

THE BEND BULLETIN

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If Only Our Foresight Was as Good as Our Hindsight



"VOTING BY ELECTRICITY"

Representative Estes Kefauver, of Tennessee, has written a book entitled "A Twentieth Century Congress" in which, we learn from the Oregonian, it is proposed that electric voting apparatus be installed in the senate and the house.

Not having seen the Tennessee representative's book we cannot discuss his proposal on the basis of the stated terms covering this subject of voting by electricity. We wonder, however, whether he has explained fully the disadvantages of such procedure and we wonder that the Oregonian has not touched on them whether Mr. Kefauver did so or not.

The process is, indeed, a time consuming one but its inherent difficulties are hardly to be remedied by electrical voting for the simple reason already stated—members are not ordinarily all in their seats at all times or even most of the time.

If it is answered to this that electrical voting would force members to be in their seats we counter with an expression of doubt. Prove us wrong and we come up with another reply—that such forced attendance would not save but, in fact, waste time because the periods that members were in their seats would be time lost from necessary committee and other work.

In state legislatures, on the contrary, we believe that electrical voting would save time and we think that the other states might well follow the examples already set by Texas and Virginia. If the method is ever adopted in Oregon it will be found that the installation of the necessary equipment will be simple for, as the second and final report of the capitol reconstruction commission said:

The necessary conduits and space for recording devices have been provided in the two legislative chambers for use in case the method of recording votes by machine is ever adopted.

Senator Wayne Morse denies Henry Wallace's statement that he would go along with a third party movement. That way lies oblivion, which Mr. Morse simply couldn't stand. For the time being the good old democratic party seems to be meeting the senator's needs.

Insurance Man Joins Bend Staff

Thomas M. Bolton, insurance engineer, has joined the staff of the Lumbermen's Insurance Agency here, it was announced today.

company of Hartford. Previous to the war he was Oregon agent for the Glens Falls Insurance company. He served in the army for five years, reaching the rank of captain in the chemical warfare service.

His wife and daughter accompanied him to Bend and the family will reside at 1175 Harmon boulevard.

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Washington Column

By Peter Edson (NEA Washington Correspondent)

Washington, D. C.—The parade to congress of special interests wanting government-guaranteed subsidies to keep going is apparently without end. Now it's some 887 operators of high production-cost U. S. copper, lead and zinc mines. Their pet bill for a \$400 million—\$80 million a year for five years—subsidy plan will be up before the house soon.

And unless they get it, extending their wartime premium price plan under which they will have received \$345 million in the five years ending June 30, many of those marginal mine operators claim they will have to close down.

They don't want it to happen. They never had subsidies before the war, but they learned to like them. They claim that if they shut their mines down now and for long, it will be impossible to reopen. They claim closing will throw 6,000 mines out of work. They claim congress must do something to aid small business and fight monopoly—the bigger, lower cost mines that can operate and make money without subsidy. Finally, these high-cost producers claim the U. S. should do something to build up its stockpile of strategic metals, for another war.

Under urging of the marginal mine operators, two bills have been introduced in congress to keep them going. The one by Sen. Arthur V. Watkins of Utah is fairly simple and of short range. It would authorize the government to continue subsidizing copper, lead and zinc production until the remaining \$40 million of last year's \$100 million appropriation for premium payments is expended.

The other, house bill is far more sweeping. It is backed by Congressmen Fussell of Nevada, Allen of Illinois, Harless of Arizona, Hill of Colorado, Meyer of Kansas, and others. After being approved by a mining subcommittee, the bill was hung up for over five weeks in Chairman Allen's house rules committee. But it has now been reported out and will probably pass the house.

Instead of confining subsidies to copper, lead and zinc, the Russell bill, as it is called, would cover all the 50 scarce metals on the army-navy munitions board critical list. A new Office of Materials—separate from the Bureau of Mines—would be set up in the department of interior to run the program. Its director would have power to say what subsidies are paid to whom and for what metals. Subjected to pressure from every marginal mine owner in the country and with \$80 million a year to pass out, this official might get an awful pushing around.

Bureau of mines has opposed the Russell bill. Its experts are not convinced that subsidies will conserve the domestic supply of scarce metals. They have estimated the U. S. now has only a 25-year reserve of copper, lead, and zinc in the ground. A subsidy on all scarce metals production, it is argued, would force down the price. That in turn would make it necessary to pay still higher subsidies to meet the difference between low market price and high production cost. This could lead to a vicious downward price spiral which would cost the government far more than the \$400 million.

The war department has taken no official position on this subsidy policy question, believing that it is up to congress. Under secretary of war Kenneth C. Royall, however, in testimony before the house mining committee has pointed out that over-stimulation of production by subsidy payments might defeat its own purpose by depleting domestic sources.

One reason the bigger, low-cost mine owners oppose subsidies is the fear that they will lead to nationalization of all mines. The International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, CIO, through its Washington director, Howard Lee, has issued a statement saying that if congress does not authorize a subsidy for these marginal mines, it will demand nationalization.

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Bend's Yesterdays (From The Bulletin Files)

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO (June 21, 1932)

The dental office of Dr. Grant Skinner was today added to the list of those burglarized the night before last. Dr. Skinner discovered the loss of a quantity of dental gold today, following word that the offices of Dr. J. S. Grahman and Dr. Harold Heer had been burglarized.

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO (June 21, 1922)

With their work at this end of the Bend-Sisters highway completed, March and Bowers, contractors will move their equipment to Sisters this week for work on that end of the road. More than 100 persons voted in the first hour of the annual school election this afternoon.

Ice Cream To Be Pre-War Quality

Salem, June 21 (AP) — Oregon ice cream standards will return to the pre-war basis after July 1, the state agriculture department reported today. The minimum butterfat content of 12 per cent on plain ice cream and 10 per cent on fruit and nut ice cream will be required after that date.

Residents Asked To Beautify City

Bend will have thousands of visitors from other parts of the state over the July 4th week end for the water pageant, air show and rodeo, Mayor G. W. McCann said today, and local residents should continue their efforts to make the city as beautiful as possible.

CONTRACT AWARDED

Salem, June 21 (AP) — The state highway commission today awarded a contract to Frank M. Parson, Forest Grove, on a low bid of \$27,923 for 0.62 miles of bituminous macadam widening on the Foster section of the Santiam highway, a state project.

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for the excellent appearance of the city in the past month when several thousand convention visitors have been guests here. "I have never seen Bend look better than it has in the past month," McCann said, "and continued effort will keep it that way through the water pageant days and the rest of the summer."

Use classified ads in The Bulletin for quick results.

Financial statements for Bend's Yesterdays, including income, disbursements, and assets for various years.

REV. WESLEY BAKER Pastor of the Redmond Community Church Will Be the Speaker at the 11:00 A. M.—Morning Worship Service

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