

Councilman Siegenthaler Is Quite Incensed

It is unfortunate that Councilman Siegenthaler's letter, which we print on page one today, arrived as the editor was about to catch a plane for ASNE meetings in the East, because the very serious charges which he makes against the editor deserve much more carefully detailed and precise answers than are possible in so short a time. Specifically, Siegenthaler denies that there was "anything secret" about the meeting at Mayor Johnson's home on February 2 at which certain decisions were reached concerning the zoning of the so-called Riverview area—a matter now referred to the people for decision. Mr. Siegenthaler says:

"I therefore demand that you either (1) print a retraction and apology, or (2) prove that your statements are true."

At first opportunity we shall be glad to accept this challenge. If we find that we have been unfair to Councilman Siegenthaler, or to any other member of the council, we shall, of course, be very glad to make public admission of such error, but from the information we have at present, we see no reason for any humility on our part.

Even Mr. Siegenthaler admits that a meeting was held at a private home at which certain decisions were reached on a matter of public concern. It is true that we did not ask to be represented at that meeting because we did not know it was going to occur. It may be that the word "secret" is too strong to cover such a situation, but we do not think that alters the basic principles involved.

At all times in this zoning controversy, we have tried to make it clear that we were not attacking the motives of the councilmen—only their judgments and the methods by which they have reached those judgments. At no time have we

argued that a public body should be denied the privileges of executive session. Indeed, we have specified various circumstances in which executive sessions are permissible and even desirable, such as the discussions involving personnel, or situations where antagonisms within the council must be resolved by quiet discussion.

Our point has been simply that PUBLIC MATTERS should always be discussed publicly and in public places. Perhaps we can explain in this way: When a matter involving public policy is to be settled, a public hearing in a public place should be called with due notice to all concerned. We see no reason why a man who has offered himself for public office should not accept the obligation to make his decisions public.

On this point we have had some arguments with other members of the council, noticeably Councilmen Crumbaker and Owen. We have published their letters defending their point of view, insisting on the right to meet privately. This is a point of view with which we could never agree. We have heard councilmen say:

"How in the world can a man be expected to make up his mind in the heat and clamor of a public hearing?"

We realize that it may not be easy, but the hazards of public decision are much less than those which go with secrecy in any degree.

It has been our hope that the zoning controversy would not become personal and that the debates could be limited to the really important problems of policy. We have quarrelled with the judgments of the council and with its method of making decisions. We find it difficult to understand why any member of the council should be so disturbed.

Oregon 'Thundereggs' Carry Uranium

One of the most important assets of the Bend Bulletin is Phil F. Brogan, associate editor, who is also one of our foremost regional geologists. Mr. Brogan has published many articles about the geology of the Oregon country but none more interesting than this little piece about "thundereggs" in the Warm Springs region near the Deschutes river:

Pictures in Thundereggs

Now that wraps have been removed from the H-bomb tests in the far Pacific, certainly it can be revealed that Central Oregon has a little bomb secret of its own.

Thundereggs found in the Warm Springs area of the Deschutes river region hold uranium, the stuff from which the big bombs are made. True, the amount of uranium found in the Deschutes "eggs" is not large, but it equals that found in the rocks of the Harper area, scene of much Geiger activity in the past few weeks.

Coating some of the agate-filled nodules of the Mid-Deschutes basin is a salt of uranium. The Warm Springs thundereggs, a form of nodule holding semi-precious minerals, hold no isotope-blasting possibilities. But they are beautiful.

Also, they are a bit prophetic. In some of the cut and polished halves of these thundereggs are found unusual "agate pictures." More than once, there has been noted in the beautiful agate pattern of these "eggs" great billowing cloud forms, like the "anvils" from thunderheads that rear their domes in the south on sultry summer days.

Millions of years before the atomic age, nature apparently encased in the Deschutes nodules pictures of atomic blasts.

Troubles? How'd You Like to Be Bus Man?

