

Capital Journal

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The Cause of High Food Prices

Two news stories in yesterday's press report disclosed the rapid upward trend of food prices during recent weeks and reveal some of the causes behind the advances.

A Washington dispatch quotes the bureau of labor statistics as authority for the announcement of an advance of 13.2 per cent in one month in the price of fresh vegetables and fruits. Sharpest advances were credited to cabbage, green beans and sweet potatoes, all of which jumped 40 per cent during the month ending March 15. White potatoes advanced 18 per cent and apples 13 per cent. These figures constitute the national average and were exceeded in some sections of the country, including the northwest.

The other dispatch, from Seattle, quoting statistics compiled by the U. S. department of agriculture there, sheds some light on the causes of these price advances. It reveals that Washington state farm workers are now being paid an average of \$103 a month, plus board, as compared with \$60.50 for the same work last year. In Oregon the monthly average wage, with board, has risen from \$61 in 1942 to \$97.50 this year. Proportionate advances in wages for farm hands without board are noted.

At the same time wage scales paid by produce firms and retail merchants have advanced in about the same proportion, thereby increasing the cost of producing and marketing vegetables and fruits all along the line from the farm to the grocer's counter.

And the cause of it all runs right back to the administration which is now advocating a "hold-the-line" policy of economic controls. It was this same administration which encouraged, approved and allowed to get out of hand the wage scales which are being paid in the shipyards and other war plants and that are "robbing the farms and food handling agencies of their help. Wages of farm hands, produce handlers and grocery clerks have risen out of sight because employers in these lines are forced to compete for their help with war industries paying exorbitant wages with government sanction and connivance. The mounting cost of living, against which organized labor is protesting so loudly, is, in the last analysis, the product of its own greed.

Allies of Our Enemies

Some 28,000 CIO workers in vital Detroit war industries are striking because their local leaders told them to, for trivial and obscure reasons, in violation of the union's agreement. The strikers allege their walkout is because of the WLB delay in approving increase proposals. It is therefore another strike against the government itself.

Leo La Motte, director of the Chrysler division of the United Automobile Workers (CIO), charges that the current strikes in Detroit are being "fomented by high officials of the UAW because of political reasons" and ordered the men to return to work immediately "in the interest of our union and the nation at war." His remarks are directed at Walter P. Reuther, UAW vice-president and director of the union's General Motors department, whom he charges with assuming jurisdiction over the struck Chrysler plants. La Motte continues:

"If these strikes were just up to the rank and file of workers they would never happen. I know that the overwhelming majority of workers are patriotic and are willing to produce the implements of war for victory. But unfortunately there are certain individuals within our own union that are ready to sacrifice the interests of the workers in the shop and endanger the nation at war to advance their own political aggrandizement."

In his return-to-work appeal, La Motte promised the strikers their "just grievances will be taken up through the proper channel. Sure, workers have grievances and the WLB has been slow," he said, "but these things can be settled without calling strikes."

Within a few days the Chrysler massive tank arsenal will be closed down and 85,000 persons employed be idle unless the strikers return to work. How much longer is our complaisant administration and congress going to stand for such organized sabotage of the nation's war effort by selfish and irresponsible labor leaders for their "own political aggrandizement?" They see Lewis gets away with it—so they also try it.

A Jap Braggart Passes

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the combined Japanese fleet, who planned the sneak-attack on Pearl Harbor and boasted that he would not be content with capturing Guam, the Philippines and occupying Hawaii and San Francisco but would dictate peace terms from the White House, is reported by the Tokyo radio to have been killed in air combat "on the foremost front" in the South Pacific a month ago.

Yamamoto was, according to the official Japanese report, "personally directing the operations in an airplane which engaged the enemy and died a hero's death in battle aboard an aircraft carrier in April while directing operations." Admiral Mineichi Koga was appointed his successor, and Yamamoto's funeral will be observed as a day of national mourning.

Yamamoto was a veteran of the Russo-Japanese war in which he lost three fingers in 1905. He was an expert flier and formerly headed the Japanese navy's aviation division. He was a foremost advocate of combined sea and air power and an able naval strategist. As spokesman for the Tokyo naval command he torpedoed the London naval conference in 1934 smashing the structure of naval limitations and ending the warship building truce engineered at the Washington disarmament congress in the early 1920's. He served long as vice-minister of naval affairs and as naval chief of staff before being appointed naval commander-in-chief in 1939.

Yamamoto will be chiefly remembered, not for his long and distinguished service, but by Americans at least, for his typically Japanese blustering braggadocio of dictating peace in the White House. He was in the same class of Axis blusters as Hitler and Mussolini and his boasts about as futile.

In Hot Water

Washington—The boys who run the city street washer have their troubles keeping the capital clean. When the drunk hit-lacked their machine and careened down the avenue squirting pedestrians merrily, they got razzed plenty. Ditto the time a newspaperman noted them busily rinsing off the pavement during a terrific downpour.

