

## Pearson Backs Proposed CVA

Dallas, Oct. 8—State Treasurer Walter Pearson backed the proposed CVA in an address before the Dallas Chamber of Commerce at its first full meeting here Friday.

"It is charged that CVA will be a 'super-state,'" he said. "How can it be when it is a creature of Congress?"

Pearson declared that the program would depend on Congress for finances and would be responsible to the lawmakers.

At the same time he stated the opinion that "inevitable conflict" would always exist between the army corps of engineers, the reclamation bureau and the Bonneville Power administration because of their diversity of interests. CVA, as one agency, would eliminate this conflict, he asserted.

Overlapping budgets of the three existing agencies incur duplicate costs and are expensive to taxpayers, he declared.

Treasurer Pearson listed seven things that the CVA would mean to Oregon: 1. Better coordinated program for development. 2. Construction of a series of dams for prosperity and growth. 3. Reclamation of farm lands. 4. New industry. 5. More jobs for labor. 6. New taxable wealth which would lower taxes of the individual. 7. Navigation into the "hinterlands" and consequent lowering of freight rates.

The TVA was called a "white elephant" by opponents when it was first proposed, said Pearson. "Now the same forces say the same of the CVA."

Mr. Pearson was introduced by Mayor Hollis Smith, who last week was elected president of the League of Oregon Cities. Neale Povey, president, was in charge of the meeting.

## Well Baby Session Slated at Woodburn

Woodburn — Well-baby conferences for the north Marion county districts will be held the second Tuesday of each month at the Woodburn library from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., starting next Tuesday. The first of a series of at least three child health conferences for first graders in the local schools will be held the same day from 9 a.m. until noon.

Both conferences will be conducted by Dr. W. J. Stone of the Marion county health department assisted by the local volunteer committee and the public health nurse.

Appointments for the well-baby conference may be made by phoning Mrs. John Hooper, health committee chairman at Woodburn 1602. Parents will receive a notice and appointment time for their child for the child health conferences and each child given an appointment for the health examination would be accompanied by a parent or some representative of the parent.

## Red Cross Workers Seek Blood Donors

Albany—A public orientation meeting for workers in the Linn county Red Cross blood donor program will be conducted by two Portland center officials Monday night, Mrs. Virginia Faulkner, executive secretary of the chapter announces.

Richard Codd, director of the Portland center, and O. W. Dahl, assistant director, will instruct the group on organizational procedures in lining up donors, for the periodic visits of the bloodmobile.

Donor recruitment will be launched shortly after the meeting Monday. The first actual visit of the center's technical unit is scheduled for some time in December, Mrs. Faulkner said, but organizational work will have to be completed before then.

# WHY A STEEL STRIKE?

United States Steel wants to do what is right by its employees. We have always sought the loyal cooperation and friendship of our employees.

United States Steel favors proper programs of insurance, welfare, and pensions for its employees. We have had insurance and pension plans in effect for many years. We are ready and willing to try to work out with the Union through collective bargaining any changes in our existing programs for insurance and pensions which are now necessary or desirable.

Last week we made an offer to the Union to pay as our share of the cost of programs of insurance and pensions to be negotiated with the Union up to an average of 4 cents an hour for insurance and 6 cents an hour for pensions. That was a very substantial offer on our part. It would provide at our expense insurance and welfare benefits which our employees do not presently enjoy. The adoption of such programs would add more than \$50,000,000 annually to our costs of operation.

The Union flatly rejected this liberal proposal and called a strike against us. Why? Simply because United States Steel is not willing to agree in advance that it will pay the entire cost of insurance and pensions for its employees.

Because of the Union's adamant stand that we must pay the entire cost of insurance and pensions for employees, the Union has deprived our employees of an opportunity immediately to obtain, without additional cost to them, insurance protection far superior to that which the employees now possess.

United States Steel proposed to pay as its share of the cost of an insurance program about \$5.70 a month for each participating employee. A single employee would pay as his share about \$2 a month and an employee with dependents about \$3 a month. Our employees on the average are now paying under existing welfare arrangements more than these amounts each

month for lesser benefits. The payments by our employees under the proposed insurance program would not reduce their present take-home pay.

A proper and financially sound pension plan calls for most careful consideration. United States Steel has offered to join with the Union in making a joint study on pensions, and, upon the completion of this study, to negotiate with the Union for a pension plan to be included in a new labor contract, effective on May 1, 1950. As an indication of its good faith, United States Steel has offered to pay up to 6 cents an hour as its share of the cost of a mutually satisfactory contributory pension plan. Here again, the Union flatly rejected our proposal.

The only issue in the present steel strike is this:

Shall United States Steel be forced now to agree that it must pay the entire cost of insurance, welfare benefits and pensions for its employees? An assumption by the employer of complete financial responsibility would amount to the adoption of a major and highly costly principle, probably for all time. Moreover, such action by a large steel company would probably set a pattern for all American business. There is grave doubt as to the financial ability of American industry alone to pay the cost of adequate insurance and pension programs for employees. Furthermore, it is not in the best interests of the employee that he participate in the creation of a savings account for his future welfare?

Social security in which both employer and employee share the cost has been the established order in this country for many years, as evidenced by the Federal Social Security Act.

Why should our employees and the whole nation suffer the disastrous consequences of a steel strike, from which the employees have so little to gain?

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