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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.

Three Year Budget Terms

Under a law adopted by the 1945 legislature, the "budget committees" which advise county, city, school, and district officials on budget preparation will not be appointed from time to time as needed, but for regular terms. In each jurisdiction, of the three appointed this year, one will be named to a three year term, another for a two year term, another for one year. Thereafter the vacancies will be filled as they occur, and eventually each budgeteer will be serving a full three years.

It is a good plan because it will give some continuity in budget making, and that is wise. The budgeteers do not have any final authority. They may recommend and their recommendations usually are followed. The responsibility still rests with the duly elected officials, and that is as it should be. But budget making is an intricate job and to give really competent advice a committeeman really should be in intimate touch with budget and tax problems over a period of years.

The new plan should work very well with the Administrative Council for budget making recently set up by county, city and school officials of the Eugene and Springfield areas. Taking a long look at the enormous needs, this Administrative Council (composed of the chief executive officers of each unit) is projecting and scheduling improvements over a period of at least ten years.

"Should a public auditorium or a park expansion come ahead of city sewers, county courthouse, or some of the new schools? What projects are so URGENT that they should move without delay and what can be set five or six years ahead? How can all these things be done without putting the AGGREGATE tax levy out through the roof?"

The Administrative Council, suggested by the Central Lane Planning Council had attracted state wide attention because it represents an intelligent effort at voluntary tax control and efficient spending. The Administrative Council plans periodic meetings between budget seasons and there is no reason why members of the various official budget committees should not sit in at any of these discussions.

In this area we are virtually debt free as to county, city and schools and although it may be necessary to resort to some bonding for extreme long range projects—such as the Mill Race junction and overhead and off street parking—the aim is to keep all normal improvements on a cash basis and to prevent forever any such condition as we confronted in the last depression—when the charges on bonded debt took more than 40 cents out of the aggregate tax dollar.

Budget season is at hand. It is a critical season for this community's future.

Hughson Builds the Builders

To a great many people in Lane county, O. G. Hughson is so well known that they may wonder why we take space to mention again the work that he is doing. But after all, Mr. Hughson is only one man and his work is almost state wide, and it has not been possible for everybody to have the privilege of knowing this unique "missionary."

At some risk of indignant protest from Mr. Hughson, we will say that he is not a young man (in years). Indeed, he is downright amazing. Some years ago he told a group of people in the State Building Congress that it would help to solve many problems if somebody could go round to all the schools and teach youngsters how to build.

Mr. Hughson did not propose just "to make something." He proposed to teach young boys (and girls) how to build real houses, and barns and anything else useful by building scale models. All he needed for a start was some wood out of the scrap pile and a few tools.

Mr. Hughson and his boy builders have been building for years. From time to time their work has been exhibited widely and with universal praise. Some of Mr. Hughson's boys and girls have grown up and have built structures of their own to full scale. Mr. Hughson came in one day not long ago with a complaint (first we ever heard him make):

"Doggone," said he, "why don't some smart tool manufacturer put out a line of kid sized tools. I got all sorts of little kids that want to do this work, and they can do it just as good as anybody only they can't get their hands around the grownup tools. And I don't mean toys! Doggone, I mean real tools, sharp and keen, only just made to kid size."

Sometime this spring, Mr. Hughson and some of his youngsters will have another exhibit up at the big new McKenzie High School, and we assure you the show will be worth a trip up the river (if anybody needs any excuse for a trip up-river). We shall try to see that the dates are prominently

announced well in advance. And we hope Mr. Hughson will be there. Here is a citizen of Oregon well worth knowing. He will probably be in a hurry, as usual, but that is a characteristic of men with dynamic enthusiasm and practical ideas.

In estimating your income for next year we recommend that you let X represent how old is Ann and Y the angle of inflation; divide with OPA, subtract WPB and the rest of the alphabet, and that's it.

Down in Coos Bay they are trying some guys for selling phoney oyster beds, but nothing has been done yet about some of the stuff that passes for oyster soup.

As president of Optimist International Carl Donaugh, Democrat candidate for governor, traveled as far as Puerto Rico—but the trip to Salem will be really rough.

The Order of the Buggy Ride is not exactly agin' progress, but some of the boys wish that Eugene's only problem was a few hogs in Willamette street.

