

Capital Journal

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

Censorship Machinery

The senate has passed legislation to give permanent statutory authority to the office of "Government Reports," a part of the rapidly expanding administrative machinery of the White House. Despite denials, the bill paves the way for censorship and propaganda activities in behalf of the administration at an initial cost of \$1,500,000 a year.

The office was created, like so many other of our expanding federal agencies, by executive order of the president, first as a temporary expedient to be made later a part of our permanent bureaucracy, growing in extent and power as the years pass. The president, whose executive secretaries and their assistants will soon be numerous enough to fill an office building of their own, told congress the office was needed to "assist in dealing with special problems, serve as a clearing house for information concerning federal activities and report on the needs and desires of the citizens."

In other words the bureau will prepare "hand-outs" and propaganda for the press, radio and public, same as many departments already put out, to state administrative viewpoint of activities and ukases. Inasmuch as rulings, such as those by the NLRB, the wage-hour administration, the HOLC, the AAA, the RFC, the OMP and numerous other alphabetical agencies have the force of law, a knowledge of the conflicting and changing interpretations of decisions is perhaps necessary.

Congress also has its Congressional Record which with its appendix of extraneous matter, is a sounding board for senators and representatives. It only costs the taxpayers \$45 a page plus franking costs to spread the congressman's propaganda over the nation. How this cost has pyramided is shown by the report of the committee on printing. Its cost for the 73rd congress, which began in 1933, was \$981,630. It steadily mounted until the 76th congress, which ended last January, cost \$1,795,310, almost doubled in eight years. Which perhaps is the reason why the senate voted \$1,500,000 a year for the president's propaganda agency.

The Fruits of Demagoguery

While Bonneville's "postage stamp" rate policy for the wholesale distribution of electric power has backfired by driving the Portland General Electric company into abandonment of that system and substitution of a schedule of charges based upon local unit costs and consumption of energy, the residents of rural areas—who have been the staunchest champions of public ownership—are alone the sufferers.

At that, they lose nothing other than an equal opportunity with townfolk to share in future rate reductions such as the four in which they have shared during the past 16 months. Their rates remain as they are, and there is little hope for relief in the prospect of organizing public utility districts having a sufficiently compact consumer concentration to permit successful competition by a PUD.

The cities and towns are in a position to reap large benefits from the company's new tariff schedule, which places their rates on a level with the standard Bonneville "objective rate" plus varying small surcharges to cover tax and franchise outlays, which will bring the rates in Salem and other municipalities down to a level lower than that of most publicly owned systems selling Bonneville power. The reason for this lies in the lower cost of serving thickly populated areas, and the elimination of subsidies saddled upon cities to offset the deficits incident to rural service under the blanket rate plan.

Assured of the benefits of minimum rates without the need for risking public investments, the cities and towns will be slow to join in PUD or municipal ownership movements. The high costs of separate rural distribution systems will discourage the creation of such units. Bonneville is reaping the harvest of its agitation of destructive competition based upon unsound economics.

First Admission of Failure

For the first time during his three terms of office, President Roosevelt has confessed that he has made a mistake. He admits that his experiments in changing the date of Thanksgiving from the last Thursday in November to the third Thursday have been a failure and that beginning in 1942 the holiday will again be established on its traditional date.

The president said that Thanksgiving day this year will be proclaimed for the next to the last Thursday in November because it is too late now to revise previous commitments to calendar makers and other groups. Yet it is not as late as it was in 1939 when the president proclaimed the change in dates, regardless of the protests, previous commitments, football schedules and calendar makers.

Most of the states followed the president in changing dates, a great many refused to, so we had the confusion of two Thanksgivings observances. The change was supposed to stimulate retail business, but a survey reveals that it did not and the president now describes it as "an experiment that did not work."

There have been a good many of the president's other experiments that did not work—which he promised in advance to abandon and try something else if they didn't, but he has stubbornly refused to admit it and refused revision to make them work. Is it too much to hope, that he will now follow his own precedent and admit mistakes?

Nichols Receives Naval Commission

Bethel — Madison (Hob) Nichols has just received his commission as lieutenant commander in the civil engineer corps of the U. S. navy according to a letter received by his father and sister, J. M. Nichols and Mrs. Lucy Nichols Hain.