Most business men like to grumble about their troubles, especially in periods of readjustment, like the present, forgetting that the real test of prosperity is NOT gross dollar volume, but whether the number of sales is holding up at prices which still allow a profit margin. Those who think "the sky is falling," merely because profits are not so big as at the peak of boom, should consider the plight of C. J. Wendt, of City Transit, who has more woes than old man Job himself. Our latest monthly report from Mr. Wendt on Eugene-Springfield operations:

Following are the figures to be added to the tabulation recently sent you showing monthly revenue and passengers carried:

	Feb. 1954	March 1954
Revenue	\$30,272.37	\$22,432.18
Per cent of increase or decrease 1953-1954	(-13.4)	(-12.5)
Decrease 1951-1954	(-19.8)	(-19.7)
Revenue Passengers	154,177	166,150
Per cent of increase or decrease 1953-1954	(-14.2)	(-10.1)
Decrease 1951-1954	(-23.4)	(-32.2)

In addition I am enclosing a chart showing the weekly revenue comparisons beginning with the year of 1950. This will indicate to you, very clearly, the continued downward trend. I will supply you with the figures to keep this chart up to date.

We do not need to reproduce the chart. Suffice to say that at every point

And the stuff that tinted the pictures was uranium!

If you have read his story carefully, you will not pack a bedroll and digging tools and set out for the uranium fields of the Deschutes. As Mr. Brogan points out, the quantities of uranium in a "thunderegg" are very, very small. They offer no industrial or military possibilities, but they are extremely interesting.

The Oregon country is full of interesting minerals, many of which will eventually be far more valuable than gold or uranium for practical purposes. Some years ago, William B. Ladoo, a consultant engineer from Boston, said:

"The files of state geologists in Washington and Oregon are full of extremely important geological and mineral information, waiting to be translated into the common terms which industry knows."

Out of this came the establishment of a tiny organization, headed by General Tom S. Robins—The Raw Material Survey—which has for its sole purpose a service of information to industrial developers on some of these mineral resources; where they are to be found, in what quantities and qualities, and how they can be adapted to industrial purposes. This is practical industrial promotion.

The lines for 1950 are "way up there" and for the following years they just drop lower and lower. (But we shall save the chart hoping that the Mayor's committee may study it.)

It is a paradox of the mass transport business that when people generally are prosperous—when they can afford to buy and operate private cars—bus patronage "goes to hell in a basket." If the bus figures mean anything, "recession" really hasn't touched this area yet.

But the problem of maintaining a mass transportation service becomes more and more real. We have received and printed many Mailbag letters suggesting ways by which Mr. Wendt might win back customers but most of these letters remind us of the song the comedian Bert Williams used to sing:

"They tells yo all you chile should eat An' all you chile should let alone, But the trouble wif these here child-wif folkses is Mostly—they ain't got no chillun o' they own."

It's the same story everywhere in the motor-minded United States. It is high time for Eugene to do what most other cities are doing—study the problems and try to find some answers.



In The Editor's Mail Bag

MAILBAG RULES:

To prevent misuse of the Mailbag, the Register-Guard serves notice to contributors that these requirements will be enforced strictly:

1. No sly or "snide" attacks on any other person, direct or indirect, will be permitted; you may refer to another writer but must be courteous.
2. Personal "gripes" or insinuations about any person, public servant or concern will be forwarded to the person affected for him to answer if he sees fit.
3. ALL letters to the editor MUST be signed in the writer's own hand and must bear a verifiable address.
4. If possible, every letter should be typed, although we will have handwritten letters copied by our typist, if they are legible. (Printers will not accept handwritten copy.)
5. We do not set length limits, as most papers do, but we ask writers to be as brief as possible.

WANTS STOP SIGN!

SPRINGFIELD — (To the Editor)—May I air a further grievance whereby I feel the Springfield City Council indicates they feel no responsibility to the pee-pul, but have the reverse opinion? (No, I'm not alluding to the sad-but-laughable "garbage bill" proposal No. 10001, in which the Mayor correctly stated as "making the Council look ridiculous"—via his radio talk March 10, 1954.)

