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THE TAXPAYER IS CONSIDERED

A little more personal responsibility, a little tightening of control—these are the net results of all the legislative debate and controversy over welfare matters in Oregon this year. The changes effected by the two major bills, both of which have now been signed by the governor, are of real importance, however, in that they are in the right direction.

One of the measures referred to is that lifting the curtain of absolute secrecy which for years has hung between the tax paying public and the individual welfare cases for which taxes were being paid. Records will now be open to inspection, although they will still not be available for publication.

In this opening, we believe, there will be a worth while deterrent to those who might seek, and perhaps be granted assistance without being fully qualified for it. There will be some lessening of, and consequent reduction in total payment. There will be also the opportunity for individuals interested in this general question to bring in information having to do with specific cases which may supplement the facts which case workers have previously gathered. In such checking there is the possibility that the names of some who have been too generously recognized may either be stricken from the rolls or that the amounts awarded them may be reduced.

The other measure, having to do with the responsibility of relatives for the support of needy persons, is good in that, in the main, it increases such responsibility, giving greater recognition than before to what is, after all, a natural obligation. The family is required to assume more of the load—although the minimum income at which assistance must be given by a husband, wife, father, mother, son or daughter has been raised from \$195 a month to \$2,700 a year (\$225 a month). Payments under the responsibility scale, which is a part of the law, go up more rapidly than before, reaching \$100 a month on an unencumbered income of \$6,000 a year instead of on the previous standard of \$6,660. While the contribution-free minimum has been raised, as noted, the contribution scale now starts at \$20 a month instead of \$15.

More than this the new law is strengthened by giving the welfare commission the right to obtain from the state tax commission information (from income tax returns) as to the incomes of relatives of welfare cases. This, it will be seen, allows an absolute check on relatives who may (or may not) be providing the share of support that is required of them. We trust that the welfare commission will make the most of this opportunity. It is not only a right of the commission; it is a duty to the tax paying public.

Each of these welfare acts, especially that as to relative responsibility, falls short of what might reasonably have been expected but it is to be remembered that each was bitterly opposed by the so-called liberal groups, augmented by duty-dodging relatives and marginal welfare recipients. Under the circumstances it may be that Oregon is fortunate to have the revisions that have been made.

Next is to make the best possible use of them.

ADDED NEED FOR MORE BLOOD

In the most recent campaign for donors to the Red Cross blood bank one of the points stressed was that blood is now being used in the production of gamma globulin, recommended as a preventative of poliomyelitis. Additional blood supplies were therefore needed beyond those which would have sufficed for surgical cases (at home and on the battlefield) and for transfusion in meeting other circulatory conditions. A further use develops as it is indicated that gamma globulin may be employed to reduce the incidence of virus-caused infectious jaundice, in which the liver cells are attacked. Now and then the disease is fatal, more often there is more or less prompt recovery. But it is probable that the damage done is lasting and will become more apparent in later years in impaired functioning of a vital organ. Definitely infectious jaundice is one of the things to be avoided if possible.

Gamma globulin apparently facilitates such avoidance and gamma globulin means more blood from donors. Remember this when the Red Cross bloodmobile stops in Bend.

"First Goslings Fly Over Bend" says a headline in the Oregonian. Another Bend first.

Other Editors Say

MR. HOOVER ON POWER

(N. Y. Herald Tribune)
In his speech at Cleveland, Herbert Hoover turned the spotlight of an informed mind upon the problem of public power. Of the electric power sold to the public, he pointed out, about 20 per cent will be publicly controlled when plants now under construction or authorized by Congress have been completed. That is an ominously large and vital segment of the economy to have outside the private-enterprise system. Mr. Hoover proposes some very definite remedies. In the future he would have no plants exclusively for power production undertaken by the government; and where multiple-purpose projects are required (including, for example, irrigation and flood control) the power thus generated would be leased for distribution by private enterprise or local governmental authorities. Finally Mr. Hoover poses a commission to re-examine and reorganize the role of the Federal government in this whole area.

