

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication in its news pages of all news and statements on news. On this page, the editors of The Register-Guard offer their opinions on events of the day and matters of importance to the community, endeavoring to be candid but fair, and helpful in the development of constructive community policy.



MARTIN ASKS FOR POWER

IF the controversy over Governor Martin's bills seeking strong control of departmental finance does not become a mere tangle of partisan politics, it may serve to throw a little light on how the business of the state of Oregon is actually run. Governor Martin may be asking for too much power, and possibly he realized that the plan which he has suggested would have to be compromised. Nevertheless, if Martin or any other governor is to give state business the management it ought to have, we are going to have to vest in the executive more power than he now enjoys.

Time has brought about tremendous changes since the early days when state government was a very simple thing with a governor, a legislature and a judiciary. As the years have rolled along we have added to the structure scores of state boards and commissions which operate many activities. The principal state institutions are really operated by a commission, the state board of control, in which the governor shares authority with the secretary of state and the state treasurer. Highways, higher education and many other huge functions are operated almost independently (and perhaps a large measure of independence is necessary in these activities).

The fact is that except insofar as he controls appointments (and he does not control them in all cases) a governor of Oregon has very little real authority. When each board and each commission has made its budget and its peace with the legislature, it is virtually independent of gubernatorial supervision. Unquestionably it is a situation which makes for much waste and extravagance. Once granted an appropriation is a thing to be spent and there is little coordination of effort. No private business could survive under such a setup.

The problem is how to give the governor supervisory powers which an executive ought to have without destroying the checks and controls which are vested quite properly in the legislature and the elected associates. It may not be wise to give a governor power to set aside legislative appropriations but it might be very prudent to require that all departments shall report to the governor regularly as to what they are spending and to give him power to challenge expenditures which are unwise or extravagant, even though they may be within budgets.

There have been repeated demands for reorganization of the state government, consolidation of boards; Meier called attention to the need in his farewell speech. There have been recurrent demands for a cabinet form of organization. Martin does not propose anything so radical but he does ask sufficient authority to control the present setup and make it more economical. Reasonable "give and take" is the indicated course for both governor and legislature.

We cry out for "strong government" but keep them pretty well hamstrung. We can leave the governor to potter around with appointments, political fence building, formal visitations and appearances (a boreome and futile routine) or we can make him what he ought to be, the active manager (with reasonable restrictions) of the state's business.

PLAN COMMISSION NOT SO GOOD

WITH long range planning and coordination of state activities over a period of time, this paper is naturally in hearty accord, but for the specific program proposed by Governor Martin, we can find little enthusiasm. We see little danger of this board actually infringing on legislative powers or departmental authority, but we do see in it the creation of another of those semi-independent spending commissions which this state, by now, should have learned to avoid.

If we were to suggest a plan for state planning, we would say that a very efficient organization could be brought together merely by bringing together departmental heads. One of the weakest features of the present proposal is that the planning commission would be composed of "civilians" brought in from the outside. In the end they would have to draw on active department workers for service and information and this very thing is contemplated.

An excellent body for planning and coordination could be created merely by authorizing the governor to call in such persons as the state highway engineer, the chancellor of higher education, the state superintendent of schools, the superintendents of the various institutions. It might be desirable for the sake of viewpoint to add to the list a certain number of "civilians" willing to give time to the job, but the staff work for planning could best be done by men in the field.

If Oregon is to meet the vast problems of relief and reconstruction which lie ahead, planning is needed; more than that day to day coordination is needed to eliminate overlapping and competition in the use of state funds. A tremendous influence could be exerted by such a group, even though limited strictly to the advisory field.

On this as on other items of the governor's program reasonable compromise is indicated. We need the practical use of men and resources at hand. The main thing is to go ahead.

GEN. JOHNSON AS AN AUTHOR

SO far the articles which Gen. Hugh Johnson has written for The Saturday Evening Post on his NRA experiences have been disappointingly tame. There has been none of that blasting of his rivals which he has been led to expect in the throats of the liberal which were once issued by his successor Donald Richberg. There are symptoms that plenty of blasting may be expected later, but so far the Johnson articles have been confined to reiterating the dogma that recovery must be founded on the

sort of wage, hour and trade regulation embodied in NRA.

