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Wagner Act Decisions

The decisions of the supreme court upholding the validity of the Wagner labor relations law by a broadening of the construction of the interstate commerce clause again emphasizes the truth of Mr. Dooley's remark that the "Court follows the election returns." It is the correct procedure and is the reason constitution has lasted so long. The constitution is elastic enough to cover most anything concerning the welfare of the nation—and when it isn't, amendment can make it. It was a realistic decision in keeping with the progress of the times.

The majority of the court has taken the side of the broad constructionists of congressional power and affirmed the power of congress to deal with social questions, providing they affect interstate commerce. The court does not pass on the wisdom of the labor relations act nor does it mean that revision is not desirable to bring order out of the chaos of labor trouble, but out of it should come a national labor policy to discourage industrial turmoil. With the additional rights given to labor should be added that of responsibility by enforcement of contracts.

While the decisions are a victory for the administration they destroy the last pretext for the court packing bill. Every reason advanced by the president has now been confuted. The decisions prove the court majority is not reactionary and immovable, that it is not necessary to add additional justices for speedy action or liberal interpretation, and that the court fully comprehends the necessities of the times.

All New Deal cases which have before it, since the session began last October, have been upheld—including arms embargo, tax on silver profits, ban on prison made goods, outlawing of gold bullion contracts, national fire arms act, railway labor act, Frazier-Lemke farm mortgage act, and now the Wagner labor relations bill. What more could the administration ask? The president should withdraw his court bill as unnecessary, as its objectives have been attained.

Amusing But Futile

Oregon's political prognosticators, impatient over the fact that for several months they have had little to speculate about, are happy again over the prospect of a guessing marathon as to what Governor Martin and others are going to do about next year's gubernatorial contest.

With ears tuned to their keenest pitch, the "boys" just now are hanging with baited breath upon every utterance of Governor Martin, of Secretary of State Earl Snell and of State Treasurer Rufus Holman for some inferential hint as to their future intentions. Just now they are busily dissecting and digesting the governor's recent statement at a Silverton hospital dedication that "I am not a candidate for governor."

By the end of the week the prophets of the hotel lobbies and street corners will have the 1938 campaign all worked out and will have Governor Martin's successor picked, nominated and elected.

It makes little difference to the prognosticators that the governor probably meant just what he said—that he is not now a candidate any more than are any of a dozen other possible contenders for his office; that he is busily devoting himself to the job of being a real governor of all of the people unswayed by considerations of political expediency. Concerning their speculations Governor Martin laughs and says:

"With nearly two years more to serve of my present term and nearly a year before the primary election I have got plenty to do without running for office. It's bad enough to have to be a candidate from April to November."

It is a grand and interesting game the boys have devised for their own amusement and the governor gets a kick out of it too. But until he gets good and ready to say whether or not he will be a candidate they will not know a bit more about his real intentions than they do right now.

Don't Cheer too Loudly

Because of the increased value of state income tax receipts, which are used as an offset on state property taxes, there will be no state property tax next year. This should cheer the taxpayer, but it won't. Experience has amply proven that when state taxes diminish, local taxes increase more than enough to offset it.

The state tax is the smallest tax the property owner pays. In Salem the tax levies for this year are as follows: State .003678, county .0066, county school and library .004822, general road .003, a total of .0151, total state and county; the school tax levy is .0179; the city tax is .0246.

If your home has been assessed valuation of \$2300, you pay this year \$8.45 state tax, \$26.28 county tax, \$41.17 school tax, \$56.58 city tax, a total of \$132.48. If you save the \$8.45 state tax next year, you will find it more than absorbed by local taxation.

Last year on the same valuation you paid \$12.40 state tax, \$22.56 county tax, \$35.19 school tax and \$47.84 city tax, a total \$117.99.

Your state tax this year decreased \$3.95 over a year ago, but your county tax increased \$3.72, your school tax increased \$0.98, and your city tax increased \$8.74, your total tax, in spite of the decreased state tax, increased \$14.49, or nearly 11 percent.

So don't cheer too loudly at the prospect of a reduction in state property tax. It will mean simply a diversion plus in local taxes. Reduction of taxation remains an iridescent dream.

West Salem Group Has Card Evening

West Salem—Mr. and Mrs. Dale Lemen were hosts recently to the "Just a Mere" club for an evening of cards in the city hall auditorium. Prizes went to Mrs. R. E. Patterson, Mrs. Elmer Cook, Mrs. W. L. LaDue, W. L. LaDue, and Fred Gibson.

Members and guests present were Mr. and Mrs. Guy C. Newgent, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Gossier, Mr. and Mrs.