I'm referring to a simple request, in a proper manner, of a group of residents (forming the neighborhood surrounding 8th and "B" Sts.) who desire a stop sign placed on "B" St., East and West of 8th St., for the protection of their children, the community, the motorists themselves, and to prevent direct and indirect damages.

The petition was signed by 37 directly-concerned residents, with whom were listed 33 children, of playing ages varying from 2 years to 12 years of age. The reason for this request is that there have been six accidents at this intersection since Oct. 1953. . . . In other words, since "B" St. paving was completed—and we feel this is too many in too short a length of time.

One accident caused one car to be "jammed" upon the parking where some of our 3 and 4-year-olds had been playing one-half hour before and usually do play. The potential is horrible to contemplate!

When a person stops to realize that out of the 33 who play here, 23 of them are located in ONE SQUARE BLOCK, they can see we are angry and feel handcuffed when our proposal was turned down by the "civic defenders" in this lack-a-daisical way:

1. "I'd feel more impressed, Mr. Sneed, if any of the children HAD been injured, rather than dealing in POSSIBILITIES";
 2. "Here are the records pertaining to intersections and accidents since 1948—and 8th and "B" Sts. are not close to being critical";
 3. "More accidents occur where STOP signs and stop lights are installed";
 4. "The motorists would be right down our throats as causing 'congestion' with too many stop signs";
 5. "Every intersection in town wants a stop sign, according to applications every day."
- Isn't these remarkable in their logic? Take the first statement: Wait till you have more wrecks, and hurt children, then we'll take it under advisement! (That's what it amounted to.)

No. 2—we weren't interested in conditions since 1948 to 1952. We were interested in SIX WRECKS since October 1953 to March 1954.

No. 3—Then take out all stop signs and lights.

No. 4—What motorists? The ones always late, in a hurry, and reckless; the ones who have no stake in our residential district, and the ones who caused those six accidents?—or, the law-abiding driver who cares, and the parents of these same 33 children who are also motorists?

No. 5 — No comment. Just compare accident volume proportionately.

One last statement. At the March 8th Council session, the petition was referred to the Street Committee for study. On March 23, 1954, where the proposal was rejected, it was brought out that only ONE member of the Street Committee was present at the proposed "Forum" for discussion of our problem, and it was at the Chief of Police's request for denial that the City Council acted. I'd like to know where he fits into the picture. We don't remember seeing him up this way for ANY KIND of study.

Thank you for your time and courtesy.

Respectfully,

ALLEN G. SNEED
834 B Street
P. S. With all the laughs the public has been getting at Springfield's expense, I wonder if the next City Council won't be the "serious type."

"THE LOGGING GAME"

CHESHIRE (To the Editor) — As I read the woes of a Logger's wife

I fall in line with this type of life. My husband reads these with a grin. He knows good and well what a trap we're in. Repairing cars was his occupation. Ten years ago he started the logging operation. 'Twas then, that my life became a test. Because I was born and reared in the Midwest. And to see a log swinging over their head. Made me think of their children that had to be fed. Or watching a Cat climb a steep hill. That was enough to give me my fill. Time passed on, he went into it deeper. He then declared he needed a bookkeeper. I accepted the job without any pay. Was taking no chances on Susan or Kay. I didn't realize this could be such a job. Figuring payroll and log tickets by the gob. When evening comes; I want to relax. The telephone rings—Here's a call from Max. It's John he wants; to him I holler. Then logging begins in our own parlor. He talks of the wind, mud, and the snow. And how he came very near mashing his toe. "Hauled one load with the Diamond T. That wouldn't pay the diesel and 'U.C.C.'" "Jim isn't in with the other truck. Another ticket would just be my luck." "The Cops always find a thing that isn't right. Either speeding, no mud flap, red flag or tail light."