With much of this it is possible to agree. From the beginning it has been apparent that while such flimsy embellishments as "price controls" and "codes of business ethics" were utterly impractical because in conflict with the basic theories of competition, the uniform spreading of work at living wages is fundamentally sound and necessary. The Roosevelt administration will make a mistake, if it turns now exclusively to "security" legislation (important as that program is) and neglects the problem of simplifying and revitalizing NRA.

The pensions for old age are the most vital part of the program of security. The protection against disaster and distress in old age must be adequate and uniform. But for those of earlier years, the unemployment insurance which is proposed can be at best only a stop-gap for emergencies. In the long run there can be no real security for the active worker but assurance of an honorable and normal job.

There comes to mind the memory of a doughty old chap named Ike Mallory, an expert machinist of many years ago. As a doctor for sick engines which had baffled alleged "experts," Ike was in much demand and commanded amazing fees, with the result that the canny operator of a large shop tried to lure Ike to a steady job. They could not agree on terms.

"Tain't enough," said Ike, of every offer made him.

"But good heaven, Ike," said the employer, "We can't pay such salaries. You'd be taken care of. Under our plan you get a doctor when you're sick, and your hospital bills are paid, and many's the time we pay the funeral bills after a man is dead."

"As for all that," said Ike, "you can — I've named my terms. I'll hire my own doctors and you won't have to buy a coffin or even a — — — bunch of flowers when I'm dead."

There aren't many like old Ike left these days; it is necessary to recognize vast social change, but somehow the ideal of self-reliance needs to be kept alive. Insofar as it emphasizes JOBS, we agree with Gen. Johnson that hope lies in NRA.

COMMON SENSE AND CITY JAIL

EVERY time some powerful and hilarious gent tries to burn down or wreck Eugene's well (but not favorably) known city jail, there comes talk of issuing bonds, or something, to build a new one, or something. The lawsuit which the Eugene hospital has filed to enjoin expenditures on improving the present "Bastille" merely points the question. The alley between the city hall and the hospital is a mighty poor place for a jail. Maybe the city was there before the hospital, but after all it is a hospital, a good one, a credit to the city and it pays taxes which is more than can be said for the jail.

Always at the risk of displeasing somebody, we venture a solution for such a problem. In this case, however, it is perfectly simple. Make an agreement with the county and repose all city prisoners in the county jail. The authority (thanks to Clyde Johnson) is to be found in Chapter 47, page 143 of the Acts of the Oregon legislature, second special session which says "that any one of more municipalities etc. etc. etc. situation in any county, etc. etc. etc. hereby are authorized whenever it is deemed best for their interests, to enter into written agreement with such county, for the joint performance of any and all similar administrative functions etc. etc. etc. or their local governments through consolidated agencies etc. etc. etc. or by means of institutions OR BUILDINGS jointly constructed, owned, leased, or operated etc. etc. etc." The only restrictions are that such agreements and terms thereof shall be public and extended not to exceed two years.

Now, of course, Lane county's jail down in the park isn't exactly the world's handsomest, most commodious or most up-to-date Bastille, but from all reports it would be sufficient for present traffic, and if not, it could be altered or added to by use of CWA funds etc. without any of the embarrassments which attend expansion at the city jail. The county court, we feel sure, would be glad to take in a few boarders and the charges ought to be quite reasonable. It's the practical thing to do right now.

Furthermore it ought to be understood that the city of Eugene is far too poor and far too loaded down with past debts to undertake anything ambitious such as building a new city hall or even a modern jail ample for the most optimistic estimates on the crime upturn of the future. Even if it were proposed to borrow from the big-hearted PWA, this paper would feel impelled to ring a bell and blow a whistle and summon all taxpayers and shout loudly for a vote of "No!"

