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Good Answer for an Easy Question

Ben Musa, president of the State Senate, asks a good question, one that has occurred to many as the Legislature begins looking at budgets. Why, he asks, in a state which has increased in population 5 per cent, must the higher education budget go up 20 per cent?

Like most good questions, this one has a good answer. The higher education establishment serves directly not the whole state but the people of the state who are, roughly, in the 17 to 22 year old age bracket. In the next biennium these will be the people who were born between about 1941 and 1948.

Next year's college freshman, at 17, was born in 1946, the year daddy got home from the war; or if daddy got home early, he was born in 1945 and will be 18 when school opens next fall. His little brother or sister was born in 1947 or 1948 and will be showing up on the campus before the 1963-1965 budget period has expired.

There were a lot of those "war babies." They are the ones for whom we built grade schools, junior highs and high schools in the '50s and early '60s. Now they are planning on college, and in increasing percentages as they seek to acquire the skills they will need for tomorrow.

In 1957, public higher education in Oregon was serving 19,494 students. By 1962, the campuses were getting the baby crop of the early war years, and

were educating 29,993. In the next biennium, the one for which this Legislature is budgeting, enrollments will go up to 34,671. It is likely that there will be more students attending summer school next summer than there were attending regular sessions on the campuses in 1954.

That accounts for part of the 20 per cent that Senator Musa wonders about. Also, the taxpayer and legislator are invited to recall the events of the past two years. The 1961 Legislature adopted a bare-bones higher education budget. Implicit in that budget was a certain level of service that the Legislature intended the institutions to maintain. It was estimated that enrollments in 1961 would be 24,196, or an increase of 11.5 per cent. The estimates were, as usual, conservative. When 26,835 students showed up, there just wasn't enough money to provide education at the level the Legislature had directed. The service level was reduced, as it had to be. Part of the request that Senator Musa finds so baffling is accounted for by the fact that this level of service, as fixed by the Legislature, ought to be restored.

Unfortunately, the Senate president is given to the inept analogy. He told a reporter, "I don't accuse them (the educational establishment) of padding the budget, but you can take a skinny man when he dies and fry him and still get fat out."

True, true. But the man is dead.



Parking Profits

Now Eugene's mayor has emphasized the timely importance of solving our downtown parking problem before it becomes virtually insoluble. And certainly the gravity of his suggestion is underscored by the announcement that downtown Portland may have to spend \$4.4 million to increase its parking facilities just 16 per cent.

The Portland proposal would involve the construction of two six-story garages where 1,200 parking places would be available at the rate of 20 cents an hour. Quite possibly Portland can do no better than this—not now that it has waited so long to attack a problem which has had serious adverse effects on the city's core area, and, not incidentally, upon the city's tax revenues.

But Portland's experience need not be repeated here. There are other municipal experiences which would be better examined and capitalized upon.

For example: Riverside, Calif., a city of about 90,000 residents, formed a downtown parking district in 1960 and at the same time initiated a series of core-area traffic improvements. Since then, more new construction has been accomplished or begun in Riverside's central business district than in all of the previous 30 years.

Western City magazine reported last fall that Riverside's plan was actively backed by the owners of more than 80 per cent of its downtown property valuation—and actively opposed by none. The parking district formed to encompass 35 business blocks has utilized city-operated parking lots in the rear and in the center of the blocks, and multi-deck parking structures are now being planned to increase the effectiveness of some of these facilities. Two special parking garages were built in 1961 and were leased to a private operator. Parking charges are 15 cents for the first hour, 10 cents per hour thereafter, on the open lots or in the garages. And—all downtown stores offer validation of one-hour parking tabs to their patrons.

It cost \$1,650,000—raised through the sale of parking district bonds—to put the Riverside plan in operation. Now, every day, in every way, the plan is paying handsome dividends. Riverside has already gained about 500 additional downtown parking places, the parking district still has funds available to finance additional facilities, and regular profits are adding to these funds.

