood post offices, which will certainly come as welcome news to Americans who have become accustomed to what may one day be viewed as luxuries taxpayers can no longer afford. While it doesn't appear the Postal Service will be completely self-sufficient anytime soon, it is a positive sign that Mr. Bolger and other top postal officials do not see a need for higher postal rates or enlarged federal subsidies in the immediate future.

That is indeed news worth writing home about.

— Christian Science Monitor

Letters to the editor

Wild dog story

To The Editor:

Long ago I gave up trapping and hunting for a more challenging sport — baiting a flash camera in the woods. It came about this way.

High on a ridge far up Alder Creek canyon, I came upon a Collie dog caught in one of my traps. Contrary to the warning of my companion that I might be bitten, I released the exhausted animal and carried it back to the car.

I was convinced that my captive belonged to a pack of dogs running wild in the hills and likely crossed with the coyotes so abundant in the woods.

Many persons insisted that I had simply caught a dog which had wandered up the canyon perhaps from some farm house. I immediately baited a flash camera and began to collect pictures of the pack. Later, fisherman began to report having caught sight of the dogs running in a pack, they counted seven in all and lead by a large, wolfish looking canine.

My hybrid dog became a

gentle and highly intelligent pet. I had only to shoulder my knap sack, and it would dash outdoors to the car eager to accompany me into the woods. As a writer, I often pounded on my typewriter until late in the evening while the dog lay at my feet. It seemed to sense when my work was done for it jumped up and patiently waited to be let into the basement. It would rub noses with the family cat but would attack a domestic dog on sight.

At last there was a blueprint for tragedy in the neighborhood. A small girl with a pint-sized terrier moved next door. Wisdom prevailed that I must part with my beloved pet. I sent the animal to live on a farm near Boring.

The journey's up Alder Creek road are now lonely. I miss the companionship of my pet snatched from the wilderness. Often I hear a howling in the woods, perhaps the lonesome cry of a dog gone wild — a creature that cannot come home again.

But my wild dog left me with a legacy. I no longer

carry a rifle or steel traps into the woods. I tote along my camera and a bag of goodies to feed some hungry prowler in the woods. I use only a cheap flash camera should some rascal stumble upon my set and purloin a goody of his own.

Keith Soesbe
3419 NE 87 Pl

Mayoral roses

To The Editor:

I would like to thank all of you who gave me such wholehearted support in the recent election and sincerely hope that I can count on your continued support in the months ahead.

I am looking forward to working with the incumbent as well as newly elected council members, consultants and city staff as a unified group working toward betterment of our community.

There is much work ahead for all of us and as we go in the new year I would strive toward understanding, harmony and cooperation to reach our goals.

Ruth Loundree
Mayor-Elect
Sandy



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