



By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

Washington, D. C., June 1. Dewey Akers, Editor, Pilot, Brookings, Oregon.

Dear Friend: Enclosed you will find a copy of the statement presented to the house committee on post office and civil service in reference to H. R. 2945.

As you know, this legislation proposes drastic increases in second class postal rates which would affect publications generally. I thought you might be interested in my comments upon this proposal as it would affect small newspapers. Sincerely — Harris Ellsworth.

Statement by Ellsworth: Mr. Chairman and members of the committee: My statement concerning H. R. 2945, which is being considered by the committee, will be limited to certain provisions of the bill. I fully realize the very difficult problem which the committee has before it; namely, that of endeavoring to revise our postal rates in such a way that the post office department may become more nearly a self-sustaining government service. There are many very complex inter-relationships involved in the proposed legislation and it is not practical to attempt a discussion of all these factors. Accordingly, I shall limit my statement to that phase of the problem of which I have first-hand knowledge and experience.

Since freedom of the press is one of the basic freedoms provided under our constitution, and since the protection and encouragement of this freedom is deemed vital to the preservation of our form of government, it has long been a policy of the government of the United States to encourage in every way possible the establishment of newspapers throughout the nation for the dissemination of information. To carry out this policy and to promote the establishment of newspapers in small communities and rural districts, the congress has, for many years, provided second-class postal rates favorable to small newspapers. The pending legislation proposes drastic increases in this rate. While it is possible to cite concrete evidence of the effect of these proposed rates in specific cases, it is impossible to fully predict the ultimate dire results of such rates upon small daily and weekly papers in the United States.

There are about 10,000 small weekly newspapers in the United States. A large number of these could not have started had it not been for the second-class mailing

privileges extended to such rural newspapers. If the proposed rates should be approved, literally hundreds of these publishers would find themselves unable to continue, and would have to close down their businesses. Many small communities and rural areas would find themselves without any medium of local news and information on important civic and community matters.

By way of illustration, I want to cite some examples taken at random. The publisher of one newspaper with which I am familiar has an annual postage bill of approximately \$800. Calculating this postage bill under the pending legislation, it was found that this cost would be increased to more than \$5000 or about six times the present amount. In another instance, the present annual postage costs are \$136. Under the pending bill these costs would amount to nearly \$2400. This approaches twenty times the present cost. These instances, in a great many cases, would mean the difference between continuing in business or closing up shop entirely.

Another fact which should be noted is that the proposed rates would work the greatest hardship on those least able to bear the burden. Large metropolitan dailies, by reason of their large circulation and advertising incomes, which might better absorb an increased cost of this character, will be little affected. The small town daily and the community weekly are largely or almost wholly dependent upon postal service for distribution. If the small newspapers should be excluded from the mails as a result of high postal rates, the people in small cities and rural areas would be those who would find themselves first and most greatly inconvenienced.

If all newspapers were dropped from the mails, a serious question arises whether any substantial saving could be made in post office operating costs and personnel. With the new rates, the quantity of newspapers entering the mail might be materially reduced and the postal personnel requirements remain almost the same. Direct and indirect postal revenues might be decreased and result in making the present situation worse rather than better.

I appreciate the opportunity to present these observations to the committee, knowing that this im-

portant phase of the problem will be given the most sincere attention before any final recommendation on the pending bill is presented to the house for action.

LOCAL NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Millgard and daughter of Colfax, Wash., arrived the middle of the week to visit Mr. Millgard's sister, Mrs. Dorothy Lockland and mother. Ted left early this week for Colfax, but Mrs. Millgard will remain at the Lockland home until Locklands return from their eastern trip, early in July.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Redfield returned late last week from Newberg, where Don attended Pacific College the past year. Don will be affiliated with his father in the grocery, and the construction of the new store building.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Juelson (nee June Hassett) of Kodiak, Alaska, arrived last week for an extended visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hassett. Ruth expects to return to Alaska with her sister to take over the position recently resigned by Mrs. Juelson.

Gene Gould returned home last Thursday morning from college, to spend the summer with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. J. Gould. Gene will be employed this summer by Ed & Mendy's Chevron Service Station.

A Beach party was enjoyed after baccalaureate Sunday evening at Mill Beach. Some of the seniors and friends are reported to have enjoyed beans and wieners served by Jim Carson and Bill Tierce, chefs-protempore.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rose returned late Sunday from Ferndale where they attended a Portuguese Pen-

tacostal Sunday reunion. This is an annual affair among Portuguese people, which dates back to days of Queen Elizabeth of Portugal, who has been deemed a saint among Portuguese Catholics for her work with the poor. The Roses will go to Oakland this week-end to attend the wedding of a niece.

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