

# Capital Journal

SALEM, OREGON  
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## Inflation Hits Cities

Salem is not the only city in the country which is having trouble in getting public works projects planned before and during the war under way, according to a survey conducted by the International City Managers' association after tabulating replies to a questionnaire embracing 17 typical municipalities. Like Salem, nearly all of these cities reported mounting costs, scarcity of materials and difficulty in securing workers as the principal obstacles to starting their programs.

Soaring prices present the most perplexing problem, most of the cities reported, with advances of up to 200 percent over the original estimates proving to be the most serious deterrent to getting construction under way. One instance cited, that of a sewage disposal plant for Muskegon, Mich., almost parallels the case of Salem and its prewar plans for a disposal system to cost around \$350,000, of which amount Salem was to, and did sell bonds in the amount of \$200,000 to be supplemented by a like amount of federal WPA money. When the war came along and WPA folded up, the project here was shelved, and lack of help in the city engineer's office, along with the other obstacles, have prevented its revival up to this time.

If Muskegon's results in trying to get work on their project under way is a sample of the difficulties to be experienced, Salem's plan will eventually cost closer to one million dollars than the original estimate. When the Michigan city called for actual bids it found that its planned expenditure of \$300,000 would have to be raised to \$900,000 if it wanted the job done.

Experiences reported by other cities in trying to make prewar estimates fit 1946 prices resulted as follows:

Bartlesville, Okla., reported it might have to ration water next summer because cost of constructing a new pumping station has become prohibitive. Grand Junction, Colo., rejected bids on water works because inflation put costs above budget limits.

Berkeley, Calif., recently adopted a policy of rejecting bids above normal price levels on all but "emergency" projects. Austin, Texas, announced postponement of construction of new municipal buildings for which plans have been completed.

Municipal pay increases and extension of essential city services to new residential districts stymied public works programs of Long Beach, Calif., and High Point, N. C. Long Beach postponed building new fire stations and libraries while High Point curtailed its public works program.

## United Nations and Spain

The United Nations assembly has passed 34 to 6 a resolution recommending that all members immediately recall from Madrid their ambassadors and ministers to Spain. The long fought resolution also provided that if the Franco regime remains in power that the security council should consider "adequate measures" to remedy the situation and that the present Spanish government should be barred from membership in all international agencies connected with the UN.

Those opposing the move were Argentina, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador and Peru. Abstentions included Afghanistan, Canada, Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Lebanon, The Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey and South Africa.

Both the United States and Britain have opposed this boycott on Spain, though the dispatches do not record them as opposing the final vote. That may be one of the concessions made to Russia, instigator of the effort to oust Franco, for agreement on disarmament, atomic energy, easing of veto power and the satellite treaties.

This seems a strange way to preserve peace in the world and a certain way to encourage civil war and communism in Spain. It is a penalty for Franco's left-handed cooperation with Germany in World War II. But Spain is peaceful now and should have the right given other nations to have the kind of government it wants. It is true that the Franco regime is totalitarian, but so is that of Russia and its satellites. At least Franco is keeping the peace, which is more than can be said of Tito and other Russian puppets. He is not threatening anyone.

One thing can be said for Franco. When Hitler was overrunning Europe, he kept the Germans out of Spain and Gibraltar and there seems no serious opposition to him save the communists in Spain itself and the last thing the Spaniards want is another civil war. Left alone they will probably solve their own problems and abolish dictatorship, but foreign interference only causes resentment, confusion and discord.

## Big 4 Finish 5 Satellite Nation Treaties, Take 3 Months Respite

New York, Dec. 13 (AP)—The Big Four foreign ministers, finishing the five satellite peace treaties after 15 months and one day of negotiations, today started their longest recess since last April.

They packed their bags to return home after six weeks of conferences here and after almost continuous Big Four or Paris peace conference sessions starting last April 25.

Now they will have a three months respite from each other to prepare for the meeting in Moscow on March 10 when work on the German and Austrian peace treaties will begin.

The Big Four council of foreign ministers formally adjourned the New York meeting last night in the 37th floor suite of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel where they have held 23 formal and 10 informal meetings since Nov. 4.

Before adjourning they:

1. Took the last decisions necessary to complete the treaties of peace for Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Finland.

2. Made final arrangements for signing those pacts in Paris on February 10.

3. Agreed on instructions to their special deputies on Germany and Austria to begin preparatory work in London on January 14, including hearings for Germany's small neighbors and other United Nations whose military forces fought against Germany.

