

WASHINGTON WEEK

By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

The administration leadership of the house has given up any thought of repealing or amending the Taft-Hartley Act. Its first and only attempt was a complete flop. I think I should point out again that Republicans in the house could do nothing in the name of a Republican to carry out their campaign promises regarding labor legislation. Our contention has consistently been that the T-H law is fundamentally good but that experience under it has revealed the need of certain amendments to make it better.

The procedures under which the house of representatives operate provide that the party in control is literally in control. Major legislation, even including substitute bills, must bear the names of the majority members. This is not criticism of the Democrats who now control the house. It is the custom. Republicans do the same when they are in control. I make this explanation for the purpose of pointing out that the only way in which Republicans could express their wishes regarding labor legislation this session was to attempt to write better and broadening amendments into a substitute bill offered by a Democrat member, Mr. Wood. This we did with some success due to the fact that a great many members of the Democrat majority voted the same way we did.

Amusingly enough this situation was publicized as a "coalition", "clever political maneuver," etc. It is too bad that simple truth is not considered interesting enough to attract attention, so it seems to be necessary to use sensational terms which carry dark, or at least shaded, implications in order to tell the simple story.

Considering the fact that the substitute called the Wood bill was largely written on the floor of the house, it was a pretty good piece of legislation. But it was killed by a narrow margin — mostly for the reason that it came to close to being a Republican bill to be passed by a house overwhelmingly controlled by the Democrat party.

The reason we had to attempt to write the bill on the floor was that the house labor committee quickly reported the administration Lesinski bill without taking much time in executive session, and without adopting or even seriously considering any amendments. The result of this dictatorial and high-handed strategy was that the house passed no bill at all.

DES MOINES DISINFLATION !



The identical drama is being enacted all over again in the senate. As this is written, I do not know what the outcome will be over there but the first two acts of the play are the same—1. Administration bill jammed through committee; 2. Countless amendments considered on the floor.

But, let me give you the senate story right from the lips of a senator. Senator Wayne Morse said in debate a few days ago: "The Thomas bill is not the product of executive-session discussion. The fact is that we did not have any executive-session discussions of the Thomas bill. At the very first executive session held by the committee, after the hearings were closed, a Democrat senator moved that the bill be reported favorably to the senate. Another Democrat seconded the motion. When Republican members sought to offer amendments, they were declared out of order on the ground that the motion was not subject to amendment. Thus we find ourselves in the present unfortunate predicament of trying on the floor of the senate to write the detailed provisions of labor legislation which should have been written in committee."

Only a few more important bills will be considered during this session. The federal public housing bill will come up for action. The Atlantic Pact will be taken up by the senate. Some sort of labor bill will be enacted. There will be a gesture or two toward doing something about the Hoover commission recommenda-

tions—but not much. The socialized medicine bill will not come up. Nothing much will be done about CVA except to hold hearings, probably in the west.

Even though the president may want congress to stay in session until late summer, there will be little disposition on the part of the members to do so. The reason is: first, that the house members, at least, the members on the majority side, are in sharp disagreement among themselves. Many feel that some time is needed to whip the situation into shape. The second reason why congress will not want to stay in session past mid-July is that both senate and house chambers are being remodeled, and both bodies must meet in cramped temporary quarters after first of July. That, plus the summer heat, will make a prolonged session most uncomfortable. I have noticed that a hot, ill-tempered and uncomfortable congress is a poor legislative body. It will be best for the county if we adjourn this session soon after July 1.

SMITH RIVER

The ladies society of the church held its regular meeting Thursday afternoon with the newly-installed officers in charge: President, Ida Hall in charge of the business session, assisted by Secretary, Mrs. Elizabeth Morrison. Several important matters were taken up. Committee chairmen gave reports. The bazaar chairman reported plans are going ahead for the fall bazaar. Names are drawn for "pals" in the society. This is the final meeting for the society during the busy summer months, until September. Devotions were in charge of Ethel Goodlin. At the close of the afternoon strawberry pie was served by Ida Hall, with silver offering taken.

