

BROOKINGS-HARBOR PILOT

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C. of C. Outlines 1948 Projects

That a Grants Pass to Curry County road would aid this section, that the Chetco river is one of the coast's best fishing streams and that cut flowers may be shipped from this area to eastern markets are foremost in minds of people of this area, the Brookings-Harbor chamber of commerce looks to 1948 and a year of work along these projects.

A meeting last week gave rise to belief that many were opposing the chamber of commerce. Such was not the intent—rather many local citizens feel that enough effort has not been made toward realization of these goals, although some progress may have been made in the past year.

The community hall, need for which is felt more and more as time passes, becomes another of the chambers projects for priority rating. This, according to members of the chamber, must be a community project—in every phase of construction.

An ambulance soon should be ready for use in this area in the not-too-distant future as almost the amount necessary already raised.

Street lights, if opinions are indicative, should be set along the main street within the next few weeks to add much to the attractiveness of the district.

With the mouth of the Chetco kept open the year round, salmon fishing should become coast-wide in appeal, since the Chetco has always been noted for its game fish.

All these project can be accomplished if everyone in the community labor in that direction. It takes everyone—everybody, individually and collectively.

Letter From Washington

By Harris Elsworth

Opinions of members of the House of Representatives on President Truman's speech to the joint session fall into three general classifications. The out and out left-wingers applaud the entire program—accept all recommendations lock-stock-and-barrel; the middle group which might be referred to as liberal-conservatives, approve the emergency aid request, questioning the total figure which they think should be checked, seem willing to go along with most of the inflation control suggestions, but balk at giving Presidential authority to bring back price control and rationing; the hard-boiled conservatives may vote for some emergency aid to Europe, but will have none of the rest of the menu.

The extremists at both ends of the political spectrum may be about equal in numbers, but in total they do not represent anywhere near a majority of the House. A reasonable guess, therefore, is that this session will appropriate money to help stave off starvation in Europe this winter, will restore credit control, regulate commodity exports, strengthen export con-

trols, and act favorably on some of the other proposals made by the President; will not authorize another OPA.

The inventory of the situation taken by Congress during the recent recess indicates pretty clearly that Presidential and Administration thinking and planning for the post-war era was too little and too late. Now to attempt to recover from that error, the proposed program is to be too much and too hastily adopted. We are about to pay most dearly in troubles at home for losing two and one-half years before formulating any plan toward the solution of troubles abroad.

No doubt the greatest trouble confronting us is the grim possibility that a chain-reacted inflation will begin. It hasn't really started yet, but it can. Inflation takes place when money is plentiful, but things to buy are scarce. Shortage of luxuries and non-essentials resulting in climbing prices is not an alarming condition. But shortage of essentials, especially food, is disastrous. We have been exporting enormous quantities of food. Millions of people in various parts of the world would starve to death if we had not sent them food. Countless thousands may die of starvation this winter if we can-

not help them. But our years of bumper crops ended this year. Our production of grain has dropped 500,000,000 bushels—or almost exactly the amount of grain we are planning to send to Europe. We are face to face with the grimmest of problems which can only be solved by the people themselves.

Controls are not the answer. Controls in a free country the size of ours breeds black markets and greater misery for people with low incomes. (Europe has controls, but you can buy anything there for a price.) Price control on "vital commodities" as suggested by the President would obviously drive production away from those items to uncontrolled and hence more profitable items. This would make the scarcity situation worse.

There is not enough grain to go around if consumed at the rate we have been consuming it the last few years. Grain makes meat, butter, milk, poultry and eggs. Americans will have to eat less if Europeans are to eat at all this winter. According to the statistics, this would be no real hardship. Before the war, the average American ate 125 pounds of meat and 300 eggs a year. Now he is eating at the rate of 160 pounds of meat and 375 eggs each year, which represents a 28 percent increase in the consumption of meat and a 25 percent increase in the consumption of eggs. At present levels we need only eat 13 percent less meat, 15 percent less milk, and 18 percent fewer eggs, to balance the food budget. If pre-war consumption levels were reached by voluntary conservation, we should achieve a surplus which would knock prices downward.

If we want to fight starvation—and I am sure we do, for we are Christian people—we simply must be told facts, face them and then do something about it. If it is going to take a policeman at our elbow to make us do what our normal charitable and humanitarian instincts bid us do, we might as well send for Joe Stalin and ask him to take over.

The overwhelming success of the Friendship Train project proves the point. If people are told what they can do to help in this crisis, they are glad to do it. Each person's part in the solution of the food shortage problem is simple and not burdensome. If each of us eats one or more fewer slices of bread each day, there will be enough food and prices will be held down by adequate supply. Local communities can and will take up this program and put it over—just as they responded to the appeal to fill the Friendship Train—as rapidly as the stern

and positive need of such action is brought home to them.

Mr. and Mrs. Lucien Loring have purchased the Bill Merritt home and are re-conditioning the interior. Mr. Loring is local distributor for Disston Chain Saws.

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