

THE BEND BULLETIN and CENTRAL OREGON PRESS

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Quoth the Buzzard "Nevermore!"



Washington Letter

By Peter Edson (NEA Staff Correspondent)

If you are looking for a quick guide on what's wrong with this country and particularly this government, all you have to do is gander the list of special investigations being conducted by congressional committees. It may be dull reading, but if you bear in mind that each line is key to a potential bungle or scandal, the list becomes fraught with political significance; it sets you back on your heels. Total cost of these congressional probes for the war years has been over \$3,000,000 according to tabulations by the Senate financial clerk and the House Committee on Accounts. Get that again. It is costing three million bucks just to try to find out what's wrong! Investigating costs for the current 78th session is approximately \$2,000,000; for the 77th it was \$1,000,000. Of the 63 special investigations now being conducted, 25 are by standing committees of the Senate, 16 by standing committees of the House, 12 by Senate special committees, 10 by special House committees. And here, comrades, is a partial list and the cost: Agriculture—Four Senate investigations: commodity prices in District of Columbia, \$1,000; production, distribution and consumption of foods, \$5,000; Rural Electrification Administration, \$7,500; synthetic alcohol and rubber, \$11,500. Three House investigations: Farm Security Administration, \$20,000; farm products, \$50,000; guayule rubber, \$5,000. Civil Service—Senate: operation of civil service laws, \$2,500. House: civilian employment in government, \$34,500. Communications—Senate: international wire and radio, \$5,000. House: investigation of Federal Communications Commission, \$110,000. District of Columbia—Senate: the water system, \$5,000. Housing—House: defense housing program, \$10,000. Indian Affairs Investigations—Senate, \$10,000. House, \$15,000. Military Affairs—Senate: war contracts, \$5,000; mobilization of technological resources, \$12,500. House: \$155,000. National Defense—Senate: Truman committee, \$400,000. House: Merchant marine investigation, \$77,000. Music—Senate: Petrillo ban on recordings, \$5,000. Naval Affairs—Senate: Inspection of naval establishments, \$4,000. House, \$140,000. Petroleum—Senate: resources outside the U. S., \$25,000; gas and fuel oil shortages, \$22,500. House: \$30,000. Post-War Programs—Senate: economic policy and planning, \$50,000. House: post-war planning, \$100,000; military policy, \$25,000. Public Roads—Senate: Canadian-American highway, \$3,500. Puerto Rico—Senate: \$25,000. House: \$25,000. Silver—Senate: Effects of Silver Purchase Act, \$10,000. Small Business—Senate: \$115,000. House: \$67,500.

Un-American Activities—House: Dies committee, \$477,500; subversive activities of government employes, \$15,000. United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration—House: \$500. Wool—Senate: production, transportation and marketing, \$23,000. Whoopee!—Senate: for entertainment of distinguished visitors, \$1,000. House: Joint Committee to attend the Parliamentary Association of Canada, \$1,000. To make the army ordnance 50-caliber aircraft machine gun requires some 3,000 separate manufacturing operations. One part alone, the bolt, requires about 130 operations.

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THE YAMHILL BUDGET DECISION

The effort of the Yamhill county court to avoid publishing more than a bare minimum of budget figures has been properly rebuked by the supreme court. At the same time the attempt made at the last legislature to clarify the budget law and bring about more uniform publication of estimates has turned out to have failed. Another try must be made. The original local budget law provided for the publication of "fully itemized" estimates showing "each particular item of proposed expenditure." In the years immediately following its adoption taxing bodies, trying to obey its terms, published elaborately itemized budget figures. With the passage of time, however, and the growth of a body of legal interpretations of the meaning of the law's phrases a tendency developed to present fewer and fewer figures. There was noticeable, also, a great difference in the budgets of the several counties and other taxing districts. In order (so it was intended) to secure uniformity of treatment of budget figures and to clarify the law an amendment was adopted by the 1943 legislature. We shall not go into the details of the amending language but note simply that the Yamhill county court, instead of finding in that language what was intended, decided that it gave an opportunity for publishing even fewer figures than had ever been the case. A taxpayer brought suit to force more details into the budget publication. The court has found for him and has decided as the news account has it, "annual county budget estimates must be published in full by county courts." We have not had an opportunity to read the decision but we understand that it gives new weight to the words in the original law specifying that estimates, as published, shall be "fully itemized." In a fashion, then, the court indicates that the amendment does not accomplish what was intended. At the same time, the decision seems to give added strength to the law that was amended. Perhaps there was nothing that the Yamhill county court was trying to cover up by its little plan to cut down on the budget publication. Had it been successful, however, it would have created an opportunity for some other court to conceal financial affairs from the people and there was its great fault. Public bodies, spending public money, should want to give the public every possible bit of information about that spending and when one fails to do so or objects it is to be viewed with suspicion. Again, perhaps all that the Yamhill court is to be charged with in this instance is bad judgment. Bad judgment it certainly was to try to give less rather than more information to the people about their county's financial affairs. No taxing body is likely to do this again. The incident, on the other hand, should help to secure improvements in the budget law.

