THE BEND BULLETIN

and CENTRAL OREGON PRESS

The Bend Bulletin (Weekly) 1903-1921 The Bend Bulletin (Daily) Est. 1916
Published Every Afternoon Except Sunday and Certain Holidays by The Bend Bulletin
736-738 Wall Street Bend, Oregon
Entered as Second Class Matter, January 6, 1917, at the Postoffice at Bend, Oregon Under Act of March 3, 1879.

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An Independent Newspaper Standing for the Square Deal, Clean Business, Clean Politics and the Best Interests of Bend and Central Oregon

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LEAVE UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION ALONE

Since the state of Oregon took on the responsibility for carrying out the unemployment compensation provisions of the national social security act in 1935, operation of this now accepted function of government has been marked by a series of changes to the advantage both of employers, whose "contributions" pay the unemployment benefits, and to the employes, who receive them. Rates for payroll taxes (these are the contributions) have been greatly reduced. In the 1935 statute they ran from a minimum of .7 per cent to a maximum of 4.7 per cent, while now the range is from .3 per cent to 2.7 per cent. Benefits have been even more greatly increased; under the same beginning statute, the top compensation in one year was $225 ($15 a week for 15 weeks), while today it is $650 ($25 a week for 26 weeks). The changes have come about through legislation recognizing the more than adequate condition of the unemployment compensation fund—hence its ability to provide for greater withdrawals and to maintain a safe level on the receipts from lowered tax rates.

In the picture also has been the fact of relatively slight unemployment, except for one or two years, and marked growth in employment itself. So, while individual demands on the fund have been heavier they have not been multiplied by unusual numbers. And, because of steady employment increase, the lower rates have been applies on a wider base, continuing a high yield to the fund. This has grown consistently, sometimes rapidly. From nothing it has mounted to approximately $70,000,000. That, at least, is the credit entry on the books of the United States treasury, custodian of the fund. Actually, Uncle Sam's promises to pay are what are on deposit. The money has been spent by the federal government.

But, as far as the books go, the affairs of unemployment compensation are in rather good shape. An equitable balance has been maintained, although at times the size of the fund seemed unduly large. Not until the unemployment experience of the past 12 months had the fund failed to grow. In that period benefits have exceeded the receipts from taxes. The fund, however, remains highly solvent. It is sufficient under present schedules. It should be protected but it need not rise above its present level.

It will not long remain at present level, however, if the Truman proposals, which have been embodied in a bill, H. R. 8059, introduced by U. S. Representative McCormack, are forced upon the states. The bill departs from the pure concept of unemployment insurance, with which it combines welfare or relief provisions. It would allow maximum benefits of $30 a week for 26 weeks ($780) to a single person, $36 a week for 26 weeks ($936) to an unemployed person with one dependent, $39 a week for 26 weeks ($1,014) if two dependents and $42 a week for the same period ($1,092) if three dependents. Figure that one out, remembering that there is already a lavish relief program in operation. In Oregon, under what is virtually federal compulsion, it has become so expensive that it is one of the major threats to the state's continued solvency. Under the Truman plan it would be added to by payments through another agency.

The level of the fund, however, could be expected to rise rather than to lower. The reason is that the bill would increase the amount of tax. More and more taxation—that is the administration program. Instead of being applied on individual wage limits of $3,000 (the employer continuing to foot the bill), the tax rates would be applied up to $4,800, an increase of 60 per cent. The benefit increases proposed range from 20 to 56 per cent. And so it is only reasonable to suppose that the amount in the fund would increase rapidly and would keep on increasing.

Here may be seen one of the two purposes behind H. R. 8059. The first is political, more "social" legislation, a play for votes, designed to produce marked ballots whether it should carry or be defeated. The second has to do with the use which the federal government has consistently been making of the unemployment compensation fund. More money in the treasury to be withdrawn and spent at will. Another tax levied ostensibly for the benefit of the unemployed, actually to ease the wretched financial condition developed under "new deal" and "fair deal" extravagance.

For unemployment compensation it is not needed. For relief it is not needed. For federal use it is a highly special tax which would be diverted to general purposes. In this there may be the urge of present stringency. There is also the lack of ordinary honesty. It is a bad bill and merits sound defeat.

CENSUS TAKER JACKPOT

Pembroke, Me. (UP)—The census taker made a day of it when he reached the Foss home. There, living under the same roof, he found 41 blood relatives, representing five generations.

MAYHEM CHARGED

Vale, April 28 (UP)—District attorney Charles W. Swan reported today M. C. Zamora Jr., 26, Ontario, has been arrested on a charge of mayhem for allegedly beating and crushing the skull of his 18-months-old son, Michael.

The child has been receiving treatment since Sunday for brain concussion, multiple bruises and skull fracture. His condition was reported "fair."

Authorities said evidence indicated Zamora whipped and struck the boy, and battered his head against a wall.

Has Your Nose Been Counted?

FORM 17F16-1B
(12-28-49)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

1950 CENSUS

HAVE YOU BEEN COUNTED?

The Census is nearing completion. If you have not been counted here or anywhere else, please fill out the form below and mail it immediately to the U. S. Census District Office at the address shown.