Frank Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lacy, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. LaDue, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gibson, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Unruh, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Shoper, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Patterson and Mr. and Mrs. Lemen.

MRS. BROWN CALLED

LYONS—Word was received here of the death of Mrs. Stanley Brown who passed away at Redmond Friday following a major operation. The remains were shipped to California for burial. The Browns were former residents here.

Life's Big Moments



WHEN YOU TURNED A CORNER SHARPLY AND WERE REWARDED WITH A CLOSE CONTACT OF SHOULDERS THAT THRILLED YOU INTO COMPLETE SILENCE.

News Behind The News

By Paul Mallon

Washington, April 13.—The plowman in Iowa may not have heard about it, but the financial world was leaning on its ear a few days back, listening to gold rumors. Markets trembled; money men were somewhat panicky. The White House insisted nothing was to be done about gold, but this did not stop the rumors. They continued coming. That pillow has been whipped too often.

Arithmetic—One inside version is that the treasury is again excited to be inflating gold, and has recently been planning further technical action to restrain imports. It has had in mind, they say, something like imposition of a service or mining charge for newly mined gold to prevent this country from becoming a dumping ground for the mining companies of South Africa, Canada and Russia. That would not involve any change in the dollar.

Then Mr. Roosevelt has been talking strangely of prices lately, and it has become generally known to speculators that he has a price program in mind. The best of authorities have been saying it does not involve a monetary or financial change and, in fact, it is expected to be somewhat insipid.

Foreign editors smart enough to put these two things together to corner the world are wasting their time working for a living. They could make their salary in a day of speculation.

Out of the few speculators—beginners—investors—smart enough to do it happens to be a good New York friend of this government and happens just now to be in London, where the rumors started.

Those who know their way around in the financial world give more credit than the foreign press. Note—A year ago the stock market went into agony over a report that the administration would raise the price of gold. The tale in the street is that millions (meaning at least a tidy profit) were made on that occasion by roulette experts who knew where the wheel would stop.

Price Fixing—A more valid rumor heard in government circles is that the new Roosevelt price-fixing plan may be worked around the new NRA, as well as relief expenditures for consumers' goods.

It is generally considered to be inevitable that some government price bill must be presented. Unless the administration takes some action, it will find itself in the giddy price altitude of 1929, flying blind.

Budget—Many who have talked with Mr. Roosevelt lately have been disturbed by what he did not say. To them, he talked of financing, taxes, etc., but did not once mention balancing the budget. Their hopes of a constructive and settling relief message from the White House are frankly not warm. An inner fear exists that he will not go all the way along the road recently pointed by the Eccles-Morgenthau group.

Since the government bond market troubles, the conviction has spread among economists of the new order that the budget must really be balanced. By "balance," they mean not a paper prospect of evening up the books some day, but a convincing prospect of a surplus. That is the only kind of balance which will safeguard government credit from future misgivings.

Few believe it will be either feasible or popular to increase the existing onerous burden of taxation to do it. The only logical way, they say, is to eliminate every cent of waste.

Taxes—The simplest way to look at the price problem is this: Four factors make prices—Wages, hour, taxes and the cost of raw materials. In industry now, wages are being increased, hours decreased. This action is bound to increase the cost of manufacturing and is bound to increase prices (note the results of C.I.O. success in steel and coal). The movement is being officially encouraged by administration policy.

Increased cost of raw materials is being officially encouraged by government buying for ships, buildings, dams, etc.

Now, if the government tries to raise taxes again, it will be encouraging the factor in prices—while publicly professing to be fearful of a price rise.

And yet prices are being officially blamed upon the foreign armament boom.

Correction—A correction should be made in the item published Saturday about Vice-President Garner's warm words with Mr. Roosevelt over sit-down strikes.

Mr. Garner was not sitting down, pounding the table, as reported, but on his feet, hotly emphasizing his demand for action, with his clenched

RING OF STEEL ABOUT BILBAO DRAWN TIGHT

(Continued from page 1)

had been slowed down and a counter-offensive begun. Insurgents consolidated positions south and east of Bilbao. Unconfirmed reports said an Italian flag was seen over their advance lines.

In the south, at the doorway to Madrid, reinforced insurgents fought off government troops trying to annihilate 3,000 of General Francisco Franco's men in University City, northwest suburb of the capital.

Government militiamen, with artillery and small arms, fought furiously in the attempt to dialogue insurgents from University City. Victory there would remove a powerful spearhead that has been thrust into the capital's side for months.

