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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.

Beginning for County Zoning

As revised and simplified in House Bill 418 (substitute for original HB 88) an act to enable counties to set up planning and zoning commissions stands a good chance of becoming law—if it does not become lost in the last minute scramble as so many good bills do. The act passed the House on March 10. It rests with the Senate committee on county affairs (Mahoney, Lynch, Gibson, Engdahl and Marsh) and a majority of that committee have signified their intention to send it out "Do Pass." Roadside interests and real estate generally have withdrawn their protests. Some Grange opposition remains.

Springfield's William S. Fort drew the substitute measure and in our opinion he did an excellent job. The House tacked on one amendment which changes the operation but not the spirit of this bill. This amendment was designed to satisfy two rival clamors:

> Coast counties which insist that there should be a vote of the people to direct the County Court to set up a zoning and planning board.
> Oswego suburbanites who insisted that certain areas should be able to have zoning even if a majority in the county should vote against.

Accordingly it is provided that a county court may submit to the voters at any general or special election the question:

> "Shall the County Court be authorized to enact zoning and land use regulation?"

If there is a majority in the county, that settles it. If there is not, then it is provided:

> ". . . if a majority of the legal voters residing in an unincorporated area totalling not less than two square miles within such county shall thereafter by petition request the County Court to enact such parts of such ordinances as affect such two square mile area, such County Court shall thereupon enact such an ordinance affecting only such area."

Not ideal but a start! But zoning sells itself by sound example, and if a start is made the law can be improved as years go by. There has been a lot of misunderstanding, and some misrepresentation of the measure:

> Farm lands are specifically exempted.
> Only built-up areas close to cities would actually be regulated.

The need is visible to the naked eye on the outskirts of every city—slaughter houses which invade residental property; streets which do not "mesh"; no adequate sanitation provisions; no building codes. Except where carefully drawn "deed restrictions" have been provided, investment in suburban property is highly insecure, and the actual cost to the public of badly planned roads and facilities is very great.

Intolerance in Los Angeles

Nearly every day somebody dashes in to say something about "the shocking postwar crime wave"—teen-agers killing their parents, sex crimes of the most horrible kind, holdups, robberies, ghastly traffic accidents.

> "What is this country coming to?"

An now we see signs of "race trouble." In Los Angeles, pupils of a large high school are striking because a few Negro boys and girls have claimed the American right to attend school. We commend the principal of the school who pins the blame for prejudice on the parents, not on the kids. Kids have a strong sense of fair play.

> "But what's wrong with parents? What's wrong with the American home?"

That's a big question. We have on the desk a letter from a reader. She encloses a clipping with the story of a recent murder and with it clippings of liquor ads from the R G and she says:

> "There is your answer."

Lots of people blame everything on liquor. But we had nation-wide prohibition at the end of World War I and much the same conditions of violence ,prejudice and mob lust prevailed. Gangsterism reached its all-time peak in the twenties. Perhaps the question should be asked:

> "What is wrong in the American way of life that makes so many people abuse liquor?"

Many will answer:

> "It's the strain. It's the pace. It's the frantic race to 'get somewhere' and 'be somebody'. Our education fails."

At this point somebody barges in to argue "the church." There are those who contend that the only salvation is universal return to the church (their church); there are others who argue that the churches have failed.

There is certainly widespread "moral confusion" whether you try to blame it on the home, the church, the school, or the Democratic party (or the Communists whom some earnest patriots see lurking in every bush).

Social workers, psychiatrists and medical men all have some pet theories and some of them are supported by impressive statistics, but in the main these studies tend to prove that these outbreaks are connected with poverty, ignorance, bad living conditions, insecurity, fear (though we have man converse cases where the explosion seems to result from too much money and idle hands).

We only have notions on the subject. We think that all of "the accused" (including ourselves) should plead "Partially Guilty!"—including that great sober, industrious, thrifty, supposedly well-educated class that almost never gets into any trouble, indeed avoids and ignores trouble in the serene faith that all is always for the best in this the best possible of all countries.

And since most of this trouble manifests itself in urban areas (although there are some rural and backwoods sections which make an unhealthy contribution) we hang with the notion that one of the greatest problems of "American civilization" is life in urban areas. It is a question whether Eugene's growing up brings in as much "dough" as "headaches."

That is why for years we have kept harping on "local problems"—tax riddles, which affect homes, schools, city services, county government, public safety and health—to the detriment of "world policy". Do we bore you? We don't want Eugene ever to be like Los Angeles! Not that LA is all bad. It still has its sunshine! Or does it? We hear it now has a plague of "smog" from rampant industries. Maybe that's why so many people down there have turned to hating somebody.

A Congenital Optimist suggests that the world being what it is, some day we may be grateful to those Russians for delaying "the peace."

Plenty of GI's are finding out that there's no place like home—at least not for rent.

A fraternity house at Colgate University was damaged by fire—not started by burning the midnight oil.

An old law forbids kite-flying in Washington, D. C. And just think of all the wind there!

Two ears and one mouth suggests that you should listen twice as much as you talk.

