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Salem, Oregon, Saturday, May 21, 1949

Drift Toward Deficits

From the actions of both President Truman and congress there will be little economy exercised in the federal government this season as every effort to cut expenditures by the economy bloc that gets through the house is turned down in the senate or vice versa.

All of which indicates a return to deficit spending and increase in the national debt already \$151 billion, because spending will exceed income, as even the government economists forecast.

The United States News of Washington thus sums up the situation and the reasons for it:

In this year, ending June 30, budget outgo is to be \$40,000,000,000, or more. Income is to be less than \$39,000,000,000. Result: new borrowing.

Next year, starting July 1, outgo is to be \$42,000,000,000, or maybe more. Income will be around \$37,000,000,000. Result: more borrowing, lots of it.

That's too bad, but it's the trend. Farmers want a guaranteed income. Unemployed want bigger benefits. Veterans want increased pensions. Old people want more. So do others.

Poor states want rich states to help pay their school bills. West wants the east to underwrite more spending on river development.

Low-income families want higher-income families to help pay rent bills. Poor countries want rich U.S. to give them food, arms, machines.

It's all been fine so long as the money held out.

But the News is optimistic. The United States is not going broke. The government's credit is still good. It can tell banks to put more money into checking accounts and they do. Dollars will maintain their value and increase in value as prices decline. And industry is healthy.

Spending will eventually decline. It was \$9 billion before the war and \$4 billion before the New Deal. The declines in prices will probably be over by the end of 1949 and in 1950 things will pick up some momentum again.

McGrath Versus Morse

The Congressional Record is one of the most informative of periodicals and despite its customary drabness contains a mass of valuable information on government affairs and congressmen utilize it freely to frank their speeches to constituents to let them know they are on the job.

As the Record is subject to censorship by the congressmen themselves, most of the spicy personalities that are uttered in heated clashes, are eliminated before publication, withdrawn from record by the participants, or expunged by suitable apologies or rebuke from presiding officers.

Occasionally, however, an interesting feature of a debate creeps into the Record to redeem its monotonous drabness. Such an instance is argument over the proposed levy of a sales tax in the District of Columbia between Senator Howard McGrath of Rhode Island, democratic leader, as well as chairman of the national democratic committee, and Senator Wayne Morse, republican of Oregon. The argument as printed in the Record reads:

Mr. McGrath: Mr. President, the senator from Oregon seems to have greater wisdom than all other members of congress, either in the senate or in the house of representatives.

Mr. Morse: Why do not the democrats check on my wisdom in this case by putting the matter to a vote in the District of Columbia?

Mr. McGrath: Mr. President, demagogery is sometimes better than logic.

Mr. Morse: Mr. President, if I could ever equal the senator from Rhode Island in demagogery, I would be ashamed of myself.

Mr. McGrath: The senator from Oregon will never have occasion to be ashamed, because I am sure he can outshine me at any time he wishes to do so.

Mr. Morse: Certainly, I will not take any lessons in that subject from the senator from Rhode Island, I assure him.

Mr. McGrath: The senator from Oregon does not need to.

New Congressman for Oregon

Because of the gain in population, Oregon which has gained proportionately more than any other state, is due to get another congressional district in the reapportionment due after the 1950 census. The shift in population will strengthen all Pacific coast states in congress. Washington will also gain a congressman, and California seven more.

Western states are gaining steadily in drawing ballot power from the east and south. Border states are also slipping. Western votes will look better to presidential candidates in 1952 than they did in 1948, the two parties must give more attention to the demands of the far west and southwest. The political power of the far west has more than doubled in 40 years.

The new gains will result from a division of seats in the house of representatives to be made after the next census. Each state has an electoral vote equal to the total of its members in the house and senate. House seats are divided among the states according to their population. The allotments are changed after each census—by order of the constitution—to make certain that each state gets the number of members to which its population entitles it. This takes care of immigration and movement of people from one state to another.

Thirteen seats in the house—and a corresponding number of electoral votes—will be shifted after the next census as the population figures now stand. In this change, seven states will gain and 12 states will lose house seats.

Other states that will gain congressmen, one each, are Texas, Michigan, Indiana and Florida. Those that will lose are New York (2), and one each in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Oklahoma and Colorado. The rest of the states are unchanged in house makeup.

Rain Ritual Really Worked

Las Vegas, Nev. (AP)—This desert resort will think twice about inviting the Jemez Indians again for Hellsorado week. During the parade last Thursday, the New Mexico tribe did a rain dance ritual, guaranteed to bring rain.

It has rained every day since in this arid city which slogans "Fun in the Sun."

BY BECK Actions You Regret



THE TIME YOU RUSHED HUBBY TO HIS MORNING TRAIN IN YOUR WRAPPER AND NIGHT GOWN, AND THE MOTOR WENT DEAD.

