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Highway Improvement Plan 15 Years in Making

WASHINGTON (NEA)—President Eisenhower's proposal for a \$50-billion, five-year, federal-state highway program wasn't just something pulled out of a hat to impress the governors' conference.



Edson

It so happens that the nine regional directors of BPR are now in Washington to work out the details of a long-range road-building program, as required by the McGreggor highway bill recently passed by Congress.

The planning will be done under the direction of A. D. St. Clair, chief of BPR research. State highway departments will, of course, have all their plans incorporated.

What has to be done is allocate what the engineers call "sufficiency ratings" to all projects, to determine which highways should be built first.

Just how many miles of highway can be built for \$50 billion depends on many variables. What part of the costs will be met by federal funds and what by state and local governments?

The size of the President's program may be judged by comparison with present federal highway expenditures. This year's appropriation is \$75 million—only 10 per cent of the \$5 billion proposed.

If federal funds are matched by state appropriations on a 50-50 basis, which is the present

average cost of the... total expenditures will be...

But the less populated states with large public areas get from 60 to 80 per cent of their road-building from the federal government.

How much of a public program the Eisenhower plan would become, to stimulate employment, is open to question.

The idea for a significant building program isn't new, however. It has been around Washington for 15 years.

In 1939 there was a study of roads. In 1941 there was a fence highway plan of \$100 million a year.

In 1950 Sen. Joseph C. Honey (D-Wyo.), then chairman of the Congressional Economic Committee, had a staff study on highway needs.

The figure that has been mentioned around Bureau of Public Roads for the past ten years has been \$45 billion.

Public Roads Commissioner Pont told Ohio Congressman Harry McGreggor's Public Works Subcommittee earlier this year that the U. S. now had three million miles of highway.

Bethel Will Vote on Annexation; Voter's Problem Mostly Arithmetic

Judging by the feelings expressed at Monday night's "town meeting" in Bethel, a man from Mars would suppose that this peaceful little suburb was being invaded by a wicked, hostile power.

—at least at the bargain millage suggested—and Eugene offers everything from full-scale police and fire protection, streets, water, sewers, sanitary services, parks and playgrounds, on down to an equity in our municipal squabbles.

In our opinion, nobody can supply positive answers to all the questions which arise in such a situation. There are some things which just stand to reason and we would put it this way:

- 1. For the Bethelites who will vote in Friday's election, there is really only one question that matters—do I get more for my money by joining up with a full-fledged city like Eugene, or by supporting the type of "partial city" proposed for Bethel?

"There isn't a thing in the way of municipal services that Bethel couldn't offer as a city—if the people of Bethel want to pay the bills—but it is predictable that for comparable services the people of Bethel, as an independent city, would have to pay a constant 5 or 10 mills a year more than they would pay as citizens of Eugene, because they would not be attached to the high taxable values of Eugene's central business district.

In Eugene, we think we have a good-managed town (in spite of some of the cockeyed capers of our city council) and we would be very glad to welcome our neighbors into the "lodge" if they want to come in.

Otherwise, the choice for Bethelites is the kind of politicians who have been manipulating Bethel affairs for a long time or the kind of politicians we offer within our corporate boundaries.

If we were living and owning property in the Bethel area selected for annexation, we would vote to join with Eugene, and for these reasons:

At the present time, Eugene's Ward 1 contains 13,920 people, Ward 2, 6,240 people, Ward 3, 8,680 people, Ward 4, 11,160 people, and Eugene is years overdue for a complete revision of its city charter provisions governing councilmanic representation.

In the Bethel area, a property owner now pays 5.5 mills Water District tax and gets only his water and fire protection therefor.

If Eugene's City Councilmen think they can sit tight forever on Eugene's "rotten borough" system of ward representation they are overestimating their political charms and powers.

On a home assessed at \$2,000, annexation would add about \$20 a year to the outside to the tax bills, but this would be offset substantially by savings on electricity, water, and fire insurance, making the net addition perhaps \$10-\$15 a year on the average home.

For months Flanders has been after McCarthy with Senate speeches and television statements that got headlines. For all their effect on the Senate it was like a batter warming up with pop-flicks.

Place for Rebellions Is in Union Halls

Two Strikes on Flanders in Senate Game

As the lumber strike drags on, there are more and more reports of "rebellion" against the AFL and CIO leadership which issued the strike orders.

WASHINGTON (AP)—When he bats against Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis) in the Senate league, Sen. Flanders (R-Vt) needs a team and a scorecard. There's no sign he has a team. And he's learning the score the hard way.

To all these dissident groups within the established unions, we would give the same counsel that we gave to rebels in the local Teamsters union back in 1938 when they were threatening to "tear up our cards."

But Flanders apparently felt ready for the big try. He asked the Senate to vote McCarthy out of his committee chairmanships, which would be a shattering rebuke.

"Don't tear up your cards, even though you may not have wanted to join that particular union. Now that you have joined, it belongs to you, and if it isn't run right, it's your fault for not taking part in its affairs and insisting that it be run right."

Flanders had stepped into one of the most sensitive areas of the Senate. All its members yearn to

The place for the rebellions in the labor unions is on the floor of the union halls. Now, as always, we recognize how difficult it is for "peaceful, law-abiding people" to start fights, and we certainly wouldn't advise anybody to start any fight until he has enough people with

There are some who would like to see the present discontent directed into a movement to wreck the unions. We do not share this feeling. Serious questions have been raised concerning the manner in which the strike votes were taken and by which the strike decisions were made.

