

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER (Published Every Evening and Sunday) EDITOR AND PUBLISHER Alton F. Baker MANAGING EDITOR William M. Tugano NEWS SERVICE Associated Press, United Press MEMBER Audit Bureau of Circulation Entered at the Post Office at Eugene, Oregon, as second-class matter. 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.

GAMBLING "OUT OF BOUNDS" HERE

For many months the evidence has been cumulative that gambling is going "out of bounds" in Eugene and in Lane county. There was the recent case of the "sucker" who faced a long term for forgery (after gambling losses) while the operator of the joint where the sucker was trimmed got only a nominal fine for misdemeanor. There was Saturday night's raid on "a game" at Mapleton where the officers seized "a pot" of \$4,000 and some of the alleged operators of the game. The "slots" are prevalent in clubs and roadside "jernts." The seemingly innocent "punchboards" are everywhere, and they have supplanted the pinballs as a lure for schoolkids.

These conditions do not exist by accident. They exist because the big time racketeers of "organized gambling" have taken advantage of wartime conditions to stretch the bounds of normal "tolerance." To say that gambling is "out of bounds" may seem like a contradiction, considering that the law makes it strictly illegal at all times. Yet everybody knows that even with the most careful and honest policing there must be a certain degree of "tolerance." The law is aimed at the professional gambler and not at the amateur. You hear it said:

"People will gamble, and you can't regulate morals by passing laws."

That is why police as a rule grant a certain amount of leeway. But the professional gamblers and racketeers in this state apparently have assumed that they have a "green light" (and maybe they have in some sections). In Lane county District Attorney William S. Fort is waving a "red lantern" and it is high time.

The reason he has done this is because of the complaints that are pouring in. The "sucker" seldom squawks, but his family or his employers or his creditors have no such inhibitions. They are yelling plenty.

We do not have any illusion that the racketeers will quit Lane county merely because a conscientious district attorney has warned them to get out. Gambling is a big racket. There are no accurate estimates on "the take" in Lane county but it is a huge figure. Gamblers can usually afford to spend 10 to 1 for what the law can spend, and in any war on gambling it is never easy to reach the Big Shots or the crooks who are in on the "fix."

Nevertheless, the public is not helpless. All over Lane county people are asking why gambling has been allowed to get so far "out of bounds" and if present officers either can't or won't "do their stuff," the public will be insisting on having some officers who can and will.

We do not expect all gambling to be abolished, but we do expect it to be kept from becoming a common nuisance.

HIGHER EDUCATION'S POST-WAR

It is prudent for Oregon's higher education to look to its needs with a 10-year building program, and there are many excellent suggestions in the report which Chancellor Frederick M. Hunter has laid before his board. The proposal for a system-wide retirement plan (comparable to the one which the University has had for years) is sound and necessary.

But—in our opinion, the Chancellor's report creates some over-optimistic illusions as to our preparedness for post-war education demands. It conveys to the board and to the Oregon public the impression that the program is pretty well set and at least fairly well manned and that there is nothing very urgent except to get some more money for buildings.

We recognize the need of a certain amount of official optimism and tact in discussing Oregon higher education before the people, but not being official, we feel no restraints in offering these observations and opinions:

- 1. Our Oregon schools are NOT ready for the post-war and they are really pretty sick. 2. All of our facilities at the University, State College and normals are under-staffed, under-paid. 3. All of our faculties are burdened with a heavy weight of "over-age" and a high ratio of mediocrity. 4. Many key positions in all the schools, but most notably the presidency of the University of Oregon are vacant, and it is not possible to attract top talent at present salaries or under present conditions. 5. Aggressive leadership of the kind to which men who have seen service will respond is conspicuously lacking. 6. Research in nearly every field is either sporadic, pitifully inadequate or non-existent. The state board was created some 15 years ago to pacify the bitter feuds, and it has done a good job—of pacification. Dr. Hunter was brought in as chancellor to pour balm on some of the old wounds and he has

done a good job—of pouring. But the schools have lost vitality under the neutering influence of "the system." They have been sapped by war. Educationally Oregon higher education is at all time low ebb.

We have no monopoly on this opinion. It is shared by many people at the University, at Oregon State and at all the other schools, and even by a few members of the state board. Oregon is not the only state where higher education is facing problems. Most institutions, endowed as well as public, have similar problems. When the war ends there is going to be a tremendous task of reorganization and rebuilding everywhere.

But the great schools will be built around MEN AND WOMEN and not encased in brick and mortar.

At the risk of being painful, or even a bit unfair, we are saying these things because we think they need to be said—to the legislature and to the people of Oregon. These are the conditions which we see here!

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

OLD AGE TILL FULL OF IOU'S

If the Old Age Security trust fund were a private life insurance company no sane person would dream of permitting it to cut premiums so that its actuarial reserves would be impaired—or, on the other hand, to raise premiums to keep us from contributing to inflation.