Someday, Eugene and Lane county will get round to building some real public buildings, and we would rather wait ten or twenty years and see the job done properly than see money wasted in a half-way job now. Someday, the public buildings of this community should be grouped about a civic center, a well planned city park which will be the axis of traffic and every other activity. That we should be planning for, but we can handle the city prisoners quite nicely in the county's "little red jailhouse" for now.

Greedy Portland Democrats (the "gray train") are being blamed by some of the up-state press including George Putnam's Salem Capital Journal for some of the early legislative blunders. When Martin puts that crowd in its place he can get nowhere.

Back from the wars at Salem, Initiate Howard Morriam says it feels like "riding a merry-go-round backwards." Yeah, and all the animals think they have the bear by the tail.

A "popularity contest" is proposed for the benefit of the Eugene Chamber. Ajax McGurk says that has great possibilities but it's too early to get personal.

It's no fun driving a car these days, but the money you might otherwise spend for gas will buy a lot of feed for the birds.

The prudent man is also laying by a little something for new fishing tackle. This isn't the Middle West where winter lasts "forever."

The Office Imp wants to know if that shooting scrape on Willamette should be described as "Western" or "metropolitan" atmosphere.

Looking Over The Government Spending Program



WHAT SOME THINKERS THINK

—Compiled by CLAY E. PALMER—
 Pastor of First Congregational Church

TWO hundred and sixty leaders in religion, education, business and law recently signed the following statement: "The time has come when organized religion must proclaim that never again shall war be waged under the sanction of the church. The nation which unsheathes the sword, except solely in self-defense is henceforth to be regarded as a deadly foe of all mankind."

Commander Eva Booth, general-secretary of Salvation Army: "We shall stand 100 per cent for the League of Nations. Even if it be only half a League, we shall then say, 'Half a League onward!'"

Emil Ludwig, the world's greatest living biographer: "Few of the great fortunes of the present day were made by a creative person. It has always been bankers or promoters who very cleverly used the inspiration of others and by establishing trusts or factories became one thousand times as rich as the man whose ideas they exploited."

Rabindranath Tagore, India's great poet and philosopher: "A violin string by itself, slack and useless on the table, is nothing. When it is strung taut on a lute, it becomes a channel of song. Submission to law brings out the best in us."

Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America: "We must confess with shame that the Christian conscience has been too uninformed and unawakened and the Christian church too divided, and, alas, too absorbed in preserving its own existence and too unaware of the real problems of humanity to be able effectively to summon mankind to the nobler and juster way of Christ."

Frances Perkins, secretary of labor: "In no country that has experienced with unemployment insurance has the system broken down, even in the present world depression, and in no country has the public treasury been called upon for amounts to relieve distress even approximating our expenditures for relief."

Henry Wallace, secretary of agriculture: "The one thing essential to the remaking of the human beast. When our religious teachers have, fiery, yet clear understanding of this, they will, by working on the human

heart, so balance the message of the economist and the scientist that will yet be saved from ruin."

Lewis E. Lawes, warden of Sing Sing: "I would rather have a prison on the plains with no bars, but with the right kind of personnel. Anyone can enforce the lockstep and maintain discipline with a club. My belief is in training men by permitting them to do at least some things they want to do."

Harry Hopkins, federal relief administrator, speaking of the so-called "Lazys unemployed": "We have plenty of evidence that people literally fight for jobs at wages no higher than they are getting for direct relief. They prefer to earn their bread. It is outrageous to content otherwise."

Zion's Herald: "Christianity is a religion of faith. It is a daring adventure. It is a staking all on the truth as it is in Jesus Christ. It is the response of the whole man to some glowing word of life."

Buell Gallagher: "As a white man, I am not disposed to tell a Negro what is the Christian thing for him to do. . . . We do not know how poor we are until we have made a friend across racial lines."

John T. Flynn, an authority on business ethics: "It is not true that all men are greedy; that they hunger always to get the best of a bargain, to grasp more than their share of things. The simple truth is that most men are not."

Abbe Ernest Dimmet: "The social instinct becomes irresistible when we happen to be haunted by some powerful ideal and are lucky enough to fall in with similarly minded people."