General Jose Maja, commander of Madrid's defenses, appealed to insurgents to desert and join his troops. He urged them to come out of their trenches clapping hands above their heads as a signal of surrender.

But, unhesitating their trench knives, holding the glittering weapons above their heads in the light of exploding shells and flares, insurgents literally cut one government column to pieces in hand-to-hand battle in the sector.

In London, British laborites acted to force the government to lift the Spanish insurance blockade of Bilbao and convey supply ships to the Basque capital.

YAQUINA JETTY CASE PRESENTED

Washington, April 13 (AP)—Army engineers heard a group of Oregonians urge the need for extending the north jetty of Yaquina by 1,000 feet seaward at an estimated cost of \$450,000. Seeking to reverse an earlier ruling of the engineering board, eight witnesses, including every member of the Oregon congressional delegation, advocated the extension as of "vital" importance to the lumber industry.

"Refusal to undertake this improvement," said Senator Frederick Steiwer, "will operate as a denial of the right of the world to the people of the Yaquina bay district. It is the difference between ability to expand and not to make a living at all," he asserted.

Witnesses at the hearing included Senator Charles McNary, Representatives James Mott, Nan W. Honeymann, and Walter M. Pierce; G. W. Brundage, associate regional forester; James Polhemus, former manager of the port of Portland; and Dean Johnson, vice-president and general manager of C. D. Johnson lumber company.

Ben S. Fisher, formerly of Marshfield and Judge Kendall, Portland, were attorneys attending the hearing.

Representative Mott told the board that Yaquina interests were given assurance they would be provided with a "proper harbor" when they contributed \$700,000 toward the original \$2,600,000 cost of the project.

Brundage testified that approximately 21,000,000 feet of timber was available in the immediate harbor area—Lincoln, Polk and Benton counties.

Polhemus told the engineers that the additional thousand feet of jetty sought would eliminate the necessity of craft operating in the "trough of the sea."

Johnson, whose company is the largest lumber operator in the region, said the eventual saving to operators in freight costs would be approximately \$68,000,000 should the improvement be provided. He said success of operations has been very questionable, largely because of the lumber industry's inability to use Yaquina bay harbor.

LIBERTY PLANNING BIG CHICKEN MEAL

Liberty—The regular meeting of the Liberty community club was held Friday evening at the auditorium with musical program given by members of the Pacific Institute of Music.

It was voted to have a chicken dinner Friday, April 23, at the community hall. Charles Krauger was appointed chairman of the committee on general arrangements. It was decided to have the men take charge of selling tickets. The high school girls will serve as waitresses and Mrs. Charles Krauger is chairman of the table committee. The kitchen committee consists of Mrs. L. Shuttlesworth, Mrs. W. W. Westenhoe, Mrs. C. C. Sargeant, Mrs. Henry Baker, Mrs. Otto Schulte, Mrs. Grover Weaver and Mrs. Roy Farrand.

Refreshments were served by a committee consisting of Mrs. John Dash, Mrs. L. Shuttlesworth and Mrs. G. Weaver.

GUESTS GOODE HOME Mill City—Dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Don Goode and family in Stayton Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kelly and daughter, Lois Mel. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Robinson motored to Salem for the day.

Uncomfortably close to the president's nose.

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Basin Speculation Fought at Capital

Washington, April 13 (AP)—A move has opened in congress to enact legislation to curb reported speculation in the Columbia river basin over prospective irrigable land resulting from construction of Grand Coulee dam.

Legislation was offered by Senators Homer T. Bone and Lewis B. Schwellenbach and Rep. Charles H. Leavy, Washington democrats, providing close scrutiny of land purchasing contracts and for fair appraisals under the secretary of interior in an effort to prevent speculation and assure prospective settlers of getting land at a fair price.

HEAVY RAINS BRING SLIDES, BLOCK ROADS

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where 3.33 inches were measured in the past 24 hours. Bend had its heaviest rain of the year, .79 of an inch.

Other precipitation measurements included: Forest Grove 2.35 inches, Mehama 2.30, Salem 2.21, Albany 2.18, Vancouver, Wash., 2.05, Jefferson, Ore., 2 inches, Portland 1.96, Newport 1.94, Molokini, Wash., 1.94, North Bend, Ore., 1.90, Seattle 1.82, Eugene 1.49, Tatonah Island 1.30, The Dalles .83, Yakima .79, Spokane .30.

The heavy rain extended into California, Eureka reporting 1.72 inches. At Astoria the precipitation in 36 hours measured 3.32 inches.

