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The Register-Guard's policy is the complete and impartial publication 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.

Pin-ball Taxpayers

When people grouse about taxes, have you ever heard any beefs about levies on pin-ball games—or juke boxes? Probably not because traditionally our thinking about taxes is considerably behind the times. When we think of taxes we usually have in mind taxes on property. Complaints are loudest about the time of year the tax bills are delivered by the mailman.

Municipal taxation has been undergoing changes in recent years. There was a time when most of Eugene's revenue came from property taxes, but that day has passed. Today only about 50 per cent of the city's revenue comes from the property tax. Eugene and other cities have been forced to seek new sources of revenue because property is no longer able to carry all the load.

Eugene does not tax pin-ball games or juke boxes, but it does tax establishments operating commercial card games. Astoria has placed a tax on pin-ball games and the people who play them pay a tidy sum into the city coffers each year—probably without knowing it. Eugene is considering a number of such possibilities as a means of obtaining necessary new revenue. It also has in process of enactment an amusement tax ordinance.

The theory behind such taxes is that people who can afford to play pin-ball games, juke boxes and commercial card games, as well as people who can afford to patronize other forms of amusement, also can afford to contribute to support of city government. Because the amount paid per ticket or per game is relatively small, such taxes are more palatable than property taxes, for which the bill comes in a lump sum. Such taxes also are in line with the theory that ability to pay should be one criterion in judging a good tax.

These things were in mind when a tax committee of the League of Oregon Cities drafted recommendations to be presented to the legislature through the interim tax committee appointed by Gov. Earl Snell. One of these recommendations asks the state to leave the amusement tax field to the cities. If one governmental agency taxes amusements it would be bad policy for another agency to step into the same field and tax also.

However, the League of Oregon Cities tax committee, headed by City Manager Deane Seeger of Eugene, does not mean to suggest that such taxes as these are anywhere near a complete solution of the municipal tax problem. The committee has made two other major recommendations: that the state give the cities a larger share of such revenues as those from the gasoline tax and liquor sales, and that the state require reassessment of property every two years.

Throughout Oregon there is inequality in assessments. In other words there are cases like one in Springfield in which there are two houses which are virtually identical, with one assessed at four times the amount for the other. This means that one home owner is paying too little in taxes or the other is paying far too much. Furthermore there are instances in which property is not assessed at all, which means it pays no taxes at all.

The tax committee believes that reassessment every two years would do two things: correct an unjust situation, by requiring all property to carry its share of the tax load; and bring about a net boost in assessed valuations, which would make possible increased revenue for cities, counties and school districts without imposing an excessive burden on anyone.

Even these measures are but first steps toward needed revision of municipal and state tax structures. Rising costs and long

unfilled needs for public improvements have created an acute tax problem for cities, school districts and counties—as well as the state. Cities in other parts of the country are resorting to sales taxes, payroll taxes, broad programs of occupational taxes, and others.

How Oregon will meet its problem in the immediate future depends on what recommendations are made to the governor by his interim tax committee and what action the next legislature takes on these recommendations.

WASHINGTON LETTER

By PETER EDSON

Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

Reparations Differences Strain Allies' Hopeful Potsdam Accord

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20.—(NEA)—Reparations settlements have caused more squabbling among the Big-Four powers than has almost any other subject covered by the Potsdam agreement. If anything, the powers are farther apart on this issue today than they were a year ago, when the Potsdam papers were signed. It may take a special meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers or another meeting of the heads of the four governments to bring order out of the present reparations mess.

Part of the trouble stems from the Russian seizure of what they call war "booty"—the spoils of war which a conqueror can take from a defeated nation without any accounting. The word "booty" does not occur in the Potsdam Communiqué, however, and it has been impossible to get from the Russian government a satisfactory definition of what constitutes booty and what constitutes reparations.

What the Potsdam declaration did provide was that reparations claims of the U. S., Britain, France, the Netherlands, and other western countries would be taken from the western zones of occupied Germany, and from "appropriate" German assets held in foreign countries. "Appropriate" apparently means any such assets they could lay their hands on.

Russian reparations claims were to be met from the eastern zone of occupied Germany, and from any "appropriate" German assets the Russians could lay their hands on in eastern Europe, plus one-fourth of Germany's "industrial capital equipment" in the western zones. This capital equipment was to be drawn from factory equipment not needed to maintain Germany's domestic economy. Russia was to Trade Materials for Reparations.

Sixty per cent of these western-zone reparations handed over to Russia were to be exchanged for an equivalent value of food, coal, lumber, oil, and similar raw materials taken from the eastern zone and distributed among the western zones. The remaining 40 per cent of the western-zone surplus factories was to be turned over to the Russians free and without payment of any kind.

The Potsdam agreement declared that the amount of equipment to be removed from the western zones and given to Russia should be determined within six months. The deadline for that was, therefore, last March 2. The deadline was not met, and it still hasn't been met.

Potsdam further provided that delivery of western-zone industrial-equipment reparations to Russia should begin at once and be completed by March 2, 1948. Russian deliveries of food and raw materials to the western zones were to be completed by March, 1951.

