

Time to Review Our School Needs

There is no cause for alarm, but Eugene's school problem—which compounds itself annually—is a subject for deep thought during the next few years. The initial thinking has already been done by the Lay Advisory Committee which, although less than a year old, has so far proved its worth.

Our need for new schools and more classrooms to meet the demands of an expanding population is not unique. Nor is it unexpected. Every year since the end of World War II our school administrators have warned us we are facing a constantly increasing load. Many school districts across the nation, but particularly in the West, are confronted with these same problems.

But what are the answers? Where will the money come from? Who should pay? How many schools will we need in the next five years? In the next 15?

The school board of District 4, acting on recommendations of the advisory committee, is moving ahead with plans to build a new senior high school in the River Road area and a new junior high at the old Airport site. There is no money available for these schools which administrators estimate will cost a total of more than 2½ million dollars. But they must be built.

These two new schools are only the beginning. The Lay Advisory Committee, which has done an excellent job of planning immediate school needs, sees the picture up to 1960 this way:

The total enrollment in School District 4 this year is about 10,871 pupils. By 1960 it will be 15,385, half again as much.

Based on a desirable 25 pupils per room, we will need a total of 245 new classrooms for all grades to take care of the increase.

In addition to expansion of already existing schools, we will need, besides the new senior and junior high schools, new elementary schools at the Airport

site, in Sunny Hollow, River Road, Cal Young area and the South Willamette area.

And that isn't all. The committee has recommended that Woodrow Wilson Junior High (the old high school) be replaced as soon as possible; that the old River Road School be replaced; that the Willagillespie School be replaced within five years; that the Glenwood and Twin Oaks Schools be replaced when possible. Population trends in the Willakenzie area show that a third high school ultimately will be needed. And more junior highs will be needed as the wave of pupils moves along. These needs go beyond 1960, but the committee is wisely looking to the future.

It remains for the committee to find the best method of financing these needed facilities. The financial forecast is not as gloomy as it might seem. At present we are working on the second year of a five-year serial levy to raise three million dollars for construction of elementary classrooms. Our total bonded debt is approximately four million dollars. Our bonded debt capacity, by law, is about ten million.

The finance committee has recommended that we (1) extend the present serial levy to finance elementary schools; (2) that we bond the district for junior and senior high school building needs and (3) that a revolving fund be established for advance planning. In short, a combination of tax levies and bonds which the committee hopes will keep the millage rate down.

There has been much political talk of federal support for expanding school needs. But we cannot count on any such aid in the near future, whether or not it is a wise plan. We've got to face the school problem now, ourselves. And now is as good a time as any to bone up on our responsibilities. As taxpayers, we've got to carry the load—one way or the other.

Smaller One

The Stanford Research Institute, employed to survey the wisdom of Oregon's throwing a "world's fair" upon the anniversary of statehood, says maybe Oregon better tone down its ambitions. A "regional fair," says the institute, would be a sounder idea. The report sets out some reasonable sounding arguments about money and housing and such.

We hope the promoters of the fair will heed the Stanford report, and will also consider that there hasn't been a first-class, star-spangled, all-stops-out world's fair since 1939, when there were two—one in New York and one in San Francisco. We also hope the promoters will go ahead with plans for some kind of celebration to observe the anniversary in 1959.

Oregon's attaining statehood was a very important thing for Oregon, and, coming as it did on the eve of the Civil War, it had a certain national importance. But, looking at the thing with some perspective, it was hardly an event of world significance, hardly one to justify the throwing of a "world's fair."

The Payoff

Think of the joy that must be in the heart of James Egan of Tangent, Ore. He saved the life of his three-year-old daughter, Deborah, last Sunday because he knew how to apply artificial respiration.

Instead of the terrible tragedy of a child drowning, a child still lives because her father had first aid training. First aid training is a knowledge possessed by too few people. Most public safety personnel, such as firemen and policemen, have first aid training, usually through the facilities of the Red Cross, but often they are too far from the scene of tragedy to save life.

James Egan stumbled across the body of his little daughter in a slough where she fell while playing with two cousins. He was lucky that he found the youngster in time, but it would have been fruitless if he had not known what to do after the discovery.

There are thousands of persons drowned each year, mostly during the

hot summer months, and it is a good bet that many lives would be saved if at least one person in each family had first aid training. It is possible for any person to enroll in a Red Cross first aid class free of charge by merely calling your local Red Cross office. During the past year, incidentally, more than 1,700 persons in Lane County took Red Cross first aid training.