WASHINGTON LETTER

BY PETER EDSON
Register-Guard Washington Correspondent

Nuts to the Knutson Plan

WASHINGTON, March 21—(NEA)—This being the week when everybody sweats, bleeds, and cries over his income tax return, any news about possible reductions for the last half of this year and thereafter should be more welcome than the flowers of spring.

But the sad fact is that the one major tax cut apple now before Congress is full of worms. This is Minnesota Republican Congressman Harold Knutson's proposal for a flat 20 per cent tax cut on all incomes below $303,000. Above this level the cut would become gradually smaller till it reached a minimum cut of 10 per cent on incomes above $5,000,000 a year.

Hearings on this tax cut plan are finally getting under way before the House Ways and Means Committee of which Knutson is the new chairman. The hearings are only about two months late. Tax-cutting was going to be the first order of business when the Republicans came into power, so they said. But they never got to it.

Knutson has talked about this 20 per cent across the board cut ever since 'way before last November's election. He said it was easiest to administer. And while the flat 20 per cent cut at first sounded good, particularly when coupled with the statement that it would reduce the nation's tax bill by an estimated $3.6 billion, that's only part of the story. Tax experts who have had time to do some real sharp pencil figuring on this idea have come up with some facts which show what a really vicious proposal it is.

Lowest Income Gets Least Relief

By cutting all taxes 20 per cent, instead of on a graduated scale, the fellow or the family with the lowest income gets the least relief. The reason it works out this way is that income tax rates are lower on the low incomes.

Present tax rate on a $1000 income is 9.5 per cent. On $10,000 it's 18.8 per cent. On $1,000,000 it's 63.5 per cent. Cut these percentages by 20 per cent, and naturally the man paying the highest percentage will get the biggest tax reduction.

To get the feel of this, tax experts say that the amount of tax relief which the Knutson plan would give must "be measured against the percentage by which take-home pay would be increased." For this purpose, the taxpayer's net income after payment of taxes under present law must be compared with the amount which take-home pay would rise under the Knutson plan.

For an unmarried taxpayer with no dependents, the figures shape up like this:

Net Annual Income	Present Taxes	Tax Under Knutson Plan	Increased Take-Home Pay	Percentage Income Incr.
$ 600	$ 19	$ 15	$ 4	0.7%
1,200	95	76	19	2.1
2,500	380	304	76	3.6
5,000	922	737	185	4.5
10,000	2,347	1,878	469	6.1
25,000	9,362	7,490	1,872	12.0
50,000	25,137	20,110	5,027	20.2
100,000	63,541	50,832	12,709	34.9
303,000	237,500	190,000	47,500	72.6

Cockeyed Scale of Reductions

What this table shows, in brief, is that under the Knutson plan a taxpayer with an average income of $2500 a year would have his taxes cut and his take-home pay increased by $76 a year. This would be equivalent to a 3.6 per cent raise in pay. At the other end of the scale, a man with a $303,000 income would have his taxes cut and his take-home pay increased by $47,500 a year. This would be equivalent to a 72.6 per cent increase in pay.

For a married man with two dependents, the figures are these:

Net Annual Income	Present Taxes	Tax Under Knutson Plan	Increased Take-Home Pay	Percentage Income Incr.
$ 2,500	$ 95	$ 76	$ 19	0.8%
5,000	589	471	118	2.7
10,000	1,862	1,490	372	4.6
25,000	8,522	6,818	1,704	10.3
50,000	24,111	19,289	4,822	18.6
100,000	62,301	49,841	12,460	33.1
304,000	237,500	190,000	47,500	71.0

With reductions on these cockeyed scales, chances that the Knutson plan will be adopted should be slim. Theer is plenty of opposition to it even from Republicans, in spite of campaign promises which weren't carefully thought out before they were uttered.

What will probably get by will be a graduated tax reduction scale that will give a cut of 20 per cent or more to the lower income groups, but something less than that to the higher brackets.

SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

By ANN CONNELL

Evangeline Chapter To Note Anniversary

An elaborate program has been prepared by past matrons of Evangeline Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, under direction of Mrs. F. Liddell, general chairman, for the celebration of the chapter's Golden Anniversary, Saturday evening at the Masonic Temple. Four charter members of the chapter, Mrs. Emma Preston, Miss Anne Whiteaker, Mrs. Laura Harris and Miss Theresa Hodes, will be honored specially at the gathering.

The program will be as follows:

Song, "Open the Gates of the Temple," by Miss Margaret Zimmerman, accompanied by Mrs. Jack Bryan.

Welcome address, Mrs. C. A. Huntington, past worthy grand matron.

Response, Mrs. Lorena McNair of Ashland, worthy grand matron of Oregon.

Presentation of Book of Memoirs, compiled and offered by Mrs. L. O. Meisel.

Talk, "Fifty Golden Years in Evangeline Chapter," Mrs. R. S. Bryson.

This will be followed by addendum from the 1947 officers, and afterward will be held a reception in the lodge diningroom. Mus'c for the occasion will be furnished by Mrs. Fred Kingsley, and it is to be music of a long-ago era.