THE FIRESIDE PULPIT

God Is Not a Detective; Always Willing to Aid Us

By REV. GEORGE H. SWIFT

Little Harry was always in trouble because he was continually doing things he shouldn't do. One day Harry's Mother said, "God sees you, Harry. God sees you wherever you go and whatever you do."



Rev. George H. Swift

"Is that all God has to do," demanded Harry indignantly. "Lay on his stomach all day and watch me?" We may laugh at little Harry and his feeling toward God, but after all the only time a good many people feel the presence of God about them is when they have done something they know is not honest or right. They therefore think of God only as an unfriendly detective. It is of course true, as the Psalmist said about God, "If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there also." The fact that God is always with us should not frighten us or annoy us, but give us a sense of genuine security.

God is much like a father who takes his child for a stroll through the jungle. He always keeps the child in sight, not to spy on him in the common sense of the term, but to watch him lest he stray into dangerous areas, or to warn him of poisonous snakes which may be lurking by the way. Because the father is with him everywhere he goes, and keeps a watchful eye over him, the boy has the delightful experience of exploring the jungle and getting back safely to his home. Fortunate for us all that God is with us always. He is with us when we sorely need his help. He is with us when we are in trouble. He is with us to warn us of danger. He is with us to strengthen us against temptation. He even stays by us to help us out if we fall in. If we are in the depths of despair and there doesn't seem to be any way out, and at this time someone offers assistance or advice which enables us to overcome our difficulties, we are deeply grateful. We say we shall never forget that person. But how differently we act toward God. We frantically pray to him to save a loved one's life, or to help Jimmy out of trouble; but when the prayer is answered, we want him to leave, and let us mind our own business until we are in trouble again. It is fortunate for us that God is always near. We should appreciate him much more than we do.

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

Visit of Eurico Dutro Is Symbolic of Friendship

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

The visit of amity by Brazilian President Eurico Dutro to the United States is a happy burst of sunshine through the international storm clouds.

It is symbolic of a great friendship which cannot be too assiduously guarded in these days when the nations of the Western hemisphere must stand together for the common good.



DeWitt MacKenzie

President Dutro's stay with us got away to a fine start when official Washington, aware that he was arriving on his 64th birthday, staged a surprise party—cake and all—with President Truman as genial host. It was the sort of thing which captures the fancy of Americans, and sets them humming "Happy Birthday to You." So we are glad to see General Dutro.

In an address before a joint session of the senate and house, the general referred to relations between Brazil and America "as a rare example of fraternal association of two peoples which has prevailed over a period of more than 120 years." He spoke of President Truman's visit to Rio De Janeiro in 1947 for the signing of the historic inter-American defense pact, and said it was a memorable event in the friendship of the two nations. "In the international field," declared the general, "this friendship, through its practical

manifestations and by virtue of its example, is the greatest guarantee of good understanding and comprehension among the other sister nations in this hemisphere."

Dutro said the inter-American defense pact "established the reciprocity of the American republics in common bond against aggression." That is true—at least on paper—but he might have added that such an agreement to be effective must be supported by constant cultivation of friendships and study of ways and means to strengthen the association.

The visit of General Dutro to the United States is of course an excellent illustration of how friendships can be cultivated. However, we mustn't overlook that there are nineteen other republics belonging to the hemisphere pact. That declaration of friendship shouldn't be allowed to lie fallow too long lest it lose its fertility.

It is well for the Americas to remind themselves that they still are the "new world." The known resources of this hemisphere which still remain undeveloped are tremendous. Who can say that those resources don't exceed the total for the rest of the world? Certainly if we stand together, one for all and all for one, there will come the time when the Americas need have no fear of aggression.

REALLY NOT SURPRISED

Nameless Santa Claus Kind to Unfortunate Mother of Nine

Cincinnati, O., May 21 (AP)—A \$100 check from Santa Claus today gave new hopes to Mrs. Sophie Shanks that she could someday give her nine children a home instead of the two rooms which they have lived in since their furniture was destroyed in a 1944 flood.

"I always said work hard and try to do right, and you'll be lucky some day," the wife of a city waste collector said. "Santa Claus showed me I was right." Just who Santa Claus is remained a mystery. The check was mailed to Mrs. Shanks by a Hollywood, Cal., philanthropist. A letter accompanying the check was not signed and the return address, that of a radio production agency in Hollywood, was partially crossed out. "I didn't believe that the money was real at first," she said. "I was afraid to tell anybody about it. My husband didn't believe it either. He thought I was kidding him," she said. Mrs. Shanks, who works at night as a cleaning woman and

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Mrs. Wallgren Forced H. T. To Withdraw Hubby's Name

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—It was Mrs. Mon Wallgren, wife of the likable, buffeted ex-governor of Washington, who finally caused President Truman to withdraw her husband's name as chairman of the national security resources board.

