

Realtors Hear Stevenson Tell Danger In Increasing Tax Load

In a broad discussion on problems in taxation, Stanley R. Stevenson, chairman of the Lane county committee for economic development, talking to the Realty board Thursday noon, pointed out that under war emergencies we stand for much more in taxation than under normal circumstances, and with the increased incomes that come under war production prosperity we become more generous and tend to believe we can stand the extra load since everything else also goes up.

He warned that we may not feel today this increased tax load, that we may not feel it next year, or the next, but the time is coming in the future when it will become too great, a considerable group will not be able to carry that load, and we will face another period of tax properties going off the tax rolls, and other factors will develop to bring difficult times.

The trend that finds the true measure of economy of administration in spending was cited by the speaker. Watch spending and not the tax levy for the true picture, Stevenson advised.

Spending Problem
Lasting income from the gas tax, the O and C funds, collections on back taxes, etc., Stevenson said the county, as an illustration, receives income from these various sources with result the tax rate is down, but the spending grows, and some day these sources may end. The tax spending bodies, such as the county courts, the city councils, the school districts, etc., all are under pressure from many persons who want something. Instead, there should be more of the counter pressure, he said.

"It is our own fault that government costs are going up because we should be telling these tax spending groups what we approve and what we don't approve. We are willing to pay but we should let them know that we want the money spent wisely," he commented.

Going on to another phase in taxation, Stevenson cited examples of properties that are not taxed, quoting the Miner building as one, church properties, city-owned properties, county-owned properties, school district properties and others as examples, and as the largest of all the federal government properties.

Hits Federal Holdings
Presenting a chart on the United States, Stevenson showed the vast amounts of government-owned properties and the out of proportion picture for the western states. Approximately one-fifth of the total acreage of the United States is owned by the federal government, he said. Coming down to the state of Oregon, he pointed to another map showing how extensive are federal properties here, and said how much worse the situation has become since the war. Polk county, as an example, he said, finds 50 per cent of its area "confiscated" because of Camp Adair, a situation that has "raised Cain," particularly

with the school districts, he added.

Measures on Ballot
Measures on the ballot for the November election were given special attention by Stevenson in his talk.

Referring to the bill imposing a tax on retail sales of tangible personal property and the constitutional amendment increasing state tax fund for public school support, Stevenson said if both these pass there will be "such a mess" that there will have to be a special session of the legislature to untangle it.

Pointing to another proposed constitutional amendment providing monthly annuities from a gross income tax, commonly known as the little Townsend bill, Stevenson declared, "It is one of the most inflationary measures I have ever seen."

He warned voters to consider seriously and thoughtfully all the measures on the ballot.

In another part of his talk, Stevenson pointed "to the fact that the farther away the government gets from the people, the more waste there is," saying we find our school districts and cities run fairly economically, but from there on up government gets farther and farther away, until our imagination can run riot when it comes to congress and the federal government.

Littell—
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from time to time that due to this administration's coddling of labor, strikes were thwarting the war effort. . . True, there have been a few strikes. No one condones strikes in time of war. President Roosevelt has done all he could to stop them, and so have the national union leaders."

Going on to say some of these strikes "were inevitable," because, "There is a human element involved where free men are working—especially where they can see with their own eyes, in many instances, that great profits are being made over their heads, while they seek a few more cents an hour to earn a living wage for their families," Littell said.

"With all the ballyhoo about strikes, the facts remain that less than one-fourth of one per cent of the manpower used in 1943 was lost in strikes. . ."

Earlier, Littell declared 90 per cent of the newspapers are against Roosevelt, and the total would be more if it were not for the "solid south," and he claimed facts had not been presented the public by the press.

In his "out-of-speech" remarks, Littell said he supposed the local paper would not be would not bother with the meeting.

'PWA' Fleet Recalled
The speaker claimed republicans have spread propaganda and have "confused the facts" on lands acquisitions and federal properties; that the facts have not been given by them in saying this country was unprepared for the war—the speaker saying few know that we have a "PWA fleet" constructed from PWA funds, and he quoted statistics at length to show the number of ships built in the thirties through PWA funds, saying also that from 1935 to 1940, eight per cent of all

airport work in the United States was done by WPA money.

Littell declared that to allow President Roosevelt to retire now would be like discharging "a captain of a great ship in mid-ocean with a storm raging." He said: "It is not now a matter of 'shall there be a fourth term,' but rather, 'thank God we have a tried and proven leader already at the helm.'"

Mahoney Speaks
Preceding Littell's talk, Willis Mahoney (whom Littell addressed several times as "senator"), democratic nominee for the four-year term in the U. S. senate, spoke, urging that the country not turn away now from the "great leadership of President Roosevelt," and from then on tied his own campaign to that of Roosevelt, with promises on the side that he would work to change the two-thirds rule to a majority in the senate in order to assure action of treaties and peace plans, and that he would support the Townsend plan now before congress.

Lane county democratic candidates introduced included Fred Fisk, nominee for county judge; Dan W. Critch, for county commissioner; Frank C. Pursley for county clerk; Lum Anderson, for sheriff.

Flashes Of Life
SECRET
PORTLAND—(AP)—Ed Kane, who turned in a wallet containing \$19, received a \$25 reward, and declared gleefully that honesty does pay—with dividends.

A few minutes later he wasn't so sure. The owner reached into a half-hidden compartment of the wallet—and extracted \$700.

SCAT
WAYNESBORO, P. A.—(AP)—

Volunteers shied away from helping a pussy in distress. The pussy's head was caught in a glass jar but there was a white stripe down its back.

