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Mr. Raver Sidesteps

Not content with usurping the legal prerogative of cities and power districts to fix the retail rates for electrical energy they supply to consumers through their publicly owned systems, the bureaucratic Bonneville administration now challenges the authority of the state public utilities commissioner to perform his prescribed duty of fixing resale rates of private utilities purchasing power from Bonneville for distribution.

State laws provide specifically that municipalities and power districts owning and operating systems to supply electric energy shall fix their own rates, and further statutory enactments require that the rate schedules of privately owned utilities must be approved by the utilities commissioner.

Using the threat of withholding power generated by the project, the Bonneville administration is seeking to require public distribution agencies to write into their energy-purchase contracts dictated rates at which the energy may be resold. Such a contract was recently negotiated with the city of Forest Grove, depriving that city of several thousand dollars a year in operating profits that have heretofore been used to reduce local property taxes.

A few days ago when the Portland General Electric company announced it had signed a contract for the wholesale purchase of Bonneville power, Ormond R. Bean, state utilities commissioner, directed that company to submit a schedule of rates at which the energy is to be resold for his scrutiny and approval. As a gesture of courtesy and cooperation Bean asked the Bonneville administration to participate in the examination and study of the schedule. The reply of Paul J. Raver, administrator, is indicative of the dictatorial attitude he is assuming. Asserting the question of resale rates is one of the controversial points to be ironed out in the negotiation of a permanent long-term contract with the company, Raver advises Bean that:

In view of the forthcoming negotiations for a long-term contract, and the important role resale rates will have in these negotiations, I am sure you will understand that I cannot commit the Bonneville power administration in advance to any approval, either actual or implied, of any rate schedule which you may determine proper at this time.

Hoovey and baloney! If Administrator Raver is sincere in his desire to put Bonneville power to work at the cheapest rates commensurate with the actual costs of distribution, he should be willing to cooperate in facilitating such early distribution through the determination of such costs and to assist local governmental agencies charged with that function in the performance of their duty.

The Commonwealthers

The Oregon Commonwealth federation at its annual convention in Portland passed a resolution by a vote of 85 to 56 condemning Soviet Russia for its unprovoked aggression against Finland after a heated debate in which Stalin's course was vigorously defended. The vote reveals the communist strength in the federation and is significant because previously the federation had voted condemnation of both Italy and Germany for aggression against small nations.

The pro-Russian bloc was headed by a communist attorney and the longshoremen's CIO group which is dominated by Harry Bridges, the Australian alien agitator whom the government is trying to deport as a communist, and the CIO International Woodworkers led by Harold Pritchett, the Canadian alien whose deportation has been sought on the same grounds, both of whom have fought efforts to expel communists from their organizations.

The Commonwealthers, on the authority of Earl Browder, Stalin's chief of the communist party in America, are part of "the democratic front" organized for domination by the communists to promote the revolution in America. Like other "fellow traveler" organizations included by Browder, such as the "League for Peace and Democracy," the "American Youth Congress," etc., the majority of membership were not communists, but well intentioned uplifters who were unconsciously manipulated and dominated by communists as suckers to advance the red cause or as Browder puts it "brought into effective collaboration."

The percentage of communists in the Commonwealth federation, 56 out of 85, is greater than in most of these "fellow traveler" organizations. No wonder the OCF dropped its \$100,000 libel suit against the Capital Journal for alleging it had communist tendencies. The vote shows that while the liberal pinks outnumber the radical reds, the ranks include a large proportion of Un-American subversive elements and no effort has been made to purge the organization of the taint.

Old Age Pension Growth

The American Association for Social Security, a pioneer in the pension movement in this country, sponsor of many of the improvements won for the aged in the past ten years, in its annual report states that American programs for the care and financial protection of the aged are as generous as those in effect anywhere in the world. Warning is issued that these gains are threatened by the activities of "panacea peddlers" and by the belief that the best way to defeat one "crack pot" scheme was to espouse another.

Major attention has been focused by the "panacea peddlers" who are in many cases demagogic racketeers, on the problem of the aged even though this is now the best protected dependent class and the extreme plans are not based on actual distress. Most of these panaceas spring from California, where the old age grants average \$35 or \$70 for a couple or 67 percent above the national average. They will be increased on Jan. 1 to \$40 a month. In eight states in which the average pension is less than \$10 the survey shows little activity for higher standards.