TO the youthful organizations of paper gatherers who are doing their part in the war effort we now add the West Side kids, as follows: Richard Nickle Jerry Winters Aubrey Howe Mary Joe Brown Janet Settelmen Franklin Howe Dorene Winters Donald Settelmen

MORE PAPER GATHERERS Warren Tucker Billie Cody Jerry Gulick Myron De Buncie Ernest Martin Jack Donnelly Cecil Bland Jackie Sheffield Larry Shaffer Jimmy Finley David Shirliff Russell Male

Noting what can be made from sawdust we have decided that here at last is a case of being able to drink your wood and eat it, too.

remove old shacks constituting fire hazards. F. J. Johnson, Kellaher, Minn., buys the seven-room home of C. J. Hexburg on Delaware avenue. A tractor, grader and 15-ton wagon arrive and work begins on the Morson project at Lapine. The wagon wheels have 15-inch tires—the widest ever seen here. H. S. Royce of the Pioneer garage, announces he has taken over the Modern garage on Irving street. Lack of contributions to an old clothing drive for European sufferers causes Mrs. V. A. Forbes, of the Red Cross here, to issue another call for donations. W. P. Vandevort arrives from his ranch up the river to attend the stockmen's convention in Bend. John Steidl receives word that his son, Steve, has reached New York after some months service with the navy overseas.

George Davis, an expert on freight rates, is undertaking an important project for the chamber of commerce in getting more equitable rates into and out of Klamath Falls. The result will have a bearing on this community's future as a wholesale distribution center.

President Roosevelt announces that the Japanese have executed at least some of the eight imprisoned U. S. fliers who bombed Japan in April 18, 1942, raid. British Eighth army occupies Enfidaville in battle of Tunisia; official reports also announce capture of Takrouna. British RAF bombs Baltic port of Stettin, Rostock and Berlin. British government warns Germany on use of poison gas in warfare; promises retaliation. President Roosevelt and President Manuel Avila Camacho continue conversations at Corpus Christi, Texas. U. S. navy reports 15 air raids on Kiska. British admiralty reports loss of submarine, Thunderbolt.

Acting upon the suggestion of Fire Chief Tom Carion, residents

Night for the Morrow

By Robert D. Lusk Copyright, 1944, NEA Service, Inc.

PROLOGUE: A Colorado farmer, looking for some strayed calves on a September evening in 1919, comes upon a sick stranger who burdens him with an important written message. Seeking help the farmer falls and knocks himself out. When he revives both stranger and message are gone. No one believes his tale.

By Robert D. Lusk THE PROPHET XXIII

"President Wilson never recovered. The possibilities of American participation in the League of Nations died as a result of this illness; and without American participation, without the co-operation of the greatest and most disinterested country in the world, the League of Nations was doomed to failure." Rhodes was launched on a favorite topic. "We can, of course, only speculate on what a different world this might have been had America joined the League." "I don't quite agree," argued Old Jan with surprising vehemence, "that it is just a matter of speculation. I believe that it is pretty clear that had we been a member we would have been in a vastly superior position to halt aggression at its start. Wilson pointed out this advantage frequently during his speeches. You have just forgotten. So has the rest of the country."

