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"With or without offense to friends or foes  
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## Labor and the Anti-Trust Act

Labor officials are emitting loud squawks and threatening political reprisals because of federal indictments returned against building trade unions in various cities for alleged violation of the anti-trust laws. Yet if the unions have indulged in conspiracies in restraint of trade they should be penalized as others are. The unions or rather their bosses have always considered themselves above the law and entitled to immunity. A fair trial will prove their guilt or innocence. Political pressure does not promote justice.

The trust-busting prosecutions are under charge of Assistant Attorney General Thurman Arnold, who alleges that union practices have unnecessarily increased construction costs and are responsible to a degree for the lag in building operations and the retardation of recovery. He asserts that the anti-trust laws should not be used as an instrument to police strikers or adjudicate labor controversies and that labor practices which "can be justified even under the dissenting (not controlling) opinions of the supreme court" would not be subject to criminal prosecutions.

Arnold's policy is prosecution of practices of "unquestionable" violations of the Sherman act. And he enumerates the following "unreasonable restraints" as those designed:

- To prevent the use of cheaper material, improved equipment, or more efficient methods.
- To compel the hiring of useless and unnecessary labor.
- To enforce systems of graft and extortion. When a racketeer, masquerading as a labor leader, interferes with the commerce of those who will not pay him to leave them alone.
- To enforce illegally fixed prices such as combining with distributors and producers to maintain illegal and fixed prices.
- To destroy an established and legitimate system of collective bargaining by such means as jurisdictional strikes, to make war on another union by attacking employers who deal with that union.

The remedy for these abuses is the incorporation of labor unions, public accounting of funds and holding them as responsible as other corporations are. Equality before the law does not consist of a policy of immunity for special groups seeking special privilege at the expense of public welfare.

## That Airport Problem

With the decision of the council to cancel the lease under which Leo Army has been operating the Salem municipal airport for the past two years, the question is raised as to whether the city should continue to lease the field and facilities to a private operator or undertake a program of city development and operation under a salaried manager.

Common sense and the experience of this and other cities of its size and relative location on airways dictates the wisdom and economy of continuing the lease system, provided a competent and responsible operator can be secured to undertake such a contract. It is doubtful if the services of a competent salaried manager could be secured for less than \$1800 a year—probably more—and the city would face the additional expense of one or more assistants.

There is little prospect that the total expense to the city of operating and maintaining the port would be less than \$2500 or \$3000 a year, exclusive of fixed charges for interest and principal on the airport bonds, which are budgeted at \$3275 for next year.

Even with the stimulated interest being evidenced in aviation as a result of the government's preparedness program, it is doubtful if airport revenues derived from storage fees and incidental sources will even approach the expense of operation for several years. To date total annual revenues collected have averaged less than \$500 and the city's rental has been calculated on the basis of this income. The private operator has made his salary and profit—if any—out of use of the field for school and air transport services.

The present operator is reported to be \$350 in default on his \$600 rental for the current year.

Desirable as the development of airport facilities and service here may be, they can be carried on with equal effectiveness under private operation through cooperative agreement. To undertake city management of the field would only be to saddle an additional burden upon an already burdensome tax budget.

## Sowing Dragon's Teeth

Patriotic demonstrations staged in Bohemia and Moravia which resulted in the summary execution of nine students and three Czechs by German troops is the sequel to the suppression of the celebration of Czech independence day on Oct. 28. They were inspired by the death of a student arrested on that occasion and were so well organized that the dispersion of one group was the signal for others in other sections and the elite guard was called out to charge the crowds and proclaim martial law.

These demonstrations persist, notwithstanding the severity of their repression, requiring greater forces to quell them and signify the growing restlessness of the Czechs under the rule of their conquerors. Centuries of ruthless oppression have not destroyed the Czech's national spirit and such massacres only intensify the stubbornness of their underground defiance.

Germany is sowing dragon's teeth for future wars, the seeds for destruction of the greater Reich. In incorporating rebellious peoples and utilizing ruthlessness to keep them enslaved, Hitler is doing for the conquered lands what the allies did for Germany under the Versailles treaty, and sooner or later, when opportunity offers, the oppressed peoples, the Czechs, the Slovaks, the Austrians and the Poles, will revolt in Hitler's hour of need and strike the blow for liberty, bringing the internal collapse that alone can destroy the Nazi regime.