Numerous small creeks and streams were out of their banks and the Willamette river rose to 7.8 feet at Jefferson, where it may reach flood stage of 10 feet if the rain continues. There was little likelihood of a flood in other portions of the river, the weather bureau announced. At Portland the river had risen two feet to the 8.6 foot stage, well below the 18-foot flood stage.

The Tillamook highway was reported under water between McMinnville and Sheridan, but autos were going through slowly.

The storm was a blow to "open-day" fishermen who had planned forays to the streams Thursday when the open season for trout in Oregon begins. Rivers will all be "too high and muddy," experts said.

No serious damage to shipping was reported, although the coast was being battered by a high surf and the sea outside was very rough. Airplanes were grounded late Monday, but resumed schedules this morning.

Only three days ago Portland had a deficiency in rainfall, but the storm brought the total since January 1 to 19.25 inches, an excess of 2.10 inches.

STORM AT ASTORIA

Astoria, Ore., April 13 (UP)—A storm that brought 3.32 inches of rain in 36 hours was dying away today after blowing hard all night. The storm came suddenly the wind rising to full force in 20 minutes. No important damage was reported.

The Dalles, Ore., April 13 (UP)—The Dalles experienced the hardest rain of the season during the last 4 hours. 62 of an inch of precipitation being recorded here. Minor slides were caused on highways.

Marshfield, Ore., April 13 (UP)—Gales whipping 65 miles an hour swept the southern Oregon coast last night to further hamper shipping that has been disturbed since Saturday by high seas. Rain drenched Coos and Curry counties and strong winds sent trees crashing over roads and utility wires.

The Coos Bay coast guard reported the S. S. Evanger left the Columbia river at 12:35 p. m. yesterday enroute to Coos Bay. At 6 p. m. the Norwegian vessel had traveled ten miles—so strong were southwest winds.

Bend, Ore., April 13 (UP)—High winds whipped over central Oregon during the night, bringing the heaviest rainfall of the year, .75 of an inch of moisture. The wind velocity reached 30 miles an hour at times.

WORKING ON QUILT

Silverton Hills—Mrs. Hubert Elliott will entertain the members of the sewing club Thursday afternoon at her home in Silverton on Norway avenue at a special session. The guests will work on a quilt for Mrs. Frank Porter who has moved to Salem to make her home. The members are asked to furnish cookies for the refreshment hour.

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FDR REPORTED TO STAND PAT ON COURT BILL

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court plan. The reference was made to the split decision.

The official said this was no guarantee that future administration proposals, such as minimum wages and maximum hours, would be upheld in the light of the broadened interpretation of the interstate commerce clause.

Speaker Bankhead told reporters he would not be surprised to see soon a presidential message on minimum wages, maximum hours and working conditions.

Committees in congress may take up the question even before the message is received. Administration officials said recently that they were having difficulty drafting such legislation because of the narrow scope of the constitution in the NRA and other decisions.

Some of Mr. Roosevelt's supporters said the Wagner decisions, however, had broadened federal power over interstate commerce, and in the words of Senator Thomas (D., Utah) "removed a no-man's land of uncertainty."

His "no-man's land" reference recalled the president's position, before the highest court recently reversed itself on state minimum wage legislation for women, that some decisions on similar questions raised barriers against either state or federal legislation in certain fields of human rights.

Now the supreme court has held, in effect, that manufacturing of goods from materials bought outside the state and for sale outside the state directly affects interstate commerce, and is properly subject to federal legislation.

Senator Byrnes (D., S.C.), a Roosevelt leader who originated the senate movement to condemn sit-down strikes, said he may propose legislation to ban such tactics.

He noted that the court had held collective bargaining guarantees valid for workers in the industries affected in the cases, including manufacture of steel, auto trailers and clothing. He said he believed that protection of the manufacturers against sit-down strikes also would be considered valid.

Senator King (D., Utah) and others contended the Wagner act should include safeguards for employee minorities and for employers as well as union members.

Democrats at odds over the proposal to enlarge the supreme court justices over 70 retire differed vigorously on whether the trend of recent decisions would affect that bill.

RAIL BRAKEMAN KILLED BY HIS SON

Oroville, Calif., April 13 (AP)—M. R. Bryant, 46, railroad brakeman, was found dead Monday, and Sheriff Alvin Kister reported the arrest of William Bryant, 21, his son.

The sheriff quoted young Bryant as admitting he killed his father by striking him over the head with a pickaxe handle. The killing, Kister reported, occurred at 3 a. m. Monday at Bryant's house.

"Father had beaten me several times when he was drunk," Sheriff Kister said young Bryant told him. "He had beaten mother many times."

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