My address on April 1, 1950 was:

House Number and Street _____ Apt. No. _____
(Or description of location)

City, town, village _____ State _____

NAME OF EACH PERSON WHOSE USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE WAS IN THIS HOUSEHOLD ON APRIL 1, 1950 (Last name) (First name) (Initial)	RELATIONSHIP OF THIS PERSON TO THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, SUCH AS HEAD, WIFE, SON, ROOMER, ETC	SEX M OR F	COLOR OR RACE	AGE AT LAST BIRTHDAY

CUT OUT THIS FORM AND MAIL TO:

DISTRICT SUPERVISOR,
U. S. Bureau of the Census
Old Reid School
Bend, Ore.

MAIL THIS REPORT NOW!

44925

The 1950 census in Bend and Deschutes county is nearing completion this week. In order to assure that everyone in Deschutes county gets his "nose counted" District supervisor Gertrude Arnold has requested anyone who has not been enumerated to fill out the above form and mail it to her office in the old Reid school in Bend.

Two Youths Held For Auto Theft

McMinnville, April 28 (UP)—Victor Byron LaBonte, 18, and Eugene Russell LaBonte, 20, were held in the Yamhill county jail today on a car theft charge after they were captured at the end of a 17-hour chase by state police.

The two brothers will be turned over to Wasco county authorities and returned to The Dalles.

Officers began the pursuit Wednesday morning when they saw the LaBontes driving a car reported stolen from The Dalles. The youths ignored an order to halt and dashed along highways and side roads at a speed estimated up to 90 miles an hour.

At Grande Ronde they blew out the front tires of the automobile when they hit an abutment. They abandoned the car and fled into the woods.

Bend's Yesterdays

(From The Bulletin Files)

FORTY YEARS AGO
(April 27, 1910)

The Pilot Butte Development Company sawmill was destroyed by fire Saturday night. Loss was estimated at $100,000.

Commencing next week, a sprinkler will make daily trips through the business section of town, stopping once and for all the disagreeable dust clouds. Barney Lewis will have charge of the work and will use the city's big dray team in hauling the 600 gallon tank.

Odd Fellows have taken steps to organize a local lodge. The following officers have been elected: L. L. Fox, E. T. Butts, A. L. French and M. J. Kelley. Twenty-eight members are affiliated with the local organization, to be known at Bend lodge No. 273.

James J. Hill is reported en route to central Oregon from St. Paul, Minn.

CHILD'S LIFE SAVED

Portland, April 28 (UP)—A first-round victory has been posted in the fight to prevent what was believed to be a marble or toy wheel from choking to death a 15-months-old baby.

Ace O. Guffey of Portland swallowed the foreign object Wednesday night. Yesterday an operation failed to dislodge the object, but Doernbecher hospital doctors were able to insert a tube in the baby's windpipe to permit easier breathing.

Another attempt to remove the object will be made later. The child's condition was rated as fair by attendants.

WASHINGTON COLUMN

(NEA Washington Correspondent)

Washington (NEA)—American labor relations experts are beginning to study with increasing interest an industrial peace plan that has produced some unusual results in The Netherlands. It is an outgrowth of the war, when labor and management found it to their mutual advantage to work together.

It has reduced the time lost by strikes, in proportion to the actual time worked, to about one-sixteenth of the levels in U. S. industry in 1947 and 1948. And as is only natural to expect, the Dutch figure that about 51 per cent of the time lost in strikes during those two years was in the Communist-led unions.

Details of the Dutch "Foundation of Labor" plan, as it has been called, have been closely observed by Clarence E. Hunter, chief of the U. S. Marshall Plan mission in The Netherlands. Hunter is a vice president of New York Trust Co. In a report to the U. S. National Industrial Conference Board, Mr. Hunter has analyzed what makes the Foundation of Labor a success. It is something of an old story in The Netherlands, but it is news to nearly all of the United States.

There are four main union labor movements in The Netherlands, organized along politico-religious lines. The Netherlands Federations of Trade Unions is the largest. It has 400,000 members, largely Socialist. The Catholic Labor Movement comes next with 285,000 members. The Christian National Labor Union, a Protestant group, is third with 150,000 members. The Communist group is smallest with an estimated 80,000 members, though there are no accurate figures.

During the war, the three non-Communist federations decided they could contribute the most to Netherlands recovery by trying to work out their problems with management in such a way that it would cause both the least injury.

After the liberation, the Foundation of Labor was formally organized. It has equal representation of union men and management. Every major industry is represented. The Foundation meets weekly.

In addition to the Foundation, at a lower level, there are "Councils" which represent each industry—electrical goods, transportation, and so on. Problems affecting any industry are first discussed in these Councils. There is apparently industry-wide bargaining in these Councils.

Recommendations of the Council, however, are submitted to the Foundation for approval. There are numerous cases of record in which the Foundation has told a Council to modify its recommendations—on a wage increase, for instance—in order to make it fit a general wage policy for the entire country.

If the Foundation approves recommendations from an industrial Council, it is passed on to a Board of Government Conciliators. The Netherlands government still regulates wages—which the United States government abandoned after the war. This is an important distinction which might make the Dutch Foundation of Labor plan unworkable in this country. Neither employers nor unions here would willingly submit to government wage regulations in peacetime.

The Dutch Foundation of Labor, however, has been given advisory status to the Board of Government Conciliators. Because of this close relationship, nearly all of the recommendations which have been unanimously adopted by the Foundation are accepted by the Government Conciliators without question.

It is only when the Foundation is split, and its labor and management groups submit conflicting recommendations, that the Government Conciliators act as arbitrators. Decisions of the Board of Conciliators are binding on both parties. Its decisions are issued as government regulations which have the effect of law.

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