Most of the emotionalism pervading pension discussion comes from failure to see the question as it is today rather than as it was a decade ago, when "hardly any state paid pensions on a self-respecting basis" and the only refuge for the destitute aged was the poor house. But today there are extensive programs and next month the United States will make payments to aged men and women under a social insurance system "far broader and more liberal than any undertaken by a government."

Yet pension panaceas continue to speak of the problem as if nothing had been done. More is being done every year, but "old age pensions are merely a means of alleviating poverty and distress" and cannot be turned into a cure-all.

A Dog's Life

By Beck



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

To Whom It May Concern,

We, your columnist, commentator, and, in addition, organizer and chief sponsor of the well known PT & BA, wish to herewith advise the public state police, city police, sheriff, constables, justices of the peace, grand jury, district attorney, police judge, et cetera, including all and sundry, that we had nothing whatever to do with the prowling of the car of George E. Reed of Portland on our city streets last evening, which resulted in the poisoning of several packages of false teeth. The rumor spread about town this morning to the effect that we'd provided said car in search of Christmas gifts for members and potential members of our organization is without foundation whatsoever, and we want it known that when anyone is lucky enough to get into our club he can buy his own teeth and we don't pass the same around, either larcenized or otherwise. However, we hope the thief, whoever he may be, when he opens the package and finds out what he's swiped, will become conscience stricken and return the same to their owner. It may mean the difference for a lot of folks between whether they eat Christmas dinner or don't.

A number of the downtown Christmas trees were blown over some time during the night. It seemed to us to be more than a coincidence that we met Herman Schellberg walking around town this a. m. It looked just like one of those cases of the perpetrator returning to the scene of his doings. The fact there was a taxpayers' meeting last night with a black republican doing the talking makes it all the more likely that Herman may have been abroad during the evening.

Our favorite waitress figures of those employed,

there's a Santa Claus, all right, no fooling. She was waiting on two couples yesterday, evidently out-of-town folk. One of the ladies was being kidded about a new hat she was wearing and her husband was in the vanguard of the kidding. Suddenly she became a little aggravated and when our favorite waitress appeared with the soup the lady doffed her hat and handed same over to her. "Here, take this," she said, "If my husband doesn't like it maybe yours will." So our favorite waitress figures there is a Santa Claus after all—until, maybe, her husband sees the hat.

Selection of Frank Ballard as president of Oregon State college, should meet with general approval. There's certainly no one who has a wider knowledge of farming and farming needs in Oregon than the appointee and his education came the hard way, which is a strong factor in his favor. He also has an easy way of getting on with folks and is not tainted with the distasteful flavor of the high brow educator. Prof. Ballard will be a worthy successor of Dr. Kerr than whom there was none better. We rather guess that Mr. Ballard will also have an inclination to keep this a farming college for farmers—a consummation considerably to be wished.

Hey, girls. Only 18 more days until Leap Year. Have you made your Leap Year selections, yet? It's a good idea to make a second and third selection, in case someone beats you to the first.

Also, Frank Lynch had better get his feet braced against the Leap Year rush.

Germany's shortage of labor has caused an increase in regimentation of those employed.

Santa and the TALKING DOLL



The Story So Far: Santa has taken a gift to the King of Westphalia, a doll made by the fairies so she can talk at midnight. Eric, the son of Lightning, who wanted the doll, has been put to sleep for a day and a night by the fairies.

Chapter Nine

The Glass Man

For an hour that night Leezen sat silently watching the King of Westphalia. He stared motionless into the leaping fire. It was so silent in the great hall that Leezen could hear the soft swish of snow against the windows. She reached for a little gold box on the table and opened it. There lay a flashing sapphire.

She held it up to the fire, and as she did it turned into a little man, only two inches high. He seemed to be made of blue-white glass. He bowed.

"Why, who are you?" whispered Leezen.

"I'm just a thought some one is thinking of you," said the little man. "Usually I lie asleep in that sapphire. But when anyone picks me up I can reflect the thought of a friend."

"I see," said Leezen. "But who is thinking of me?"

"Look," said the little man. He pulled out a tiny flute, no bigger than a pin, and began to play. "Leezen, Leezen."

"It's Eric," said Leezen with shining eyes.

A Sad Tune

The little glass man played on but he played so softly only Leezen heard. She whispered, "How is Eric?" Then the little man played a very sad tune. "Oh dear," sighed Leezen. "I must escape from here and find him."

