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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.

Question From The Eugene Side

It is interesting to note that the very first question concerning our long analysis of the Springfield financial problem (and our suggestion of an Area consolidation and tax equalization) comes not from the Springfield side of the river but from Eugene. An owner of downtown property in Eugene (consequently a large taxpayer) asks:

"Just what would that get us into in Eugene? Wouldn't we be bled white to improve and embellish these outlying areas with little direct benefit to Eugene—especially if we merely contributed to their tax relief without retaining a very strong control of expenditures?"

That's a good question. It is not possible, at this stage, to make any final or detailed distribution of funds or costs, but it is possible to give a rough outline of what could be done, and it shows that the Eugene taxpayer would NOT be unduly burdened.

The present city levy for Eugene is 16.9 mills (which includes 5 mills for sewer reserves and 1 mill for city hall). The present city levy in Springfield is 23.3 mills. Let us assume that in spreading municipal services over the entire Eugene-Springfield urban area, we would require an average levy of 20 mills for all purposes, including debt service, and that this revenue would be allocated on the basis of population in the principal units. On an aggregate taxable valuation of better than $30,000,000, there would be a tax revenue of $600,000 a year which would apportion as follows (using the major school districts as provisional boundaries):

	Population	Allocation
Springfield (Dist. 19)	13,752	$162,200
Bethel (Dist. 52)	1,825	22,800
Danebo (Dist. 133)	817	12,000
Glenwood (Dist. 150)	1,411	17,000
Outlaying parts (Dist. 4)	3,060	37,800
City of Eugene	27,000	337,800

(NOTE: In the present situation the city of Springfield gets only $51,348.37 tax revenue despite its high levy; Eugene gets $302,786.88. Springfield pays higher fire insurance because its station is badly located and its force undermanned. All of the suburban areas pay higher fire insurance, higher water rates, and make substantial fire district and water district levies).

However, a consolidation is not as simple as outlined here. One great need is an amendment to state law so that tracts still in farm use can be exempted from city tax except as they are developed, populated to get service. Under law, outstanding bond issues and obligations must be absorbed. Some plan would have to be worked out with the Eugene Water Board for absorbtion of water districts into its system. Springfield's Willamalane park district would be a special problem (we would favor extending it to cover the Eugene area, thus divorcing parks and recreation from other municipal functions).

Glenwood and the Garden Way area would be important to any effort to bring Eugene and Springfield together because they would establish contiguity. After establishing the boundaries of the consolidation, there would be the problem of agreements of charter revisions to fix the basis of representation, controls, distribution of funds and functions.

Water, fire protection, police protection, sewers and sewage disposal, streets are the great primary and common needs of the area.

One of the greatest elements of strength in the program would be consolidated borrowing power. On $30,000,000 valuation the credit ratio (5 percent of valuation on a 60 percent ratio) would be over $1,800,000. (Springfield now has only $20,000 credit leeway for general purposes). There would be proportionate increase in ability to finance sewers and other special improvements which come outside the general limitations.

We cannot say truthfully that the Eugene taxpayer would pay less than before (although with good management over the years that might be achieved). He would NOT be overburdened and he would certainly share in the benefits which would come from cleaning up some of the mess which too rapid growth has created.

GOP Forces Its Control Plan

The program for inflation control will be the Republican party's program, or Senator Taft's if you prefer to put it that way. President Truman's much more drastic proposition to restore price, wage and commodity controls was given short shrift. The three-point Republican substitute was jammed through, the essentials being:

1. Voluntary price agreements within industries under suspension of the Sherman anti-trust act (not unlike the late lamented NRA).
2. Extended export controls.
3. Extended transportation controls.

President Truman is reported ready to sign the measure, under protest. He and the Democrats claim it is entirely inadequate, that it places on the Administration a great burden of supervision without the authority to make effective regulations and make them stick.

The proof of this pudding will be in the eating (or lack of it for the people who have the votes). It seems to us that the worst feature of the GOP's plan was not the plan itself but the high handed parliamentary tactics used to shut off debate and amendments. As might be expected, Oregon's Senator Morse is alligned with the forces of protest.

Thinking has come a long way since the days of the "Blue Eagle" and the late General Hugh Johnson who god-fathered that unlucky bird. This plan does not seem to be so elaborate as NRA, but there may be a question whether it can stand the same sort of practical and constitutional tests which defeated NRA.

The theory of self-regulation within industries is fine, but it is not likely to stand under the hard tests of competition for scarce materials and the temptations to grab and advantage in price.