DORIS BROTHERTON
3815 River Road

McCARTHY

EUGENE (To the Editor) — Re. your editorial "McCarthy to Star in Self-Investigation" and your statements to the effect (1) that Sen. Mundt is the only one who has objected to the principle of self-investigation and (2) that "the Democrats may find some measure of excuse" for not accepting responsibility: I read, at the beginning of the Schine affair, in your paper, that Sen. Kefauver wanted the Armed Services Committee to do the investigating because of the principle involved. Tonight I read that whereas Sen. Saltonstall wants to steer clear of the mess, Sen. Symington says he will insist that the Armed Services Committee take it up. It seems to me that you are reluctant to give credit where credit is due.

Aside from this, I should like to express my appreciation for the forthright stand your paper has taken on McCarthy. I think we can all thank our lucky stars that there are newspapers like yours.

CAROL RICHMAN
93 E. 19th

And so their story goes on the Party line. In closing, they hope that the sun will shine. But this isn't all in a Logger's life. Paying bills and taxes is one big strife. You have a short period when all is running fine. Then, it's a choker, or he needs a drum line. Or maybe even a bigger thing than that. He finally decides he needs a new Cat. Or the Owner says "A payment is due."

But hubby hasn't made enough to pay the crew. And so it is, in the logging game. It almost puts my husband to shame. When he sees that things are going tough, And he must tell his friends—there isn't enough. Collectors have been kind, why cry o'er our ills. Spring is here!—maybe we can pay our bills.

HAZEL HUFFMAN
Cheshire, Oregon

YAH, WHAT FUN?

EUGENE — (To the Editor) — Say, do I get a kick out of this Harwood man—Reciting his views on "the marriage plan." You'd think he really squires his wife. Out to dinner and shows, as big as life. But that's just the way she'd like it to be. That's not the way things are, you see. He rides around looking at timber all day—Stopping for coffee along the way. Chatting with fellows and he's having fun. She's slaving away trying to get things done. Taking care of four kids, half of them sick. And when he gets home—her temper is quick—You bet she's tired and her nerves are on edge. But if she mentions a show, he's bound to hedge. He thinks she's bluffing—but if they could change places, I'll bet he'd be wearing the longest of faces; He'd be first to say let's have things as they were. And, maybe, in the future, he would think about her.

DORIS BROTHERTON
3815 River Road

Marquis Childs

U.S. Ambassador to Italy Constant Communist Target

ROME—U.S. Ambassador Clare Boothe Luce, almost from the first day of her arrival here a year ago, has been the target of the Communist apparatus with its numerous and skillful propaganda organs. It has been a merciless, unrelenting attack carried on in newspapers and in wall posters, distorting and maligning everything that she has said and done.



Childs

Palmiro Togliatti, Moscow-trained boss of the Communist party, said on the floor of the parliament that she had the "Evil Eye," putting a curse on everything she came near.

Disagreeable as it is from day to day and week to week, the Communist drumfire can be discounted and maybe even ignored. But the subtle undercover opposition of the industrialists is something else again. It is part of the dubious political balance on which the government of Prime Minister Mario Scelba is uncertainly poised.

Ambassador Luce tells the government and the industrialists that she cannot approve placing contracts in plants where the unions have a Communist majority. She must try to place the work in factories dominated by non-Communist unions. In some categories of work that is difficult or impossible. But, even so, Mrs. Luce points out that she could never defend before a committee of Congress the awarding of a contract for military work in which Communist shop stewards have so much authority, with access to all information.

TENSION INCREASED

The ambassador's presence printed in garbled form have also increased the tension between the embassy and the government. There is even a tendency to blame America for Italy's economic ills — for Italy's economic ills, which are considered power behind the present government, recently suggested an article that the "climate Roosevelt administration" end of the war made it for Communists to gain power in Italy under American authorities.

Others go further and Americans of deliberately Communists in important positions. This charge is made against Dulles, now head of CIA, wartime director of OSS in Ireland, who is accused of made a deal with the Communists under which in most of Communist active in the movement were given offices from which they have been dislodged.

NOT GENUINE

The industrialists reply that most Communist workers are not real Communists, anyway. Furthermore, they argue that the effort to exclude big plants with Communist unions is bound to create more unemployment, and unemployment makes real Communists.