But they're having the hard-

est time living down this one: They had to call the firemen to put out a fire on the water wagon.

Senator's Wife Dies

Gooding, Idaho, May 21 (AP)—Funeral services for Mrs. Florence Johnson Thomas, wife of Idaho's Sen. John W. Thomas, were conducted yesterday by the Rev. H. G. McCallister, pastor of the First Methodist church of Twin Falls.

Parental Problems

By Beck



\$2.00 for Supper

By Don Upjohn

We wish to extend the compliments of this column to Miss Marie Wilkes, a young lady who resides in the Four Corners district. She is in her early twenties, a graduate of Turner high school and attended Northwestern Christian college at Eugene last year. This year, however, she is at home and doing a top job of helping to win the war.

Eight hours a day she is doing heavy work at the ordinance department in the highway shops, repairing tires or such similar jobs as are handed over to her. After that stint she hurries home, does the chores, has her evening meal and then trots out the family tractor. From then until dark she has been plowing, harrowing and seeding various acreages around in the vicinity for the neighbors. Her father is employed in the shipyards, her mother is ill and her brother is in the army. So Miss Marie takes on a from dawn to dark job in defense of her country and in defense of her home. The next time the congressional medals of honor are being passed around we place our humble recommendation that Miss Marie Wilkes be not overlooked. In justice to her let it be remarked that anything we have said here will come as very much of a surprise to her as the information came from her friends and by no means from her. We imagine she may be equally surprised to learn that she is a heroine, but such are our sentiments and the sentiments of all and sundry who know her.

One of the last reminders of the 1940 centennial celebration in Salem has evaporated, passed out and gone, another landmark destroyed. Same is the Van Dyke beard which flourished on the chin of Paul Sims, typographical expert and connoisseur of old books. Paul had quite a time of it nursing this Van Dyke along in the pre-centennial days, so when the flurry of beards was gone with the wind after the centennial, his remained. But finally he gave up and the same old Paul has emerged from behind the shrubbery. "No more of that for another 100 years," he remarked.

A little birdie tells us that no one but our old friend Frank Spears is figuring on getting into the FT & BA via removal of the uppers. Don't let the downy mildew get you, Frank.

We note a proclamation in the Gervais Star by Mayor Gus Moisan for cleanup day in that town May 24. A very laudable enterprise. But we suggest to Gus that where he says in his proclamation, "the city of Gervais will, as usual, have a truck to haul tin cans and other refuse from homes in Gervais," that he delete the reference to tin cans.

Novelties In the News

Tips From An Expert

Memphis—Alonzo Locke, negro waiter at Peabody hotel for 40 years, will deliver the commencement address at Manassas (negro) high school.

"Alonzo isn't a man of letters or a college graduate," explained Principal J. A. Hays, "but he is a graduate of the great school of experience."

Reason to Blush

Great Falls, Mont.—The police blame war priorities for their red faces and un-red automobile.

When they drive by in their newest radio car, they get whistles and "yoo-hoos" from the sidewalk.

The car is painted pink.

Tin cans no longer are "other refuse," or "refuse" of any other kind. They are more essential in these days than all the gold buried in the vaults at Fort Knox, Ky., and should be saved carefully against the next tin can cleanup day. But we bet the Gervais girls pay no attention to the little slip of Gus in his proclamation and will keep right on saving the tin cans.

When the foreign war lords are convicted of war guilt and punishment meted out, we suggest for a time, at least, that they be locked up in cells and be given a lot of cigarettes—but no matches.

Straw hat came today on schedule and Sheriff Andy Burk appeared in one. Outside of him their appearance was pretty skimpy around our streets.

Howell Prairie Pioneers

By E. B. Fletcher

There was another early day farm in Hazel Green vicinity. It is located just east of where the Walter Rutherfords now live. It was noted for its good fences and buildings, which were kept in neat repair by Ames Wood and his sons, Preston and Lewis.

For many years, Wood's services as school clerk and his advice on legal papers and legal proceedings were deemed invaluable by the neighborhood. I can remember his large, brown saddle horse, how he and the boys went about on their rounds over the farm and how he collected school "rate bills" over the district, keeping the school provided with teachers, fuel and necessary equipment.

Mrs. Wood's maiden name was Rhoda Sholl. The Ames Wood family were related to Matthias and to "Charles" Swegle, of the Salem school district, which is named for him. When Mrs. Matthias Swegle died, Mrs. Wood adopted the youngest child, Ella Swegle, who was raised in the Omer Wood family, later marrying Joe Woodworth.

What was then called rheumatism, kept Mrs. Wood an invalid many of the last years of her life. Preston and Ella Wood excelled in vocal and instrumental music. Pear Wood, who married a daughter of Eugene Manning, is a grandson of Ames and Rhoda Wood.