Parents and friends of the graduates of Del Norte high school attended commencement program at the high school in Crescent City, Friday evening, when 52 graduates received their diplomas from Principal C. A. Thurnen. This was one of the largest graduating classes in the history of Del Norte high. Among those of Smith River were Billie Hall, Daroline Nelson and George Jacobson.

Members of Lake Earl Grange enjoyed a picnic outing Sunday, under the shade trees above the Smith River bridge. The men enjoyed pitching horseshoes, while the women visited. A bountiful pot luck dinner was enjoyed. The affair was honoring the fathers of the Grange on Father's day.

The young folk of M. Y. F. of the church are sponsoring a supper to be served at the commun-

ity hall on Friday evening, July 1. Proceeds will go toward expenses of the young people who will attend institute at Shasta in July. People are urged to attend from 6 to 7:30 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hall and daughters, Misses Billie and Barbara, motored to Crater Lake over the week-end and returned home Monday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Rice of Albany, Ore., spent Father's day here visiting his father, O. M. Rice, and his sister, Miss Elma.

Mrs. Clayton Hicks of Reedsport, Ore., spent several days as house guest of Rev. E. C. Hicks and her brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Rowley. She left on the bus for Los

Angeles to attend summer school at U. C. L. A.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Shafer, both students at University of California, at Berkeley, are spending the summer vacation with her grandfather, Sup. F. D. Haight. Mrs. Shafer is the former Katherine Thatcher.

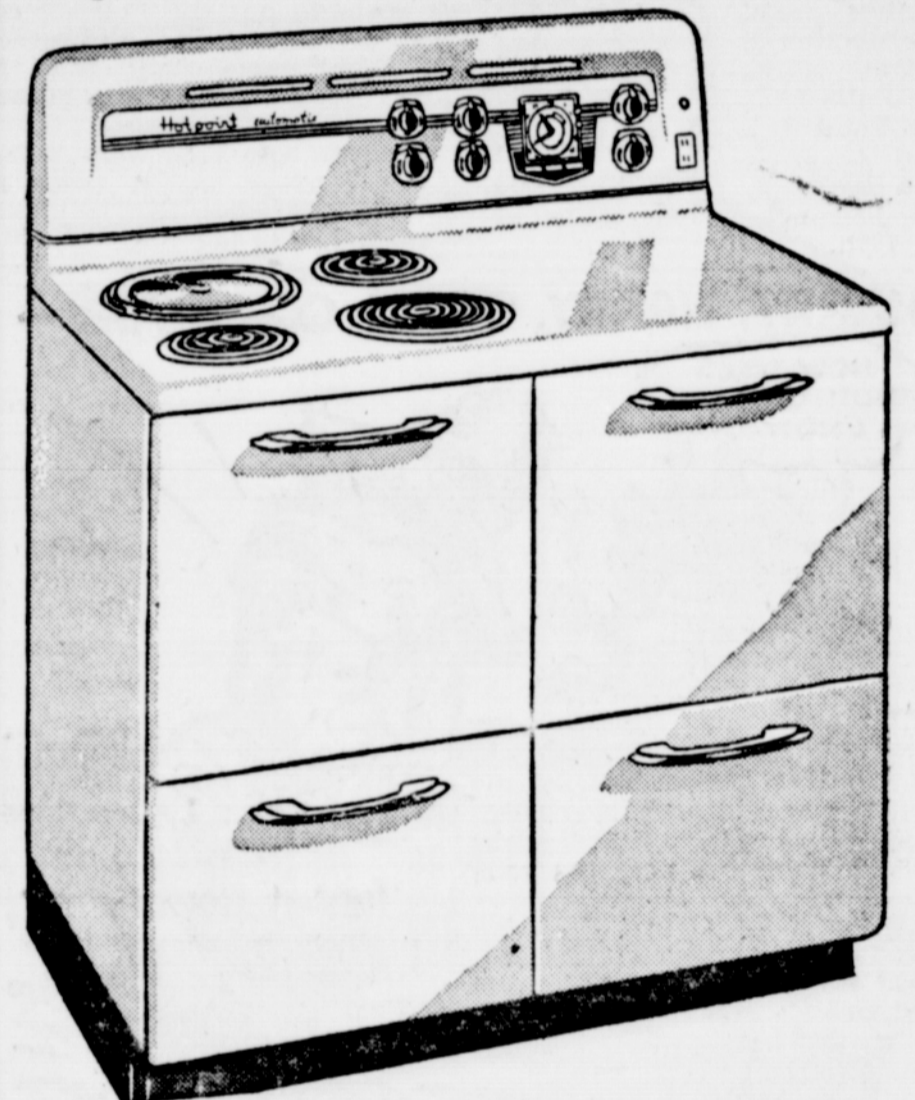
Mr. and Mrs. John Ostrom left Sunday for Palo Alto, where they will attend summer school at Stanford University.