READER EDITORIAL

Socialist View of Profit System

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—The ad appearing the other day in your paper, by the National Association of Manufacturers, was a good ad, if the reader likes generalities. It mentioned peace on the domestic field. That is something, while desirable, that is impossible under the present economic system—they may work out a truce, but never a peace.

Under the profit system, every raise in pay is passed on to the consumer, and since the wage-workers are a good share of the consumers, they find that the higher pay does not buy more of the necessities, and are therefore dissatisfied. All of this is according to the mathematics of the profit system—no amount of denunciation or name-calling will change it.

The profit system is a prolongation of feudalism. We still work under the precept of master and servant—the masters still believe the servants should be satisfied with whatever the overlords wish to allow them to have. There is one point in favor of present day servants over those of years ago—the present day crowd has the right of political action; as soon as they are convinced economic action alone is not solving their problems, they can get governmental help.

The profit system is based on the assumption that one man has the right to grab for himself, values created by another man, without giving the other man an equal value in return. In any other transaction except a business deal, we would call a deed of that sort larceny, either petty or grand, according to the amount involved.

In order to forestall dictatorship, either of the right or the left, and to get our economic system onto an honest basis, we will have to produce and exchange on a cooperative plan—the sooner we start, the better.

Joseph Mechr.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON
 Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

Atomic Secrets and Spy Stuff

WASHINGTON, March 21—(NEA)—The Canadian spy-scare story, in which it is assumed that the Russian government obtained unspecified atomic-splitting secrets, has greatly influenced U. S. legislation to control atomic bomb production and related subjects. Some of the senators on the McMahon Committee which has been studying this subject may not be as sure as they once were about wanting to share this beautiful secret weapon with the rest of the world.

What the United States probably needs is a brand-new espionage law. Nearly everyone agrees that the anti-spy law now on the books isn't much good. And atomic bombs aren't the only weapons that have to be safeguarded today. There are a lot of top secrets about radar, rockets, guided missiles, and other new weapons which also require protection in the interest of national defense.

The trouble is that it is almost impossible to stir up any enthusiasm for a tighter spy law in the United States. Too many zealous guardians of the people's rights are afraid such an act would violate constitutional guarantees of civil liberties, freedom of speech, and such things.

The need for better protection against spies in the United States was demonstrated right after the eight Nazi saboteurs were caught in June, 1942. Under civil law, the only charge on which these enemy agents could be tried was conspiracy, because the spies had committed no overt act. The maximum penalty for conspiracy was two years' imprisonment. So the spies finally had to be tried under the U. S. Articles of War, which permitted the death penalty. But it took a Supreme Court decision to validate this sentence.

To plug this loophole in civil law, Attorney General Francis Biddle tried to get what he called a "wartime secrets act" passed by Congress. Some of the best legal talent in Washington worked on the draft of this proposed legislation.

The best they could produce and still stay within the constitutional guarantees of civil liberty was a proposal to make it a criminal offense to do anything with "intent" to harm the United States or to aid an enemy. The death penalty was proposed for individuals found guilty, and for corporations fines up to \$100,000 would have been assessable.

Biddle's bill was introduced in both House and Senate and was referred to judiciary committees. Even though "intent" is a hard thing for lawyers to prove and even though the proposed law would have been effective only in time of war, Congress had no enthusiasm for the idea, and the bill died in committee without ever being reported out. Congress apparently rates protection of civil liberties above considerations of national defense.

Committee Must Safeguard Secrets
 It is for this reason that the McMahon Atomic Energy Committee of the Senate is faced with the problem of trying to write into the new atomic energy legislation specific safeguards for atomic bomb secrets. At the same time, the committee is responsible for seeing to it that the traditional rights of freedom of exchange of technical and scientific information are not violated.

This question of combining security with freedom of information extends also into the establishment of controls over patents on atomic energy processes and products. The Manhattan district engineer project which developed the bomb has taken out patents on many of its discoveries. This was done to protect the government in case the same things should be discovered in independent research later on, and an application filed for patent rights.

All the Manhattan district patents are now held in a secret file by the U. S. Patent Office. The rights will be transferred to the new atomic energy commission to be set up by Congress.

The commission will, of course, be given the right to license its patents for bona fide research and development not violating military security. But to give the commission such broad authority that it could control patents on what Secretary of Commerce Henry Wallace calls "the overshoots and stepladders" developed for use on the atomic bomb project may be going a bit too far.