PUZZLER
SEMINOLE, OKLA.—(AP)—An 80-year-old man, applying for a marriage license, was stumped when asked the given name of the 77-year-old bride-to-be.

He said he reckoned he'd better go and check up, adding thoughtfully: "Most of my wives have been named Mary."

JAP ADMIRAL KILLED
LONDON, Oct. 20—(AP)—Vice Adm. Nishimura Arima of the Japanese navy was killed Oct. 15 when his torpedo plane "attacked and hit a big U. S. aircraft carrier" off the Philippines, Berlin radio said today reporting a Tokyo dispatch.

Scientists say the activity required in "counting sheep" deters rather than encourages sleep.

NOTICE
WANTED all people—who are opposed to annexation of the West-Moreland and Chambers addition to the City of Eugene to be at the council meeting, October 23.

Crowe, the handy man.
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Staller Investigation Proposal Denied

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20—(AP)—The senate campaign expenditures committee has voted four to one against a formal investigation of the "Battle of the Staller" in which two naval officers came to blows with some AFL teamsters the night of President Roosevelt's first political address of the 1944 campaign.

The single dissenting vote was cast by Sen. Homer Ferguson (R-Mich.) who told reporters he thought the facts about the brawl, which occurred the night of Sept. 23 after Mr. Roosevelt had addressed a teamsters' banquet, should be given to the public.

The decision not to hold an investigation was announced by committee Chairman Theodore F. Green (D-R. I.) after a closed meeting at which he said the members considered material gathered by investigators in a "preliminary inquiry."

Green said the committee had ascertained "all facts necessary to reach a decision and decided that nothing could be gained by proceeding further."

Several affidavits were considered by the committee, Green said, including two filed by Attorney Thomas C. Bradley for the naval officers, and others submitted by President Daniel J. Tobin of the teamsters union.

Closing—
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planning commission is right in fighting to keep an artery such as High street open across the valley and that the commission should have so voted.

"The council can do as it thinks best but it is our job to say what's right," she said.

School Shift Proposed
The planning commission suggestion for solving the school

problem, if the streets continued open, was to move all the projected new school facilities east of High street. It was pointed out by Chapman that this would separate the school from the civic stadium.

City Engineer Bill Clubb told the group that the city council was anxious for action before Monday night because the council's finance committee has had an offer for purchase of a strip of city property 160 feet deep along the east side of Patterson street from Twentieth to Twenty-third, this being land which has been suggested as an alternate site for the school project in case Ferry, Mill and High remained open. Closing of these streets, if finally ordered, would eliminate this city property from consideration as a school site. The city thus would be in a position to take action on the purchase offer. Clubb did not state the source of the offer but Prescott intimated that if the land is sold it will be used for a housing project.

Moving of Stadium
It has been suggested that, if the streets remained open the stadium should eventually be abandoned, with the idea of rebuilding it elsewhere. Chapman declared that the public never would consent to such a plan. He favored closing the streets to avoid cutting the stadium off from the school.

At the request of Clubb a committee was appointed to investigate a proposal to change setback lines on Railroad boulevard, from Van Buren street to River road, to facilitate future industrial development in that area.

The present setup calls for an 80-foot right-of-way, he pointed out, explaining that widening the street to that extent would mean a 30-foot setback all on one side because of the railroad on the other. Prescott named Clubb, Kendall and Chapman as a permanent street and highway committee, with this matter referred to it.

Caswell—

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well, who died last Sunday in Santa Monica.

The correspondent is back in the states after 31 months in the southwest Pacific, from where his by-line articles have been regular headline features. His duties mainly have been in Australia, although they have included six combat assignments.

Caswell is one of three former Eugene young men who are now star UP correspondents in the Pacific areas—George E. Jones and Richard W. Johnston being the other two with this service in the Pacific sections.

Caswell speaks modestly of his war coverage, saying he was out on only six combat assignments, including New Guinea, the Solomons, and other places. Most memorable of these was the Buna campaign two years ago, of which he speaks as a "most strenuous" experience when it became a "plodding along" matter and for some time food consisted of captured Japanese rice, cabbage, and whatever could be found in the country about.

Calm About Danger
He comments casually about being bombed and shot at, as an expected, matter-of-fact occurrence. Last March he was at Guadalcanal and Bougainville.

In speaking of Eugeneans he has met "out there," Caswell said he had an unusual experience at Hollandia just after it had been taken over by the Americans but with plenty of shooting still going on.

One night, in black darkness, he had to hike over to the air strip to catch an airplane. Considerable shooting was going on, snipers were at work, and the Japs were still bombing. In the darkness he came across another man. They began talking. They found out they were both from Eugene, that both had graduated from Eugene High school in 1930. The other man was Maj. Whit Arty.

"It was an unusual place to find

an old high school classmate," Caswell commented, and went on to speak of the record Arty had made with his regiment of the 41st. "Later, when the Japs were bombing again, Whit offered to share his slit trench with me, since I had not had the foresight to prepare one of my own," he added.

Likes Australia
Caswell likes Australia and plans to continue with the UP there after the war.

He started with the UP at Salem 10 years ago. He was at San Francisco from 1937 to 1941, going out from that city with the first convoy going to Australia.

The correspondent has been in the states since Sept. 4, with his mother, Mrs. O. Caswell, at Santa Monica, and his sister in California.

He will return to San Francisco expecting to ship out again next month.

The Caswell family lineage goes for many years, and graduated from the University of Oregon after elementary school education here.

About one-third of the Eugene out by municipal fire department in the United States are with hand extinguishers.

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