Safety Measures

The State Traffic Safety Commission has come up with a pair of recommendations for highway lifesaving. One should bring forth relatively little complaint. The other may be tougher.

The commission thinks all new cars sold in Oregon should be equipped with seat belts. Fine enough. Factory installed, they add no more to the cost of a car than a small piece of chrome. And they're much more useful. A number of other states have either enacted such laws, or plan to.

More objection may be heard to the recommendation that cars be safety checked every six months. A witness compared Oregon with Pennsylvania, a state with eight times as many cars and 6 times as many people as Oregon. Yet, it has only three times as many traffic deaths. That state has compulsory inspection; this one doesn't.

However, opponents will be heard from, too. They will point to the high cost of such programs. And they will argue, quite correctly, that what we really need to check semiannually is the mental and emotional condition of the drivers. The angry or aggressive driver is more responsible for accidents than is the absence of a horn or bright lights. (Not that the latter two should be encouraged.)

The commission is a good one. It is trying to cut Oregon's traffic toll. The burden of proof at this point seems to be with those who disagree with its recommendations. It may be true that personal factors are as important as mechanical ones. But we can do something about the mechanical factors. Unless we have good reason not to, let's do it.

Honorary Citizen

Congress has been asked to confer "honorary citizenship," whatever that is, upon Winston Churchill. The only other person to have been so honored was Lafayette.

In practical terms the award wouldn't mean a thing. But it would mean a lot to Churchill, who has always been a friend of this country, and who, indeed, is "half American" himself. Also, it would make a lot of Americans feel good to so recognize this man. Probably no other foreigner, and this includes Lafayette, has been so widely admired in this country.

Peter Edson

Joblessness To Remain Key Issue

WASHINGTON (NEA)—While President Kennedy in his State of the Union message puts tax reduction and reform as the most important issue, unemployment is still one of the most serious problems for the Kennedy administration, the new Congress, management, labor and the national economy.

Preliminary figures of 1962 show that unemployment dropped only 274,000 to an estimated 3.8 million as of Dec. 31. Employment increased by 1.1 million jobs during the year while the civilian labor force increased by 800,000. Actually, non-farm employment increased by 1.4 million jobs to a 67.5 million total. But farm employment dropped by 300,000 to four million total at year end. Solving the slowly but steadily decreasing agricultural employment problem is one of the harder-to-cure aspects of the situation.

Labor Secretary Willard Wirtz admits it is really surprising there are not more protests from four million and more Americans who have been unemployed in the past two years.

One reason given is that unemployment is not general but concentrated in depressed industry and area pockets. Another reason there is not more protest is that unemployment insurance cushions the impact. Also, most of the unemployed are unskilled workers, the uneducated and young workers without job training or experience. Unemployment rates in these groups are twice as high as among skilled workers.

Government programs to reduce unemployment so far have been unable to do the whole job alone. Area redevelopment and manpower training programs are just getting started.

Not enough contracts have been let and construction started on the accelerated public works program to create many new jobs.

Congress took no action on the Kennedy administration youth employment opportunities proposal last year. It will be presented again to the new session. It is aimed at creating more jobs and reducing high unemployment for workers under 20.

Business leaders talk in optimistic tones about the possibility that a tax cut will stimulate industry to create new jobs. The same claim was made for the tax credit on new investments and the new depreciation allowance schedules put into effect last year, but there hasn't been enough time to measure their effects on employment and unemployment, if any.

The other side of this coin is that new investments may be channeled into labor saving machinery that will cut employment instead of reducing unemployment. Wirtz is of the opinion that something will have to be done soon to offset unemployment caused by automation.

Organization labor leaders are counting on a tax cut for low income workers to stimulate consumer spending enough to create more jobs. The other big pitch in the union's program is to reduce the work week to 35 hours so as to spread available jobs among more workers.