During the campaign President Eisenhower denounced what he called "the idea of wholehog Federal government"; he was particularly insistent that the states, either alone or in regional groupings, share with private enterprise the distribution of electricity, which under Democratic administrations has fallen increasingly into Federal hands. The trend has gone far, but it is by no means irreversible. At the bottom of any new attack on this problem must lie the conviction that private enterprise and local responsibility are in themselves good, and that any derogation from these must be made only under the pressure of necessity or of some unusual circumstances. Certainly a heavy burden of proof

must be upon those who would centralize or socialize. Abundant electricity at low rates is the goal of this Administration; but private enterprise here, as in other fields, remains the best means. Mr. Hoover has once more done a service in focusing attention upon a crucial issue.

Bend's Yesterdays

(From The Bulletin Files)

THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

(Saturday, April 26, 1918)

Fuel purchasers in Bend will in a short time be required to make a declaration of the amount of fuel used in the past year. Fred J. Holmes, federal fuel administrator for Oregon, has announced.

E. D. Gilson, R. B. Gould, L. L. Fox, J. D. Heyburn, Clyde M. McKay, L. D. West, C. W. Hayes, Ferguson and A. Whisnant have denied they are applicants for the position of postmaster in Bend.

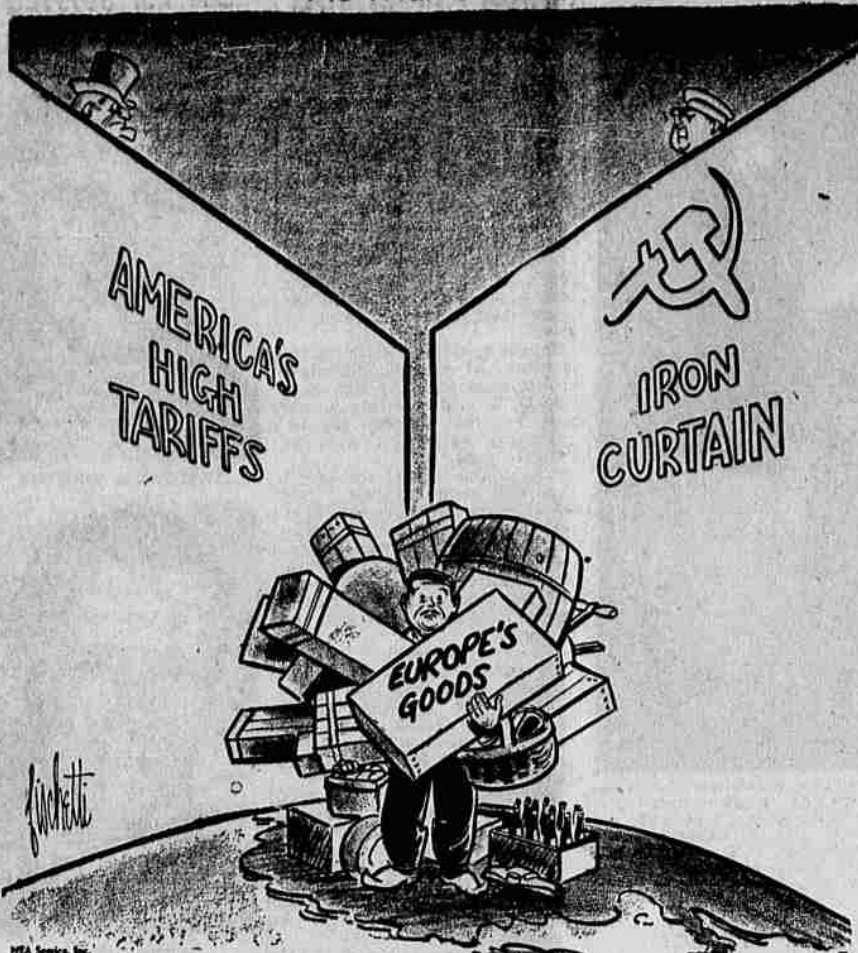
Judge W. D. Barnes left for Redmond this morning to join County Commissioner C. H. Miller in a road inspection trip. They were to meet A. L. McIntosh, the other county commissioner, at Sisters.

Fred Stumtger, proprietor of a summer resort at East Lake, was in Bend today.

