

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER (Published Every Evening and Sunday) Editor and Publisher: Alton F. Baker...

SAME FACTS—DIFFERENT FIGURES

On Jan. 13 the War Manpower Commission announced that it had subtracted 600,000 persons from the estimated total labor force...

"That's fine," the man in the bus said to his neighbor. "I'll bet congress remembers those figures when a national service bill comes up, if it ever does."

Eight days later, Manpower Commissioner McNutt stated that 900,000 new workers would be needed between then and July 1, to replace men taken from industry by military induction.

"That's a whole of a lot of workers," said the man in the bus. "I don't suppose they'll ever be able to get them without a national service law."

But the contradiction in the two figures is only apparent. They are both part of the Jan. 13 story. The armed forces and WMC originally planned for a total labor force of 66,300,000 by next July...

The facts, then, are the same, but the difference in emphasis is interesting. WMC had long opposed national service, and gave out its rather encouraging statement of Jan. 13 just two days after the President had asked congress for a national service law...

Reasons behind this "saving" are also of interest. The much talked-of industrial cutback had practically nothing to do with it. Rather, this tremendous economy is the result of lessons learned in war production...

BULL SESSION

When the War Production Board was confronted with a lady-or-the-tiger choice between copper and bulls, it didn't hesitate. Copper, the board knew, was essential to the machinery of war...

So WPB has allocated 240,000 pounds of copper a year for the manufacture of nose rings for these essential but frequently temperamental creatures. All of which is fine—except that, it develops, nobody in WPB knows the bull population of the United States...

Why 240,000 pounds per annum, then? Nobody knows that, either. WPB doesn't even know how many rings that will make.

We don't have a nose ring handy or we would tell you. But figuring a generous 10 ounces to the ring, the allocation will take care of 384,000 bullocks in each year's rising generation. And that's really a lot of bull.

SHOES AND TAXES

It seems a shame to drag such an amiable comedian as Ed Wynn into a serious discussion of taxes. But if Ed will just lend us his theatrical shoes for a moment, we will attempt to demonstrate that these famous brogans resemble the United States income tax laws about as closely as does anything in this troubled world.

Ed, as you probably know, has worn the same shoes for stage appearances throughout his career. For reasons of sentiment and superstition, he has clung to the footwear that carried him onstage for his first professional success...

Time and travel have wrought many changes. They have been soled and heeled in annual overhauls. Toes and heels and tongues have gone and come and gone again. Bib patches have replaced little ones. The shoes have swollen and bulged at the seams as their stratified burden of leather increased.

The income tax dates roughly from the same period as do Mr. Wynn's shoes and his rise to fame. Perhaps the income tax has not achieved Ed's popularity, but the legislative branch of our government has clung to it with a fondness which may also combine sentiment and superstition.

Time and circumstance have changed the tax picture, too. And to keep up with both, successive Congresses have patched and pegged and sewed. They have piled on new clauses and new taxes, they have plugged old loopholes and opened new ones. But they apparently have never thought of tossing away the whole elaborate contraption and building a new, understandable tax law...

Reports of the Senate-House conference on the 1944 tax bill indicate that the present Congress is no different from its predecessors. The conferees argued about this and that, but it was always a point that added, rather than subtracted, complication. The one motion to substitute a simpler tax bill was quickly rejected on a point of order.

So don't get your hopes up by thinking that the present tax schedule you're sweating over is the ultimate in fiscal booby traps. You can be as sure that the 1944 edition will add to your headaches as you can that Ed Wynn will add a couple more patches to his shoes.

The only difference is, Ed's shoes are funny.

It's your own fault if you wake up in the morning with a big head right off the bat.

The dough you take out of the sock and put into war bonds will help hurry the knockout sock the enemy is going to get.

Changes galore are expected in the post-war auto. But there'll still be the same back-seat driver.

If you put too much strong stuff in them, the goblets will get you if you don't watch out.

Folks who are willing to admit they're wrong when they are, are all right.

