

Ellsworth Discusses P. H. Bill For Nation

Harris Ellsworth, Representative, Fourth District, Oregon

WASHINGTON—The much discussed (and cussed) public housing bill will become law. I wish more people knew the real truth and the inside facts about this piece of legislation. Unfortunately, so many people and so many splendid and well-meaning organizations have been so completely sold on the social welfare features or the so-called benefits of the plan that the fallacies and outright dangerous features of it are overlooked.

For example, how many people in Oregon realize that the proportion of the total cost of this program that our state will bear is about equivalent to a 40-year bond issue of *One Hundred Million Dollars*? In this connection it also should be noted, I think, that under a similar plan adopted in 1937 nearly 200,000 public housing units were built — but *not one* was built in Oregon. (Do not confuse this plan with the war housing of which Oregon had considerable).

Following are some of other objectionable features of the housing proposal just enacted:

The "slum clearance" provision does not provide for clearance of slums. In Washington, D. C., 240 federal housing projects have been built since 1935, under a "slum clearance" program. Yet the same slums that were condemned 13 years ago remain inhabited by hundreds of people.

The poorest families can not get in the subsidized projects. The bill specifically provides that the tenants of so-called "low rent" projects must have certain minimum income and the minimum rent is higher than millions of renters of private housing pay today.

The bill tends to create permanent renters, rather than encourage home ownership.

To obtain farm housing benefits, a farmer would have to sub-

mit to absolute federal control of his farming operation for ten years.

The so-called "local" housing authorities would have no local control.

The bill specifically denies to congress any review of appropriations or control over specific expenditures.

We need federal support for redevelopment of slum areas, for guaranteed financing of new home, for such honest assistance as is really justified. But H. R. 4009 will do more toward aggravating those problems than solving them. It is a cruel political hoax on those who need help.

Under provisions of Public Law 107, signed by President Truman last week, the requirement for performance of \$100 worth of assessment work annual on unpatented mining claims was suspended until July 1, 1949. Assessment work will have to be performed during the year ending June 30, 1950. However, the act provides that claimants taking advantage of this law must file by August 1, 1949, at the office where the location certificate is recorded, a notice of intention to continue holding the claim. Any work already performed this year may be credited toward the labor required for next year. The new law applies only to the United States.

Another section of the new law provides that prospectors working on new claims shall be liable for damage to the value of the land for grazing caused by prospecting, mining or removal of minerals. On old claims, prospectors are liable only for damage to crops or property of the entryman or patentee on such land.

It is probable this will be the last year in which the assessment work requirement will be suspended. The administration and congress seem generally agreed that claims should no longer be held by persons unwilling either to perform development work or to qualify for a patent.

The bureau of land management, which administers such claims, is being urged to suggest legislation bringing the laws regarding mining claims up to date. There are many claims in the west on mineral deposits for which commercial demands are so small as to make assessment work an unsound investment.

Others are readily available whenever a market for the ore develops, so that development work is not needed except to meet the provisions of the law.

Also of interest to holders of mining claims and prospectors is P. L. 115 signed some days following P. L. 107. This act provides for deferment of assessment work where the claim or claims are surrounded by lands over which right-of-way is denied or where other legal impediments exist. Petition with satisfactory supporting evidence must be filed

to secure deferment for a period of one year subject to renewal on application if justifiable conditions exist.

F. S. Service Crews Have Been Selected

GOLD BEACH—With the 1949 fire season fast approaching the critical stage, personnel selected to fill the summer fire protective positions on the Chetco district of the Siskiyou National Forest have been completed. The list of positions filled and the personnel employed are:

District Guard—Paul W. Chase.
District Clerk—Reta M. Ganong
McGribble Guard — Mark F. Porter.
Westmore Guard—Jas. Lusk.
Packer—Mose W. Fry.

Snow Camp Lookout — John W. Patterson.

Long Ridge Lookout—Norman F. Roots.

Vulcan Peak Lookout—Herman Floyd Snodgrass.

Mt. Emily Lookout — Cecil O. Hamilton.

Trail Crew—Stuart C. McLean and Earl Bronson.

Eight of the nine men on the field are veterans of either world war 1 or 2, or both.

A trail crew of four men has been employed during the months of May and June. Eighty miles of telephone line and 50 miles of trails have been maintained. Almost 300 miles of trails have not been maintained. Maintenance work has been extremely heavy due to snow damage. As a consequence trail maintenance is far behind schedule and many trails are still impassable to horse travel. Ranger Porisch recommends

that people wishing to use the forest trails this summer, first contact his office to determine the condition of trail.

Weather Report

For the past week, ending on Sunday:

	Max.	Min.	Rain
July 4	65	52
July 5	65	52
July 6	70	46
July 7	78	47
July 8	68	49
July 9	64	53
July 10	69	52

Visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bolton were Mr. and Mrs. Earl Brownlee and two sons. Mr. Brownlee is editor and publisher of the Yerba City Independent-Herald. He is a brother of Mrs. Bolton, and was quite smitten by the climate of this area.

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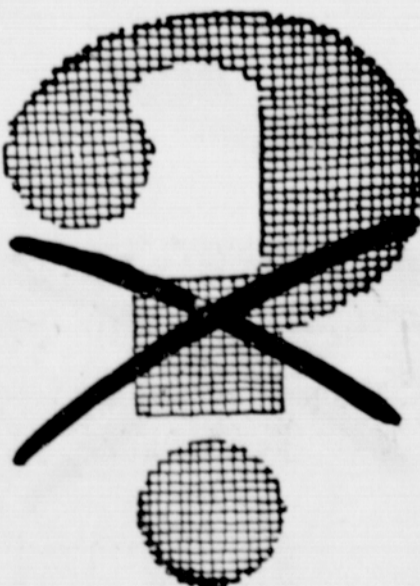
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