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4—Salem, Oregon, Tuesday, January 8, 1951

'NORMAL' BUSINESS

How are things going to be in Oregon for 1952? This question, referring to business activity and employment, brings a calm answer from Dr. Wesley C. Ballaine, professor of business administration at the University of Oregon. He says in the latest issue of the Oregon Business Review that 1952 will be about the same in the state as in 1951.

According to him, "This means a continued high output which will remain comparatively stable during the course of the year." The only "if" he adds concerns a general war. If such a war develops, then predictions would have to be revised.

Dr. Ballaine approves this idea of things developing as they are. He believes it is well that national defense orders have done little to distort the Oregon economy from what it would have been under peace-time conditions characterized by an active level of business over the entire country. Then he notes, "the shock of cessation of defense orders should be less in Oregon than in many other states."

Instead of worrying about what might happen when the defense boom eases, there should be more thought given to bringing new business and industry to the state and the Salem area in particular.

The defense program is no short-term project.

For many, many months, armament will restrict use of steel and heavy construction materials to defense work. That means that business activity in the state will have to mark time as far as real expansion is concerned. Meanwhile, defense work in California and the state of Washington will demand more and more manpower—and will call for expansion. The relative business position of Oregon on the Pacific coast will suffer as a result.

There was a lot of talk that those who came to Oregon for war work in World War II would pack up and go home after the surrender papers were signed. But the population of the state continued to grow. There is no reason to believe war work in Oregon now would bring any different results in the future.

The attitude of leave business as it is not in the best interests of the economic welfare of the state. Sure, business activity will roll along, but normal business doesn't offer enough new jobs to bring a healthy growth to the state. The Chamber of Commerce of Salem and the other cities of Oregon ought to recognize that fact.

Furthermore, the state ought to make as great a contribution as possible, as one of the 48 states, to the national rearming.

UNIFORM STATE TRUCK FEES NEEDED

Governor Len Jordan of Idaho has called a special session of the legislature on January 15 with a request that a law be enacted enabling Idaho to make reciprocity agreements with neighboring states on truck licenses.

It is common practice for the various states to recognize the licenses issued by the individual states on trucks, even though such rates are not uniform.

The 1951 Idaho legislature failed to enact any law permitting officials of the department of motor vehicles to enter into the customary reciprocity agreements with Oregon and Washington.

William Healy, assistant secretary of state for Oregon, has attended numerous conferences with Idaho and Washington state officials in an effort to bring about an agreement. Such efforts failed.

As a result, officials of both Oregon and Washington posted guards at the Idaho border on January 1, warning any Idaho truck owners they would be barred from entering the two states unless the motor truck fees of the two states were paid by such truckers.

In the face of this barrier, Governor Jordan acted, declaring that "I don't want any border warfare and there is bad feeling by other states."

The Idaho situation is another evidence that the greatest need in connection with highway use is uniform fees for all trucks operating from all states in the union.

At present, through a referendum filed by the big truck operators, new truck fee schedules enacted by the Oregon 1951 legislature are held up until next November's general election with a resultant loss to the state highway department of approximately \$2 million during 1952. Truckers maintain large lobbies in the legislatures of every state with but one purpose in mind, to escape paying its just share as highway users and destroyers.

SHIP SUBSIDY WASTE

The house executive spending subcommittee signals the opening of the congressional session by assailing, as a result of prolonged investigations, the maritime board for "dragging its feet for over two years in cutting millions from excessive subsidies" for passenger liners.

Chairman Porter Hardy, Jr. (D., Va.), gave the board 30 days to reach a decision on subsidies for the American Export Lines, Inc., and the United States Lines Co., or face renewed hearings.

The committee said 26 months ago that at least \$25 million for six ships were "excessive" and ordered the board to readjust its figures. The subsidies were blamed on irregular procedures, bad arithmetic and over interpretation of the law.

Three of the ships, the \$70,000,000 superliner "United States" and the \$23,400,000 liners "Independence" and "Constitution," already have been launched. The latter two have been delivered to the Export Line on condition that the price may be readjusted. There have been reports that the board's own staff has found the subsidies were too high and has recommended cutting them by millions. The board has been mum on the question. It may end up in the passenger liner business itself if the shipowners balk at reduced subsidies, as an alternative of finding another purchaser.