Once before, Wallgren had offered to drop out of the battle for senate confirmation, but Truman wouldn't hear of it. The senate's rejection was taken as a personal slap at Truman and he asked his old senate buddy to stick it out.

This week Mrs. Wallgren told her husband she couldn't take it any longer, pleaded with him to categorically withdraw. It was only then that Truman agreed.

Wallgren, an A-1 senator, is fed up with Washington, D. C., has several private job offers, wants to see no more of government. But the tragic fact remains that Missouri-mule stubbornness in the White House has bogged down one of the most vital bureaus of government. The national security resources board, created to plan the economy of the nation in case of emergency, and potentially the most powerful agency in Washington, has been headless, its morale dropped to zero, with resignations epidemic, and leaderless personnel at each other's throats.

What goes on inside the board is top secret, but certainly the public is at least entitled to know whether it is functioning smoothly. Despite this, officials are using the cloak of secrecy to hide what the board isn't doing instead of what it is doing. Here is an illustration of how the secrecy run-around works: When this column inquired how many times the board had met since Wallgren's appointment, Press Chief Charlie Schwarz slyly replied that this was classified information. He couldn't produce a directive showing it was classified, but the secretary, H. Dewayne Kreager, had told him so. Later Schwarz called to say that he had found the minutes of the board, agreeing not to tell what went on at the meetings. He interpreted this to mean that the number of meetings should also be kept secret.

Real truth is, the board hasn't met at all since the Wallgren fight began. This was revealed by a less cautious board official who quickly added that the board "probably" meets "informally" after cabinet meetings.

The board has been given some direction by presidential assistant John Steelman, the pinch-hitting, part-time chairman. But Steelman already had his hands full before he took on this extra burden. Meanwhile, other key men have been dropping out like Indians biting the dust—Vice Chairman R. E. Gilmore, who went back to Sperry Gyroscope; General Counsel Kenneth D. Johnson, who took a job as a dean at Columbia university; Director of Production George Felton, who returned to his leather factories in New England; and director of economic management E. T. Grether, who returned to the University of California.

Underlings have been moved up into the vacancies left by Johnson and Felton. But Gilmore and Grether haven't even been replaced. The board also is looking for replacements for more than 30 lesser lights who became discouraged and quit. Those remaining are feuding over policy or brooding over lack of work. One fight is over the establishment of a board of experts on industrial production information. Suggested by economics Director Glenn McLaughlin, this was opposed by others who claim they can find the production answers without high-powered help.

It's going to take heroic efforts by the new chairman to get this vital agency back on the track. NOTE—Truman fought with every political trick in the book to get Wallgren confirmed. He wheedled, threatened, even offered job bribes to senators who voted against Wallgren. Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia received a visit from democratic national Chairman McGrath who slyly inquired what it would take to change Byrd's vote. Republican Senator Morse of Oregon, who voted against Wallgren, also got an offer to become U. S. circuit court judge on the west coast; while Senator Baldwin of Connecticut, another anti-Wallgren republican, accepted a supreme court judgeship in his state, though Baldwin had long-cherished personal reasons for going on the bench.

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Too Much Talk

Augusta, Me. (AP)—The Rev. Alfred Hendriksen of the Unitarian church said in a prayer of invocation before the state senate: "Forgive us for talking so much and accomplishing so little."



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BY GUILD Wizard of Odds



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Making Laughter Becomes Really Serious Business

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—A lady poet once wrote: "Laugh and the world laughs with you."

If it were only true, H. Allen Smith—who is certainly no lady and probably no poet—would be a happy man indeed.

For his job is to make as much of the world laugh as he can. He writes funny books for a living. Smith should be in a position to give a formula on how to be funny in print. Beginning in 1941 with "Low Man on a Totem Pole," his books have sold some 2,600,000 copies. His publisher says he is "the best-selling humorist since Mark Twain."

But Smith knows of no sure-fire formula for creating a belly laugh. "The problem a humorist faces," he said, "is that people are on different wave lengths. The public reacts differently. Humor is the most difficult form of expression for the reason that you are never sure of it. And there is nothing sorer than a joke that doesn't go."

"You have to tell yourself: Tell with the others—I'll write for those on my beam."

The humor wave lengths at his own four-acre homestead at suburban Mt. Kisco collide head-on. Smith's daughter, Nancy, 20, likes his writing. But he doubts if his son, Allen, 21, has ever read one of his 11 books clear through.

"My wife's not on my wave length either," he said. "She looks at each succeeding manuscript and says, 'Good God, you're not going to turn that in!'"

Smith is a small, sharp-nosed man of 41. He is sober of face and heart, and he has a look around the eyes reminiscent of Ernie Pyle. He likes people individually, hates sham, collects screwballs, and doesn't blush when referred to as "A debunker with a heart of gold." He takes his humor seriously.

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