Industry leaders oppose this as an effort to put over a disguised pay raise — less work for the same money. Wirtz also says, "I do not think this is the right answer." A factor that concerns him more is that about 7 per cent of today's industrial production comes from overtime work. This is slightly above unemployment rates of around 6 per cent during the last two years.

If the unemployed could be given this work, everything might be dandy. But it isn't that easy. Much of the overtime production is temporary—like the current drive on manufacture of new models in the auto industry. Most of the unemployed in chronically depressed areas aren't located where the overtime work is available and, besides, don't have the skills to do it.

Also, from the employer's point of view, it has been estimated that it costs up to \$1,500 the first year to add a new worker to the payroll.

If a new worker has to be laid off after a temporary work rush is over, he gets unemployment insurance, lowering the employer's rating. In some industries the worker would have to be paid supplementary benefits.

These are just a few of the many practical problems that have to be solved before unemployment can be reduced to the manageable proportions of a 4 per cent rate or less.

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Carmichael



David Lawrence

K Makes a Reassuring Admission

WASHINGTON — The biggest piece of news in a long time—and by far the most reassuring to the American people — has come in the form of a speech by Premier Khrushchev to the convention of the Communist Party in East Germany.



For if there were any doubt that the Cuban maneuver was a hoax and that a major war, with nuclear bombs or missiles, has been and is farthest from the intentions of the Soviet Union, this now can be removed by examining the words of the Soviet premier. In that speech, Khrushchev acknowledged for the first time that the United States has at least 40,000 nuclear bombs and warheads, and that the Soviet Union would not risk the unleashing of such power.

The American government has never revealed the figures officially, but the fact that Khrushchev knows them is in itself significant of the way the world is veering toward an era of peace. This doesn't mean

that the Soviets, if they ever built up their strength to equal ours, wouldn't start bullying and threatening again. It does mean that America must maintain her military lead no matter what it costs. It also means that serious consideration should be given to a revival of the so-called "Skybolt" program as a matter of the greatest precaution involving the nation's safety.

Question of Safety For President Kennedy is putting his reliance on missiles fired from this country and on bombers that will be based on Western Europe. In addition, he is counting on the Polaris missiles, which would be directed toward the Soviet Union from submarines under the seas. The question arises whether it is safe for the United States to discard her intercontinental bombers which can fire such missiles as the "Skybolt" from the air at points 1,000 miles away from the Soviet territory. Indeed, the overseas bases might be destroyed by Soviet missiles or bombers, or might someday be withdrawn from our use in Europe, where communism could conceivably frustrate national policy. This possibility is illustrated by the difficulties

nowadays in trying to get agreement on a NATO formula for handling nuclear weapons. It is worth while, therefore, to examine carefully the exact wording of the Khrushchev speech, an excerpt from which follows:

In a Red Nutshell

"I will tell you a secret: Our scientists have worked out a 100-megaton bomb. But according to our scientists' calculation, a 100-megaton bomb must not be used in Europe. "Should our probable enemy unleash war, then where should we drop it—over West Germany or France? But the explosion of such a bomb over this territory would affect you and several other countries. Therefore, we can use such a weapon only outside the confines of Europe. I am saying this in order that there should be a more realistic appreciation of what horrifying means of destruction there exist."

"Comrades, to put it in a nutshell, as I have already said during the session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, it is not advisable to be in a hurry for the other world. Nobody ever returned from there to report that one lives better there than here."

"At present, according to the estimates by foreign scientists and military experts, the United States has roughly 40,000 nuclear bombs and warheads. Everyone knows that the Soviet Union, too, has more than enough of this stuff."

Simply Quoting Data

"What would happen if all that nuclear armament were dropped on human heads? As the result of the first blow alone, 700-800 million people would have perished. All the big cities would be wiped out or destroyed, not only in the two leading nuclear states — the United States and the Soviet Union — but also in France, Britain, Germany, Italy, China, Japan and many other countries of the world."