Why, then, do intelligent and public-spirited experts argue that it is perfectly safe for Uncle Sam to keep premiums below the level required to provide the benefits to which you are entitled when you retire at 65, or thereafter?

It's like this. A life insurance company must operate on the theory that it will go out of business some day. When that time comes, tomorrow or in the year 3944—the company must have available sufficient cash and securities to meet every obligation to its policy-holders. If it does not, it has no way to finance the deficit.

But the government of these United States is assumed to be immortal and eternal. If ever it should cease to exist, the crisis would be so catastrophic that the mere loss of old age benefits wouldn't be noticed.

Moreover, the trust fund is invested exclusively in government bonds, on the unchallengeable theory that they are the world's safest investment. If ever this Government were put out of business and had to liquidate its old age obligations all at once, the bonds in the trust fund would be worthless pieces of paper, and the reserve would have been created in vain.

Reserve Won't Be Needed For a Long Time. Again, the reserve, now around six billion dollars and growing fast, will not be needed to pay old age benefits for many years to come. Through June 30 of this year the trust fund had received more than \$5,700,000,000 and had spent, including administrative expenses, only \$670,000,000. Interest alone, nearly \$405,000,000, was almost enough to care for the \$544,000,000 in benefits and refunds.

The funds experts calculate that it will be between 1970 and 1980 before benefit payments begin to use up each year all of the premiums (taxes) provided for in the law, as it stands. At that time or soon after, one of three things would have to be done. Either reserves could be depleted—an unsound method if the reserve system is to be retained—or the premium (tax) rate could be raised above the top of 6 per cent (half from the worker) now provided, or Congress could make up the deficit out of revenues from other sources.

The Money Is Used for Current Expenses. The question is asked, then: Why bother with the fiction of a reserve? As it is, your old age insurance premiums (taxes) are used by Uncle Sam to meet his current needs, and are replaced with his IOU'S. The reserve isn't money; there isn't that much money. It's just some pretty pieces of paper that say the United States will give the trust fund money for them some time in the future. When that time comes, the Treasury will have to tax, or borrow from somebody else, to get the money.

Why not, asks this school, raise what is convenient by the payroll tax and stop pretending that it is necessary, or even desirable, that Uncle Sam should operate his insurance business as though he were mortal and might go out of business some day?

If it is decided to keep Old Age Insurance on the self-sufficient reserve basis, then you can bet your bottom dollar that no board of experts with reputations to protect will recommend against stepping up the old age tax right away, quick, before the trust fund shortage gets any bigger.

If the tax isn't raised, whenever you may be told you can gamble that it will, because Uncle Sam has decided to use the tax as just another source of general revenue, and to worry about the money for your retirement income when you call on him to make good his promises.

OLIVE BARBER'S OBSERVATIONS

THE LURE OF FRIED CHICKEN

Maybe you've always had a full pocketbook. If so, a few years back when traveling was done by train, you walked into the diner at meal time and ordered a good square. And if I were on that train I envied you for I stayed in my seat and ate my lunch out of a shoe box.

The contents of that box ran largely to fried chicken. Mother was a great believer in the efficacy of fried chicken, both as nourishment and as a means of developing fellowship with the other passengers. She'd get out a browned and crusty thigh, bite into it with slow deliberation. Of course the kids in the next seat were soon goggle-eyed and drooling. At this point she'd offer one a drumstick, another a wishbone. The children's mother would have to thank her and soon was munching a slice of breast or a wing herself. From then on to the end of the journey the conversation never languished.

Very natural, on my recent trip to see the parents, to have mother thrust a box in my hand as I left. I was driving my own car but I was going on a journey; and taking a lunch box of course! Soon I picked up a hitch-hiking sailor. Noon came. "Open the box," I ordered. He did, a little hesitantly. "Jeepers!", was his only comment as he saw the contents—fried chicken, dill pickles, grapes, apple pie. And how that lad did eat! Arriving at my friend's apartment late that evening, she made a cup of tea. I got out the box. The sailor and I had done our best but there was still a lot left.

"I had a late dinner 'and don't believe I better eat any more," said my friend. And proceeded to do the right thing by a chicken breast, 3 dill pickles and a huge bunch of grapes.

The next morning we got up late; too late for my friend to wait for breakfast if she were to be at her office on time. So we just made coffee and finished the contents of the box. I must admit however, that a dill pickle does not appear at its best on the breakfast table. At lunch, or even for a midnight snack, yes. But for breakfast, unh, unh! But a chicken back, well I can take a chicken back any time; especially if the little kidneys have been left in.

Oh, I see now that one should always take a lunch along on a trip; a lunch composed mostly of fried chicken and put up in a shoe box.

OUR CITIZENS IN SERVICE

Pvt. Frank H. Blanchard, former employe of the Southern Pacific company at Natron and Jasper, is serving overseas in Burma. His wife, Mrs. Dollie Blanchard, lives on route 1, Springfield.