The Cooper brothers brought back to mind, in the second game of the world series, the old "Spirit of St. Louis."

Ask any youngster to name four tastes and he's liable to say, sweet, sour, bitter and spinach.

COMMEMORATIVE VERSES, DONALD M. ERB

By ERNEST G. MOLL

A Poem in Three Parts

Part I.

When grief seems all the meaning that is left In the wide world, and darkness everywhere, And we but think of how a heart is cleft And led to sickness on our own despair, It is his voice that calls on us to know The truth of him triumphant through our woe.

Look to the hills he loved; they are not bowed With sorrow; and the streams that knew him well Still flash their waters, clean, and strong, and proud Through the green valleys, for what they have to tell Of him is not a sad thing but the praise Of one who was a man in all his days.

There is a nook where alders drop a shade On Mason Bend—it is a place he loved— And thinking of him there, sorely afraid Of what my heart will say, I stand reproved For those great waters sing with one clear voice "We gave him joy you must not wrong—rejoice!"

So is it everywhere we follow now The ways he went: a brightness lingers there Like the clear light that is upon the brow Of one who dreams and all his dreams are fair, Or like the splendor left in heaven afar Along the pathway of a fallen star.

We see that brightness and our grief is still; We will not dim it even with our tears, But, like the streams he loved and every hill, Be proud and speed him onward through the years, In the full beauty of his stainless fame And all the goodness that was in his name.

Part II.

But there are other meanings he would make Us know and not forsake, Pointing ahead to a bright, distant goal; Calling us from our sleep Of grief to rise and keep Sternly the battle-stations of the soul.

For he was ever a soldier in the fight For freedom, truth and light, The war from whose hard stress is no relief, Fronting the battle-blast He shook not but stood fast, Ah, steadfastly, a soldier and our Chief!

A story from the past comes back to me, And there it is I see The symbol of his vision and his powers; The symbol of the goal He set for his own soul; The splendid thing that knit his life to ours.

The story of Prometheus who gave The fire that burns to save Man from the gloom of ignorance and sin, Knowledge he gave, and love, And, mightiest to move The heart toward heaven, beauty the prize, to win.

And Jove the treacherous and all-evil one Chained him where never the sun Warms the deep frost on bitter Caucasus; And there he hangs today Tortured as none can say, The Good who fights the all-evil One for us.

The Chief whom we pay tribute to this hour Led us with quiet power To where that awful Hero warms the stone. "Reach up and set him free," That was his word: "Let be Good on the earth, its king, and good alone!"

Clad in his strength he stand beside us now, Our Chief, with lifted brow, And chants with us the Eternal Hymn of Light; The faith that will not break Though earth's foundations shake, That rocks the throne of darkness with its might.

Part III.

"Still hangs Prometheus on the bitter stone Shrouded in cloud so that we cannot see Even his feet; Flesh of our flesh they are, bone of our bone, For we, for we Are all of us his brothers waiting here As we have watched and waited year by year And shall until—oh faith how wildly sweet!— Our hands shall break his chains and set him free.

"We know he hangs there by the blood that drips Out of the cloud and by the cruel sound Ever of wings; We know the agony upon his lips And look around One to another at what our fingers hold, Salves for his wounds and waters clean and cold, And turn away, knowing them useless things, And stare at the red drops upon the ground.

"He died in Greece thousands of years ago; In Rome amid the torches and the din, By sword and flame He tasted every death that man can know. And when the thin Cry of sick children in a later day Came to him from deep jungles far away He woke and rose and answered to his name And bared his arm and let the fever in.

"He died wherever evil called for blood, Wherever beauty perished in the blaze Of maddened lust; Wherever truth, shieldless and lovely, stood At quiet gaze Upon the spears that thronged against her breast, He struck some down and gathered in the rest And made her live through all our yesterdays.

But who shall tell us where today he dies, Each hour, each minute, smitten to his knees Yet fighting on! On all the world's wide lands, in all her skies, In all her seas He stands with freemen in the time of fears, His thousand names one name in all their ears, And, as they fall and one by one are gone, He dies—and lives—the one great soul of these.