At present the inner frontiers in Germany are as hard to patrol and defend as those of the foreign enemies the nation faces, requiring increasing larger forces to maintain the semblance of authority—and the cost far exceeds the return. Hitler has weakened, rather than strengthened Germany both by his bloodless as well as bloody conquests and his empire is as likely to fall apart as rapidly as that of Napoleon.

Bible Classes Offered  
Friday—Rev. John M. Franz is rolled in this class which meets in conducting a Bible class every the Mennonite church.

## A Dog's Life

By Beck



## Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Reference is often made in the papers and elsewhere to the Marion county bench and bar, the bench presumably referring to the judges and the bar to the lawyers. Ironically, however, in our courtrooms the bench sits on a padded leather chair towering over the court room, while the bar sits on a bench. There seems to be an anomaly that when a lawyer is elevated to the bench in this county he's elevated from the bench and into an easy chair, while his compatriots who are not lucky enough to ascend to the bench remain on a bench just the same. But it very often happens that the lawyers who sit on the plain pine bench have a softer seat than the judge on his

leather upholstery. There seems to be a lot of other fine legal distinctions in this matter but they are a little too hairline for our obtuse mind to elucidate.

Reports from the North Sea indicate that the old adage that more money has been lost in mines than was ever taken out of them, is still going strong.

Our suggestion of yesterday that the officers in their looking around for lotteries have overlooked the biggest of any, the marriage lottery, seemingly hasn't resulted in any definite action to date. However, for the benefit of the officers we may add that the lottery in question is conducted in this county by a chap named Grant Boyer, who sells tickets to same at \$3 a throw. That it must be a sort of speakeasy affair is demonstrated by the fact that Grant and his henchmen not only ask the applicants for one of these lottery tickets a bale of questions before he'll even come through with a ticket for three bucks, but they send said applicants out to be examined by doctors before they'll issue one of the pastebards. Grant also maintains the payoff book in this lottery, same being labeled "Circuit Court Records" examination of which reveals that a very large percentage of these lottery tickets turn out to be a total loss to the holders.

## Novelties In the News

**Till Death**  
Newington, Conn.—Joseph Davich, 66, carried to the grave the beard he wore in mourning for his home land. Davich, whose funeral was held today, vowed last September when Germany and Russia partitioned Poland he would not shave any more, and he kept his vow until death.

**Highway Hunters**  
St. Louis—Mrs. Dave Kuhn will wear a careless pedestrian as a neck-piece. While driving in the country, the Kuhns hit an animal. Kuhn stopped the car and picked up a red fox. His wife is having it made into a neck-piece.

**Steady, Boy**  
Goldthwaite, Tex.—B. N. Hambrick's auto struck a horse. Hambrick kept his head, but the horse lost his. A flying fragment of windshield decapitated the animal, Hambrick was only cut.

We acknowledge receipt from our friend Art Perry of Medford of a beautiful box of beautiful Rogue River pears, same being the payoff for doing a guest column for him last summer. If the column had half the beauty or quality of the pears it would rate a bale of stock in the telephone company. But as it is we acknowledge we cheated Art out of his eye teeth on the deal.

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## Kelly Says:

Contract Offered PGE Has Jokers

Bauxite Ore May Be Commercialized

Social Security Records In Mess

By John W. Kelly

Washington, Nov. 21—That proposed contract for Bonneville power submitted to the Portland General Electric company by Administrator Raver has three neatly concealed hooks in it and these (if inserted by a private utility would be called jokers) innocent-looking paragraphs made the document unsatisfactory to the prospective purchaser. The first five paragraphs, which express the policy of Administrator Raver, are above criticism, but some of Raver's subordinates have inserted three other clauses giving the contract a different slant.

For example, one requirement compels the purchaser to permit use of its facilities whenever the administration directs. Another permits the administrator to cancel the contract with the purchaser on 30 days' notice, whenever in the judgment of the administrator, he wants the power for public utility districts. This provision, in effect, makes it a 30-day contract and not one for one or two years, as appears to the casual eye.