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SPINSTERS ANNONCE PLANS FOR SALE

Eugene Spinsters announce they will hold a rummage sale Saturday, March 22, all day at the former location of Larway's 885 Willamette St. The purpose of the sale is to obtain money for charitable uses.

Miss Virginia Hesse is general chairman, and she will be assisted by Miss Janet Tugman, Miss Barbara Bennett, Miss Patricia Colerick and Miss Libby Roe, committee members.

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CARD WINNERS GIVEN FOR LADIES OF ELKS

Mrs. Erna Maurer and Mrs. J. E. Turnbull held honors at contract Thursday afternoon at the meeting of Ladies of the Elks, and Mrs. I. D. Larimore and Mrs. J. C. French received the awards at auction. The group met for cards at the Elks Club.

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DELBERT JAMES SPEAKS TO CLUB

Delbert James was the speaker for the Eugene Garden Club at its meeting Tuesday evening, on rhododendrons and their culture. He displayed several different species in blooms, plants and leaves.

The meeting was held at the Garden Clubhouse.

Miss Johnette King Receives Mu Phi's Music Scholarship

Miss Johnette King of North Bend was chosen winner of the annual scholarship given by Mu Phi Epsilon Patroness Association at a meeting of the faculty board of the University of Oregon School of Music Wednesday evening.

The scholarship is awarded on merit of scholarship, performance, and musicianship, to a junior or senior of the Mu Phi Epsilon active group. The scholarship is to be applied on this spring term's expenses.

Miss King is a senior in piano, studying with George Hopkins. She was vice-president for the last year in Mu Phi Epsilon Actives; was director the Vesper Choir last year, and this year was piano soloist with the University Band, playing the Ravel piano concerto.

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Oregon Mothers Board to Meet

There will be a board meeting of the state board of University of Oregon mothers in Portland, Saturday noon at the Congress Hotel. Those planning to attend from here are Mrs. R. R. Huestis, retiring state president, Mrs. Howard J. Boyd, state treasurer; Mrs. Marvin T. Warlick, financial secretary; Mrs. Angus Gibson of Junction City, corresponding secretary; Dean Karl Onthank, executive secretary; Mrs. V. H. Davis, member of the board, and Mrs. Harold Bailey, president of the Eugene unit.

Mrs. John H. Carkin of Salem is state president.

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FBI DISCUSSED FOR DIAL CLUB

Sidney Twing, assistant district attorney, spoke to members of the Dial Club Tuesday evening, on the subject: "History of the FBI." His talk was the feature of a program which followed a dessert served to twenty members, at First Congregational Church. Hostesses were Miss LaVerne Lamb, Miss Elizabeth Richard and Mrs. Henry F. Halverson.

Eight Members Are New in Club

Plans for a benefit card party to be given April 26 were perfected at the meeting of Eugene Club, Daughters of the Nile, Wednesday at the Eugene Hotel. Dessert was served to members at tables decorated with camellias.

Eight new members, Mrs. Andrew M. Nissen, Mrs. Royal Christofferson, Mrs. Nora M. Burton, Mrs. Otho C. Hart, Mrs. Lillian Williams, Mrs. A. E. Anderson, Mrs. C. F. Hyde, and Mrs. Merwyn F. Ranes, were presented.

Cards were played, following the business meeting.

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HOSPITALITY CLUB LISTS CARD WINNERS

At the Monday evening card party of Hospitality Club held at the Osburn Hotel, Mrs. George Eastham and Mrs. Marie Franz won high scores at auction, and Mrs. Walter Walling and Mrs. John Baird, were high at contract tables. All received awards.

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PINOCHLE PARTY HELD AT HOME

Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Montgomery entertained friends at a pinochle party last Saturday evening at their home on Friendly Street. Al Jarvis held high score, and Larry Ashbridge was low.

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DRAMA GROUP MEETS

Poetry and Drama group of Eugene City Club will meet with Mrs. E. W. Armes, 715 Lincoln Street, Saturday afternoon at two-thirty o'clock. Mrs. Don Wynn will assist the hostess, replacing another announced earlier.

Shower Event Held For Two Couples

A double shower honoring two newly married couples was given recently by Mr. and Mrs. John E. Westfall, 2290 Onyx Street. The party was given to honor Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Westfall and Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Smith. Many beautiful and useful gifts were presented to the two young couples.

The table was featured by two wedding cakes, and tulips in different colors. Those assisting the hostess in serving were Mrs. Willard Wagner, Mrs. Ivan Bergman, Miss Iva Johnson, and Miss Pearl Anthony.

Others invited were: Mr. and Mrs. Lou Germain, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Bergman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Bergman, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Ireland, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Hammond and family, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Walenciak, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Owings, Mr and Mrs R. A. Anthony, Mr. and Mrs. Loren Fields, Mr. and Mrs. Bulon T. Webster, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Crafts, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Busboom, Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Beatty, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Yeager, Fred Jacobs, Miss JoAnn Carlson, Miss Mary Hartcastle, and Dickie Carlson.

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GOD'S WORD

18. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.
19. For the good that I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do.
20. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me.

Romans 7:18-20