

Capital Journal

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"With or without offense to friends or foes I sketch your world exactly as it goes."

Wire Your Senators

The administration's reorganization bill on which the senate is about to take final action is designed to center all administrative powers in the hands of the executive and deprive congress of its constitutional powers. It gives the president the right to transfer, consolidate, abolish and establish bureaus without consent of congress or obtaining ratification of congress. It increases bureaucracy and the cost of government and hence is not a measure of economy or efficiency, as the Byrd reorganization measure is.

The reorganization bill is a more vicious one than the president's court reform and is designed for the same ends, to enhance the executive power. Like the court bill it is a measure to increase autocracy and destroy democracy. It gives dictatorship powers to the president which, if not abused by Mr. Roosevelt, opens the way for abuse by some more unscrupulous successor. It would do for the nation what Huey Long's legislation did for Louisiana.

The administration is using all of its power and prestige to pass the measure. It is using patronage and appropriations, threats and reprisals and pressure politics to force the bill through. It has so far been successful by a small vote in defeating the Wheeler amendment, which would have required congressional approval before any reorganization order could become effective. It has succeeded in passing the section abolishing the civil service commission, replacing the merit system by the spoils system.

Today the senate votes on the proposal to abolish the office of comptroller general the "watch-dog of the treasury" who safeguards expenditures and reports to congress on illegal expenditures. It transfers his duties to the director of the budget where expenditure would be audited after the money has been spent instead of before, too late to check illegal expenditures, so the president will have authority, without question over the billions of national disbursements.

There is only one way to prevent the passage of this dangerous bill that is bound to react on everyone, and that is by pressure from people back home on their congressmen before it is too late. Citizens should wire members of the Oregon delegation especially the senators at once.

As the late Clarence Darrow said:

Free governments and their constitutions are not prostrated at a blow by the onslaught of tyranny. They are attacked, destroyed under another pretense, . . . Some great benefit is to be attained; life is to be protected; free government is to be conserved; the common people are to be saved from the heresies of false doctrines. Those forces of reaction and despotism are ever skulking along the line of progress ready for any occasion that may come that will warrant an attack in the name of the very principles under which humanity is marching.

Frederick Stimson, in "The American Constitution," says:

The English people in a thousand years experience have found that their liberties were never so really in danger as when they knew it least, never so nearly lost as under kings they liked best. When a people is unanimous on most of the things we desire, we may carelessly adopt a means that seems to be a short cut though it be destruction in later times, or in other hands, of government by the people itself.

"It can't happen here"—but it can, and the skids are being greased for it by our most popular and plausible "king."

The Price of Neglect

Negligence on the part of the city council in taking steps to correct conditions existing and rapidly developing along Shelton ditch, which drains the southeastern part of the city and a vast area beyond, is exposing the city to the threat of damages far in excess of the cost of its share in remedying the situation.

Due principally to the destruction of a diversion dam at the confluence of the two waterways just east of the penitentiary grounds, the Stayton power ditch (better known as North Mill creek in its course through Salem) pours its flood of surface drainage from the vast flats and hills southeast of the city into the narrow soft-banked Shelton ditch with every heavy rainstorm.

The resulting torrent is doing thousands of dollars of damage to bridges and property along the ditch with each freshet, notwithstanding the tons of rock that have been dumped at vital places to protect the crumbling banks. In the past three months banks of the stream have been scoured back until the ditch is twice its last year's width in places—the scouring being at the expense of abutting private property.

One concrete bridge has been completely destroyed, and the paved dirt approaches of another so badly scoured as to necessitate ripping up the pavement to make temporary repairs. The piling supports of two timber bridges were so weakened or washed out as to twice necessitate their closure to traffic. Private buildings close to the crumbling banks are being undermined and numerous trees have been torn loose to topple into the stream. The old city camp ground has been practically ruined as a park site—turned into a waste of bare rock.

Full responsibility for correcting these conditions does not lie entirely with the city. The state and county are also involved or interested. But the destruction and liability for damages lies chiefly with the city, which should take the aggressive initiative to see that immediate steps are taken to curb the threat of further destruction.

Young Will Argue Against Utilities

Independence — The chamber of commerce will meet Tuesday evening at the Methodist church where a dinner will be served by the Booster's club of the church. G. W. Fowler, new president-elect of the chamber, will be inducted into office, and will read his committee for the coming year.

the evening and will speak later in the auditorium of the training school building against the formation of the seven-county utility district. He will represent what is termed as the "taxpayer's side" of the issue.