The original subsidies were set by the old maritime commission which was replaced by the maritime board after the subcommittee made its report. The old commission agreed to chip in \$11,458,000, nearly half the cost, on both the "Independence" and the "Constitution." It agreed to contribute \$42,000,000 for the "United States."

BY BECK

Consolation



POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Persons Moving to Suburbs Are Daniel Boones of Today

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—The Daniel Boone of today is the suburbanite. He inhabits America's last frontier—the suburbs. And it is the only frontier in our country's history that is increasing instead of dwindling.

A suburb is one of those vague populated places you get lost in when you drive out of a big city.

They usually bear such quaint names as Quagmire Heights or Swampville on the Rappahannock.

There seems to be no particular reason why they spring up in any one place. There is a report that once a railroad train pulling out of a city paused courteously to let a cow cross the track. Before the train started up some enterprising real estate dealer wandered by, stuck up a sign saying "Bovine Meadows," and started selling lots to the passengers.

Suburbs vary, but they usually have these things in common: An antique store, two liquor stores, four real estate offices, one taxi you can never get when you need it, and a railroad station that closes on cold nights whenever the ticket seller sees a lone wayfarer who wants to come in and get warm.

The average suburbanite becomes one because he feels "the city is no place to raise children." So he buys a brightly painted home in the suburbs too big for a doll-house and too small to shelter a St. Bernard dog.

Here he and his happy swarming brood live in the same kind of intimacy and harmony visible in a wrestling ring.

He becomes a pilgrim between his home in the hinterland and his desk in the city, and he is a prisoner of the railroad that links them.

No Trouble to Walk on Ice

Oklahoma City (AP)—Police Judge Mike Foster didn't have any trouble walking on the ice which coated Oklahoma recently.

A pitchfork was his solution. Just use it like a cane and dig into the ice, he explained.

WAY TO INFLUENCE GOP

Truman Could Relieve Ike Of Command to Beat Taft

By LYLE C. WILSON

Washington (AP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's public bow as a republican is a reminder that President Truman could take a big hand in nomination of the 1952 GOP presidential candidate if he desired to do so.

He could do that by relieving Eisenhower of his European assignment. It is definite now that the general will not ask to be relieved to join in his own pre-convention campaign.

Eisenhower put it this way: "Under no circumstances will I ask for relief from this assignment in order to seek nomination for political office and I shall not participate in the pre-convention activities of others who may have such an intention with respect to me."

The consensus here is that Mr. Truman will seek re-election this year, paired with Vice President Alben W. Barkley. But the administration has had some hard knocks.

Some more hard knocks might persuade Mr. Truman not to run, or, even that the democratic party had been so badly hurt it could not elect a president this year under any circumstances.

Mr. Truman's political judgment would sense any such serious trouble for his party and its candidates. That would give him a livelier-than-ever interest in the identity of the republican presidential nominee. Especially his foreign policy ideas.

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Truman Not to Run Again? That Is His Latest Hint

By DREW PEARSON

Washington — At a private Christmas holiday party at Independence, Mo., President Truman let drop the most definite hint so far as to whether he will run for a third term.

"Grover Cleveland's greatest mistake," he said, "was to run again. He would have been a great president but for that."

Meanwhile close friends have found the president so tired, so worried and so upset over those in his administration who "have let him down," that they haven't had the heart to tell him how low his stock has dropped throughout the country.

Those gathered with him at a family party in Independence, however, found the president relaxed for the first time in weeks. He joked, gossiped and enjoyed himself — though tensing when somebody mentioned the press.

Mrs. Truman, who was looking better than ever, dropped a necklace. It had become unfastened from around her neck. "When I don't put her together, she comes apart," remarked her husband, stopping to pick it up.

"I envied you those turtle steaks in Florida," suggested a friend.

"You can have all the turtles, sharks and snake meat," the president shot back. "Just give me an old-fashioned Kansas City steak."

When someone asked him about Life's article on his loud shirts and Florida wardrobe, Truman replied that the magazine was trying to belittle him. "A few years ago they called me the best-dressed man in the United States," he said.

"What do you think of the Kansas City Star?" someone asked.