Talk Costs Little

Harold G. Kissick, director of the office of international conferences told the House appropriations committee the other day that it would cost U. S. taxpayers \$1,100,000 for the coming Big Four "summit" meeting and the foreign ministers, and related conferences thereafter.

We doubt if one taxpayer would protest this cost to discuss world peace and relieve world tensions. If the meetings do nothing more than air views of different world leaders on relieving tensions it would be worth more than the cost. It would cost more to lose one jet bomber winging on a mission of destruction. Interestingly enough, it will cost us only \$275,000 for the talks between President Eisenhower, and Prime Ministers Eden, Faure and Bulganin. The foreign minister meetings will cost \$450,000.

Polio Declining

The U. S. Public Health Service announced last week that polio cases in the nation, although up 12 per cent from the week before, had dropped 40 per cent from the corresponding week the year before. That is a marked decrease.

Since the beginning of the year a total of 3,708 cases of poliomyelitis has been reported compared with 4,697 for the same period of 1954; a drop of almost 1,000 cases.

It is still too early in the polio season to tell whether this trend will continue. If it does, it will be good evidence that the controversial Salk vaccine has already begun to produce expected benefits. Much more will be known when the summer is over and the figures are in of the children who receive all the required shots.



IN THE EDITOR'S MAILBAG

Haircut Prices

EUGENE (To the Editor) — I believe Mr. Sparrow has an average amount of intelligence, therefore, he should understand what inflation is.

I've been in the barbering business nearly 35 years and I've seen barber prices and wages fluctuate considerably. In 1924, common labor was receiving 40 cents per hour. In 1940, a haircut was 50 cents standard price, and common labor was 50 cents per hour. Skilled work, like carpenters, was 75 cents per hour.

Mr. Sparrow seems to think the price of a haircut is too high now at \$1.25, but does he think wages of \$1.55 per hour for common labor is too high also? No, of course not. When he is doing the work, he surely isn't one of those selfish men who always wants his wages up, but everyone else shouldn't make anything. I know Mr. Sparrow can understand this and I would like to ask him if he would be willing to work for a wage of 8 or 10 years ago, and try to buy food etc. at the present day prices.

Big steel and other highly organized groups get a substantial wage increase every year, but the barbers can't get one every four or five years without some BIRD CRYING.

This is a true incident: A carpenter making \$2.25 per hour asked me why we couldn't cut hair for 50 cents and he would bring his kids in if the price was 50 cents. Now he tries to cut their hair. I said, "Would you be willing to work for a 1940 wage and try to buy commodities at our present prices?" He said no and I said that we can't either.

By custom, the price of a haircut should be the same as an hourly wage for common labor, or \$1.25, but would Sparrow cry then if this were the haircut price. Just because the price of a haircut goes up is no reason the journeyman barber is making more. The customer just lets his hair grow longer and gets more than his money's worth.

A good barber in 1940 was making \$35-\$40 per week. Today with the price of a haircut two and one half times higher, his wages are lucky to be \$65-\$70 per week. Show me any other skilled worker that is working for that, except possibly your automobile mechanics.

I hope Mr. Sparrow can understand and will admit the price of a haircut is not as high as he is claiming. He is using his intelligence to write another poem saying so. If Mr. Sparrow wants to work for me, common labor price of 1940 wages, I'll cut his hair FREE.

L. J. OSWALD
814 Willamette

Senator Replies

WASHINGTON D. C. (To the Editor) — I have no desire to go into great detail concerning the attack upon me by Mr. John L. Lundberg in the letter column of the Register-Guard for June 12, 1955, because I support statehood for Alaska.

However, Mr. Lundberg has made a particular point of the fact that Alaska should not receive statehood because 58 out of a proportion of Alaska's land is owned by the federal government. I think it is pertinent to point out that of Mr. Lundberg's statement that Alaska should never have become a state in 1959, when Oregon was admitted to the Union, about 2% of the land in Oregon was on private ownership. The rest of the land belonged to the United States Government. The portion of the land of Oregon which was owned over to the state was the land over to

course, become state property until after the statehood act had been passed in Congress. Thus, if the measuring stick used by Mr. Lundberg had been in effect in 1859, it is possible that Oregon never would have become a state.

I agree that there are many crucial problems concerned in granting statehood to Alaska. Yet it is my considered opinion that these problems will be better solved under statehood than under Alaska's present ambiguous and unsatisfactory territorial status. I think that is the reason why the Oregon State Legislature, with both Republicans and Democrats participating, has repeatedly memorialized Congress to enact statehood for Alaska.

