

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON

By Harris Ellsworth, Member of Congress

A vote that was substantiated more than the required two-thirds (285 to 121), the house passed and sent to the senate a resolution, proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States to limit the term of any one individual as president to two terms of four years each. I consider this one of the most important measures enacted upon by congress in many years.

Every form of government, no matter how good, should ever be considered indispensable. Further, our experience, over 160 years, has proven that the constitutional checks and balances are necessary to operate for the protection of the people when the executive has the power of appointing members of the judicial branch for government for life terms, and an office longer than eight years. During his home than 12 years in office, the late President Roosevelt appointed more than 100 federal judges, including the chief justice. The record shows that all but six per cent of these judges were registered in the president's political party. Thus, our three independent branches of government became closely allied politically. As our experience has proven, this does not happen when a president is elected for no more than eight years. I hope the senate will pass this amendment promptly, and that the amendment will be laid before the state legislatures, most of which are now in session.

The debate on the proposed constitutional amendment was a bit on the pathetic side. Although majority leader Hallock and other Republican spokesmen stated clearly and sincerely that the proposal was intended as a reflection on any previous president (at least two Republican presidents in our history) and not nominations which would be barred by the proposed amendment, most Democrats opposed the amendment, largely, I think, because they felt its adoption would be a reflection on their late president, Roosevelt.

The framers of our constitution wisely made the process of amending it a slow and difficult one. The constitution never has been amended at any time, and amendments are few. More than 4,000 proposed amendments have been suggested in congress. More than 200 of these have had to do with the office of the president, but of the 4,000, only 21 amendments have ever been ratified by the states. The amendment now under consideration will, of course, require the affirmative approval of the legislatures of the states.

The special sub-committee to investigate the sugar situation has just made its preliminary report to the congress and the American people. Our committee recommended that a per capita allotment of not less than 40 pounds be provided in 1946, as compared to 25 pounds in 1945. It has also recommended that industrial and institutional uses be allowed sufficient sugar equal 80 per cent of the 1941 period, as compared with 60 per cent in 1946. It further recommended that the secretary of agriculture retain a minimum of approximately 3 million, 3 hundred thousand short tons of sugar from the United States and Cuban sugar acquisition use of American consumers in 1947, and urged that production in Hawaii and Puerto Rico, be encouraged to increase production in 1947-48.

The annual banquet of the Oregon Society of Washington,

D. C., will be held Tuesday evening, Feb. 18, at the Roger-Smith hotel. More than 200 former residents of Oregon live here now, and most of them turn out for the annual meeting. Pherne Miller, niece of the famous Oregon poet, Joaquin Miller, who has lived in Washington many years, is president of the society. Carlton Savage, assistant to the secretary of state, and one-time president of the University of Oregon student body, will be the master of ceremonies.

The news of congress these days is being made in committee rooms. Most committee meetings are open to the public. A visitor to Washington now, who would like to see congress in action, would be thoroughly disappointed if he watched the operation of the house of representatives from the visitors' gallery. Very little is happening on the floor at the present time.

During the early months of each session, the appropriations committee of the house is by far the hardest-working committee. The large appropriations body is divided into a number of sub-committees. These sub-committees are now conducting hearings. Of great interest to us right now is the work of the interior department appropriations sub-committee, where the question of how much money is to be allocated for additional power plant and transmission lines is under consideration.

The power problem in the Pacific northwest is a critical one. The situation may remain critical for two or three years. There is a great actual and potential demand for electric power than can be supplied by existing facilities, both public and private. The federal government, with enormous dams at Bonneville and Grand Coulee, and another one to be known as the McNary dam about to be constructed, completely dominates the power situation. In other words, the government has assumed the responsibility for supplying the bulk of the power used in the Pacific northwest. It has also assumed the responsibility of supplying main-line transmission facilities. The assumption of this responsibility by the government has caused privately-owned power companies to plan their investments and development in the belief that this federal policy will continue.

All of the members of congress from the Pacific northwest are aware of the nature of the problem, and all of us are endeavoring to acquaint not only the appropriations committee members, but all members, with the facts. These facts are that appropriations for power producing and transmission facilities are not "spending," but are capital investments which will be returned to the government in full, and in the years to come will provide considerable source of revenue.

The Commodity Credit Corporation announced this week that new support prices have been made effective to bring the west coast turkey market up to support price levels.

Late in 1946 and since, the price of turkeys in the west has been below the support price which is 90 per cent of parity. The national average prices, however, were still above the support price. Previously, support prices had been calculated only on a national average basis. Early in January, members of the Oregon delegation urged the department of agriculture to take action to save turkey producers from heavy losses of the unsold production, most of which was in storage.