He has been given the supervision of the building of a marine base at Jacksonville, N.C., being transferred there from Jacksonville, Fla.,

where he had completed his work as chief engineer on the building of an air base, preceding which he served as inspector of construction on a large federal building project in that city.

Nichols has been in the service of the federal government in the capacity of inspector of building projects for a number of years, some of which were spent in Hawaii, on important building works there. He is the son of the late Mrs. Lula Nichols and brother to the late Cass Nichols and spent his boyhood and school years in this neighborhood.

Recollections

By Peck



Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

Carey Martin has in effect officially pronounced the official harbinger of summer, just the same as we've contended for years he's entitled to be. For no sooner does Carey show up in his straw hat and has the same duly chronicled in our annual announcement as to same, than Mayor Bill Chadwick comes out with his official proclamation designating Thursday, tomorrow, May 22, as Straw Hat Day in the confines of his bailiwick. This is a tribute long due Carey and his straw hat, even though a left handed one that has to be visualized between the lines.

Mayor Bill gave a lot of us an out in his proclamation in decreeing that straw hats "shall be donned by the stalwart males of this city." This permits us puny old weaklings and others of that ilk to slip out from under and continue to use the same old sunken cadies that came

in with the Spanish-American war. So when you see a chap going up the street in a straw hat tomorrow you'll know he's either a "stalwart male" or else chiseling in on the mayor's proclamation.

From Bishop Bruce Baxter comes a note explaining the appearance in the recent picture at the American Bankers banquet in Portland of what looked to be four siphon squirters ranged on a shelf above the heads of the bishop and the bankers. "Sharpen your eyes," he warns. "Those are four trophies, awarded bank athletes, and have nothing to do with squirting." If same are such, then bankers have a new idea in trophies for their athletes and said trophies apparently were all awarded at the nineteenth hole.

Stalwart Males at Play. (Olive Barber in Eugene News) Man in the mass in his lighter moments is, to me, sort of overwhelming; completely so when these men are loggers in congress assembled. Or rather, if I must be accurate, are they overwhelming when the congress is over and they abandon themselves to elephantine gambolings in time to the roarings and howlings they feel are appropriate to having themselves a time.

Novelties In the News

(By the Associated Press)

Contempt of Court

New York — A duly qualified Queens county judge and an assistant district attorney prepared to make solemn affidavits it actually happened.

Anyway, court procedure was interrupted when Judge Charles S. Golden was distracted by a gnawing sound. It was a small grey mouse, chewing at the sole of a newspaper reporter's shoe. The reporter was so busy he hadn't noticed.

A recess was called, and the mouse was captured by two attendants.

False Alarm

Los Angeles—An excited voice phoned the fire department that the Memorial coliseum was afire with "flames leaping 100 feet in the air."

Six trucks roared out—and back to their stations. The fire was atop the peristyle, the flickering flame of the Olympic torch, lighted for the 1932 Olympiad and relighted for Youth Preparedness week.

Free Ride Ends

Compton, Calif.—Uncle Sam is going for a \$525 bus ride.

Postmaster Clark Wallace said the postoffice department had agreed to pay for the estimated 10,500 rides Compton postmen take each year on local buses in making their rounds.

Guests Brooks Home

Brooks—Mr. and Mrs. Bert Schjewe and children Billie, Grant and Genevieve Schjewe of Mulino were dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Watts.

Our Senators pulled a mathematical fast one at Vancouver (B.C.) last evening when they laid a row of nine goose eggs and on adding same together we find the same to total up to only one goose egg, which is a neat trick if you can do it. The nine goose eggs, it appears, when laid end to end made a row nearly as long as a newspaper column is wide. Having done so well at it on the first try, we hope they now have all the goose eggs out of their system.

Wonder where some of these ancient expressions had their origin? For instance, there's the often used one about the man who is supposed to be "as independent as a hog on ice." If we were looking around for a true statement of independence, certainly the last thing we would think to look for would be a hog on ice, and incidentally, that's about the last place we'd look for a hog. If anybody knows where this expression had birth, and why, we'd be glad to hear, just for the fun of it.

Joint Picnic Held By School People

Valley View—The joint picnic of Silver Cliff and Valley View schools was held Sunday at Valley View school. There was a good attendance in spite of the stormy weather. This marked the closing of the two schools.