SP Shortening Its Schedule To California

A new train to California and shortening of the schedules of all passenger trains between Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles, beginning April 14, were announced Thursday by J. A. Ormandy, general passenger agent, Southern Pacific, at Portland.

"The Cascade will be reestablished as an all-Pullman train with lounge car and other new facilities furnished," Ormandy said.

"The economy train, the Beaver, will be reestablished and will carry tourist sleeping cars, lounge car, dining car, chair cars and coaches.

Cascade Schedule
 "The Cascade will now leave Portland at 4:50 p. m. and arrive in San Francisco at 11:20 a. m. Coming north, the Cascade will leave San Francisco at 5 p. m. and arrive in Portland at 11:30 a. m. The Beaver will leave Portland at 5 p. m., arriving in San Francisco at 11:50 a. m. and coming north will leave San Francisco at 5 p. m., arriving in Portland at 11:45 a. m. Both of these trains will make stops at Salem, Albany and Eugene. Local ticket agents said they had not yet received the new train schedules for Eugene.

"All of the other trains between Oregon and San Francisco and Los Angeles are being likewise expedited. The Klamath will leave Portland at 8:15 a. m. and arrive in San Francisco at 7:50 a. m., providing direct connections with the daylight trains for southern California. The Oregonian will leave Portland 10 p. m., arriving in San Francisco at 7:20 p. m. with evening connections for the south. The West Coast will leave Portland at 10:15 p. m. instead of 7 p. m., arriving Los Angeles at 8:45 a. m.

Trains Coming North
 "Coming north, the West Coast will leave Los Angeles at 8:10 p. m., arriving in Portland at 7:40 a. m. The Oregonian will leave San Francisco at 6 p. m., arriving in Portland at 3:40 p. m. and the Klamath will leave San Francisco at 8:30 p. m., arriving in Portland at 9:25 p. m.

"The drastic reduction in the schedules of the Shasta Route trains is in keeping with the company's recent announcement that passenger train schedules will be reduced and accommodations on the trains improved just as rapidly as traffic conditions permit. The Southern Pacific is still carrying an exceedingly heavy wartime load including daily operation of special trains of military personnel which, of course, complicates the reconversion program. Our management is intent, however, on providing railroad passenger service that will be faster and better than prewar service."

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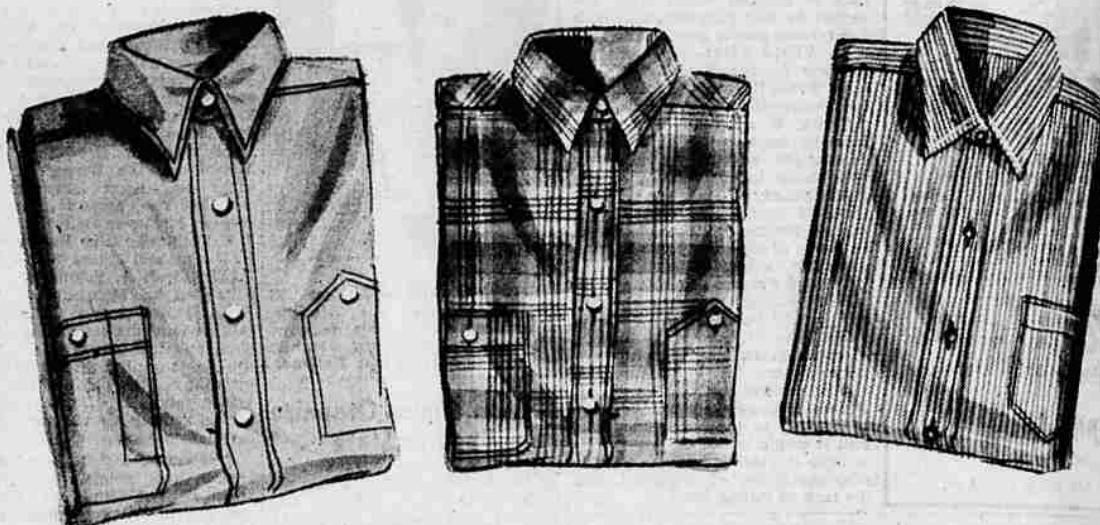
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