Politically, it can be said that the two parties have chosen their own risks. If the inflationary trend is checked the Republicans can take a big bow. But if they are not checked the Truman campaign slogan will be:

"I told you so!"

The demonstration of solidarity in both parties is the most impressive aspect of this pre-election legislative event.

The Elks Christmas Party

This is the season of Christmas parties, but there is always one that stands out, and that is the Elks' annual party for the children of Eugene. It has been going on for years, in good times and bad. It would be difficult to estimate how many boys and girls have shared in this festivity over the years. Many of them are now grown, and they send their kids.

Way back yonder somewhere when the late Jack Luckey was secretary of the Elks, there came to be a saying:

"When there is some big community need,
go and see the Elks; the Elks get things done."

That is a very fine tradition. We can recall so many instances of action by the Elks that we hestitate to make a list. No, the Elks are not an "easy touch." Don't get that idea. The funds of the lodge are carefully and shrewdly administered. But they are always attentive to any need; they are an organization created for mutual benefit, and they are famous for their love of fun. What we like is that somehow they have achieved a tradition of "the open mind and the open heart."

This big party for children goes on and on. Sometimes we suspect that the old boys have as much fun as the kids themselves. Why not? That's what makes it good. This thing is our way of sending a sprig of holly to "some grand guys."

Ajax McGurk says that after watching one of the Town's Big Shots trying to wrap a Christmas package, he has less faith than ever in "intelligence tests."

Somehow or other that Republican plan for stopping inflation by purely voluntary effort reminds us of the brave mule who balked in the tracks to stop the express.

Ardent Wayne Morse fans say he is just trying to prove that he is a better Republican than all the rest, and if they and he are right, he may be the only one left.

Messrs. Molotov, Gromyko, et als, keep trying to prove that poor old Uncle Sam is trying to capture the world when as a matter of fact he'd be tickled to death to remove to a less troublesome planet.

Santy Claus flying over the rooftops has nothing on some of the guys who infest the highways at this season, only reindeer seem to be a lot more controllable than gas.

The Eugene Water Board is struggling to keep the voltage up, and some of the customers are trying to keep the blood pressure down when the lights go off these nights.

Congressmen are in a scramble to get home for Christmas. Can't blame 'em for wanting to get in on the good will while it lasts.

PAC is reported to be divided on whether Henry Wallace should bust the Democratic party or start a third party, but some of the boys think the problem is to get Henry down off the roof first.

Henry Wallace is reported to have produced a new breed of chickens that will lay more eggs than any known breed to date. Some of the wags say that is quite appropriate.

A good many men are puzzled over what to get the wife for Christmas, but old Adrian Fuddle insists that the real puzzle is what to get it with.

U. S. Treasury is making moan because dollar bills wear out too soon. It was our impression that they merely evaporate.

The game of horseshoes is always popular with elderly men at southern resorts. Maybe because it requires only a few shoes and a couple of chews.

The easiest way to break a habit is to drop it.

In The Editor's Mailbag

POOR FARM

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—Upon my observation and conversation with some of the people who live in the Poor Farm it would be a privilege for them to get away from the place.

Mr. Wheeler says that it is a privilege for these people to live out there. Let Mr. Wheeler and some of the County Court people go out when not expected for dinner and see what they feed them. No butter and sugar, beans, potatoes one day, potatoes and beans the next day and for the next week made into potato cakes until its sour.

The people at the Ferry Street bridge are better off than the people at the poor farm, they would get away if they could. The toilet for the old people is way out in the yard, for these people who are blind and crippled. They all have to tend to their own fire. Mr. Hoare could do better. If he can't the county commissioners had better see that they do.

I think it's awful, those old people don't eat much I'm sure. Soup and a few nice extras would be better.

From one who knows,
MRS. I. J. KAUPAL, 1350½ Lincoln.

P. S. We are giving to Europe. I think charity begins at home.

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EUGENE—(To the Editor)—Your article in tonight's Guard makes me cry out. "Aged Folk at Poor Farm Worry over Where to Go." Certainly Eugene is not going to let those old people take to the Road, with no place to go.

To sell the poor farm at this time seem to me, is there a word bad enough to describe it.

Make another door to door canvass, bring out the dollar bills and take care of the helpless for just a little time longer. Surely this inflation and crowded housing isn't going to last forever.

