

# BROOKINGS-HARBOR PILOT

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## DO WE WANT SUB-STANDARDS?

To any dis-interested and casual observer, last Friday night at the Grange hall, and again Monday night at the high school, impression would be gathered that the local school and budget boards were on trial for grand larceny or embezzlement because of publication of the 1950-51 school budget for District No. 17.

These reputable people, taxpayers, serving without pay and certainly without thanks, met many hours to determine what necessary funds it would require to conduct schools of the district for the coming year. On one hand these people had the law and 65 edicts from the state department of education, and on the other they had the taxpayers' point of view, to budget adequately, yet within reason, as far as they, as honest humans knew how.

These men were accused of being dishonest, both individually and collectively. They were held up to public ridicule, inference was made that each and all were telling falsehoods concerning various items of the budget. In the main, the discussion of the budget became a mockery of a trial.

The Pilot has not, in the past, and may not in the future, see things eye-to-eye with the individuals of the school board and those of the budget board, but the Pilot will hasten to defend the honesty and integrity of these people, who certainly have the most thankless job in the world.

The Pilot, in the past, has been a critic of the schools, and will not relinquish that right so long as free press remains in this country. However, the criticism the Pilot has always made in connection with the local schools has been that they did not offer sufficient courses to fit a student for any branch of higher learning or for the problems to be faced in life.

Just about a year ago there was quite a furore over the state concerning the preparation of students by high schools in Oregon. This accusation was meant to include District No. 17, as well as other Curry county schools. Even the Portland schools, with bigger budgets, more facilities and a great corps of teachers, were not shielded by these exposes of inadequacies of education.

High schools, to be somewhere near adequate, should offer four years of mathematics, four years of science, four years of English, two years of some language, two years of manual arts (this to include home economics for girls), some commercial subjects, and adequate social studies to complete the required number of credits to enter a school of higher learning.

Constant reference was made both Friday and Monday nights about the rising costs of the local school. This accusation is true and no denial is made or attempted. However, people do not stop to think that people once could buy a pretty substantial meal for 35c to 50c—now 90c to \$1.50. Once all of us could go to a market for some meat, and have a "mess" of liver tossed into the order for not more than another dime.

Times have changed. No longer can a teacher live on the \$65-a-month-salaries known to this writer in his youth. State laws have made it mandatory that teachers obtain at least three years of college to teach in the grades, and five to teach in high schools. Times have changed and all of us might as well accept the fact.

For benefit of those who did not attend these two meetings to discuss the budget, the Pilot will defend until the end the integrity and honesty of the men who set up the budget. To accuse them of being dishonest could be basis for slander suits.

## IT SEEMS TO ME:



By Dewey

On the front page of this issue appears a story concerning the dedication of the new harbor at Crescent City and its presentation to the harbor commission of that place. This celebration, likely to be attended by scores from this area, should be an object lesson on what a little co-operation can do, what it can mean if every citizen of a community can whole-heartedly get behind a movement, regardless of personal feelings and a few opinions.

Noted in the article were the statements of how everyone of the community "gave" and not one word of what they expected to "receive." Therein lies the whole story. Merchants, restaurant owners, and everyone, gave labor, gave money, gave equipment use, to further this project which will mean much to the economy of the area.

Such progressive communities as those which do things, one is likely to find people who do not look right at the present—but to the future, possibly as far away as the second and third generations. I have no doubt in my mind that many people gave up to as much as \$100 who were unable to wield a shovel, hammer or other tools. These people will reap little or no actual benefit other than to live in a community which is progressing.

Crescent City should be applauded for her action. She has a perfect right to be proud of her achievement—how she actually picked herself up by the "bootstraps," and set herself out in front as a progressive place. Mr. Pyke, recently in his talk to the local Rotary club, told of how everyone, waitresses, nurses, and such wage-earners who gave their bit, also. With spirit like that, there is no obstacle on the face of the globe too big to surmount. Crescent City followed the old army plan—"Difficult tasks are done quickly—the impossible take a little longer."

