

Man Tells the Full Story Government's Lumber Corp.

EDERICK C. OTHMAN
INGTON — (U.P.) — The
near president of the U.
Corp., organized by the
in 1918 to buy lum-
in the first world
rides to work (work, he
a federal automobile

driven by an \$1800-a-year federal chauffeur.
No airplane ever was built of the corporation's spruce for which Congress originally spent \$23,500,000. Each spring since 1922 Congress has been appropriating \$10,000 to liquidate its lumber company. Only somehow it never got liquidated. It's still chopping down trees, hauling 'em over its private railroad in northern Washington and carving 'em into planks in its own sawmills. Wait Norblad Remembered
This story never could have been printed had it not been for

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a bright-eyed, 10-year-old youngster, named Wait Norblad, who lived in the tall tree country and who was properly impressed in August of 1918 when the government's spruce corporation took over thousands of acres of timber to help beat the Huns. Three months later the war ended, but the Spruce Corp. didn't. Young Wait forgot about it. He completed his education, grew into manhood, married, and finally, 28 years later, gained high office.

And here was Wait, now Congressman Walter Norblad of Oregon, thumbing through the 1947 federal budget and marveling at its weight, like an unabridged dictionary. In the fine print he happened to spy the 24th appropriation for the closing down of the government's spruce company. His memory, as the prosecuting attorneys say, was refreshed.
"What happened was that Congress just overlooked its own corporation," he said. "And the corporation just went right along. What's worrying me now is this: If we can't get rid of a World War I lumber company in 28 years, then what's going to happen to our billion-dollar World War II corporations? They'll still be with us, when my grandchildren are old, white-whiskered men."

Word of Rep. Norblad's discovery in the budget's pica type reached the Portland, Ore., headquarters of the Spruce Corp., where President A. R. Stallings, a retired army colonel, retorted that the company had broken even in the lumber business all through the years it was supposed to be closing down.
"I should think he would break even," exclaimed Rep. Norblad. "I am informed that this government corporation operated on a government basis, paying no taxes on its stands of timber for nearly three decades, running its railroad tax free, and even paying no taxes on its sawmills."

One Last Year
So the General Accounting Office wrote a letter to the comptroller general, saying the time seemed to have come, all right, for the end of the U. S. Spruce Corp. The letter listed the wages of President Stallings and the other officers of the firm and mentioned the chauffeur.

This worthy's principal job, the federal accountants said, was driving Stallings to his office in a motor car owned by Congress corporation.

Congress still didn't end the spruce company, just ordered it turned over to the Army by the end of this year. If it's around next year, Rep. Norblad said, he'll demand a year-by-year accounting of its 28-year battle to win the first world war. If that doesn't work, Rep. Norblad is a handy man with an axe.

Turkeys are related to pheasants and, in three species, were found wild from Maine to South America.

Vanilla extract is obtained from the pod of a South and Central American climbing orchid.

Soviet Press Levels Editorial At Its Own Homefront Housing

LONDON — (U.P.) — Pravda, newspaper organ of The Russian Communist party, has bitterly denounced Soviet district leaders whom it held responsible through "inaction and inability" for a serious lag in the five-year housing plan.

Possibly giving warning that a new purge might be in the making, Pravda in its editorial broadcast by the Moscow radio said construction of homes had reached only a fraction of the designed number.
Interrupting its blasts at the outside world to level a broadcast at "bureaucracy" on the home front, the Communist Organ said only 16 per cent of new homes scheduled for construction this year in areas once occupied by the Germans had been built up to June, even though Premier Josef Stalin personally initiated the program.
"It is regrettable that people hide their inaction and inability behind excuses of existing post-war difficulties and do not do what is demanded of them," Pravda said.

Pravda said the failure to complete the housing plan "is explained by the fact that party organizations of these regions have weakened their attention in that direction and have forgotten that the matter concerns the most crying and most essential needs of the peasants."
Citing another example of the leaders' failure, Pravda reported a letter it had received from a group of workers in an Odessa machine factory, describing the conditions of their dwellings.
"The houses were damp," the editorial said. "All about them is dirt. Windows are broken. With evening everything is plunged in darkness as there is no lighting."

A SLIGHT MISTAKE
DENVER — (U.P.) — Deputy State Treasurer Jacob Willson picked up an envelope in his mail addressed to "The Treasurer of the State of Colorado, Hartford, Conn." It had been forwarded carefully by Hartford.

Willson slit the envelope and out dropped a U. S. government check for \$400,000 made out to the State of Connecticut. Willson is returning the check—in another envelope—to Hartford.

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HAPPY PAPA
HILLSBORO, Wis. — (U.P.) — Bob Jacobson celebrated the arrival of an eight-pound daughter by going on a hitting binge in a baseball game.
Jacobson slammed three home runs, driving in 10 runs, as Hills-

Eugene Register-Guard, Eugene, Ore., Wed., July 31, 1946, Page 7
boro routed Wonebec, 27-7 in a Juneau County League contest.
The first college of dentistry was started in the United States in 1839.
Instead of laying eggs like most fish, the rosefish of Canada bring forth their young alive.
The whale shark is the largest living fish.



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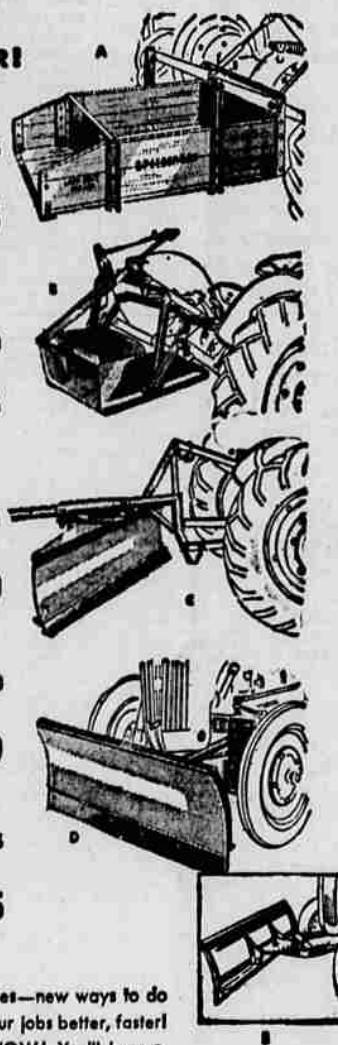
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