C. E. M. Joad, philosopher, in his book, "Guide to Modern Thought," says: "In the new universe, it appears, our religious insight is granted as great validity as our scientific insight. Indeed, in the opinion of the greatest creators of them all (Einstein) our religious insight is the source and guide of our scientific insight."

Winifred Rhodes: "One of the most pernicious things you can do for yourself is to cultivate the habit of feeling sorry for yourself. It poisons your judgment, it upsets your mental balance, it blunts your happiness and spoils the happiness of other people."

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

TO THOMPSON

FUNCTION CITY, Ore.—(To the Editor)—As I read in your editorial of January 13th, by G. W. Thompson in answer to L. A. Green over the Townsend Pension plan, may I ask Mr. Thompson through your column, as he has stated he advocated 14 years ago an old age security, has he fought for it ever since, if he still has faith that the aged will ever get any thing more than they have at present with this system of fighting.

We have had for years politicians of his type doing the writing and thinking for our people and I can frankly say from my own experience of 66 years along with other good thinkers, that their fruits have completely poisoned the earth. And as the class legislation he refers to, he must of took that idea from the Mellon, Morgan and Insull committees under the Hoover banner.

If Mr. Thompson will be fair and enumerate, not only the poor farm crop of 1933, but just step along further and include the hundreds of billions of cash that was hoarded that year through the corrupt corporations of our nation, he will see why our empty pockets that we need a few of those dollars back in circulation and would require only a very small per cent of the vast productions of 1934, or any year after to finance this plan which he claims 12 per cent of the people want; 5 times the amount of 34 crop receipts and (notice), they want it for themselves. From his lie he figures they will board it up just remember that this plan employs the older people only to

distribute this money, every cent of it monthly just to keep it in circulation, and that our only remedy, and a 2 per cent turn over on one million shares daily over the Wall Street gambling houses and many other great Holding companies with untold excess profits, could finance this plan and never know or feel any hardship from it, of course these people will not favor our plan as yourself.

J. W. STRATTON

A PROTEST

CRESWELL, Ore.—(To the Editor)—Here is another kink! The one hundred million poor of dear old Uncle Sam, including all of the kiddies, continue to pay the extra penny for postage without a murmur; but the thirty million rich and synthetic rich roared so much about paying a couple of pennies on bank checks that the demand was dropped. Did you ever notice that a little pinch of the rich and especially the synthetic rich causes a noise like a billion tigers letting forth a mighty scream in the universe.

But then, we must remember that the synthetic rich congressmen have checking accounts, but have to pay no postage.

T. H. KAHLE

An Omaha watchmaker has a huge clock that shows on its face the time for all countries of the world.

Cloud writing with a searchlight of 1,500,000 candlepower is the latest form of advertising in Berlin.

ON WAR

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—A week or so ago there appeared an editorial entitled, "War Inevitable," which fell far below your usual par in logic, reason, and an understanding of the people.

You founded your article upon the assumption that war would always exist because of the craving of youth for romance and excitement in place of the hum-drum of common day living.

If I have rightly interpreted your article, and such is true, why has our president so earnestly pressed the investigation of the profits of the Du Pont company and backstage influences exerted by the House of Morgan regarding foreign credit just prior to the World War, in an effort to reduce the cause for future wars?

If the desire of youth is so powerful, why was forced enlistment necessary during the World War?

Did the false propaganda about the Germans cutting off the hands of Belgian originate among our youth? No. Was war declared by our youth? No. Were the youth, or even the people at large, given a chance to vote upon whether we would fight or not? No. Was Wilson re-elected because he promised to declare war? No. The opposite was the case. The youth and the majority did not want war.

The youth of today do not want war, nor do they recognize it as glamor. Their reactions are the opposite. During the Japanese bombardment of Shanghai the youth here in Eugene were scared stiff that they'd be called to war. At that time I was living among forty of them, and mixing daily with hundreds more.

I call your attention to this not because of its falseness alone, but because of the influence it bears upon the unthinking populace who fails to challenge such statements; and the opportunity it offers to conceal real causes and confuse the issue.

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT OTTO.