4. Issued a declaration calling for a special conference six months after the Balkan treaties come into effect to create a new regime for Danube river navigation.

## Bronze Tom Champ Of Roseburg Show

Roseburg, Ore., Dec. 12 (AP)—The title of grand champion of the Northwestern Turkey show in Roseburg was awarded this afternoon to a bronze tom owned by Mr. and Mrs. George Arnett of Sheild, Ore. The bird weighed 42½ pounds, just a quarter pound less than the show's heaviest entry, a bronze adult tom owned by Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Schneider of Newberg, Ore., but which failed to win top prize in his own class.

Jap Flag to Fly  
Tokyo, Dec. 12 (AP)—Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today that allied headquarters has no objection to the display of the Japanese national flag Dec. 25, the anniversary of the death of the Emperor Taisho.

5. Called on their security council representatives to begin at once looking for a man to be governor of the new free territory of Trieste.

6. Initiated the agenda for their Moscow meeting.

7. Went through the usual routine of making closing statements, all in a friendly, harmonious and hopeful tone.

The ministers hope to get away from New York this week-end.

## This Funny World



"Anybody got a safety pin?"

## Sips for Supper

By Don Upjohn

So much water has fallen the past few days it even makes one's head swim.

It's been pretty tough on some of Frosty Olson's decorations about the streets to say nothing of the little men blowing their horns while hanging from lamp posts. We expect any night now to catch Frosty making the rounds pouring sulfa tablets down the horns into the throats of the little men to keep them from getting pneumonia or something. Maybe the society for the prevention of cruelty to little men who blow horns during the Christmas holidays should look into this matter of their hanging out on lamp posts during weather which it is extremely polite to call inclement.

We're glad to report another outstanding incident in our great pedestrian courtesy contest. We saw Charley Heltzel, the well known attorney-at-law, while making his way to the court house step out and around a night crawler that was making its way across the walk from one soggy patch of green to another. If Charley had ever stepped on aforesaid worm it would have only been night with no crawl left to it. However, it's barely possible, considering how big the night crawlers grow on the courthouse grounds, that Charley with the wind and rain and all in his eyes mistook it

for a banana peel and just naturally sidestepped.

Folks along Commercial street as a young blizzard stirred itself up along said street around by Ferry with the air white with snowflakes figured sure enough there was the real start of a white Christmas. But the scientific explanation of this phenomenon, a snowstorm with the temperature almost to summer heights, goes back to an open window at Sick's brewery. Yea, someone opened a window to a room where some beer was steaming in a big vat, the south wind took advantage of it, slipped its way through the room and on exiting took with it foam off the beer vat with which it had a jolly time out over Commercial street. That sure made it an exhilarating snow storm, and if you sucked in enough deep breaths, one could stagger through, sure enough.

"Slim" Wintermute, the big 6 foot 8 inch professional basketball player playing here with the Portland team was introduced to Don Hendrie last night, and Don to pay a tribute of hospitality to Slim invited him to take a ride in Don's new Studebaker. "He got in the back seat," said Don, "and had to sit sideways."

We don't doubt, Don, he had to sit sideways, but would anyone know he was in the back seat?

## Novelties

(By the Associated Press)

### Double Role

Hollywood, Calif., Dec. 13 (AP)—Within 24 hours, the stork made Mrs. Ethel Wadler, 37, both a mother and a grandmother.

Just 23½ hours before Mrs. Wadler's seven-pound daughter was born, another daughter, Mrs. Edith Hood, 18, became the mother of a daughter, also weighing seven pounds.

### Mailman Dead Tired

Evanston, Ill., Dec. 13 (AP)—Two police squads, an ambulance, and an inhalator were sent to Mrs. Anna Ekstrand's home after she telephoned Sgt. Edgar Fellows.

"It's my son, Carl," she cried. "I've been shaking him and can't wake him."

Carl, 29, stretched out in bed, appeared lifeless. Police applied artificial respiration and then a whiff of oxygen.

Finally Ekstrand, who is a letter carrier, sat up, eyed the activities and said sleepily:

"Can't you let a fellow sleep? I'm dead tired, Ma, walkin' and carryin' all that Christmas mail."

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## MACKENZIE'S Column

By J. M. ROBERTS, Jr.