Mrs. Daphne Hunt has been re-elected to teach the Valley View school next year. Mrs. Iris Thoroldson has resigned after finishing her second year at Silver Cliff. Mrs. Deward Wolford has been hired as the new teacher.

Salem Sketches By Will Danch



Kelly Says:

\$35,000,000 for Oregon Cantonment

Big Responsibility For Medford, Eugene

Locations Have Some Political Complexion

By John W. Kelly

Washington, May 21 — Approximately \$35,000,000 will be invested in western Oregon by the war department in the two cantonments, one at Medford and the other at Eugene. In making this announcement the war department very belatedly confirms the prediction first made in this space many months ago and which the high command repeatedly denied. The prediction that a cantonment will go to eastern Washington is yet unfulfilled, but the "dope" on that is as authentic as on the projects in Oregon west of the Cascades.

Under the army estimates, it is calculated that the cost of a cantonment is \$500 per man. (There are many cantonments recently built or now being constructed the cost of which runs \$700 per man and at one place almost \$2000). On the

\$500 per man basis Medford's military camp will represent an investment of \$17,000,000. The same cost at Eugene. This is the original investment for barracks, mess halls, administration hall, sewers, water, lights (later a hospital of about 400 beds) and roadways.

Payroll Plenty Big

With 35,000 men in each cantonment it means a payroll of substantial importance. The 70,000 men will represent better than \$1,500,000 a month; say about \$800,000 per camp. This is the payroll alone, and troopers spend their money. It costs approximately 50 cents a day to feed a soldier, or for the two camps the quartermaster department will spend \$35,000 a day or \$1,050,000 each month the troops are at the cantonments. On a per year basis (period of training) the grocery bill will run in the neighborhood of \$12,600,000.

Regulations call for furnishing one-half pint of milk to every man each day. This means 8,750 quarts each for Medford and Eugene; total, 17,400 quarts or 4350 gallons every 24 hours for both camps. Milk sheds of the Willamette valley will be drained to furnish this new amount of consumption. When possible, troops receive one apple or one pear (sometimes a peach or grapefruit), which will provide a market for Oregon fruit, particularly that of the Rogue river valley, site of the Medford cantonment. Vegetables and meat must be bought,

and when possible the local market is patronized.

Have to Amuse Them

An important responsibility devolves upon citizens of Eugene and Medford and nearby communities. This is in providing amusement for the troops. Many soldiers will visit Portland to have a fling; many others will not go so far. Someone proposes that the town of Central Point be taken over and made into a rest camp for the troops, with movies, taverns, etc.

And before a contract is awarded or even an appropriation made by congress for these cantonments, a group has started a campaign against "sin," meaning hard liquor and members of "Mrs. Warren's Profession." Incidentally, it should be mentioned that several chaplains will be with the soldiers at the cantonments and there will be several chapels.

Bigger Than Most Counties

Either cantonment will have a larger population than 29 of Oregon's 36 counties. Only Portland will have a population in excess of these camps. For second city in Oregon is Salem with census population of 30,908, or 4000 fewer people than will be in the Eugene or Medford establishment. Jackson county is barely larger than the proposed cantonment, the county being credited with 36,213 in last year's census figures. The camp will double the population of the county (with camp followers) and will

triple the population of Medford, if the cantonment can be regarded as in the metropolitan area. The Eugene camp will be only 50 per cent of Lane county population but will be 15,000 larger than Eugene.

Roughly, the two cantonments will mean \$30,240,000 a year new money to these communities, plus the capital investment of \$35,000,000 in cantonments.

Partly Political

Selection of Medford and Eugene was partly politics. War department saw on its map that there was no project west of the Cascades. Great base for the army air corps is building in Pendleton; munitions depot is under construction at Hermiston; bombing range has been acquired east of Arlington; Portland has an army air station, but there was a perfect blank on the ocean side of the Cascade mountains. The planning board spotted Medford and Eugene for new developments when the army is increased and money is available, but the brass hats of war departments were unaware of these preparations. Meanwhile officials and public spirited citizens quietly obtained options on tracts of land for the department, preventing any attempt at a hold-up. There may be some difficulty in obtaining funds for clearing the bottleneck on the Pacific highway for military purposes between Grants Pass and Eugene, subject to revision now with cantonments decided upon at Medford and Eugene.

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STRAWS

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