LONGER ROUTES?

WASHINGTON, April 21 (AP)—The Post Office Department is studying the possibility of longer routes for rural carriers, many of whom now complete their rounds in half a day. Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield said the department is "going into the question of lengthening rural routes" in its campaign to cut costs of delivering the mail.

No Man's Land



10 Per Cent Cut Seen

By PETER EDSON
(NEA Washington Correspondent)

WASHINGTON (NEA) — When the Truman administration's \$41 billion military budget for next year was tossed back at the Department of Defense by the Eisenhower administration, with instructions to cut it back to essentials, one of the younger staff officers who had worked on the original estimates sighed wearily and said:

"Well, I guess the first thing to do is get the Republican definition of an 'essential'."

To date, this definition has never been put in writing. But program by program, Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson and his new Pentagon team have been cutting back manpower requirements and forcing reductions wherever they could. Best guess now is that the defense budget for the year beginning next July 1 will be cut by at least 10 per cent, or over \$4 billion.

Assistant Secretary of Defense W. J. McNeil—an ex-admiral who has been kept over on the job of comptroller of the armed services by the new administration—was prouder of the original 1954 budget than any prepared since unification was begun.

When this budget was announced early in January, McNeil declared that there had been real service cooperation in its preparation. Nobody had raised a loud voice of protest over any decision. And for the first time there had been real consideration of the possibility of buying too much or too many of some 800 major items, led by tanks and trucks.

The size of the budget was determined not on the basis of how much money they thought they could get from Congress, or what the taxpayers would stand for. Instead, the first determination was how big an armed force the country had to maintain at home and abroad.

Broad Calculations
Then they started figuring what it would cost to keep this force in being, with a reserve of all supplies needed for a full year of all-out war.

The size of the armed forces—a maximum of 3,700,000 men in all services—had been set by Congress before. Translated, that was enough manpower for a Navy of 400 combat vessels, 77 Naval air squadrons, three divisions of Marines and three Marine air wings; an Army of 20 divisions plus 18 combat teams, the National Guard and the reserves; an Air Force now over 100 wings, to be increased gradually to 143.

The number of bases, camps and schools to be operated for this force was determined and the cost of their maintenance added up. The degree of modernization was decided on to find what equipment replacement costs would be.

This took into account such things as the fact that combat planes wear out in from three to five years, even when they're not

in combat. The number of hours these planes could be flown for training purposes had to be determined, and the cost estimated. All these and a lot more calculations like them are what really determined the size of next year's military budget.

The important point about cutting this budget is that any cuts mean some of these things won't get done, and there will be that much less national defense.

As of July 1, 1953, the Department of Defense estimates it will have a credit of some \$62 billion in the Treasury—unused but largely obligated for future spending. For next year an additional \$41 billion of new spending authority was asked in January.

Aimed At Carryovers

Originally, the services expected to write checks for about \$43 billion worth of military pay, subsistence and supplies in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1954. This would leave an unspent credit of \$80 billion as of July 1, 1954.

Secretary Wilson points out you can't save money by cutting a credit for money not yet appropriated. Nevertheless, these large carryovers have been the special targets for congressional economy knife-throwers.

The fact that it takes a long time to tool up a factory and get into mass production on a new model plane, tank, gun or guided missile is what makes these carryover credits necessary. If the holdovers are cut back, it simply means that there will be fewer weapons available in the future than there would be otherwise.

Secretary Wilson has been polishing off plans to cut back on the defense production base. This means that a number of stand-by arms plants that have been running at less than peak capacity will be closed down entirely. Others will be put into full production, to cut down unit and total costs.

This will be a complete change from the defense production policies of C. E. Wilson, the former defense mobilization director.

But this whole subject of how broad a defense production base would be needed in case of all-out war is still undecided. Harold Vance of Studebaker ran a survey on it last year and came up with the answer that the presently planned base was far too small. His report was that it might take \$2 billion more in new plants. There's only half a billion for that in the Truman budget.

CONFERENCE ASKED

TOKYO, April 21 — Communist China called today for a "peace conference" of the five great powers. A Peking radio broadcast monitored here suggested the peace meeting in one of 55 May Day slogans. Communist China, in listing the five great nations, named itself as one of the powers.