Ambassador Luce is also trying to persuade the Scelba government to enforce another provision of the Offshore Aid act, which provides that the benefits of American spending be shared widely as possible through every segment of the economy. Unfortunately, very few specific conditions were laid down in connection with the spending of the

Peter Edson

Congress Accomplished Little In Action on Ike's Program

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—There are some 75 principal proposals listed in President Eisenhower's middle-of-the-road program. These are the recommendations which the President

has made for new legislation in his various state of the union, budget, economic and special messages to Congress.

They are grouped under the 11 main headings of national security, veterans' services, international affairs, social security, housing, education and research, farm measures, natural resources, transportation and communication, finance and industry, labor, general government, civil rights and federal civilian personnel.

If you break down some of the major items like the new tax program, the number of presidential proposals can be run up to 175 or even 5,075. There were, for instance, 25 specific tax proposals in the President's budget message.

One of the 25 called for general reform of the tax structure. The bill which the House Ways and Means Committee finally brought out called for 3,300 changes in the tax law. So the numbers game is a little silly and the count of 75 is realistic.

20 NEW LAWS

The important thing about this listing is that as of April 1, the Congress has completed action on only five of the President's proposals.

In all, Congress has passed, and the President has signed, some 20 bills into law this year. But three fourths of them were minor measures originating in Congress. The five requested by the President can be checked off easily:

Extending the Korean war missing persons act to July 1, 1955. Suspending until 1958 limitations on size of the armed forces. Increasing the borrowing power of Commodity Credit Corp.

Ratification of the mutual security pact with Korea. Revision and extension of excise tax rates expiring in April.

Even this last mentioned item was not passed according to the President's recommendation. For it will reduce government income by an estimated \$1 billion a year and cause a bigger deficit than had been planned for.

The President and his party leaders have intimated that the election of a Republican Congress in 1954 depends on the enactment of a "middle-of-the-road" program that will be "good for all America." GOP publicity men have also suggested that campaign orators put more emphasis

nearly three and a half dollars in aid.

As a result it was almost ally true that the rich get and if the poor didn't get improved. Since the rich get until now paid almost as much it has meant the perpetuation of the basic injustice of a less feudal system in a more advanced technical goes without saying that meant a heaven-sent opportunity for the Communists.

Some of these things were said privately when the America in January. What was trying to do was to get people back home to the here. Some of her criticism said that this was not the bringing an awareness of the situation in Italy whereas the in France that have now on the surface were apparently reported to Washington.

WORK NEEDED

If this advice is any good will behoove the Republican ership and its following a res to get busy and get. Otherwise, there may be constructive to talk about. Three months of this session of the 83rd Congress have frittered away with accomplishment. If the lives up to its hope of action in July—which now seems possible—something will be done on the 94 per cent Eisenhower program as enacted.

A check of the legislative dars reveals this further the Eisenhower program April 1:

Fifteen measures have passed by one chamber, the other. Six have passed Senate but not the House are:

The St. Lawrence seaway improvement of conservation on public grazing land, construction of new tankers and craft marine, modification curities and Exchange for government for District of Columbia. Immunity for company witnesses.

These nine have passed House but not the Senate simplification, Housing construction program. Sub nation cooperation with the General tax revision. Re-federal-state relationship employment security. Extension renegotiation act. Lower federal debt limit. Revision D.C. revenue laws.

Some 35 other measures gone through the committee process in one Congress or the other, reported out for floor action. House has about 20 measures its pending business. The has 15.

The remaining 20 measures in the Eisenhower program—using the number the count on its separate bills—are stuck some place in legislative process with no indication that anything at all about them this session.

This record may be better than that of other sessions in progress at this half-way point. It is certainly nothing to boast about.

So They Say—

If the people of the (Kentucky) feel I can represent them and to the nation service. . . . I am ready to undertake the task with devotion and devotion as God will me.—Alben Barkley will Senate.