TO THOMPSON

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—Having read in Jan. 13th issue of the Eugene Register-Guard an item "No Score for Old" by G. W. Thompson of Eugene, I have fully decided that Mr. Thompson does not understand the Townsend old age pension plan.

We believe any broad minded, far-sighted, intelligent person who will take the trouble to study the literature and listen to the speeches given over the radio explaining the Townsend plan can not speak of the old people as Mr. G. W. Thompson does without showing a spirit of jealousy.

We need not here explain this plan, for the old people will be but distributors of the money put in trust for our nation's recovery. And if the old people can't distribute the \$200 per month as seems fitting perhaps they could hire Mr. G. W. Thompson of Eugene to do the job for them as he appears to be self-styled wise.

It is believed that all Mr. G. W. Thompson has said against the Townsend plan of old age pensions has but served to strengthen the cause.

We read some time ago an article written by Mr. G. W. Thompson, "The Doleology," which was a shame for any man to write.

We do not believe the people who sponsor the Townsend old age pension plan are a selfish group, but to the contrary. They are a group who are looking for a worthy purpose, a religious, political and national recovery, a democratic legislation for the people and by the people.

Please don't worry about the young people Mr. Thompson, for by far the greatest majority who have signed the Townsend old age pension plan have been the younger class of people, and they are broad minded enough to know why they signed it, if you please.

Now should the Townsend old age pension plan go through and become a law and you should get hungry, just let the old people know and you shall be filled. MRS. STELLA ROSE.

R. 2

Thirty-six soldiers were discharged from the British army in 1882 because their feet were flat.

RECOVERY

Not long ago the Townsend Plan Started from Long Beach on the ocean sand.

The entire nation it quickly spanned, Going to every city in the land, Now, every paper we have scanned, And we learned, if they legalize this Plan

It will free every child, woman, and man Regardless of race, color or clan. And on the bread line place a ban, And make a home for the transient

We found it would make a perfect anchor, For the rich man, poor man, beggar man, banker.

We learned about its breadth and structure, And about its straight, gigantic stature; Which seemed to us a finished creature.

Safe and sound in every feature, With a beautiful, kind and generous nature, And now, it has gone to the legislature.

If they turn it down it may cause disaster; For depression may come on faster, and faster.

The bread line may grow longer and longer, Discontent may grow stronger, and stronger.

Then the transient people on the highway hiking, May remember the Pied Piper and his piping.

They may say like Browning, in tones striking: "Rouse up, Sirs, give your brains a racking."

To find the remedy we're lacking, Or, sure as fate, we'll send you a racking."

Then, if they fail to put this over, Or, something, equally as clever, The Pied Piper may come in later, And blow his horn in the legislature.

Then all of congress may march out side, And follow the Piper far and wide, They'll be waiting to find a place to hide.

"When, Lo, as they reach the mountain side, A wonderful portal will open wide, As if a cavern, suddenly hollowed, The Piper advanced and the others followed."

When all are in, to the very last, The door in the prison may shut fast. There, they will live on water and bread.

And sleep on bunk instead of bed, And long for the freedom they once had.

And fume, and fret, and worry, and dread, Then they'll have plenty of time to think.

And remember how they did eat and drink, While the hungry, poor had nothing to eat.

And many of them, had no where to sleep, Then they'll realize how people feel, Who haven't a cent to buy a meal.

Too proud to beg, to honest to steal, Who are in prison just as real, As if behind those bars of steel.

And their shamed faces they'll want to hide, When they think of the millions on the outside.

Who were waiting, patiently, for them to decide, The fate of our Nation, with one stroke of the pen.

By accepting, or rejecting the Townsend Plan.

This is only a word picture I drew, And the last part, of course, we know isn't true.

For congress is trying its best to put through, Something to satisfy the hungry crew, Who haven't a thing, on earth, to do.

But think, and worry, and fret and stew, Not a sound of a hammer is heard anywhere.

Not a whistle, from mill, comes over the air, But when they put over the Townsend Plan.

Dead hopes will come to life again, The wheels in the factories will buzz and bang.

The whistles will blow and the bells will clang, The plow and the tractor, the shovel and hoe.