"Don't answer that one," Mrs. Truman cautioned quickly, doubtless remembering what her husband had said on previous occasions regarding his old friend, Roy Roberts, the Star's publisher.

Margaret looked especially well at the party. She has lost about ten pounds and benefited from the Parisian gowns picked

NORBLAND'S JACKET

Buying negligee for the wife is an awkward job for most men, doubly so when a member of congress has his credit challenged.

Congressman Walter Norblad of Oregon found he didn't have enough cash in his pocket after purchasing some nightwear for his missus at an Arlington, Va., shop, so wrote out a congressional check, payable from his salary account with the house sergeant-at-arms.

"I'm sorry, but you'll have to show us some identification," said a girl cashier.

Confidently the Oregon congressman produced a card bearing his photo and signature, plus the official seal of the United States. But the young lady remained skeptical. She noted that the customer was wearing an old air force jacket and had an advanced case of "five-o'clock-shadow" — unlike the clean-shaven features of his photograph.

Giving Norblad a fishy eye, she called over another girl employee for consultation. Together they studied the card, and eyed the congressman.

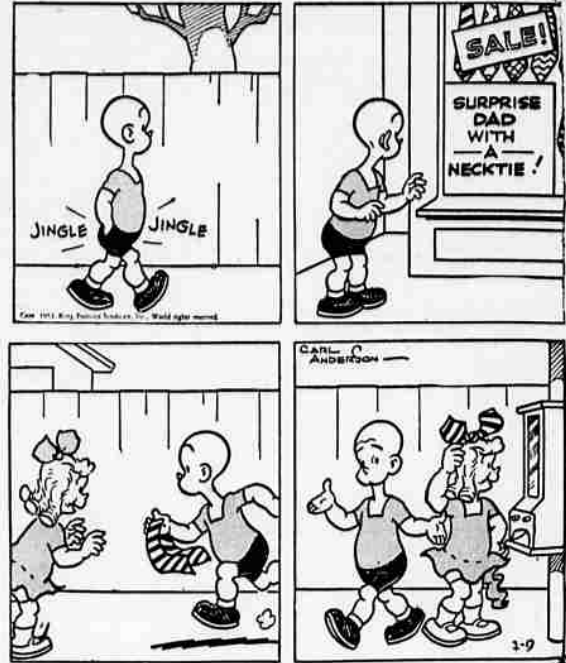
"I tell you, I'm a member of congress," pleaded Norblad. "That card is my identification."

Finally, the second young lady pointed to the Oregonian's weather-beaten jacket.

"I guess he's all right," she said. "He's in the army."

BY CARL ANDERSON

Henry



OPEN FORUM

Baby-Sitters Recall O. Henry

To the Editor: We are baby-sitters while our daughter and her husband spend a few days at the beach with some friends.

We must be getting old or something, for our reactions to the confusion and noise are similar to the effect on the two thugs who kidnaped the big shot's five-year-old boy in O. Henry's "The Ransom of Red Chief."

You recall that the boy had a wonderful time at the hide-out where they took him. They sent a demand to the big shot for a couple of thousand dollars for the return of the boy, but day after day went by and no reply.

The thugs soon were sore in mind and body for they each took turns in watching for the ransom money while the other took care of and amused the boy.

Protests New License Tax Bill

To the Editor: The proposed new license tax bill assesses a \$25 fee for second-hand dealers. Also, it is my understanding that a store which takes used merchandise in trade may sell this merchandise without a second-hand dealer's license.

What is fair about that? Your furniture store can sell used furniture, your jeweler may sell the watch he took in trade without paying a license, while the small fry like myself is taxed because I buy for cash.

Here is for more men like Dave O'Hara on our city council.

WOLF COHEN
Square Deal Second Hand Store

No Tanks, Say Citizens

Philadelphia (AP)—A 37-ton Sherman tank, borrowed by University of Pennsylvania ROTC students to advertise their annual dance, got all the intended publicity—and then some. Children fled and mothers screamed as the huge tank began moving as passersby looked at it yesterday—its 80-millimeter turret gun swinging menacingly.

Police who found the vehicle not far from its parking place took into custody and later released two university students discovered in the turret "conducting experiments."



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