I believe that statehood for Alaska is in the public interest, in the national interest, and in the best interests of the Pacific Northwest. I still think that Congressman Ellisworth did not vote in the public interest when he voted against the bill creating statehood for Alaska and Hawaii.

Sincerely,
RICHARD L. NEUBERGER
United States Senator

Public Power

OAKRIDGE (To the Editor) — At the dedication of Lookout Point Dam we heard the virtues of multi-purpose projects extolled by the Republican speakers. We heard of the great efforts put forth by Republicans of other days to bring to completion such beneficial projects.

Then the sad news. They said Republican leaders have decided there will be no further such dams built by the people because we just can't afford it. They said we need all tax moneys that can be collected for defense purposes and if more such dams are built it must be under the partnership plan where the profit end of the project, the power producing unit, will be turned over to the partner and we, the tax payers, will retain only the dam structure.

Since when, in modern days, I wonder, has not electrical energy been important in the defense program? And if we can spend many billions for atomic power projects, which now are to be sold as surplus property, why not

a few billions for development of electrical energy?

I remember well during World War I when Germany had gained control of most of the nitrate supplies of the world, located in Chile, (nitrate being necessary in making gun powder), and private power companies had failed to produce sufficient electrical energy to enable us to produce synthetic nitrate. It became necessary for the government to build Muscle Shoals Dam on the Tennessee River so that the nitrate could be produced. How many American lives were lost in that war because private power companies failed to meet the situation?

Because of the foresight of some Republicans, such as Teddy Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot and Charles McNary and because of the wisdom of F.D.R., we were in a different position at the outset of World War II. In the Northwest we had Grand Coulee, Bonneville and others so that we had the power to produce the aluminum, planes, ships, tanks and guns; and how many lives were saved because we had that electrical energy?

And now Republican leaders tell us we can't spend our tax money for the production of electrical energy. We must depend on private power companies. Eisenhower told Congress in his budget message that if and when his partnership plan was accepted, funds would be budgeted for multi-purpose projects, and the lesser Republicans have been chanting that theme ever since. This is certainly a good example of political blackmail!

Sincerely,
C. A. PADDOCK,
Star Route Box 197.

'So They Say'

I believe that through the various talks and contacts that were established the San Francisco meeting (of the U.N.) achieved positive results—Soviet Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov.

Tell my government that many of us are alive and that we need help. We would also be grateful for food parcels.—Attributed to American Pvt. Sidney R. Sparks, said to be in Red slave camp by returning Austrian prisoner.

SIDEGLANCES

By Galbraith



PETER EDSON

Foreign Nuclear Scientists To View Atomic Machinery

WASHINGTON (NEA) — The big thrill for some of the world's great nuclear scientists at the United Nations Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, opening at Geneva on Aug. 8, is that they'll be permitted to push a button.

That will close an electric circuit to start the machinery that will operate a small atomic reactor. It will be the principal item in the U. S. exhibit at Geneva.

This reactor, of the "swimming pool" type, will be at the bottom of a vertical, cylindrical tank, 10 feet in diameter, buried 20 feet in the ground. Water is kept circulating in the tank to keep the reactor cool and as insulation to prevent radiation.

When the button is pushed the reactor will give off the equivalent of about 10 kilowatts of energy from the eight pounds of uranium 235 in the reactor at the bottom of the tank. This will give off a light blue glow through the water. Occasionally the reactor will be flashed to 100 kw. output. Then the blue glow will be brighter.

This may sound like a long way to go to see a very simple thing. But it must be realized that outside of the United States, Canada, Britain, France and Russia, few scientists have had a chance to see an atomic reactor at work.

U-235 AVAILABLE
The United States has now made available 440 pounds of uranium—enough for 32 small, research reactors—and has offered to pay half the cost of construction to countries entering into an agreement for sharing information on the peaceful development of atomic energy. The U. N. conference at Geneva may be a certain raiser to this new era.

In addition to the working, swimming-pool reactor, the United States exhibit at Geneva will also have scale models of five types of research reactors.

There will also be a reactor simulator—an exhibit to show how the control rods of a reactor are operated to start and stop the chain reaction of atomic fission.

Another exhibit shows the process of uranium ore to the

enriched metal used in the reactors. A model of a chemical processing plant will show how the uranium is purified for reuse, after it has been "poisoned" by the isotopes made in the reactor. The United States is not yet ready to offer to help build any of these chemical processing plants in foreign countries. The present agreements with 22 friendly countries call for bringing the atomic fuel back to the United States after its usable energy has been burned up in the research reactors.