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Dunham Says—

Thumbs Down Certain On Forgiveness Plan

Cake Declines Willkie Managership Offer

Holding Up of Funds Peeves Dr. Raver

—By Paul Dunham—

Washington, May 21—Some sort of a pay-as-you-go tax bill will be passed before long, but it's almost a certainty that it will be thumbs down on any attempt by the Ruml plan advocates to put over their idea of a year's tax forgiveness. The house in defeating such a senate bill last Tuesday by a slight margin put the whole question back in the lap of the gods. Labor is dead set against any Ruml plan, because they say it would help the war-made rich and wealthy class much to the detriment of the working man and woman. The president's statement a few days ago along the same lines put the finishing touch to any Ruml plan idea, the interpretation being that he would veto any such bill. Even the most ardent congressional supporters of the Ruml plan doubt their ability to muster enough votes to pass such a bill over a presidential veto. The northwest delegations were about evenly divided on the subject of forgiving all of last year's tax, but practically all of them favor a pay-as-you-go plan. Thousands of income tax payers, thinking that some sort of a forgiveness plan would be adopted this year, only paid one-fourth of their 1942 tax last March 15. Some cloakroom gossip has it that, at this late date, it will be impossible to pass any remedial tax legislation before the next quarterly tax payment is due, come June 15.

GOP Scouts Due in July

Advance scouts for the several republican presidential white hopes are scheduled to hit Oregon and Washington the latter part of July. If everything goes as per program, congress, under a gentleman's agreement, will be running under slow bell during July and August, a recess so to speak. Such a move will give the lawmakers an opportunity to get back home for a well earned rest and a chance to visit the home folks, who do the voting. The freshmen members from the northwest are especially anxious to do a little checking up and fence building with their constituency. The presidential scouts will be looking the field over for conven-

tion delegates who can be pledged in advance for their white hopes. The Willkie scouts will be the most active in the far west. It is understood that Ralph Cake, republican national committee for Oregon, has been offered the western managership for Willkie, but has declined.

The military high command is somewhat concerned over the amount of publicity, celebrations and holiday spirit which is still going on because of the overwhelming allied victory in the Tunisian campaign. The military expected everyone to be more than jubilant over such a victory, just as they were, but they are fearful that too much celebrating will cause those on the home front to think the war is about over, which is far from the truth. Such thoughts harbored by the American people, they fear, will cause a marked slow-down in the many necessary war activities, such as war bond sales, shipbuilding and voluntary enlistments in the army and navy. The governor

of Oregon asked for a day of special celebration, but many towns in both Washington and Oregon thought that such a plan would lead to mistaken ideas, and hence no celebrations were held.

Raver Plenty Sore

Here in Washington, D. C., last Monday (the D. C. means darn crowded), Dr. Paul Raver, top hand of the Bonneville project, appeared before the house appropriations sub-committee. The Dr. told the gathering that he was mighty sore at the WPB (war production board) because they held up funds that had been appropriated last year for the purchase of additional generators. WPB had put a stop order on all such construction. Dr. Raver did not ask the sub-committee for any additional funds for the coming year, but urged that the appropriation granted Bonneville last year for installation of additional generators be made available to increase Bonneville transmission facilities. The Dr. said Bonneville and Grand Coulee

were now selling better than \$1,000,000 worth of power each month and he expected to increase this amount to at least \$1,750,000 in less than a year from now. By the end of this year, predicted Dr. Raver, the two projects would be producing at least 1,300,000 kilowatts of power, compared with 86,400 in 1939. Members of the sub-committee quizzed the Dr. at some length on the numerous communications which had been received criticizing the building of both dams. The Bonneville administrator has had a long conference with his chief, Honest Harold Ickes, concerning the stalemated negotiations with the Portland General Electric Co. for the sale of Bonneville power. Raver insisted that part of the PGE system be sold to different PUDs which are operating in PGE territory as a condition for renewal of the wholesale power contract with Bonneville, but the power company said no to this proposal to cut up its property by piecemeal.

THE OLD JUDGE SAYS...



"Our men in the service in this war have pretty definite ideas about what they're fighting for and the way they want to find our country when they come back...don't you think so, Judge?"

"I certainly do, George. Just a week or so ago I was reading in a national magazine the results of a poll taken among our soldiers. Each man was given a questionnaire containing twenty-five 'assignments' for the folks at home. He was asked to check the first five in order of importance to him.

"Out of thousands of replies the first 'assignment' to the folks back home was 'Make sure I'll have a job in my chosen field of work when I get back'. Number 5 was 'Make sure that Prohibition isn't put over on us again.'"

"When the men in the last war came home and found prohibition had been put over on them behind their backs they were sore as boils. You can see from what I just told you how they feel about it this time, too."

Conference of Alcoholic Beverage Industries, Inc.



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