Mrs. Kenneth Layman returned home from Alhambra, Calif., where she spent several weeks visiting her sister, Mrs. Emma Smith, and family.

These columns reach at least 5000 readers each week—use 'em.

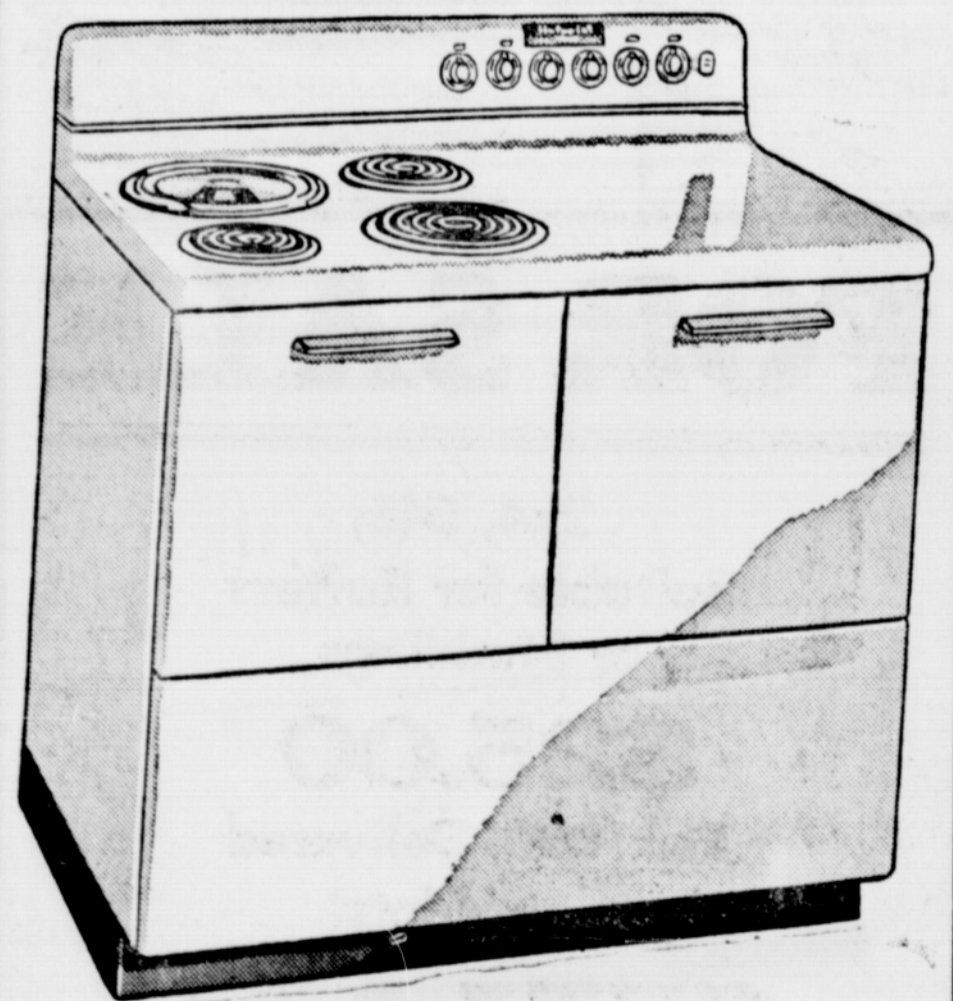
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