Most of these provisions now appear to be dead letters, but the progress to date may be summed up in over-simplified form about like this:

The March deadline for determining how much surplus industrial equipment could be turned over to Germany couldn't be met because the Control Council in Berlin didn't reach agreement on what Germany's living standard and economic level was to be until late in May.

The Americans and British tried to carry out the reparations agreement. Some 140 German plants in the U. S. zone have been earmarked for delivery to Russia. About 40 have been delivered. But now delivery has been stopped from all the western zones.

This has been done for two reasons. First, because Russia hasn't been delivering any raw materials from the eastern zone to the western zones in exchange for capital goods. Second, because the U. S. is now considering stoppage of further deliveries to make up for "booty" taken out of Manchuria by the Russians.

False Assumptions Negate Reparations Policy
It has been impossible to carry out the Potsdam reparations agreement because three basic assumptions of the entire postwar settlement have not been realized.

The first assumption was that the territory of western prewar Germany would remain intact in any consideration of reparations division. France balked at that. What France wanted first was that the entire industrial Ruhr Valley territory be awarded to her, without any of its industries being removed as reparations.

To date no reparations payments have been made to Russia from the French zone. None will be made until the Ruhr-Rhineland boundary is determined.

The second assumption was that all of Germany would be considered as an economic unit, with a free flow of goods between zones and revenues from the sale of all German exports being used to pay for needed imports. Until the recent U. S.-British efforts to operate the two zones as one economic unit, there has been practically nothing done along this line.

The third assumption was that all reparations would be taken out of capital assets and not out of new production. The Russians and the French have been taking reparations out of current production.

If the Russians collect the 10 billion dollars' worth of German reparations they want, it may take 50 years to complete payments. This may be one reason Russia doesn't want to build up a central German government and sign a German peace treaty now.

Brazilians make CAMAROS FRITOS EM MASA DE VINHEE (Shrimps Fried in Batter)
2 pounds raw shrimp or prawns
1/2 teaspoon salt
Few grains pepper
1/4 cup lemon juice
1-3 cup salad oil
1 egg separated
1 cup sifted flour
1 1/2 cups water
Shell shrimp. Combine salt, pepper, lemon juice and all but 1 teaspoon oil; beat well; pour over shrimp. Let stand about 1/2 hour; drain. Beat yolk and white of egg separately; add yolk to white. Stir in flour. Add water

gradually, stirring to make a smooth, thin batter. Add remaining 1/2 teaspoon oil. Fasten 2 shrimp together with toothpick. Dip in batter. Fry in deep fat heated to 365 degrees about 4 minutes or until golden brown. Drain on absorbent paper. Garnish with lemon wedges and stuffed olives.

These make an excellent snack to be served with coffee, and may also be used as a hot hors d'oeuvre.

Prawns are good merely dipped in egg and crumbs and fried in butter.

WEDDING REPORTED
STAFFORD — Miss Winnie Hansen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hansen, recently was married at Bremerton, Wash., to Larry Swain of Tulsa, Okla.

RHEUMATISM and ARTHRITIS
I suffered for years and am so thankful that I am free from pain and able to do my work that I will gladly answer anyone writing me for information. Mrs. Anna Pautz, P.O. Box 825, Vancouver, Wash.

SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

By ANN CONNELL

Tea Announced As Preliminary To Convention

Preliminary to the national convention of the Auxiliary to Disabled American Veterans, to be held in Portland September 2 to 6, is a reception for all national officers, Disabled American Veterans, and the auxiliary, planned for Sunday, September 1, at 8 p.m., in Portland. Chairman for the event is Elizabeth Stedman, 2905 NE Knott Street.

On Monday, Labor Day, memorial services are to be conducted at 4 p.m. at the Portland Masonic Temple, by the national chaplain, Clara Mae Bickford, Vancouver, Wash.

National commander of the auxiliary is Mrs. Beatrice Locke Hogan of Cincinnati, until six years ago a resident of Portland. She will preside at the convention.

Plans of a social nature include a tea at the Veterans Hospital from 2 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, September 3, with the department of Oregon hospital chairman, Lillian Grenfell, Portland, and Nella Cummings, Roseburg, as hostesses. They will be assisted by unit hospital chairmen throughout the state.

A forget-me-not luncheon, as the forget-me-not is the national DVA flower, is being arranged for Wednesday, September 4, at Multnomah Hotel, with Carrie Davidson, chairman. On the committee are Mary V. Barton, Bessie Hawkins and Annie Fordyce.

In charge of courtesy and hospitality will be Viola Eathing, commander of Unit No. 1 auxiliary.

One page will serve from each unit in Oregon if there are not pages from the different states.

ENGAGEMENTS TOLD AT COTTAGE GROVE

COTTAGE GROVE—Mrs. Elizabeth Paquette announces the engagement of her daughter, Blanche, to Roman P. Kasper, of Creswell. Miss Paquette is a graduate of the local high school, with the class of 1935, and is employed by the local Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company. Mr. Kasper is in business in Creswell after three years with the armed forces. No date has been set for the wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Krueger of Wassau, Wisconsin, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Constance Margaret, to Harley Dwane Fix, of Cottage Grove, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Fix. The wedding will be an event of the near future in Vancouver, Washington.

