

Capital Journal

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The Capital Journal's policy is to print all the news in Salem and the surrounding areas with complete and impartiality. On this page you will find the views of our editors and comments by the general public on matters of importance to the community and the nation, published with the view that the Capital Journal is first a CITIZEN OF THIS COMMUNITY.

Ouch! A Sales Tax!!

To begin with the Legislature looked upon a sales tax as anathema. On the surface at least it still meets contemptuous scorn in that body as a thing of utter evil.

And yet a sales tax has been introduced. By whom? The House committee on taxation, no less. The State Tax Commission sires it, but its mother and sponsor is the tax committee.

It calls for a tax on the selling price in real estate transactions. The bill carefully repeats that this includes standing timber. Presumably the seller and not the buyer is to pay the tax, but it's still a sales tax. A neat subterfuge is that some of the lawmakers put it in the category of property tax, and since Oregon has a policy against state property taxes, the bill would give its revenues to the counties instead of the state.

The proposed tax is one-half of one percent on the selling price.

Selling price, says the bill, "shall mean the consideration, in money or anything of value, paid or delivered on contract to be paid or delivered in return for the transfer of real property or estate or interest therein, and shall include the amount of any lien, mortgage, contract, indebtedness, or other encumbrance given to secure payment of the purchase price or any part thereof, or remaining unpaid on such property at the time of such sale, including the amount of any lien or encumbrance existing against the property and agreed to be paid by the purchaser, but shall not include the amount of any outstanding lien or encumbrance in favor of the United States, the State of Oregon, or any political subdivision of the State of Oregon, or a municipal or public corporation of this state."

The seller is defined as "any individual, assignee, receiver, trustee in bankruptcy, trust, estate, firm, copartnership, joint venture, club, company, joint stock company, business trust, corporation, association, society, or any group of individuals acting as a unit, whether mutual, cooperative, fraternal, non-profit or otherwise, but shall not include the United States, the State of Oregon, political subdivisions of the State of Oregon or municipal or public corporations of the state."

The seller would be required to file three copies of an affidavit with the county clerk covering all details of the transaction, one for the clerk, one for the assessor, and one to be returned to seller. These would be confidential records, though the tax commission or the board of equalization might have a look at them if necessary.

Penalty? O, sure. Fall to file that affidavit and they'll fine you from \$10 to \$50, or if somebody accuses you of swearing falsely and proves it to the satisfaction of the court the fine will be from \$100 to \$500. If the tax isn't paid in 30 days it will bear interest at one-half of one per cent per month, and the interest will be added to the tax and likewise bear interest. And, by the way, the clerk or recorder won't record a deed of the sale until the tax is paid.

There was a time when the Legislature steered clear of what was called class legislation. It was unconstitutional, they said. What's happened to that old principle?

Partnership Power Plan

Interior Secretary Seaton in his annual report just issued made a new plea for the Eisenhower administration's "partnership power policy." This policy was first announced by his predecessor, Douglas McKay. The policy stems from the administration's pledge to let local public and private interests, working in partnership with the Federal Government, handle power development whenever possible.

This contradicts rumors that the partnership policy had been abandoned, though Secretary Seaton has repeatedly advocated it. He said:

"There are a great many smaller projects with tremendous implications for the future, which the people of the West can and undoubtedly will build for themselves—often by individual or cooperative action among themselves—and, when occasion requires, in partnership with the Federal Government."

Mr. Seaton warned that the cost of Federal irrigation and power projects is going up, along with other things. Most of the simple, inexpensive projects have been built, he declared. "Today it is clearly evident that the unit costs of most future reclamation work will continue to rise."

The secretary said as costs go up, water users will find it harder to pay for their share of new reclamation projects. The income from the sale of electricity generated at Government dams will have to bear an increasing share of the cost of Federal reclamation projects, he added.

"Since repayment is the foundation of the reclamation program," he declared, "the return by beneficiaries of irrigation of their fair share of the cost must continue as a primary requirement. However, it seems problematical whether many major water developments of the future can be undertaken which can be completely repaid by the water user. . . . It is apparent that we must continue to look to power, even more in the future than in the past, as the paying partner of reclamation."—G.P.

Senate Debacle?

Another hiatus is in prospect for the Oregon State Senate, this time in mid-session. Why?

Mumps.

Pressure groups and lobbyists who have their dependables among the lawmakers have been warned that any member who hasn't had the mumps is a poor risk. He may not be around when needed.

The young son of one of the members has been fraternizing with all of them. It is reported and now the boy has the mumps. They've all been exposed, and a general onslaught of the ailment is imminent—for all,

that is, who haven't had 'em. The senators are all checking their life histories to see how they stand. Fifteen out at one time would bring a legislative debacle.

Mumps is (or do you say "are") a non-dangerous ailment that nevertheless puts a man on his back a week or two just as abundant caution. Otherwise the disease may further expand its visit.

RAY TUCKER

'Hair Curlers' in Washington Alarmed

WASHINGTON—The depression "hair curlers" at Washington have become provoked and alarmed over growing conservative criticism of the "swollen Eisenhower budget" and jibes that the Administration has "gone New Deal-ish." They murmur, although privately, that the friendly but suspicious critics are biting the hand that made them prosperous and freed them from Democratic competition, controls and crackdowns.

Although Secretary Humphrey now regrets his "hair curling" remark, and seeks to make amends by restoring public confidence, the current efforts to repair the damage are being made by lower-level but responsible economists. They are holding secret seminars all over the Capital with businessmen and newspapermen.

Their alarm derives from the recent display of Wall Street jitters, where blue chip stocks dropped sharply after expressions of concern by Humphrey and Herbert Hoover. Officialdom has also been shaken by the prospect that its fears may be reflected in cutbacks in industrial expansion plans, curtailment of purchasing power and general stagnation.

Washington's Walling Is Resented

Ironically, it is F.D.R.'s "economic royalists" who resent Washington's walling most bitterly, even as they condemn the Administration for so-called "extravagance" and for expanding Roosevelt-Truman services and reforms. In recent statements, such Republican institutions as the United States Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers have indulged in this kind of criticism.

But the most devastating indictment came from a business and financial magazine edited by a former Eisenhower economic adviser and a man once mentioned as a possible Cabinet member. It scoffed at talk of a "depression," and taunted Ike, Humphrey, Hoover and Weeks for their contradictory comments on the current and future state of the country's economy.

It concluded with the biting remark to the effect that "too many jawbones are rattling" at Washington for the nation's good. In view of the source of this criticism, this is politico-economic heresy.

Soothing Analyses of Budget

Here are a few of the belated and second-thought soothing analyses of the \$71.8-billion budget and the Administration's trends now being distributed by official spokesmen who must be nameless:

Although the budget is the highest in peacetime annals, it is balanced, and inflation rarely occurs under such conditions. The Government expects to spend less than it receives in revenue. Gross national income has risen by 12.5 per cent. Federal spending by only 11 per cent in two years.

Population has increased by 11,000,000 in two years, with no sign of a letdown. The labor force has grown by almost 4,000,000 with constantly increasing wages and savings, and with a minimum of unemployment. Although Ike has reduced the number of employees, the cost has been boosted by salary increases granted by Congress.

Heavier Demand for Public Services

Although the demand for public services has become heavier, they were, of necessity, neglected during World War II and the Korean conflict—roads, schools, hospitals, research of all kinds. The expanding population and changing social and economic conditions, according to this viewpoint, require greater and more expensive government efforts to ameliorate the new strains and burdens on its citizens.

The Communist menace and our major Allies' military inadequacies get the principal blame for peak expenditures. Push-button warfare and weapons grow more costly day by day. National defense—national security—accounts for more than 60 per cent of the budget. Paying for past wars alone—there are 22,000,000 living veterans—exceeds the total of Hoover's budget, as does the interest on the national debt. Both are about \$7 billion.

For Quick Reading

Ponsonby Showed Him

British Diplomat Viscount Ponsonby was for some years the Ambassador at the Court of Constantinople, then dominated by the Sultan of Turkey, an absolute monarch.

The Sultan subjected the diplomatic corps to repeated indignities, and at one time got it into his head that the diplomats were not showing sufficient humility when ushered into his presence.

To correct this he had a very low door built, through which they would have to crawl to enter the throne room.

Ponsonby made the Sultan regret this. He crawled through the door, as directed, but crawled through backward.

When the Sultan saw the wide expanse of breeches looming into view, his face turned purple. But he got the point, and the door was dismantled.—*Washington Journal*.

JAMES MARLOW

Bi-Partisan Policy Has Been Split

By JAMES MARLOW
Associated Press News Analyst
WASHINGTON—President Eisenhower's meeting with congressional leaders was an encore.

He met with them 51 days ago on the same problem: the Middle East. In that time the problem has deepened.

So his confusion over this country's thinking on the Middle East, including Israel, has deepened.

In that time the cherished Democratic-Republican bipartisanship on foreign policy has been badly split. And Dulles has been treated to the most angry Democratic criticism of his four years in office, even to being called a "liar."

Should Have Talked Less

If Dulles had talked less, and more to the point, there would now be a clearer understanding at home and abroad of what the administration has in mind on the Middle East in general and Israel in particular.

Instead of letting Democratic congressional leaders be the first to know of the program and how they felt, the administration—meaning Dulles' State Department—"leaked" it to a newspaper Dec. 28.

Democrats have indicated since they consider this an attempt to build up public pressure on them for approval before Eisenhower ever asked for their views. His program was a three-in-one package. He wanted congressional approval for:

Who'll Get Economic Aid?

Huge economic aid to the Middle East, although who'll get it, and how and why, is not clear; gifts of arms to certain Middle Eastern countries; and use of American armed forces to stop Communist aggression in the area.

There followed many days of testimony by Dulles and other administration officials before congressional committees, publicly and behind closed doors. In all he said Dulles followed one consistent line: vagueness. It irritated Democrats.

The House has approved the program. The Senate, starting debate on it this week, will probably put some strings on it. Meanwhile, something else had been happening.

Israel had ignored the United Nations' demand that it quit territory claimed by Egypt, contending it first must have guarantees against Egyptian attack. The Arab members of the U.N. were getting set to ask for sanctions against Israel for defying the world organization.

Hasn't Sanctioned Russia

But the U.N. has not even considered sanctions against a big power, Russia—which ignored the U.N. demand that it get out of Hungary.

Israel not only is a friend of the United States, which helped create it, but has a lot of friends in this country, including members of Congress, who oppose sanctions against it.

But if the United States refuses to vote sanctions against Israel, it would antagonize the Arabs at the moment the administration is trying to win them over with Eisenhower's program.

In the hope of avoiding such a showdown, Dulles asked Israel to pull back its troops. But Israel refused Dulles just as it had refused the U.N.

Now the squeeze is on. The Democratic Policy Committee in the Senate voted unanimously yesterday against sanctions on Israel. And Eisenhower's own Republican Senate leader, William Knowland of California, has come out flatly against sanctions.

Dulles will now have to talk his way out of this one, or get in deeper.

Blue Blunder

Albany Democrat-Herald

The Air Force has crash landed in full public view because the master pilot forgot to check his fuel supply.

The fuel in question is money and the belly-shopper is the goof on moving the interceptor base from Portland to near Woodburn.

A year ago the Air Force wept elegant tears about its plight in Portland.

The high brass said these things: The runways weren't long enough for rattle-dazzle jets. The surrounding ground area was heavily populated and in danger. The field and the approach lanes were overpopulated by the airlines which share the field. People objected to the jet whoosh.

So the Air Force took a look at areas near Tangent, Corvallis and Sheridan, and then picked the Woodburn area. Colonel's made no-go-away gestures at farmers occupying the ground, peoned stakes between the oats, peas, beans and barley, and mumbled all sorts of settler noises.

Then, rather than \$17 million or whatever was expected, the Air Force got nothing. Now Portland is just fine, if the runways are long enough.

If we were one of those Woodburn area farmers who has prepared for the past year to fold up the family tent, we'd still fold it and march on Washington. We'd look for the blue-uniformed eagle-eyed adventurer who walked into the Willamette valley with a rubber check.

It's Still Not Clear



DAVID LAWRENCE

If Industry Labor Costs Continue to Spurt Ahead, Profits Will Be Wiped Out

WASHINGTON—Industry is falling behind in the race with rising labor costs. The rate of profit after taxes is going down. Figures are becoming available from more and more companies, telling what happened in 1956.

This is what's back of the recent wave of worry. While it is generally conceded that no depression is immediately ahead, there are indications of considerable anxiety that, unless the trend is reversed, the profit margin will be wiped out.

The Monsanto Chemical Company, one of the biggest in the chemical field, reported sales up 3.8 per cent, expenses up 4.8 per cent and profits after taxes down 5.5 per cent.

In automobiles, the Ford Motor Company report shows that sales were down 16.9 per cent but expenses were down only 14.5 per cent, so profits, after taxes, came down by 45.9 per cent.

DR. WILLIAM BRADY

Lists of Special Foods Are Misleading, 'For the Birds'

Once when I was an intern one of my classmates, already in practice, called our professor of surgery in consultation, and the professor invited me to go along for the ride, a hundred miles downstate. At the farmhouse we found a youth with appendicitis.

I gave the anesthetic, my classmate assisted and the professor operated in the kitchen, successfully. The professor's fee was modest, although it seemed fabulous to me—my pay as intern was \$10 a month. But what impressed me most was the professor's instruction to the patient's mother—precisely how to prepare chicken jelly to be fed, in teaspoonful doses, beginning next morning, gradually increased from hour to hour. . . . I thought it was wonderful, and apparently the patient's family and relatives did too.

Made An Impression

A few years later I paid a visit to a doctor who had been in practice about six years. He took me along on some of his calls. He, too, made an impression on his patients and on me, checking off lists of foods each patient might and might not eat. Everybody took it all quite seriously. Darn it, right there I began to fear I could never attain success in practice. I was right. I never did. That, I want you all to understand clearly, is the reason why I took up this health column. It is easy to tell the truth or not to pretend I know when actually I don't.

Now comes a promotion manager who asks me to name a book that gives information on special diets for persons suffering with diverticulitis or ulcers.

I was about to reply in my usual manner—you know me, folks—when I took a second look at the man's letterhead and discovered—whe-w, that was a close shave—that he is promotion manager of a newspaper that prints my column.

Would Have Been Amused

So I donned my Dr. Jekyll disguise and replied that I know of no such a book or books, at least

nothing published in the past forty years. I observed that when I was bellyaching with what the doctor believed to be diverticulitis some three or four years ago, had some doctor suggested a diet I would have been amused.

As for gastric (which means stomach, not gas) or duodenal (the duodenum is the 12-inch breath portion of intestine just beyond outlet of stomach) ulcer, various cut-and-dried diets which were popular thirty years ago are almost forgotten today. There'll be more or less protest from oldtimers, I expect, but in my opinion, lists of foods which the patient "may eat" or "may not eat" are for the birds. No doubt many customers will continue to buy them, just as many knuckleheads continue to eschew this and that wholesome and desirable food lest it contain "lactic acid" or "purine," the nitrogenous material from which uric acid is derived, such as red meat, liver, beans, oatmeal.

Within reasonable limitations a persons with a diverticulum (*) or an ulcer should eat what he likes. (*) Diverticulum is a pouch or pocket leading off from intestine. Most persons have one or two, which only rarely give trouble.

And We Agree

Eugene Register Guard

Drew Pearson, the Washington pundit whose column this newspaper somehow gets along with, out, tells how Douglas McKay did not get invited to the presidential inauguration, although he hung around Washington waiting for an invitation. The night before, says Drew, he left the capital "a broken and disillusioned man, to return to Oregon."

Upon reading this Mabel McKay wrote the columnist a letter. It seems he had a couple of facts wrong. The truth was that the McKays were invited. They shared a pew with the Eisenhowers on Jan. 6 and drove with them to the White House. They left Washington 10 days before the inaugural ceremonies, not the night before. They left when they had planned to leave. They did not return to Oregon.

There are a few industries that show improvement, but the bulk are on the minus side. In all industries, small business has been proportionately hurt even more by the rising costs.

Yet, in spite of these facts, labor-union bosses feel they must force the wage scales upward and upward in order to keep ambitious rivals from driving them out of office. It's a dilemma that, curiously enough, Congress has shown a strange reluctance to investigate and expose. But until the people get all the facts, they cannot decide what the answer is or what remedy must be applied if a serious depression is to be avoided.

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HAL BOYLE

Bees Vibrate 440 Times Per Second; Some Buzzin'; Cousin

NEW YORK—Things a columnist might never know if he didn't open his mail:

That the phrase "red tape"—meaning the annoying delays of officialdom—arose in the 19th Century in England, where government and legal documents were tied with a pink-red tape.

That Maine is the only state in the union which adjoins only one other state.

That a honeybee vibrates its wings 440 times a second, or 26,400 times a minute. . . . and that's some buzzin', cousin!

Black Sea Not Black

That the Black Sea isn't black. . . . it gets its name because of the dense fogs and violent storms that darken the area.

That the "monkey wrench" got

its name from its inventor, Charles Monck, a London blacksmith.

That U.S. government publications, which usually bear titles as long-winded as a marathon runner, now include a booklet that is simply called "Beer" wonder what in the world it could be about?

That Arthur Murray says to learn to dance the cha-cha all you have to do is wave goodby—without using your hands.

That bees usually fly in a straight line than crows. . . . so, if you're in a real hurry, you'll get there faster by "making a beeline" than by going "as the crow flies."

You Might Be a Poet

That you are a born poet if, offhand, you can think up words that rhyme with coffee. . . . or cobra. . . . or awkward. (All right, then, take all day.)

That one can get a divorce in only seven states on the grounds a mate is a drug addict.

That "dungarees" comes from the Indian word, dungri, the name of a Bombay suburb where a coarse blue cotton cloth was first manufactured.

That the Danish flag, which has a large white cross on a red field, is the oldest unchanged national flag in existence. . . . it originated in the 13th Century.

That the headline writer who wrote "alcohol plant in Indiana explodes" missed a better one: "Boom! Hi!"

One Record, One Child

That every time pop singer Teresa Brewer comes out with a million-seller hit record she also has had a child. . . . her present boxscore: three hits, three children.

That it was Sophie Tucker, who observed:

"From birth to age 18, a girl needs good parents. From 18 to 35, she needs good looks. From 35 to 55, she needs a good personality. From 55 on, she needs good cash."

OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW

The generation that grew up in the thirties and are socialists are getting old enough to know better. Sherman County Journal.

SHOULD BE DISCARDED

The proposal to have an appointive officer handle elections stinks to high heaven and should be discarded by honest men. Sherman County Journal.

burdened pipe lines leading from Lone Oak village.

A delegation of irrigation users from West Slayton district had asked the Marion county court to provide funds for a water master since a state authority had made determination about water rights on the North Santiam and Mill creek.

Flax experts had told Oregon fiber growers that they must look ahead to operation of the industry on a competitive basis and they found little hope in support through a higher tariff or subsidies, even if such were desired. Oregon growers were also informed that the state's production of fiber was but a small share of world production.

Lone Oak village, only suburban area outside city limits whose residents wanted to be annexed to Salem, was threatened to be the first to lose a city service privilege. Flooded basements in the Rosedale district were attributed to over-

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