"Still, still he hangs upon the bitter stone. Oh, lift your heads up, brothers, and be proud And unafraid! Though Jove has wooed him with a golden throne, And though aloud The evil sirens have sung songs to him Of joys in heaven, for each tortured limb Salves and sweet rest, he hangs there undismayed And keeps his trust there steadfast in the cloud.

"It is not Hercules will set you free, Prometheus—can you hear us in the gloom? Not Hercules Nor any strong one, but your brothers, we Who in the womb Took the same dream that chains you to your stone And that great faith—oh, terribly alone, Hear us as now we speak it on our knees— That all your million graves are not your tomb!"

IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

ON SOLDIER VOTE

EDITOR, Register-Guard—Enclosed is a copy of a letter written under this date to Senator Holman. I think you may find it of interest as expressing a citizen's views even though you may not coincide entirely or even at all with the doctrines expressed.

I cannot see the Roosevelt soldier vote proposal as anything else than an insincere effort upon the part of an office-hungry politician to corner a susceptible part of the country's vote upon the eve of an election which will determine whether or not we are to have a continuance further in office of an administration which has squandered large sums of the American taxpayers' money in building a political machine geared to keep a chosen few in a position where they can enrich themselves at the expense of the many.

We have been in this present war more than two years. We have all known that in 1944 we would be voting again for a president. Why has no considered thought been given previously to the soldier vote when we all knew

that millions of voters would be on foreign service? GEORGE E. DORMAN, RFD 2, Springfield, Ore.

Hon Rufus Holman, Washington, D. C.

My Dear Senator—Being interested as an American citizen in the fate of the present administration's proposal to inaugurate a new and untried system of choosing a president for our country such as is embraced in the proposed federal soldier vote, I address you in hope that you will find it possible to apply every ounce of your influence for the decisive defeat of the bill that was rejected so recently by the house, for the following reasons:

1. Our constitution prescribes specifically the method by which the president shall be chosen. This method cannot be changed legally except by amendment, regardless of whether this country is at war or not, and the supposed exigencies of the present conflict do not, per se, confer upon either the administration or congress any authority to modify the constitutional provisions regardless of

their effect upon the individual citizen.

2. An amendment of the constitution is not an advisable act at this time when people are in no mental condition to consider such a course impartially, particularly in view of the fact that we are now within a comparatively few months of the election itself and any hurried action is quite likely to lack the serious consideration which so serious a step as tampering with established law is likely to receive.

3. The passage of any legislation providing a vote by other than the methods prescribed at the present time means actually a further federalization and regimentation of the American citizenry, and past experience has taught us that, once this is extended the

custom will become permanent. It would be a direct and decisive step toward a national dictatorship. We have too much of that already.

4. The passage of any of the proposed legislation will result in the creation of another vast bureaucracy which will be controlled completely by the federal government. This, sir, is still a union of states under the existing constitution. The president is chosen to preside over that union by the representatives of the states' citizenry—not by the majority of the individual voters except as they express themselves through the choice of electors.

For your information I will say that copies of this letter are being released to our own Senator McNary, Representative Mott, and to

KNOW YOUR AMERICA!



IN WHAT WAR DID ABRAHAM LINCOLN SERVE AS A PRIVATE AND LATER AS A CAPTAIN

With building restricted to essential war housing, it is of utmost importance that all houses be kept in good repair. And of course, by making repairs while they're small, larger repair bills are saved. We'll be glad to explain government regulations, as well as our FHA insured loan plan for home maintenance.

ANSWER:

Lincoln served as Private and later as Captain in the Black Hawk War (Indian), 1832.

First National Bank

HOME OWNED and HOME MANAGED SINCE 1884. DEPOSITS UP TO \$5,000 INSURED THROUGH THE FOLLY

the press of Lar's county, Oregon. Yours truly, GEORGE E. DORMAN, RFD 2, Springfield, Ore.