William Guertz, of the Oregon Poultry Council, came to Washington with complete facts, and negotiations were begun toward revising existing procedures. Adjustments were made in the basis for calculating support prices and recommendations urged that support price operations be set up on a zone basis. Final approval was given to the program this week which will give relief to any part of the 1946 production which remains in the hands of the producers.

More than a year ago, I uncovered the fact that a number of tractors, badly needed for lumber production, were "lost" in a maze of government red tape. The armed forces said they had declared the tractors surplus. The WAA said they were not in surplus. I asked that investigation be made with the result that the tractors shortly became available to the loggers. Last week a very similar situation was uncovered with respect to some ditch-diggers. The city of Ashland needed a ditcher to provide sewers for new housing. After considerable scouting, Ashland city officials found 19 ditchers in a large surplus depot in California. But the WAA said they belonged to the navy. The navy told me they had declared the ditchers surplus (but wished they had not). Less than twenty-four hours after this situation was disclosed, the city of Ashland had purchased its ditcher.

Sense And Some NONSENSE -



By Dewey

"Weather at Brookings," what a world-wide topic that has become in the past few years, and what other questions have been asked about this area, which, if it were told, would be questioned. Having once been connected with the weather bureau, naturally I watch the weather reports of most of the places I once saw, lived at, or have friends. I like to feel snug here while other places either freeze up, or melt.

A year in this area has taught me one thing for certain—I have yet to find a place with such a mild climate, winter, spring, or pick any season. I find that my wardrobe need not be too much if it includes a rain coat of some kind.

If I am not mistaken, Mrs. Tautfest, who queried Mr. Fixit about the weather here, is none other than the wife of a mail carrier who once lived at Bonners Ferry, Idaho, and who, with her husband, came to some place in Oregon to escape the cold and much snow of that area every winter.

If people living in any cold, and colder country, could see the flowers in bloom here, in the middle of winter, would gasp in surprise. My son, Christmas day, went to the beach, as many lads of this area like to do. On his return, he came in the house with quite a handful of Azalea blossoms. True, they weren't as

nice as may be seen in May and June, but azaleas nonetheless.

Daffodils have been shipped from here for the past three weeks. These blooms certainly brighten the rooms, and make one imagine it was early summer here instead of February when so many parts of the country are still shoveling in the fuel to keep warm. Yes, this area has no match in all-around climate, be it San Diego, Devonshire, Eng. or New Guinea.

That matters of a sales tax in Oregon seems to come up again, with plenty of opposition from all sides. Foremost in this organized opposition is the state Grange, which represents a big percentage of the people of the state. Certainly the action of the legislature is being watched.

In considering a sales tax, it is easy to see that it is the most unfair tax in the world. Here are a few reasons why:

1. The burden of the tax will be paid by large families, usually the poorer and less able to pay added expenses.
2. Wealthier families, usually with fewer children, escape the amount usually paid by their neighbors across the street.
3. There is, and never has high school gym,

been, no perfect basis on which to set up a sales tax so that those who are able to pay, do pay in the proportion they are able to pay.

4. Sales taxes cost too much to administrate in comparison to other forms of taxes.

5. Oregonians traveling in either Washington or California, know of the nuisance connected with the remark, "a penny for sales tax."

March 1, will see the first big Azalea Festival Association's finance-raising dances, being staged at Smith River community hall. This is being staged at that place because of the size of the hall, and because Eddie Des-Jardin is expected to draw heavily from that section of the country.

Present plans, to make this festival wider in scope, also is a good reason to include other adjacent communities in the enterprise. All Curry county and as far south as Crescent City will be included in one manner or another in the forthcoming festivals, so that these festivals will have the wide appeal they rightfully deserve.

Queen selection ball and the coronation ball will be held at either the Grange hall or at the

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to make way for incoming merchandise!

Radio-Phonograph Combin. Regular \$92.95 (have four)—NOW	\$72.95
Phonograph Regular \$74.95 — NOW	\$50.00
Record Changer Regular \$29.95 — NOW	\$20.00
Radio Regular \$29.85 — NOW	\$20.00
Radio Regular \$62.95 — NOW	\$55.40
Radio Regular \$46.95 — NOW	\$41.32
Battery Radio Regular \$44.50 (have four) — NOW	\$37.76
Radio Regular \$32.75 — NOW	\$29.83
Radio Regular \$31.50 — NOW	\$28.30

This Sale Ends February 28th

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