The strike, they say, has a background in "union politics," the influence of the "loud speakers and big promoters" who over-awed the rank and file. If mistakes were made, the first step to correct those mistakes should be in open meeting by "due process."

Racketeers Raid Under Charity Banners

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL BAG

According to Lois Miller and James Monahan in the current issue of Reader's Digest, generous Americans gave 4-billion dollars to charities in 1953, and of this total 100 million dollars went to racketeers operating under the banners of charity.

COMPLAINT EUGENE — (To the Editor): In publishing my letter concerning Adlai's Saturday afternoon talk, you made two errors. I did not say the depression started in 1928. I said 1929. Also in the very last word in the letter you left off one letter. In commenting that the New Dealers sometimes talk as though they were the original creators of electricity, I did NOT, as you printed it, say that electricity was and is created by "Go". I said by "God". Very truly yours, ROBT. N. McCREA.

"Give nothing to any cause or charity unless the agents can show a responsible list of LOCAL sponsors, people whom you know, whose judgment and integrity you would trust."

THERE'S A POINT SPRINGFIELD (To the Editor)—We are all glad to see that there is to be a meeting of the mill owners and workers to end the lumber strike.

Actually we doubt if anybody really knows, or ever will know, the extent to which the American public is bilked, either in the name of charity or some other form of soul or body or world saving.

Our mills here are giving 40 cents an hour more than those in British Columbia, one dollar an hour more than the mills in the South.

Every mail brings a flood of appeals and stuff from organizations with all kinds of high-sounding names. These

The question is: Are they giving enough for a family to live on? But would not everyone be better off if everything were lower priced? That includes wages, taxes, etc., etc. Could not people live better?

We never grieve for the suckers. Our complaint is that these parasitical racketeers take so much away from legitimate and worthy charity and welfare and religious enterprises. That is why for years we have tried to enforce a rule that itinerant promotions will not receive any mention in this paper unless or until they can get some responsible local agency to vouch for them. Even with vigilance it's a tough job.



James Marlow

Two Strikes on Flanders in Senate Game

WASHINGTON (AP)—When he bats against Sen. McCarthy (R-Wis) in the Senate league, Sen. Flanders (R-Vt) needs a team and a scorecard. There's no sign he has a team. And he's learning the score the hard way.

Senators, being politicians, have a heightened sense of survival: Once they started something like this in motion—taking a senator's chairmanship away—it might happen to them some day.

Behind closed doors a group of Senate Republicans who plan their party's strategy in the upper chamber—the Senate's Republican Policy Committee—decided to tell Flanders about the facts of politics.

Undaunted, Flanders stepped up to the plate again, took another swing, and missed again. This time he asked the Senate simply to pass a vote of censure against McCarthy. The vote was supposed to be taken Tuesday.

THE BIG TRY But Flanders apparently felt ready for the big try. He asked the Senate to vote McCarthy out of his committee chairmanships, which would be a shattering rebuke.

Late Monday Flanders decided to postpone his request for a censure vote from Tuesday until July 30. This was one of the reasons he gave:

THE FACTS OF POLITICS Behind closed doors a group of Senate Republicans who plan their party's strategy in the upper chamber—the Senate's Republican Policy Committee—decided to tell Flanders about the facts of politics.

That the "Republican leadership" expressed concern that throwing the censure question into the Senate now might snarl up its efforts to get through with its regular work by the end of this month.

THE AUTO WORKER — 51 cents an hour. I don't know what the British mechanic gets. But we do see Japanese goods in our stores and while they are cheaper to buy there isn't the quality of our homemade goods.

But since Flanders is now going to wait until the end of the month to ask for censure of McCarthy, a milder rebuke than taking his chairmanships away, it stands a good chance of being trampled to death in the Senate's last-minute rush to go home.

There are some who would like to see the present discontent directed into a movement to wreck the unions. We do not share this feeling. Serious questions have been raised concerning the manner in which the strike votes were taken and by which the strike decisions were made.

Some of our friends who own country places and used to insist on having us out for the weekend," he complained, "now want to come and visit us in the city. They've heard about how pleasant and restful it is to spend a weekend in the city. I wish I knew what to do about it."

There's a point Springfield (To the Editor)—We are all glad to see that there is to be a meeting of the mill owners and workers to end the lumber strike.

So I told him what to do about it. Give 'em the same kind of time in the city as they give you in the country.

Our mills here are giving 40 cents an hour more than those in British Columbia, one dollar an hour more than the mills in the South.

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SIDE GLANCES

By GALBRAITH The suburban nature lovers invite a weekend guest from the city for two reasons, generally: 1. They actually are miserably lonely in their bullfrog-echoing dale in the woodwork, and misery loves company.

Using the same tactics, here is how the happy city dweller can repel an invasion of human lo-



Galbraith

City Ideal Spot in Summer 'Commuters' Only Vexation

NEW YORK (AP) — The best place to spend the summer now is in the city. Let a friend of mine explain why.

"I live in an air-conditioned apartment and work in an air-conditioned office," he said. "I've figured out a way to get to and from work in 33 minutes a day. That means I have to spend only 2 hours and 45 minutes outdoors from Monday through Friday."

"On Friday evening I put on my pajamas and hibernate in them until Monday morning. I don't have to worry about the heat, or mosquitoes, or sunburn, or stepping on cockleburrs."

"By staying home I save money, catch up on all the books I want to read. I have even had time to get acquainted with my wife—imagine that, after all these years—and she has turned out to be a pretty interesting fellow, now that we don't have all those quarrels about where to go for the summer and how to get there."

"He'd be a happy guy except for one thing. He put it in one word: 'Commuters.'"

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