(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

Something very like the wartime French underground campaign against the Germans is going on now in Moscow-dominated Poland.

Although the government controls the country's resources and major arms supplies, widespread guerrilla warfare, heavy casualties, the number of troops involved and overflowing jails indicate a movement of sufficient size to suggest the possibility of civil war.

The government itself estimates it holds 10,000 political prisoners. Heightened pre-election activity by security police and military courts increases the number daily.

Underground bands are increasing their attacks on villages, state institutions and government officials. The bands apparently consist largely of members of the old underground army which fought the Germans. The government claims they are supported from outside by the Poles who joined the allied forces in Europe. The necessary secrecy surrounding the guerrilla bands also seems to have attracted anti-Semitic and purely brigand forces.

### 15,000 Listed Killed

The underground is reported to have killed 15,000 politicians, security police, Russians and other civilians since the communist government came to power. The militia alone admits loss of 2,000 killed and 4,000 wounded in fights with the guerrillas, of whom they claim to have killed 2,000. The government has had to use regular army divisions at times to maintain even a semblance of control in some areas.

Refugee Poles have predicted that if free elections were held the government would lose, and that if elections are not free there will be a civil war.

The government-harassed Polish peasant party claims to represent a majority of the people and is supported, although it repudiates the support publicly, by the major underground groups, especially the NSZ (National armed forces) headed by Vice Premier Mikolaczuk.

Existence of the underground forces undoubtedly has been used for selfish purposes, just as cheap politicians and common criminals came to hide beneath Ku Klux Klan regalia in the south of reconstruction days, and this has given the government a broader excuse for retaliation than it otherwise might have had. But patriotism seems the main theme.

Just what chance the opposition might have of forcing a change in the government is problematical.

What the opposition is sure of

## Nurses Will Be Represented

Authority of the Oregon State Nurses association to represent nurses of this state in salary and working condition agreements with employers received national recognition, last week, it was announced by Shirley Thompson, president.

Word was brought back to Portland by Louise Augur, who returned from a national workshop of the American Nurses association in Chicago.

"Oregon needs between 500 and 600 more nurses today," Miss Thompson said. "The only way to fill the ranks with new recruits is to make pay and working conditions sufficiently attractive to compete with other types of work."

The American Nurses association accepted the Oregon organization as a result of authority invested in it by a majority of members.

A four-point program was presented and accepted, Miss Augur said.

"These points include improvement in working hours and living conditions to enable nurses to live normal personal and professional lives; the 44-hour week looking to a 40-hour week; and salaries sufficiently

high to interest women of quality and capacity," she stated.

They are organized in a citizens' law enforcement league, headed by John Crow, master of the Pomona Grange.

is that, under the present system of armed government poll-watchers, raids on Polish peasant party headquarters, arrests of its leaders and interference with its press, the election in January will not be free. And the government, should a completely frustrated opposition resort to civil war, would have behind it the strength of Soviet Russia.

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## Slot Machine Drive In Umatilla County

Pendleton, Dec. 13 (AP)—Citizens campaigning against slot machines in Umatilla county will meet here today with Sheriff R. E. Goad and District Attorney C. C. Probstel.

They are organized in a citizens' law enforcement league, headed by John Crow, master of the Pomona Grange.

## Dr. Adams Heads Oregon Dentists

Dr. Kinley Adams, vice president of the Oregon State Dental association, has been named president by the executive council to succeed Dr. Frank Prime who was forced to resign because of illness.

Eels from both Europe and America have their spawning grounds south of Bermuda.

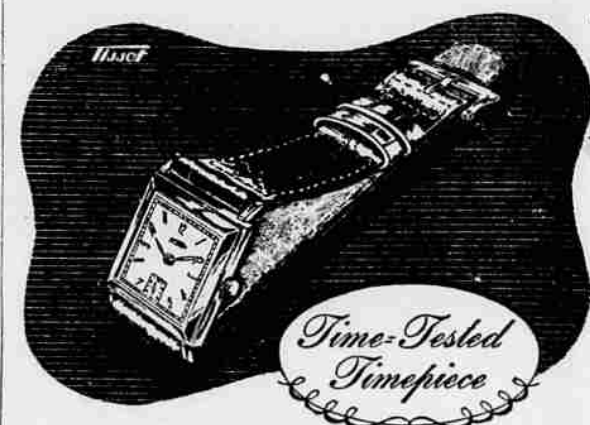
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