### Ross Contract Satisfactory

This is the third contract drafted by Bonneville administrators for selling power to the PGE. The first was prepared by the late J. D. Ross, and was satisfactory to the Ross company. However, Mr. Ross died before the pact could be signed—it was to have been signed and sealed on his return from the national capital. Second contract was drawn up by Acting Administrator Banks, but while it was being ironed out Banks was succeeded by Paul Raver, of Illinois, as administrator. Raver did not look at the two previous contract forms (the said in Washington) and prepared one of his own.

Importance of selling power to the private utility is that the latter will immediately give the benefit of lower rates to its thousands of consumers in Portland, the Willamette valley and the area it serves and these benefits are delayed through innocent-appearing clauses in the Raver contract.

### Bauxite Ore Tested

Geological survey is making laboratory tests of samples of bauxite ores which have been sent to Ore-

gon's Senator McNary from somewhere in the Santiam country. The scientists are seeking to determine whether the ore, admittedly low grade, can be used commercially through electrical processing if the power is sufficiently cheap. The government experimenters are conducting their tests on the theory that Bonneville power may be available for processing at 2 mills a k.w.

### Possible Office Change

No one will be surprised—in fact there will be general surprise—in the ranks of political observers here if Senator Lewis B. Schwellenbach, of Washington, is not appointed to a vacancy on the federal district court in eastern Washington. The job carries a salary of \$10,000, which is the same as the senator receives as a member of congress.

Off and on Schwellenbach has been mentioned for the supreme court (\$20,000) but the picture has changed. As a district judge he would have a life job. Representative Charles H. Leavy, Spokane, was supposed to be a good bet for the district judgeship until the insiders concluded the bench was a nice spot for the senator.

If Schwellenbach's name is sent to the senate in January he will be confirmed without delay unless his colleague Senator Homer T. Bonebrake, and Governor Charles Martin, of Washington, will have an opportunity to make an ap-

pointment to the senate to fill the unexpired term of Schwellenbach, which ends January 3, 1941.

### Have Too Many Numbers

Records of social security board are in such terrific mess that the board is not attempting to straighten out the confusion. It appears that workers by the hundreds of thousands have too many numbers. One number is all an employee needs, but because of the mix-up employees have two and three numbers. This confusion exists in the Pacific northwest and the director, John J. Corson, is sending out form letters advising workers they have been given a new number and requesting that all social security account numbers be returned for cancellation.

A small army of men and women in Oregon and Washington will begin drawing benefits in six weeks and SSB wants to be certain that the benefits go to the right individuals.

### Umatilla Dam Again

Another step in the development of the Columbia river will be attempted in the next regular session of congress. This will be an effort to have congress authorize a dam at Umatilla rapids. The house defeated this item last summer when members suspected it was another project to extend the power policy of the federal government, because witnesses testified that foundation

for a powerhouse will be included in the proposed dam for navigation. With Grand Coulee to generate 1,250,000 k.w. and the ultimate productive capacity of Bonneville 604,000 k.w., the thought of still another great power venture aroused opposition.

Plan now for the northwestern delegation is to assure opponents that Umatilla dam is necessary as a navigation feature and is important to Grand Coulee for transportation purposes.

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**Christmas Purse Fat This Year**

Millions to Have More Money for Holiday Spending

New York, Nov. 19 (AP)—Millions of shoppers will have more money to spend this year in the traditional Thanksgiving-Christmas buying season, lengthened a week in many states by adoption of the earlier Thanksgiving date.

The nation's Christmas purse, it was estimated, will be the fattest since 1937.

The national industrial conference board, a private research organization, estimates employment in the first nine months increased nearly 1,750,000 above 1938 figures. Average weekly wages in manufacturing industries in September had increased to \$27.58 from \$25.73 in the 1938 month and weekly working hours to 38.2 from 36.2.

**Experts See Building Rise**

Washington, Nov. 18 (AP)—The \$10,000,000 construction industry took stock of its prospects this week and found them fairly rosy.

Predictions were made that business will continue to improve.

**BIG INCREASE SEEN**

The chamber's own analysts estimated that the construction business reasonably could be expected to total between \$10,000,000,000 and \$12,000,000,000 annually the next few years, compared with about \$9,500,000,000 this year and \$14,000,000,000 in the late 1930s.