Dulles Leaving Today on Trip To Europe

By DONALD J. GONZALES

WASHINGTON, April 21 (AP)—Secretary of State John Foster Dulles leaves for Europe today to outline new American proposals to cut foreign spending and gear North Atlantic defense planning to a long pull of 10 to 30 years.

Accompanying him by plane were Secretary of Treasury George M. Humphrey and Foreign Aid Director Harold E. Stassen. They will join Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson and U. S. military leaders in Paris for Thursday's meeting of the 14-nation North Atlantic Treaty Council.

It will be the first time top officials of the Eisenhower Administration have held a full-dress diplomatic conference with European leaders. All signs point to sharp shifts in NATO defense strategy.

Aid Trimmed

Informed sources said the Administration's new foreign aid program, to be sent to Congress early next month, will be "substantially" lower than President Truman's request for \$7,600,000,000. The final total has not been set but some experts believe the new administration will seek in the neighborhood of \$5,000,000,000 to \$6,000,000,000 for foreign aid in the 1954 fiscal year beginning July 1.

While offering less in aid, the United States also will ask less of its NATO allies. Previous talk of adding up to 25 new divisions to the NATO defense force by 1954 has been dropped, and U. S. leaders are expected to seek no more than 10 new divisions.

Muscle Replaces Fat

Emphasis will be placed instead on building up the fighting muscle of some 50 Western European divisions already in various stages of development. Current air strength of 4,000 planes, however, is expected to be boosted to 5,500 by the end of the year.

Dulles plan to put NATO planning on a long-range basis has

Prisoner Exchange Moving With Clock-Like Precision

By PHIL NEWSOM

(United Press Correspondent)
So far, the exchange of sick and wounded war prisoners has moved with clock-like precision at Panmunjom.

One group goes through at 9 a.m. Another at 11 a.m.

We give the Reds so many. The Reds give us so many. All signed and stamped "paid."

It's almost as if human lives weren't involved at all.

The story has a feeling of unreality about it. Perhaps that's because of its many contradictions. Perhaps also because of the many unanswered questions connected with it.

The returning GI's who walk or are carried through Panmunjom's "Freedom Gate" are responsible for some of the questions.

Tales Don't Jibe
One tells of receiving X-ray, penicillin, streptomycin and the most modern treatment for tuberculosis in a Red hospital.

Another tells of American prisoners on a "death march," mercilessly slaughtered when too weak to go farther.

Others tell of Bible study and baseball games.

And still others tell of forced indoctrination into the Communist philosophy. The stories completely lack uniformity.

One wonders how the Reds selected the UN prisoners to be exchanged.

Presumably it was to include all sick or wounded.

United Nations negotiators asked the Reds if there weren't others besides the 605 they listed to be

returned. The Reds promised to investigate, and then said that was all.

More Wounded
Yet the returning GI's tell of many in more serious condition than they left behind in Red hospitals and prison camps.

Red propagandists predict an armistice in Korea by June 20. Yet the Red radio at Peking maintains its unremitting attacks against the United Nations, and particularly the United States.

One of the latest attacks charged that the UN failed to give proper medical care to Red prisoners and would rather amputate than give that care.

There's another \$64 question. What made the Reds finally agree to an exchange of sick and wounded in the first place?

Reds Callous
Certainly it was not concern for their own prisoners.

The Communist philosophy weighs a man's value strictly by what he can produce for the Communist state. An even temporarily disabled soldier isn't worth much to the Reds. Many of their sick or wounded will be going back to a far more uncomfortable state than they enjoyed under UN care.

Perhaps the answer to that question also contains the answer to others.

Perhaps the Reds made the move purely as a mechanical gesture—not for the sake of either their sick or wounded or ours, but to save face for themselves and to entice the UN back to the truth table.

Perhaps that's also why this exchange doesn't seem to have a heart.

THIS LITTLE BEAR WENT TO MARKET

A "bear" is one who thinks the market is going down. A "bull" thinks contrarywise and may have just as much right to his opinion. It's largely a matter of judgment.

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