Kelly Says:

PUD Repercussions May Reach Congress

TVA Creates Serious Problems in South

Aluminum Contract May Be Signed Now

By John W. Kelly

Washington, Dec. 13.—Campaign tactics for creation of a public utility district in Lane county, Ore., which was rejected by an overwhelming majority last Friday) may have repercussions in congress next session. Activity of the Bonneville employees, under Administrator Raver, has been called to the attention of house members who are opposed to the government competing with private business on general principles. It is possible that certain legislators may ask for an investigation in addition to criticizing appropriations for the power project.

A national angle to public power districts is the matter of taxes, with TVA held up as a horrible example of what government intrusion in private enterprise results in. School districts distressed.

Since TVA took over private utilities in Tennessee many school districts, several counties and cities are financially distressed. They have cheap power but have been deprived of tax money with which to pay teachers, firemen, policemen and the customary payrolls. Andrew Jackson May, representative for Kentucky, chairman of the house military affairs committee, says congress must decide whether the taxpayers everywhere must make up for the lost revenues or the beneficiaries of the TVA yardstick rates shall pay.

According to Representative May, a southern democrat, taxes formerly paid by the private utilities acquired by TVA amounted to 17 per cent of their gross revenues, or \$4,500,000 a year. Under the present statute TVA must pay in lieu of taxes 5 per cent of its gross (stated as \$15,000,000), or a total of \$750,000. In other words, the customers of TVA now have lower electricity bills but are losing \$4,000,000 a year in taxes. Chief engineer of TVA says that enterprise is paying its way with \$15,000,000 annual income. If TVA, says the congressman, paid 17 per cent of this gross (as the private companies did), it would pay in lieu of taxes \$2,550,000, which would still be \$2,250,000 short of the taxes the private companies contributed.

May Appeal to Congress

The situation is so desperate for many communities that the Tennessee Taxpayers association plans bringing the whole subject before congress. Mr. May is but one of a number of representatives who are planning a fight.

To offset the loss of revenue to maintain local governments consideration is being given to imposing a special tax on every consumer of TVA juice. Because the tax question has been raised in the Pacific northwest wherever a PUD district has been proposed, the tax situation in Tennessee Valley is of importance and any remedial legislation deserves attention by advocacy and opponents of such districts.

War department is advertising this week for \$23,000,000 of construction work in the Canal Zone, but Pacific coast will receive very little of the

business. No more lumber than is absolutely required will be used, despite a protest from Oregon's Rufus Holman, and the lumber will come principally from Louisiana and adjacent states rather than from the forests of Washington and Oregon.

Lack of Ships Felt

Tons of cement will go into the job, but in this instance, also, the cement plants in the two northwest states are at a disadvantage because of scarcity of American fighters and the high rates. Secretary of War Woodring considered letting the jobs on a cost-plus basis (authorized last session), which would have permitted him to assign part of the construction to contractors and material dealers on the west coast, but the quartermaster general will instead call for competitive bids—and that practically less the westerners "out" and favors the Atlantic and gulf regions, where there is an abundance of shipping available at low rates.

Government officials are anxiously waiting to make announcement that the Aluminum company of America has signed a contract for twenty thousand kilowatts of Bonneville power. Announcement is being held up pending selection of a site by the company. Site will probably be somewhere on the Columbia river not far from Vancouver, with dock facilities for unloading bauxite. There is a suspicion that the contract has been actually signed but cannot be made public until plant location is determined.

Covers Big Territory

When, January 16, the agricultural advisory council meets with Secretary Wallace to consider problems of production and distribution of farm products which might arise under wartime conditions, the region

from Kansas City to the Pacific coast will be represented by one man, Ervin F. King, of Seattle, Wash., master of the Washington State grange. The other 31 advisors are from east of Kansas City; none from Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, etc.

To tell the secretary what to do about these agricultural problems will be such agronomists as New York's Mayor LaGuardia, several publishers of the south and east, a banker, a department store executive, and president of the teamsters' union.

Novelties In the News

(By Associated Press)

Trapped

Avilla, Ind.—Herbert Elley's rat trap worked almost too well. He piped carbon monoxide from the exhaust of his automobile into his basement to kill the rodents; then went down to see how it was working.

Elley was overcome. His mother rescued him.

What? No Spinach?

Lafayette, Ind.—Prof. B. H. Petty of Purdue University says his pet Patsy showed what a dog could do on good, plain food.

Patsy, part fox terrier and part Spitz, died at the age of 18 years. She lived to that age, said the professor, on a diet of only raw hamburger, fruit and vegetables.

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