"It was an entirely new concept of international relations that Wilson's League of Nations proposed," Old Jan went on, as he thumbed through the book. "He emphasized this difference in many of his speeches. For instance, he refers to the demands made upon China in 1898 by Germany for control of the whole district around Kiauchau Bay. Listen." And here he read aloud from the volume in his hands. "The government of the United States at that time, presided over by one of the most enlightened and beloved of our presidents—I mean William McKinley—and the Department of State, guided by that able and high-minded man, John Hay, did not make the slightest protest. Why? Not because they would not if they could have aided China, but be-

cause under international law as it stood then no nation had the right to protest against anything that other nations did that did not directly affect its own rights. Mr. McKinley and Mr. Hay did insist that if Germany took control of Kiauchau Bay, she should not close those approaches to China against the trade of the United States. How pitiful, when you go into the court of right, you cannot protect China, you can only protect your own merchandise!" "Wilson," my grandfather continued, "pointed out what the difference would have been if we had had the League of Nations, with American participation. Then we could have gone in and said: 'There is your promise to preserve the territorial integrity and political independence of this great people. We have the friendly right to protest. We have the right to call your attention to the fact that this will breed wars and not peace, and that you have not the right to do this thing.'" Old Jan looked up. "How different a basic position America would have been in dealing with the startings of the aggressions in Manchuria and elsewhere had we been members of an effective League of Nations. The League, without the United States, was doomed to failure, but with the United States, it was the hope of the world. Wilson realized this only too clearly. Here. This is what he said in Cheyenne, the day before he fell ill. And his eyes once more fell to the book. "Without the adherence of the United States to the Covenant of the League of Nations, the Covenant cannot be made effective. I am not stating it as a matter of power. I am not stating it with the thought that the United States has greater material wealth and greater physical power than any other nation. The point I want you to get is a very profound point; the point is that the United States is the only nation in the world that has sufficient moral force with the rest of the world."

Old Jan had been reading rapidly. Sweat dropped from his forehead. He was short of breath. It was a great effort but he continued, his head turned toward me. "They say that Wilson was a hopeless idealist. In my estimation he was the most practical of men. Listen to this: "The wars of the past have been leveled against the liberties and peoples of territories of those who could not defend them, and if you do not cut at the taproot, that upas tree is going to grow again; and I tell you, my fellow countrymen, that if you do not cut it up now it will be harder to cut it up the next time. The next time will come; it will come when this generation is living, and the children that crowd around our car as we move from station to station will be sacrificed on the altar of that war. You have got

to cut the root of that upas tree now or betray all future generations."

"New states, one after another, have been set up by the action of the conference at Paris all along the route that was intended to be the route of German dominion, and if we now merely set them up and leave them in their weakness to take care of themselves, then Germans can at their leisure, by intriguing, by every subtle process of which they are master, accomplish what they could not accomplish by arms, and we will have abandoned the people whom we redeemed. The thing is inconceivable. The thing is impossible." Old Jan rested the book on his lap. "His critics called him a theoretical schoolmaster. Little Jan, but those words, in 1919, were the words of a terribly accurate prophet." (To Be Concluded)

Charles Muma Funeral Saturday

Redmond, April 21—Funeral services will be held Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Baptist church for Charles Muma, who died early Sunday morning at the Medical-Dental hospital. Mr. Muma, a long time resident of this section, is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Enid Hein and a son, Wilbur, now in the armed forces. He was granted an emergency furlough to come to Redmond for his father's funeral. Wilbur is stationed at present at a base somewhere in Kentucky.

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By MERRILL BLOSSER

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Others Say . . .

BRIEFS FROM POCKET FILE

(Klamath Herald & News) At a gathering of business men here this week, a straw ballot was taken on the republican senatorial races. Results: Long-term senator—Holman 19, Morse 7; short-term senator—Sprague 18, Cordon 8. In balloting on the four filed legislative candidates, Henry Semon and Rose Poole led the field by wide margins. In 1942-43 shipping season, state-federal produce inspections for all Oregon and the Tule lake district totaled 19,343 carloads. Of that amount, the total for the Klamath basin district was 7,707, or well over one-third of the aggregate for the entire state. That, friends, is statistical proof of real agricultural wealth. George Davis, an expert on freight rates, is undertaking an important project for the chamber of commerce in getting more equitable rates into and out of Klamath Falls. The result will have a bearing on this community's future as a wholesale distribution center.

Bend's Yesterdays

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(April 21, 1919) (From The Bulletin Files) Problem of housing confronts Bend as 50 delegates to annual Cattle and Horse Raisers convention arrive, with prospects that 500 will attend the meeting. Contending the defendants was more "sinned against than sinning." Municipal Judge Peoples imposes only \$1 fine on woman accused of squabbling with her husband. The Portland Journal criticizes the action of the Bend Commercial club in rejecting the Strahorn railway proposition. Acting upon the suggestion of Fire Chief Tom Carion, residents