Lodge Plans Banquet
Scotts Mills—Butte lodge and Ivy Rebekah lodge have set Saturday evening, March 26, for a joint father and son, mother and daughter banquet.



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Spring arrived last evening at 10:43. Pacific Standard time, accompanied by the vernal equinox, rain, snow, hail and temperature getting down toward the freezing point. Carrots, cabbage and other spring bonnet decorations were threatened with extinction, but are expected to survive over Easter.

Spring poetry is omitted this year as it is hard to write while the poet is wearing mittens.

The state basketball tournament also came to an end with Salem's chances likewise down around zero.

Ron Gemmell, sporting editor of the Statesman, who sat through 30 hours of basketball or thereabouts, suddenly remembered as the tournament came to a close Saturday night that he had an engagement to go horseback riding Sunday morning. With Spartan-like courage he kept the date without very many happy returns of the day.

A military conference scheduled for Washington, D. C., to outline plans for mobilization in case any unpleasantness should arise which calls for action. It was stated in connection with the announcement that a mobilization could be had within three or four months after a declaration of war, but it seems declarations of war are outmoded and the game isn't played that way any more. For instance, Mr. Hitler put up his Austrian bluff and made it stick because he's been mobilizing for several years before any declaration of war.

Sergeant Farley Mogan of the state police is reported by his brother officers to be a model of systematic neatness for his records. According to them, he keeps his records carefully filed in his police car and an index of the file at home so if he loses one he'll have the other intact. This system also fixes it so every time he wants to find something in the file in his car he has to run home to consult the index. There's nothing like having a place for everything and everything in its place.

(Exchange)
"My grandad, viewing earth's worn cogs,
Said things were going to the dogs;
His granddad in his house of logs,
Said things were going to the dogs;
His grandad in the Flemish bogs,
Said things were going to the dogs;
His granddad in his old skin togs,
Said things were going to the dogs;
There's one thing that I have to state—
The dogs have had a good long wait."
At any rate, no matter what happens, softball is just around the corner.

Schlador on Vacation
Silverton — J. Cal Schlador is spending a two weeks' vacation from his work at his Silverton home. Schlador is in federal employ, in charge of telephone lines with headquarters at the Triangle lake CCC camp. Though of equal altitude of the near-by Silverton districts where several feet of snow has fallen, Schlador reported no snow in the Triangle section and the weather mild with many wild flowers in bloom.



NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON



Washington, March 21.—William Green of AFL walked out a few days back, chuckling. He announced only that he expected something might be worked out on the stalemated wage-hour bill. What he did not say was that he had received terms of a compromise from the president which may give him more than half a loaf of the kind of a bill he wants instead of the kind of a bill which the CIO White House combination has tried unsuccessfully to get through.

No stenographic notes were taken for future publication, but authorities with normal hearing facilities report the dialogue went something like this:
Mr. Roosevelt greeted Mr. Green with an announcement that differences of opinion over the form of federal wage-hour action would have to cease. The president asked Mr. Green what he wanted. Mr. Green recited the well known AFL program, and then they got down to business.

No Federal Board
When it was over they appeared to have come around definitely to a bill which may be as significant for what it does not include as for what it will contain. There will be no federal board for one thing, no wage differentials between various sections for another. Instead there will be a flat wage rate of something less than 40 cents an hour, and a flat hour rate, the exact amounts to be determined by negotiation. Enforcement will be left to the department of justice. Labor will be authorized to report violations.

Basic idea is the maximum hour-minimum wage figures will be cut low enough so differentials will not be demanded, and thus enough congressional votes may be rounded up to reverse the action of the house killing the earlier wage-hour bill.

To Handle Bill
The administration also is supposed to have a neat plan for handling the bill in congress. The house calendar will be cleaned up as far as possible so that only this one piece of legislation will stand between the house and adjournment for summer campaigning. Then Mr. Roosevelt will turn on the administration Turkish bath system with direct sweltering publicity pressure.

Administration strategists think it will work, and it probably will. A French mission has been confidentially flitting in and out among government authorities here trying to make arrangements to buy 300 American airplanes quickly. The Frenchmen want delivery within 30 to 60 days, apparently intending to send a bath to the Spanish loyalists, and keep others for themselves.