Will be working on farms wherever you go, And every thing planted will, probably grow.

For irrigating waters will over them flow, Neither hogs nor cattle need to be sacrificed.

Nor crops destroyed to raise the price, But every product will be increased, Plenty of food, for man and beast.

It will be so plentiful the beggar may feast, Whether North or South or West or East.

Because the MONEY has been RELEASED. ELLA HAYDEN.

ANSWERS GRANGE

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—I see that Charity Grange wants all the stocks and bonds of the State Legislators listed because they may be influenced in voting by owning such. May I ask that any farm lands they own also be listed as they may be influenced in voting by owning a farm.

Just what kind of men does the Grange want to make our laws? One might infer that the only kind would be those who have nothing expecting to be written into notes and contracts.

It seems to me that everyone should do all in their power to influence their decision for if there ever was a outrageous and utterly wrong piece of legislation, it was the one allowing the "Gold Clause" to be written into notes and contracts.

That and "reasonable attorney's fees" always made the cold chills run up my back whenever I signed a note and few men have better signed one. I have seen where

ON GOLD CLAUSE

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—I wonder if people are thinking much about the decision now being considered by the Supreme court in regard to the "Gold Clause" in all notes and contracts.

It seems to me that everyone should do all in their power to influence their decision for if there ever was a outrageous and utterly wrong piece of legislation, it was the one allowing the "Gold Clause" to be written into notes and contracts.

That and "reasonable attorney's fees" always made the cold chills run up my back whenever I signed a note and few men have better signed one. I have seen where

in foreclosures of a \$1200 note fees for the attorney were at \$500.00, and if the decision is in favor of the "Gold Clause" for every \$100.00 called for in notes, and the attorneys fees in that case be still higher the amount involved would be great.

No one but a cold minded could have conceived such a thing as the "Gold Clause" and I am sure you have too many such mening our laws.

It seems utterly preposterous because a man is fortunate enough to have money owing him, because of the misery and loss of this depression collect nearly half more than invested.

I would think that this man should use their influence to help upon the Supreme court and authority at Washington that outrage cannot be continued.

That this "Gold Clause" buried so deep it will never be of again.

ONO S. PHILLIPS

ON PENSIONS

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—The old age pension law is to be one of the big laws of our nation today. I am writing for information not only for self but for thousands of others are on the outside looking in have read arguments on both sides the question. The arguments on the Townsend plan do not work clear why it will not work. Other hand the following arguments are given for it:

First, that the turn over of in the United States is twelve billion dollars annually (in these times) and that a loss of less than two per cent, take care of it.

Second, that Townsend's best economist he could assist him in drawing up the plan. Third, that it would cost the age working man one or two per month during a period of years or from \$480.00 to during his life time.

Fourth, that it would relieve employment to the extent of five or six million jobs are by persons over sixty years would be turned over to young men.

Now if the above arguments figures are correct it would that the Townsend Old Age plan should be supported by forward looking citizens of the try, but if they are wrong someone put me on the right by showing wherein they are wrong.

Yours for information, B. L. RICHARDS, 725 E. 12th

RELIEF PROTEST

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—In this land of New Day many different things, how new deal from the present relief, supposed to be the greatest representative?

Relief headquarters make budget. For example: A fish whom I am well acquainted, of two people. Two people posed to require about fifty per month. According to the committee, they give a pension enough work on the SERA half of the full budget; the being told that the remaining per cent must be made up outside work.

So here is the plan that adopted: These people have come to fifteen dollars a month allow these two people (total at fifty cents per hour; most added to the fifteen dollar in income (remember) makes a twenty-one dollars per month.

What inducement is given worker to find outside work "powers that be" take it already reduced to fifty per budget?

Now concerning the goods commodities. According to the Bureau of Home Economics, Department of Agriculture, in relation with the federal surplus corporation, these are "given" to present relief agencies should not be deducted from budgets." CHAS. EASTON

ON EVOLUTION

EUGENE, Ore.—(To the Editor)—On page 18 of the Tuesday of the Oregon Daily Journal the following item, which like your paper and, would like mission to bring here: