

Capital Journal

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HOUSE BUYING PROSPECTS

The National Association of Home Builders, the Society of Real Estate Appraisers, building and mortgage firms seem to agree that prospects for buying new homes will remain about the same as at present, for used houses much better, but that financing and mortgage availability differ regionally.

A shortage of mortgage money exists in some regions in the far west and south, but the crisis is easing. And proposals are afoot to remedy the shortage both in banking and legislative circles within the year.

Although there's been a slight drop in home building, most forecasts are that we'll keep on building houses near the whopping rate of about a million a year. Recession talk is fading. But the supply generally continues good.

While pressure for price boosts is being generated by rising costs of labor and land improvement, this is countered by growing competition among builders. So new home prices are mainly steady and the competition makes for better quality.

While new home prices are firm, the prices of prewar homes have dropped 5 to 10 per cent, according to a report on 12 cities throughout the nation. Many owners of newer than prewar houses have slashed their prices, sometimes up to 20 per cent. The general prediction is that used house bargains will be plentiful.

The trend is toward building larger and costlier houses. A reaction from postwar buying of small homes by G.I.s and others who now have bigger families and higher incomes. They have outgrown their dwellings, which are on the market for newlyweds.

Buying of houses, new or old, will be a little easier after the first of the year because of the 10 per cent income tax cut, which will go into effect for 1954, affecting 50 million taxpayers.—G. P.

NO PAROLE FOR ALGER HISS

The country will applaud the decision of the U. S. Parole Board not to parole Alger Hiss, now serving a prison term for perjury.

There were two views the board could take on the Hiss case. It could go by the official record alone. He is doing time for lying under oath, a serious offense, but not one that ranks with murder or armed assault. He has served the usual time for this offense and would be qualified in the ordinary course of events for release.

What the board evidently did do was to consider the further fact that while Hiss was technically convicted of perjury the actual offense was treason for which he could not be prosecuted because the act itself had been outlawed by the running of the statute of limitations. And whatever sentence was imposed for perjury would be an extremely light penalty for what Hiss did. Therefore he should serve every day of his sentence and be thankful that this was so much less than he deserved.

It seems clear that an agency like a parole board is entitled to consider and rule on the basis of the known facts and not be bound to the official record. The official record might make Russia look like a neutral in Korea but the facts certainly don't, to offer an illustration of what we mean.

THE LOCAL LIVESTOCK SALES YARD

One of the significant trends in the livestock business has been the growth of local sales yards at key points throughout the western livestock country. Formerly the stock was sold on distant big city markets. Now it is likely to be sold to packers or feeders close to the ranch where it is grown.

The foregoing observation is prompted by a news story in the Ontario Argus-Observer to the effect that the Ontario Livestock Commission sales yard there sold 3160 cattle Tuesday of last week, the largest number in the 15-year history of the yard. Eight thousand four hundred were sold at the yard in three consecutive weeks.

Ontario is probably the largest yard in the eastern part of the state, but by no means the only one. Thirty-seven miles further east, at Caldwell, Idaho, there is another of comparable size.

These sales are held one day each week. They bring in hundreds of sellers and buyers, giving the grower a cash market close enough to home so he can withdraw his stock without serious loss if he is not satisfied with the price. The trend toward local sales yards is a helpful one to the producer, and the buyer finds it handy, too. It has become "big business" in the cattle country.

NO DEATH CELL WEDDING

The average person might ask "what possible objection can there be if Carl Austin Hall and Bonnie Brown Heady want to be married in the death house of the Missouri penitentiary prior to their execution, scheduled for December 18?"

This was our initial reaction, but on second thought we think the prison officials are right. There is a sanctity to marriage for which this couple are hardly qualified. There has not been a union either church or state can wish to bless.

Congratulations, rice, wedding cake and general good will go with the marriage ceremony. None of this can be felt or properly expressed here. Better to let the law take its course with as little sentimentality, maudlin or otherwise, as possible.

ROSE BOWL CHOICES

There will be little dissent over the Rose Bowl selections.

Michigan State is probably the strongest team in the Big Ten, certainly the most colorful, and this team will have the advantage of novelty, not having played there before.

Ucla is not a colorful team, but one that wins its games, which is the acid test of strength. The far west, beaten in all but one of its encounters with the Big Ten teams cannot afford to present less than its best. Even if Stanford does have more color.

This game should be fully up to the established tradition.

Los Angeles (AP)—Mrs. Betty Fisher, seeking a divorce, testified in Superior Court that living with her husband, Kenneth, had become "impossible."

She said they now have divided their refrigerator with a bright blue line, her food is kept on the right, his on the left.

THE BIG PAYOFF



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Bishop Oxman Prays for President's Golf Score

By DREW PEARSON

Washington — Bishop G. Bromley Oxman, the Methodist church leader who was banned from speaking in Los Angeles' leading auditorium was received by President Eisenhower last week, during which the two men had a friendly conversation about golf.

The bishop inquired whether the president had had a chance to play his regular Wednesday afternoon golf game, to which he replied:

"Yes, Bishop, and I want to thank you for your offer to pray for a better score for me."

"Well, did my prayers do any good?" inquired the bishop.

"Frankly, on the first nine holes, no," said the president. "But on the second nine holes, the answer is definitely yes."

TVA FOR NEAR EAST
Eric Johnston, head of the motion picture industry, came back from the Near East the other day to report to President Eisenhower on the toughest of all diplomatic jobs—building up long-range friendship between Israel and the Arab states.

Johnston was asked by Eisenhower to go to the Near East as his special ambassador, officially to settle the question of Arab refugees, but actually to settle the broader and more basic problem of Arab-Israeli friendship.

What Johnston took with him was a comprehensive plan for impounding the River Jordan and using its waters for power and irrigation under a system similar to the Tennessee Valley. If this irrigation-power plan could be put across, he told the Arabs and Israelis, the Jordan valley could be made to bloom like a rose, and permanent peace and prosperity would prevail in the Near East. Arab refugees could be put to work on the project, thereby removing a difficult thorn in the side of Arab-Israeli relations.

At present Arab refugees, some 875,000 of them, live on the border of Israel, fed by the United Nations and costing American taxpayers about \$60,000,000 this year. All day idle refugees look across little white stone markers which designate the border and watch the new-found prosperity of Israel, some of it on farms they once owned. At night they frequently cross the border to steal sheep or goats.

When they do, the Israelis raid back, and under the old eye-for-an-eye and tooth-for-a-tooth doctrine, men are killed almost every night. Twenty were killed, Johnston reported to the White House, just during his brief stay in the Near East.

JOHNSTON GUARDED
Johnston reported that at first he was met with hostility from both sides. The Arab press claimed his mother and father were Jewish, that he had changed his name. The Israeli press published a cartoon of Johnston with a big knife seeking to carve up Israel. He was warned his life

Morse's Speech

By Charles V. Stanton

In Roseburg News-Review
I was in the audience at the Junior High School auditorium Friday night to hear Senator Wayne Morse talk about Senator Wayne Morse.

The senator's speaking ability never fails to elicit my utmost admiration. Each time I hear him I sit enthralled by his marvelous command of language, his clear enunciation, his voice modulation, the effortless gesture, the tone of conviction, the biting satire, the peerless showmanship, the change of pace and perfect timing.

To one who sweats and strains through every public utterance, trembling with fear at the very thought of facing an audience, the senator's talent seems nothing short of perfection. At oratory he has few peers. But, then, he gets a lot of practice.

Listening to the symphony of words, as one who appreciates words, I almost missed the senator's implication that of the 531 members of the Congress, 530 are party hacks, numbskulls, dupes and or stooges, and that only one knows all the answers. And that the executive branch of government, picked from some of the most successful and highly respected men of the nation, can do nothing constructive and is wrong on all decisions and policies.

Under the spell of his magnificent voice my heart bled as he recounted the indignities heaped upon him—the refusal to allow him to sabotage the party platform, rejecting his choice for vice president, and denying him the opportunity to beat the bass drum on the band wagon.

The sanctimonious words of forgiveness for those who had done him dirt, and the recital of his agony and travail, in mustering courage to be a turncoat, so wove their magic spell that in analyzing reasons for his desertion—specifically overseas extravagance laid at the door of the Republican nominee—I almost missed the fact that overseas extravagance, waste, inefficiency and graft originated with the economic do-gooders of the administration to which the senator had consistently given his allegiance in many past years.

Also the thought that the senator's sudden passion for economy, completely lacking in his prior record, existed only long enough to serve as an alibi, as evidenced by his continuing demands for more free spending.

Almost lost in the masterful flow of dialect words, piously disclaiming ill will against his detractors, and the crime-does-not-pay denunciation of vengeance, was the harsh undertone of jealous vindictiveness against the former Governor of Oregon, now serving as Secretary of Interior, to whom the senator attributes all things evil.

From the clash of minor chords in the symphony of words, I gathered the impression that had editors been dipping their pens in his blood to smear it on their editorial pages, as he so cutely phrased it, they would be writing in the green ink of jealousy. The senator should know that newspaper offices have been using principally red ink

Salem 12 Years Ago

By BEN MAXWELL
November 24, 1941
Nazi divisions had driven to within 31 miles of Moscow.

Fire had wiped out the business section of Seward, Alaska, causing a loss of \$1,000,000.

Brother Wolfgang Schmuhl, OSB, a member of the order for 50 years, had renewed his monastic vows of 1891 at high pontifical mass celebrated in Abbey chapel at Mt. Angel.

Major General George A. White, 60, nationally known fiction writer and commander of the 41st division, had died. In 1915 he had resigned as Sunday editor of the Oregonian to become Oregon's adjutant general of the National Guard.

Coach "Spec" Keene and his party of Willamette university football players were soon to leave Salem on the first leg of their journey to Hawaii where they were to play the University of Honolulu December 6. ("Pearl Harbor" found them there and some did not arrive home for weeks thereafter.)

OPM had issued an order in interest of national defense forbidding all use of tin foil on commercial products after March 15.

United Airline service, scheduled to begin here December 5, 1941 had necessitated an adjustment of details at Salem airport.

since the crowd to which the senator has given his support, to these many years, took office. Take a gander at the list of newspapers forced to fold financially in the past few years!

I must confess great admiration for the senator's agility (Note to proofreaders—No, I don't mean ability) when it comes to answering questions. As a verbal snooker player he is a master of position.

One man at Friday's meeting asked what was behind Brownell's charges. He got, for free, an expert legal opinion that Truman, as a private citizen, should go before the investigating committee voluntarily and then, as ex-president, refuse to answer any questions relative to executive procedure.

Another gentleman asked "What about Trieste?" He received a lengthy and most detailed dissertation on Junior's cleverness, astuteness and ineptitude in forcing through the Senate a resolution favoring the World Court, despite urgings from fellow senators that his resolution was untimely, coupled with a personal plea from the President to delay action.

A third question was for information relative to the current status of the Hells Canyon controversy, which resulted in the full treatment on federal power, which the senator favors, as opposed to free enterprise.

I have heard the senator in several of these brilliant question and answer sessions, but seldom have I heard him bive a fair and square reply. But they furnish a fine springboard from which to launch his dives into his favorite political waters.

As I said earlier, I love to hear the senator speak. I am a great admirer of his technique. But when Senator Morse speaks about Senator Morse it is my opinion that he needs a better subject.

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Hal Writes Today, Unable To Use 'i' Typewriter Key

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP) — Me have a great problem, me has. The eye key on my typewriter ys broken.

Thys may seem no great tragedy to you, but to me yt ys utter desolashun. A good housewife can get her laundry done even though her wash board breaks yn half. A bank robber, by using a gruff manner, may go on and

hold up a bank even though he dyscover, at the last moment, he has left hys pystal at home yn a fyt of absent-mindedness.

A tenor, strycken wyth laryngytys at the top note of hys song, can at least fynish yt by humming tenderly. Eye myself would just as soon he dyd, as eye can understand an opera that ys hummed better than one that ys sung.

But a columnist wyth a broken key on hys typewriter ys a far more pityable plight than a little sparrow wyth arthrytys yn both wyngs. The eye key ys more yndyspensable to hym than hys own hand. He becomes lyke a plate of ham and eggs on which there ys no ham. He ys tongue-tyed.

Me yntended today to wryte an article on the vrytue of never losyng one's temper. Eye was goyng to prayse the man who meets all trouble wyth a smile . . . smile . . . smile. But now my heart ys no longer yn thys subject. Any man who can smile when the eye key on hys typewriter ys broken would break out laughyng at hys own funeral, and thus scandalyze the mynyster.

No, now eye wrysh eye was a Spanyard lyke a friend of myne once met yn Spaine. The Spanyard are sayd by all travelers to be the most artful oath utterers yn the cyyvylized world. They begyn young and study hard all their life long.

Thys partycular Spanyard was middle-aged and at the peak of hys cursyng power. He was a chaffeur and he was drryvyng my friend across Spaine when he had a flat tyre.

The Spanyard was very vexed. Flat tyres annoy Spanyards more than they do Amerycans, because you get more flat tyres yn Spaine because the roads are bad. Thys Spanyard got out hys tools to fix the culprit tyre. But before reparyng yt, he spoke of yt as yt wry were a human beyng, as follows:

"O, tyre—"
Then for fifteen full mynutes he delyvered an eloquent hystory on the flat tyre yn Spaine. He denounced them all. Then he got down to the evyl nature of the partycular flat tyre before him. He questioned yt's ancestry and projected doubts about the charter of yt's offspryng. He called yt by all the bad names ever known, and spontaneusly yntended new and more terryble oaths upon the spot.

"Eye was struck dumb by the pure poetical magnyfyence of thys symple man's rage at an ynyanymat object that had done him wrong," my fryend recalled. "When the Spanyard had fynally fynished, he bent down and fxyed the tyre and we drove on, both refreshed."

Eye wrysh eye was that symple Spanyard.

"Oh eye key on my typewriter—" he would say, and then go on from there. But me am helpless. Even yf me knew Spanysh—which me don't—me could not tell thys typewriter what me really thynk of it untyl thys blasted eye key ys reparyed.

A columnist wyth a broken eye key ys a lonely man wyth lyytle left to say, so me wryll conclude with thys thought: "Sylyence ys golden."

FUMES KILLED FLOWERS.
San Pablo, Calif. (AP)—Nurseryman Francis Aebi complained to the mayor's office that fumes from the city garbage dump have killed thousands of dollars worth of his flowers.

CARELESS COP
Manhattan Beach, Calif. (AP)—Motorcycle Patrolman Robert M. Short noticed something shiny on the highway and pulled over to the curb to investigate. It was his police badge.

Cancer's DANGER SIGNALS

Be on the alert for these Danger Signals . . . they CAN be your Safety Signals . . .

1. A sore that will not heal
2. A lump or thickening in the body
3. Unusual bleeding or discharge
4. Any change in a wart or mole
5. Persistent indigestion
6. Persistent hoarseness or cough
7. Any change in normal bowel habits

Cancer is curable . . . if discovered and treated early. See your Doctor if any symptoms occur.

CAPITAL DRUG STORE
405 State St. (Corner of Liberty)
We Give 25¢ Green Stamps