COULTER HAS AWARDS

Lt. Donald H. Coulter, who was wounded in action Sept. 10 when American troops struck the Siegfried line, has written his parents that he has been awarded both the bronze star and the silver star for his achievements. Details concerning his citation probably will be received later. He was returned to a hospital in England in October.

UNIT CITATION GIVEN

12th AAF BASE, CORSICA—Tech. Sgt. Floyd L. Wade of Harrisburg, now is authorized to wear the distinguished unit badge, signifying that he is a member of 12th air force B-25 Mitchell bombardment group which has received the war department citation "for its part in destroying the Benevento, Italy, marshalling yards with devastating effect."

The citation reads in part: "Distinguishing themselves through extraordinary heroism and unswerving resolution, the combat crews destroyed 18 of the attacking planes and bombed the marshalling yards with devastating effect. The gallantry and combat proficiency exhibited by the personnel of this group in striking this decisive blow have reflected the highest credit on their organization and the military service of the United States."

Joining his present group 25 months ago, Sergeant Wade is serving as ordnance section chief. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wade, and his wife, Mrs. Margaret Wade, and small daughter, Sandra Jean, reside in Harrisburg.

JOSLIN ON LEAVE

Lester Merle Joslin, seaman 1-c, USN, is home on 30-day leave, visiting at the home of his mother, Mrs. Joe Fix in Eugene. He has been overseas for 22 months, and has taken part in several engagements on the Aleutians, Salpan and in the Philippines.

MOORE FROM ICELAND

Pvt. George K. Moore, who has spent 18 months overseas in England and in Iceland, now is home on 30-day leave and is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Moore of Mapleton, and relatives in Eugene. He also plans to spend some time in Portland, en route to Fort Lewis, where he is to report. He has been 21 months in the service.

CADET ADVANCES

Aviation Cadet Ivan P. Kirschman, son of Mrs. Mabel Kirschman of 2541 Friendly street, Eugene, has successfully completed his basic flying training at Stockton Field, Calif., and will go on to an advanced army flying school.

working toward attainment of his pilot wings.

OTLEY VISITS Frank L. Otley, electrician's mate 2-c, is home on 30-day leave from the Hawaiian islands, visiting his mother, Mrs. Rose Otley, 37 North Madison. He has been overseas for two years.

Full Speed Ahead, Slogan For Lumber

SEATTLE—Orders for full speed ahead on output for a prolonged war confront the Pacific northwest lumber industry.

Central procuring agency purchases for war uses reached 214,000,000 board feet in November, approximately three times as much as the previous month, the West Coast Lumbermen's association said in the monthly report. Stress is again on production of boards, as last spring.

New war requirements include large quantities of best-grade Douglas fir for truck bodies and exceptionally large and unexpected orders for crossarms for the signal corps, along with urgent items for Pacific naval installations, beachhead construction and lumber for boxes and craters.

November and December tide-water log inventories will exceed 700,000,000 board feet despite shortages of all logging equipment, an outstanding record, the association said. An open winter is needed, however, to keep the logs coming out of the woods.

Weekly average December production was 147,532,000 board feet, 93.3 per cent of the 1940-43 average. Orders averaged 139,444,000 board feet and shipments 144,553,000 board feet weekly. Unfilled orders Dec. 1 stood at 926,437,000 board feet, with gross stocks 475,015,000 board feet.

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WE ARE accumulating orders for the FIRST carload to leave eastern factory between Dec. 25-Jan. 1—to arrive here two weeks later . . . BRING in your order . . . bring serial number shown on approved papers . . . or turn it over to your PLUMBING CONTRACTOR . . . we'll do the rest.

FOR THIS FIRST lot—your order must be in our hands by Thursday night, Dec. 14!

OTHER shipments will be made, of course, BUT to get your tub early, Thursday night, Dec. 14, is it.

APPLICANTS whose papers have not yet been approved can secure their tubs in the next shipment but their orders should be filed with us as soon as approval is received.

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Logger Recovering After Freak Accident

Vernon Johnson of Springfield was recovering in a local hospital this week from the effects of a freak logging accident. Logging in the timber along Big

Fall creek, Johnson was standing on the end of a log about 35 feet behind a spot where other lumbermen were felling a snag. When it fell, it teetered across a rise in the ground and landed with a resounding impact on the other end

of Johnson's log, throwing about 15 feet into the air. Johnson thought it was a snag, but the log was back, mashing several men together, as the falling log when the snag hit the log.

GOOD-YEAR TOY FAIR FULL OF NEW IDEAS. FOR BUSY SANTAS. 1945 Calendar 35c 12 beautiful views of Oregon Valley Printing and Stationery 76 West Broadway. DRAPES CLEANED Electric Cleaners, Ph. 300. Can I rent my home for more if it's INSULATED? Yes. Twin Oaks Supply Co. 669 High.

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