"I am not saying these things to frighten anyone. I am simply quoting data at the disposal of science."

"The Soviet Union... knows well the potentialities of these arms. We have created them for the defense of our country and of other Socialist countries. For that reason we have a responsible attitude in the matter of war and peace. We do not want war. But we do not fear it. If war is forced upon us, we shall be able to give a resolute rebuff to the aggressors, and the aggressors know it."

"So it's Khrushchev now who relies on the deterrent power of 'massive retaliation.' The world at last has convincing testimony that a nuclear stalemate has been achieved. This has come about largely through the growth of American military power. Certainly this hasn't all happened during the two years of the present administration, but is the result of the build-up of nuclear weapons in general and of missiles in particular during the Eisenhower administration."

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So They Say—

Exploring space is in some ways like walking down a strange street — we know the street is there, and that it must lead somewhere, but we never know what is around the corner.

—James E. Webb, head of National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

A director couldn't hope to direct a (Charles) Laughton picture. The best he could hope for was to refer to it.

—Director Lewis Milestone, on the late actor.

In the Editor's Mailbag

Prayer Issue

EUGENE (To the Editor) — The Register-Guard is to be commended for its editorial comment on Governor Hatfield's nonsensical remarks concerning the United States Supreme Court prayer ruling. Surely the governor has had the time to read excerpts from Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black's concurring majority opinion. As your editorial observed, nowhere does the ruling state that prayers are to be disallowed in schools. Only prayers that are prescribed by the state or by the state's institutions are prohibited, as they rightfully should be. Freedom of religion has taken a step forward, not backward as the governor contends.

I do not doubt that Governor Hatfield has received vast amounts of mail abhorring the "abolishment of religion in our schools." But these are the letters of either the malinformed or the demagogic partisans who have contented themselves with downgrading the Supreme Court. As a leader, it should be the governor's duty to eliminate misconceptions, and not to capitalize on them.

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Watersheds

OAKRIDGE (To the Editor) —The controversy over how the untouched areas of our mountain forests shall be managed does nothing to solve the ultimate problem. There are certain basic facts to be considered. They are not whether timber is over-ripe, nor whether areas should be used for recreation, nor whether it is necessary to maintain a certain cut of lumber each year.

The one problem that overshadows all others is the destruction of our watersheds. They are vital to the maintaining of a pure and abundant water supply which is not only necessary to human life but to industry as well. This ties in directly with flood control and soil depletion. Any so-called expert who has made studies that take all facets of a fast-growing national problem into consideration and who is not influenced by politics or other factors, will tell you that there should never

Sylvia Porter

State Taxes Soaring Again to New Record

This year state taxes across the land are heading up \$1.5 billion, will take an all-time high \$22 billion from our pockets. This year, social security taxes are heading up \$2 billion - plus, will take a record \$14.6 billion from our incomes. This year, local taxes in tens of thousands of communities are heading up by hundreds of millions, also will hit unparalleled peaks.

This year, unless Congress gives us the substantial across-the-board reduction in our federal income taxes which President Kennedy is urging so strongly, we'll be carrying an even more crushing tax burden than last year or the year before that. This year, unless Congress acts, our tax load which just about everybody now admits is obsolete and in Kennedy's word, "too heavy a drag on private purchasing power, profits and employment" will be even more obsolete, an even heavier drag on your economy.

Congress simply must not overlook what is going on in other areas of taxation in our country as it debates the size, form and timing of federal income tax reduction. Estimated 90,000 Bills There is no hope for reversing the social security tax hike; it went into effect Jan. 1. There is no hope for avoiding increases in state and local taxes. The states and cities are under constant spending pressures and they have in constantly to the pressures. Just since the start of the 1950s, state tax collections have more than doubled—gone from \$8.9 billion in 1951 to \$20.6 billion in 1962. As for 1963, an estimated 90,000 bills will be introduced in the state legislative sessions being held in 47 states, according to the Commerce Clearing House of Chicago. More than 25 per cent will involve taxes; and these 2,500 will become law — and you can bet your bottom dollar the overwhelming percentage will involve tax hikes, not cuts. Monday, the Tax Foundation of New York released the grim results of a nationwide survey of tax proposals in the states. Over the years a pattern of major tax legislation in every fourth odd-numbered year has