RECENT DINNER FOR WILLIAMSONS

Honoring Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Williamson, who have moved to Corvallis, a potluck dinner was held recently at Wesley House on the campus. Mr. Williamson was a former principal at University High school and is now professor of education at Oregon State College. Co-hosts were Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Crakes, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Young, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Potter.

Guests present were: Mr. and Mrs. John Ricks, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Juif, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Beals, Rev. L. O. Griffith, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Keril.

A gift was presented and refreshments served.

ARMY AID GIVEN

Appreciation for the assistance of the Eugene Army recruiting station personnel at the recent Cottage Grove dam recreation picnic has been expressed by N. J. Nelson, Jr., picnic chairman. In a letter to the local office, Nelson, on behalf of the Cottage Grove Chamber of Commerce, applauded the station's "splendid cooperation." Local recruiters loaned and helped operate a sound truck for use at the celebration.

PALM SPRING VISITORS

Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly of Los Angeles are visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Gibson. A trip to Portland to view the dog races is planned with the visitors. The Kelly's home is at Palm Springs, and they spend their summers traveling.



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MISS FARMER
September will see the marriage of Miss Carol Jean Farmer to Zeann H. Butterfield. Both are of Veneta.

Shower Is Given For Engaged Girl

A gift shower, honoring Miss Genevieve Koepf, bride-elect, was given recently by Mrs. J. C. Neely and Mrs. Elmer Ware at Mrs. Ware's home. Miss Koepf will be married Sunday at Central Presbyterian Church to Edwin Paris.

Those attending the shower were Mrs. Charles Hollis, Mrs. Peter Paris, Miss Shirley Finley, Miss Betty Neely, Mrs. Max Allen, Mrs. Keith Parks, Mrs. Jo Eickert, Mrs. Bert Koepf, Mrs. Charles Morrin, Misses Phyllis and Norma Ware, Mrs. Donald Clark and Miss Earlene Koepf. Many who could not be present sent gifts.

FAMILY DINNER AT PRUETT HOME

A family reunion was held Sunday, August 11, at the home of Mrs. Amy Pruett on Spencer Butte. Out of town visitors who inspired the gathering were Mrs. Pruett's father, Jesse Retherford, of Stillwater, Okla.; her sister, Mrs. Emma Wikenson, of Hutchinson, Kans.; her niece and nephew, Mr. and Mrs. Buster White, of Cortez, Colo. Four generations were represented at the gathering.

A large dinner was held at noon for twenty-eight persons. Those present, in addition to those mentioned, were: Mr. and Mrs. Carl C. Ross and sons, Russell and Bruce; Mr. and Mrs. Jesse A. Pruett and sons, Gordon and Paul, of Portland; Mrs. Ruth Beck and sons, Richard and Robert; Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Pruett, Springfield; Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Lowe and son, Clarence; Mr. and Mrs. J. Wesley Pruett, David and Claudia; Mr. and Mrs. Emery Pruett and son, Douglas.

SHOWER AT HALSEY HONORS MISS BASS

HALEY—About 40 friends and relatives of Miss Dorothy Bass attended a shower given in her honor at the home of Mrs. Clara Ardrey recently. Mrs. Adah Taylor and Mrs. Wilma Smith were co-hostesses. Miss Bass, who is to be a bride soon, received many gifts for her new home. An afternoon of games was concluded by serving of refreshments.

ANNUAL WEBFOOT RALLY IN PORTLAND

The annual University of Oregon webfoot rally will be held at Jantzen beach August 22 at six-thirty o'clock. It is being sponsored by the dads, mothers and alumni of the University of Oregon.

Former students and prospective students are invited to the free picnic and dance.

YONCALLA MAN TO CLAIM BRIDE

YONCALLA — Mr. and Mrs. Harold Phillips announce the approaching wedding of Miss Rose Isgar, daughter of Mrs. Naomi Isgar of Idaho, to their son

Wayne Phillips. The wedding will be held at the Phillips home at Hayhurst, Saturday, Aug. 24.

COTTAGE GROVE PAIR IS MARRIED HERE

COTTAGE GROVE — Miss Laurabel Gilham, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Gilham, and Glen Means, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Means, both of this city, were married in Eugene Monday, August 12, by Justice of the Peace John Bryson. Both Mr. and Mrs. Means are graduates of the union high school here with the class of 1945. Mrs. Means has been employed as secretary to Superintendent H. B. Ferrin, and Principal G. S. Davies.

ZONTA CLUB T MEET FOR BUSINESS TALK

No speaker is planned for the

Wednesday evening meeting Eugene Zonta Club, but business matters of business will be discussed, according to Miss Laernerman, president. The meeting will be for dessert at seven thirty o'clock, in the Mirror Room of the Eugene Hotel.

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ARDELS

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Recipe

There are many ways to cook prawns, which have a similar but not-the-same flavor as the ready-cooked shrimp. Some like to dip them in batter and fry in shallow or deep fat. Some like to merely saute them and then cream and serve on biscuits or toast points, but here's the way the

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Ed. Adv.—NUZ-OVO Laboratories