I've come here from a richer state, but it wasn't always rich. I also am not too proud of Pennsylvania, though I love it. I wonder now what they did with their poor. Oh yes, they had some compensation. And we did have a swell Welfare Department when I left seven years ago.

Don't let these people down.
MARIE L. PARKHURST.

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POOR FARM

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—There is nothing more deplorable than robbing these poor helpless people of their rights, for they have all paid taxes in their time, that went for the upkeep of this home. It is too bad that the expense of this home is too great a tax for the county. These poeple helped build our county and country and were good citizens in their time. They are not a burden to nobody in the home and enjoy each other's company more than they would that of relation, whom they might try to live with. A large portion of our welfare county and state officials put in their time seeing how little can be spent on those in need, that the tax is intended for and how much they can get out of it for their own wage as office holders. Wouldn't it be nice if we could have a Christmas ship at home for these people of our own?

We don't seem to mind sending billions to Europe to the ones responsible for the killing of the prize of our nation. There are no people in our country or elsewhere that deserve our help any more than our poor old folks.

This lies at the door step of all welfare offices and organizations and such officials as might have a say in the matter. Let's please have some help from other sympathizers for these people before they can't be helped.

C. S. FARMER,
525 E. 31st, Eugene.

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MAIL SERVICE

EUGENE—(To the Editor)—I don't know whether you will use space on the editorial page for this letter or not, but I hope you do. If not throw it in the waste basket.

Just before Christmas is no doubt a poor time to belly acre, but I'm getting scared. I'm afarid someone might invite me over for Christmas dinner and we wouldn't get the letter till next year. Today's mail brought the usual assortment of cards, etc., some were mailed Dec. 13, in Ohio; also a post card mailed in Eugene Dec. 6, arrived today, Dec. 18. Last week we received a large letter, first class, containing an insurance policy from our agent in Eugene which he mailed and was cancelled at the Eugene post office Nov. 26 and we received it on Dec. 12. Only 2½ weeks, but I guess that's not too bad, since we live way out in the country, almost to Danebo.

The main thing that worries me now is that my birthday comes in March and just in case anyone plans on sending me a present, please get it mailed right after the Christmas rush so I'll be reasonably sure of getting it on time.

If anyone doubts my word about the letter and post card, just drop me a line—no, don't write, come on out.

Sincerely yours,
CLIFFORD VANSCHOIACK,
Rt. 1, Box 438-M, Eugene.

THAT FARM

OAKRIDGE—(To the Editor)—Thank you all for that very impressive illustration in your yesterday paper: the Lane County Poor Farm.

Yes, very impressive illustration indeed, doing great credit abroad to us as a Free and Rich Country; the fact and matter is, and it is well known—no other country in the world treats its needy and underprivileged class more niggardly than our own U. S. Billions for Europe, to Hell with the poor here at home.

Knute F. Turnquist.

RUSSIA—AND U. S.

EUGENE — (To the Editor) —I find that I enjoy reading most of your editorials, as they present issues and problems in an interesting and logical manner. Would like to make a short comment on your editorial of Dec. 17 regarding Russian monetary troubles, the last sentences of which reads: "What we do we do with lots of yelling! Just let Congress try to cut your E-bonds in two."

But that is practically what has happened to the E-bonds, if one wants to convert them into goods that one could buy in 1941, when we first started to put our hard-earned savings into them. The same thing is happening to pensions and other fixed incomes, with surprisingly little yelping in evidence, at least not near as much as the situation calls for.

Congress is far from blameless for this state of affairs. It created a set-up whereby money was borrowed from the banks to finance the war, and, of course, the banks issued new currency to the extent of their loans. The war material was destroyed, but the money which went to pay for it is still circulating, creating an excess demand for consumer goods. I think it would have helped the situation if Congress had siphoned off the excess dollars by levying heavier taxes during the war. But having failed to do this, it ought now to find some way of restoring the value of the dollar—and the E-bonds.

Oscar R. Anderson,
1483 Oak Street.

Emma Abshire

Emma Abshire, 58, died Dec. 19 at her home in Springfield. She was born at Bloomington, Ind., Oct. 6, 1889, and married Glen Abshire at Casper, Wyo., Dec. 24, 1940. A resident of Eugene and Grants Pass for some time, she lived in Springfield the past three months.

Besides her widower she is survived by a niece, Dorothy Mitchell, Eugene.

Services will be at Poole-Larsen Mortuary Monday at 3 p. m., with the Rev. L. O. Griffith officiating. Concluding services will be at Eugene Crematorium.

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