ISOTOPE DISPLAY
But this is the first time that this process of purification—sometimes referred to as taking the clinkers out of the burned fuel—has been declassified by the U. S.

An exhibit of instruments used in measuring atomic reactions will also be on display at Geneva. There will be two displays on the use of isotopes, or radioactive atoms, in medical science and in industry. And there will be a general exhibit on basic research.

A hundred American firms manufacturing equipment for atomic energy processes are co-operating with the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission in preparing these exhibits.

Fifty educational and private research organizations have a share in it. But none of their equipment will be for sale at the Palais des Nations headquarters for the U. N. conference.

At a private exposition hall in downtown Geneva, however, some 22 American manufacturers have taken space for what will be the world's first atomic trade fair. They will have their equipment for sale, subject to the restrictions in the U. S. atomic energy and export control laws.

Fourteen American publishers will display and have on sale over 100 technical periodicals and some 300 books on atomic energy. The basic library of over 5,000 technical reports declassified by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission will be open for inspection.

The United States has given these libraries to friendly countries in the atom-for-peace program. And just to give the scientists a chance to go to the movies, for relief from the 400 talks on the program, the U. S. has prepared for showing at Geneva seven films on reactors, use of isotopes and safety precautions.

FREDERICK C. OTHMAN

Bulgarian Gold in Fort Knox May Cross American Palms

WASHINGTON — Now we can start worrying about the Bulgarian gold buried in Fort Knox, Ky., and the big boom in imperial Russian bonds, which for the last 38 years have been valuable principally for papering walls.

We might even consider the \$9,100,000 of Communist money which has been on deposit so long in the Treasury Department that even the Reds seemed to have forgotten about it.

All told we've got in cash or solid gold about \$41,000,000 that used to belong to the Communists and their satellites; our government figures that at long last maybe we ought to pay it to those unfortunate Americans who lost their property to the Reds in the long ago.

So we have up a bill before the Senate (it's already been passed by the House) to declare a dividend for the patient ones. The State Department and the foreign claims commission experts now are talking up the idea before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Let's take first that \$9,100,000, which the Reds paid us as a token on their debts when we recognized them in 1933. For 22 years the money's been sitting there in a special account, intended for payment to those Americans who lost their Czarist Russian investments in the Red revolution of 1917. Why they didn't get this money 22 years ago is something nobody yet has explained.

BOND GOING UP

"I notice that the imperial Russian bonds are going up in price," suggested Sen. J. William Fulbright (D-Ark). "Is that on account of this legislation?"

"It would seem reasonable," replied Whitney Gilliland, chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission.

"Would any of this money go to the holders of the bonds?" insisted the gentleman from Arkansas.

"Oh, yes," replied Commissioner Gilliland.

Before you rush out to buy any of these ancient bonds with the imperial Russian name emblazoned on them, you might be wise to ponder the fact that \$25,000,000 worth of them now are outstanding here. In addition there are \$350,000,000 more in U. S. claims against the Reds and only 30,000,000 tops left all. I still figure the bonds of the Czar are good only as lighting fires.

trio of underling Communist countries, the gold became available to pay off claims.

NO MONEY

Here again there's not enough money to go around when you consider that one American oil company, alone has billed Rumania for \$20,000,000 in stolen refinery properties.

One man who had an idea was Rep. Alvin Bentley (R-Mich.) who tried to get the house to adopt an amendment calling for the U. S. government to confiscate all Rumanian, Hungarian and Bulgarian property in this country and give it to the creditors.

The opposition suggested softly that if Bentley managed that, he'd actually be declaring war because in international circles you just don't go taking another fellow's property in peace time. At least you don't in the polite international circles.

I don't own any imperial Russian bonds, myself, though I might pay (attention to all brokers) 10 cents for one to frame in memory of those who've waited nearly four decades to collect.

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'So They Say'

By 1975 the one-car family could be in the minority—and a large proportion of families may be using three or more cars.

—Lester L. Colbert, president, The Chrysler Corp.

The current drought in the southern Great Plains is fully as severe as the first drought in the 1930's.

—Agriculture Secretary Benson.

Dr. (Billy) Graham, with his vast following, is turning into the Johnny Ray of religion. A lot of the young people at Wembley (Stadium) were Bible bobby socks.

—John Redfern, British newsman.

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