Resented Editorial

EUGENE (To the Editor) — Such uninformed, vituperative attacks on the armed forces, reserves, and veteran organizations as have appeared in editorials and other articles in the Eugene Register-Guard indicate a complex usually associated with a frustrated private first class or low-ranking officer who has an overriding conviction that the military goofed by not recognizing his general officer qualifications.

In some instances this criticism reached the proportions where it served a useful purpose in exposing weaknesses, however such articles as the editorial of Jan. 8, 1963, only

served to destroy public confidence in the military in general and the reserves in particular and is degrading to the men in uniform. First of all I would like to challenge the author of that editorial to produce any, but exceptional cases, of individuals who have retired under circumstances as indicated in that editorial and confront the editor with the present requirements for promotion, preference and retirement which exist, and do not produce the 50-year-old colonels and 38-year-old retired armed forces personnel he implies.

Secondly, I challenge him to make the public aware of the hundreds of thousands of reservists who serve without pay, in fact at considerable expense to themselves and their families and with very little advancement either in pay or rank. Third, I would like to have him compare PX prices at the Fort Lewis Exchange with prices prevailing at civilian establishments adjoining the post area. He is uninformed that the post exchange has in most instances become more of a convenience rather than an economy.

Fourth, cradle to grave security doesn't exist in the armed forces of today, nor is it a refuge for incompetence as implied. A positive policy of elimination and selection operates before and after enlistment, and on up through the ranks becoming more severe as the individual progresses.

Fifth, I challenge him to publish these facts with the equal prominence that he has given the editorial and perform the public service of accurately informing them of true conditions as they exist and not browbeating them with the past.

AL PARKER 1515 Sylvan Drive

(Editor's note: Even a casual reading of the editorial in question will prove that there was no mention, expressed or implied, of the reserves. We erred in saying families of military people get free dental care. Beyond that, the advantages of military service that were mentioned in the editorial were the same advantages so prominently mentioned in magazine ads, television commercials and billboards produced by the various recruiting services.)

The most fashionable tax slated for passage this year will be the broad-based retail sales tax. Proposals for adopting it as a new tax or for increasing rates or for broadening its base account for \$13 billion of the \$15.5-billion tax increase the Tax Foundation foresees.

In prospect in Colorado, Iowa, Missouri, Nevada and Wyoming is a sales tax hike to 3 per cent. Moves to 4 per cent are to be considered by Connecticut, Georgia, Maine, Ohio, Illinois. A breakthrough to a 4 1/2 per cent rate is believed likely in Pennsylvania. New broad-based sales taxes are scheduled for vote in eight states. There also will be extensive action on selective sales taxes with increases due on taxes imposed on gasoline, cigarettes, alcoholic beverages.

The next most popular device for raking in more state revenue is via personal and corporation income taxes. Nebraska faces a possible new individual income tax at 2 1/2 per cent. Alabama faces the likelihood of a corporation income tax boost to 5 per cent and so does New Jersey. Ohio may enact a new income tax. So this one goes.

No Relief at This Stage

The parade fans out far beyond this. In the sphere of levies on users of highways, increased truck license fees may be imposed in Arkansas and Ohio. Measures to change or hike passenger car registration fees are in the offing in Alabama, California, Kansas, New York, Ohio.

Yes, there are a few states where there will be proposals to lighten the load — but these will be rare. Any hope for relief? Not at this stage. Where do we get relief then? Only from Congress at this point. And now surely the time has come for a most critical examination of spending at every government level. Just as even the strongest individual can crumble under intolerable pressures, so can even the strongest community, state or nation.