VOTING IDEA

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—I have been interested in the discussion in the papers concerning the ways and means of getting an absentee ballot to the soldiers overseas. I have a copy of the Digest of the Election Laws of Oregon, and it says that the ballot for the general election can not be made up sooner than thirty-five days before the election. The law further requires that all absentee ballots be returned to the county clerk's office at least five days before the election. This would leave, at the outside, only about thirty days in which to have the ballots printed and sent across and have returned. If we follow the law, it would mean that it would be practically impossible for any overseas member of the armed forces to cast a ballot for the general election.

Since the primary nominating election is held in May, and the national conventions of the various political parties will be held not later than August 1, it would be possible to prepare and have printed early in August a complete ballot for the fall election, with the possible exception of vacancies caused by resignation and death, or independent candidates, and possibly candidates for city offices. It seems to me that the members of the armed forces across the waters would be interested in local county and state politics, as well as national, and if such a thing were possible, we could prepare and send them a

ballot as above indicated by a person of time so that they could vote and returned before the election.

I make this merely a suggestion which would be feasible and possible if some making body would take to be done. Yours truly, W. B. DILLON, County

INDIFFERENCE

Dear Editor: I am out in the jungles, seldom see any got up this a.m. discouraged. My income is small, my equipment is small, my belonging to the days of the difference of the American people. Unless they wake up and win this war, it is a France lost, Britain almost lost, unless we give up independence and complacency. It is and ignorance. I this day my file another \$100 bond. C. W. H. R.

TIME

COTTAGE GROVE—(To the Editor)—I am one among the am sure who want our hour ahead) back to school children please take Respectfully, C. SCHRADER, Cottage Grove, District

Pure Clean Electric Cleaners - P. M.

KITCHEN CABINETS WE FURNISH AND INSTALL UNIT TYPE CABINETS AND WE INSTALL LINOLEUM DRAINBOARDS AND FLOORING. We Have Three Kitchens on Display SEE OUR DISPLAY OF WALL TO WALL RUGS VISIT THE BRIGHTER HOMES STORE 858 PEARL Estimates Free PHONE 121

BUY YOUR GLASSES the Easy Way - at Dr. Semler's Optical Dept. In Charge of DR. FRED PAGER, Registered Optometrist, Associate Registered Optometrist: Dr. Arthur W. Rahnstedt, Dr. M. J. Kelly, Dr. Robert Gilbert, Dr. W. B. Tuck, Dr. Wm. Siddens, Dr. Fred E. Chambers.

LESS THAN 10¢ A DAY

If you need glasses, you don't need cash to purchase them. Take advantage of our liberal credit plan, which enables you to obtain your glasses immediately, and pay later in small weekly or monthly amounts... NOT ONE PENNY ADDITIONAL COST. Enjoy wearing your glasses while paying for them.

Free EXAMINATION

It costs nothing to find out if you are in need of Glasses... come in and take advantage of our Free Optical Examination. Feel assured Glasses will not be prescribed unless absolutely necessary.

DR. HARRY SEMLER OPTICAL DEPT. EUGENE 8TH & WILLAMETTE STS. PHONE 1621

Help Feed AMERICA! HELP FEED AMERICA FRUIT Our Government asks every family in America with available space, to grow some fruit and help in the War effort. Home Owners are urged to grow more fruit. Fighting men, our Allies, and the people on the home front need the vitamins, minerals, sugars of fruit for health and strength. Let me show you how you can plant now—enjoy delicious fruits amazingly soon—increase the value of your property—help hurry our Victory. Call me. No obligation. STARK'S YOUNG-BEARING TREES Grow More and Finer Fruit—Quicker Plant fruit trees and plants you can depend on to live and bear good fruit—QUICKER! I will show you Stark's famous RECORD-BEARING STRAIN TREES—vigorous, sturdy, young trees. They are quick bearing. They are heavy bearing. They are the cream of 127 years of Stark-Burbank fruit creation and improvement. Call or write me without obligation. Stark Bros. Nursery Phone 2973 At Table Queen Margat CABIN CITY . . . ON RIVER ROAD