Pete Lesmeister is in a quandary. He has a berth in southern Oregon baseball league and is faced with a gigantic task of building a team—which takes a sum of money—perhaps quite a sum of that filthy lucre. Pete wishes he had such an organization as the Crescent City Elks which gave a dance and all proceeds to the baseball team—\$600 to be exact. Pete needs some money, to buy baseballs, to buy bats, to buy meals for players while on trips to other towns.

Baseball is the national pastime, I have been told, and I've always thought so, but like any other thing, takes money to keep going. People love to go out to games, like the recreation it affords, so Pete hasn't any particular worry about the season, once it's under way. He is, however, concerned over the immediate needs of the club now to enter into faster company as far as baseball goes. Who has an idea of how to help him?

Who, in this or any other community, would hire inexperienced people to manage a business for them. Who would place trust in incompetent cashiers to handle money for a bank? Who would think of going to a doctor who had never attended a medical school? What are these questions leading to?

Best answered, I think of another question, "Should incompetent teachers have the job of teaching our children—of influencing the future generation? Of guiding the minds that some day will become our scientists, our teachers, our leaders?" Can you imagine how anyone would like to change to a lower standard in education?



By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

There is a real battle going on between the states of Arizona and California. It is a fight over water similar to the struggles in the days of the "old west" over water holes the principal differences are that this water problem is million times bigger, the fighting is more dignified and guns are not used. California lost the first round when the U. S. Senate approved a river project in Arizona by a substantial majority.

The Californians, however, do not propose to take this defeat lying down. Said one California congressman in describing the project to me: "It proposes to use water which the state (Arizona) does not own, to lift that water twice as high as the Washington monument, convey it farther than from Washington to New York, at a cost to the federal treasury of three quarters of a billion dollars, to irrigate 200,000 acres of privately-owned, war-boom desert land which would not be required to repay the construction cost, for raising crops which are now surplus."

I haven't yet heard the Arizona side of the story but it will have to be good to tie that one—let alone beat it!

Now that the British people have halted their socialist government dead in its tracks I am inclined to believe that there is developing world-wide distrust of socialists and their desire for socialistic control of governments. In those rather limited areas of the world where people are still free and may select a government of their own choice they are discarding socialism and the inevitable loss of freedom which goes with it. Some people failed to stop it in time. You must remember that the Hitler party had the word "socialist" in it. The present Russian government is a union of "socialists" states.

Webster's big dictionary says socialism is a political and economic theory of social re-organization, the essential feature of which is government control of economic activities.

We are attempting to fight off socialism in the United States but most people do not seem to realize it. Much of the so-called Truman program is clearly socialistic. The Brannan plan is socialistic because it would control farmers. The administration medical plan is already called by its proper name—"socialized medicine." The valley authority plans (of which CVA is one of nine) is socialistic because it means that entire regions would be put under rigid government control. Certainly part of the housing legislation already enacted is so-

cialistic when the government builds and owns the homes people live in. I have seen and heard enough indications around here to convince me that there is a planned effort being made to drive coal mining, wire communications and the railroads into nationalization.

For the purpose of stopping the trend, and I believe we do want to stop it, our system does not work as well as the British system does. There the socialists receive less than a majority of the total votes cast. As a result, the socialist program is stopped. Here, in 1948, Truman and his program received less than a majority of the total votes cast but the result was considered a "mandate" to carry out the program.

Fortunately our people have another opportunity this fall to say what is on their minds through their ballots. Our system works a little more slowly than the British, but it will work surely.

Mrs. Alan Dunham of Portland has been a house guest of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd T. Bolton. Ed F. Ackley, who went to San Francisco last week to consult a specialist concerning his ear, returned home Monday evening, much improved in health.

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The answers to everyday Insurance Problems

By Pete Lesmeister



Question. When I read of the huge damages awarded to people injured in automobile accidents, I begin to wonder if the five and ten thousand or even ten and twenty thousand dollar public liability policy is large enough to give complete protection. I hear of people carrying fifty and hundred thousand dollar liability policies and I would like to know is the cost of such insurance is too high for the average person to pay.

Answer. Not at all. As a matter of fact, a very small increase in premium can change a ten and twenty thousand dollar policy to a twenty-five and fifty thousand dollar protection. You are quite right, too, about the need for greater protection as the size of damage awards has increased substantially in the past few years.

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