To Buy Airplanes
First, they tried American manufacturers of pursuit and combat types, but were told deliveries could not be offered within a year. The factories are overburdened with U. S. government orders. Some effort then was made to get the cooperation of U. S. officials so the French order could have priority but this failed. The French will therefore have to be satisfied with a few bombers upon which they have been promised early delivery.

The world is arming so fast that airplane manufacturers of the major nations everywhere are unable to keep up with the orders of their own governments. Only the other day, the opposition in British parliament protested because the British government let other nations have a few planes of a type they did not need.

Bridges Case
Portmouthing deportation hearing of Harry Bridges may be more difficult for him than has been generally supposed. The labor department has come into possession of some confidential information indicating Bridges is officially a member of the communist party and has a card. This has somewhat tempered the enthusiasm of labor Secretary Perkins who had been led to believe he was not.

Mr. Hull's exposition of foreign policy was addressed ostensibly to the National Press club, but really to congress. The point escaped popular attention but the speech was



'MISUNDERSTOOD' — NOT 'WAYWARD' is term Supl. Byron D. Paddon prefers to apply to youngsters at Berkshire industrial farm for boys at Canaan, N. Y., where vocational training is stressed as remedial measure. Above, "intermediaries" listen earnestly as Paul M. Williams conducts wood-working class.

intended as a defense of the existing Anglo-American "understanding," which was called traitorous in the house a few days earlier.

Hull's Explanation
Hull's indirect explanation was that the two governments are exchanging information and conferring constantly concerning world problems affecting them both with the purpose of proceeding along parallel lines. But he indicated this government is "retaining at all times its independence of judgment and freedom of action."

He put the idea in a single sentence saying the momentous question today is "whether the doctrine of force shall become enthroned once more and bring . . . international anarchy and a relapse into barbarism; or whether this and other peaceful nations . . . shall work unceasingly—singly or in cooperation with each other, as circumstances, their traditional policies and practices, and their enlightened self-interest may dictate—to promote and preserve law, order, morality and justice as the unshakable basis of civilized international relations."

This abstraction will not satisfy critical legislators, even though it accurately presents the situation. What congressmen want is a statement naming names so it will constitute a promise not to go any further.

Electricity Consumption Tops Records

Electricity consumption in Oregon last year set an all-time record of 1,018,263,273 kilowatt hours, an 8.32 per cent increase over 1936. N. G. Wallace, public utilities commissioner, said today.

Revenues of electric companies were \$19,212,501 last year, 7.56 per cent more than in 1936. Residential and rural consumers used 13.8 per cent more electricity but paid only 9.4 per cent more for it, the difference reflecting rate reductions during the year and the increased use of energy in the lower priced brackets of the rate schedule.

The average residential consumer used 1,300 kilowatt hours for 1937, compared with 1,168 in 1936. He paid 2.83 cents a kilowatt last year, and three cents in 1936.

Wallace said the average Oregon domestic consumer used 75 per cent more electricity than the average American consumer, but his average rate was 70 per cent less than the average rate for the entire nation.

Commercial and industrial consumers increased their kilowatt hour consumption 6.55 per cent, while the amounts paid for the energy increased at the same rate.

Wallace said the business recession was responsible for the decrease in industrial consumption during the last three months of last year.

Reilings Entertain With Dinner, Cards

Woodburn—Mr. and Mrs. Albert Reiling entertained at dinner Saturday evening at their country place south of town in honor of the birthday anniversary of Mrs. L. R. Gilbert. Covers were placed for Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Proctor, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Reiling, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Gibbons, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Irwin of Portland and Mr. and Mrs. Reiling.

Three tables of cards were in play during the evening with prizes for high score going to Mrs. W. E. Irwin and Earl Gibbons and for low score to Mrs. Frank Proctor and Norman Reiling.

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22	47.90	95.80
23	49.25	98.50
24	50.85	101.70
25	52.60	105.20
26	54.50	109.00
27	56.55	113.10
28	58.75	117.50
29	61.10	122.20
30	63.60	127.20
31	66.25	132.50
32	69.05	138.10
33	72.00	144.00
34	75.10	150.20
35	78.35	156.70
36	81.75	163.50
37	85.30	170.60
38	89.00	178.00
39	92.85	185.70
40	96.85	193.70
41	101.00	202.00
42	105.30	210.60
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