

Comments On Public Affairs
BY REPRESENTATIVE RALPH T. MOORE

Newspaper headlines announce the fact that there is a serious shortage of lumber in prospect for 1943. An earnest attempt is being made to induce loggers to return to the woods to overcome the log famine threatening the industry.

This brings to mind the similar conditions of the first World War when it was found necessary to use soldiers in the woods and mills to maintain necessary high rates of production.

It seems to be impossible for a democracy to benefit by experience. Each group of officials who administer the laws have to be educated by their own experience. The characteristics assigned to natives of the great State of Missouri seem to have spread over the whole nation. We find ourselves in even a worse mud-dle than we were in during the first World War. It is worse because this war is far greater in its scope and demands a far greater effort on the part of the citizens.

The one fact that tends to alleviate the perils of the situation is the inclination on the part of our High Command not to move until our boys have been adequately supplied with the proper munitions to overwhelm the enemy. This policy will result in somewhat prolonging the war, probably, but will save a great many American lives. Our High Command is to be commended for their thoughtfulness and care in the use of the forces placed at their disposal.

There can be no blame attached to anyone having to do with our selective draft system. The latter is so complicated that no particular officer or groups of officers have control over policy making. This has been characteristic of the bureaucratic system for the past decade and is not conducive to the prompt and vigorous action essential during war times.

Local draft boards are composed of patriotic men giving freely of their time and effort, without compensation, for the good of the nation. They are swamped with various and often conflicting directives until they hardly know what they are supposed to do, or where they stand. It would appear to be much more intelligent to make the matter of draft state-wide instead of being concentrated in Washington. This method would result in a better balance between armed forces and necessary supplies to maintain them at the proper level of efficiency.

But in spite of all the rushing wildly in many directions we will somehow, middle through and get the job of winning the war over with. A democracy does not wage war efficiently but does work best during peace times. The one thing we have overlooked in the past is the necessity for maintaining peace by having such a powerful army and navy that no one would dare attack. It would be costly but far cheaper than to sacrifice the lives of our young men as we will have to do before this is over.

An interesting news item appeared on the inside of one of the dailies this week. It told of the laying off of a large number of workers at the largest munitions plant in Canada. This plant was working on equipment for the Canadian army. The dispatch stated that the army had been equipped to the point where heavy production was no longer needed.

This could mean one of two things. That the goods were being piled up in the warehouses because sufficient shipping was not available to move it, or it could mean that the army was fully equipped in proportion to its numbers and that only replacements would be needed hereafter.

Owing to the fact that shipbuilding industries have done so well, and because of the increasing efficiency of the anti-submarine patrol, it is probable that the latter of the two facts is the true one.

Canadian munitions plants have been working much longer than ours. The Canadian army is much smaller than ours. But it does give them substantial relief in the problem of farm man-power at a time when Canada badly needs it.

It is to be hoped that the United States will arrive at that point some time in the not too distant future. It would mean that the end of the war was in sight.

The appointment of L. D. Felsheim as county judge is well received throughout the county. Mr. Felsheim's executive ability, plus his personality, should insure his success as head of the county government.

When the matter was placed in the governor's hands he had to use his own judgment in selecting the proper man and was no doubt influenced by his past acquaintance with Mr. Felsheim.

The appointment seems to be a happy one and the entire county will unite behind Mr. Felsheim to give him its loyal support in his administration.

This choice by the governor is a well deserved tribute to Mr. Felsheim's long years of faithful public service. Particularly was his courage and perseverance of help to the Bandon people during the soul-trying days of the great fire. Louis came through nobly then and he will come through just as nobly now.

Because I am Representative at the State Legislature several small employers have complained to me about the difficulties they are having in paying off their men properly. They brought their troubles to me thinking that I could do something about it. But I hasten to assure them that I am just as troubled as they and that no one, not even in Washington, seems to know all of the answers to this perplexing problem.

In former days one had merely to sit down and write out a check and forget it. Now it has become a ritual as complicated as the Abrahams of the most secret of fraternal societies.

So many different organizations have their hands in the workman's pocket and require the employers, by law, to make the deductions from this payroll, that only the best trained accountants have any chance of keeping things straight.

In a current issue of Collier's magazine there appears two very spicy cartoons on this very subject. One of them shows a line of workmen getting their money at the pay window. Then a little further down is another window at which the deductions are made. The manager explains this peculiar arrangement by saying that it is good for the morale of the workmen to let them hold their full pay in their hands even for a few seconds.

The other picture shows two buildings side by side. The smaller of the two, a mere shack, is the factory of a manufacturing company. The larger of the two, an imposing building, is explained by the owner as being the building in which the company's government forms are made out.

Can more be said to illustrate the absurdity of our present bureaucratic system?

The eyes of the Oregon Production Board are being focused on Coos county because of its large timber stands and because of the alarming shortage of lumber in prospect this year.

It defies the imagination to conceive of the huge quantities of boards and dimension wood in crating the thousands of airplanes, parts for motorized vehicles, ammunition, and other munitions, for our armed forces.

An appeal is being made to all former loggers to return to their former jobs as a patriotic duty. No greater service can be done to our native land by anyone with experience in logging than to return to the woods and help meet the tremendous goal set for the industry by the War Production Board.

Let everyone keep this in mind during the coming season and help in every way possible to see that sufficient logs are produced to supply our mills for the coming winter. It is as important as the manufacture of guns and ammunition. Our boys at the front need proper shelter as well as munitions. Let us see that they get them both.

A peculiar situation has arisen in regard to the Occupational Disease Bill passed the last night of the 42nd session.

The conference committee, composed of Senators Walsh and Wallace, and Representatives Lage and Moore, arrived at an agreement as to the final draft of the bill. One of the points in controversy was the manner of selecting the medical board to examine claimants. The Senate had one method of selection, the House another.

In the final draft, as the Senate conceded several points to the House, the House conceded the method of medical board selection to the Senate. The bill then, as finally turned out by the conference committee, carried the Senate's method of medical board selection rather than the House method and was passed in that way by both houses.

It now develops that through some clerical error, the House's method of selection was printed in the bill as it was laid on the Governor's desk.

The Governor, not being aware of any mistake, promptly signed the bill. Now we have a situation in which the Legislature passed one draft of the bill and the Governor

signed another. However, the matter is not particularly serious, and, as there is no question of legislative intent, the matter can be left over to be corrected by the next legislature. If necessary, the Supreme Court could change the content of the bill to make it conform with the intent of the legislature.

This sort of thing has happened before and in this case is not particularly serious. It does show the danger in having a flood of bills at the last moment. Chances of clerical error are very great and future legislatures will do well to avoid this final confusion.

Indicative of the general concern over the war-time fate of the small business-man is the current investigation by Congress of the possibilities of using most small businesses in the war production campaign.

Deluged by a plague of bureaucratic forms, handicapped by a hopeless tangle of priority regulations, often attacked by labor unions, and deprived of efficient help, a large proportion of small businesses have given up the ghost and quit for the duration, if not forever. Only the hardiest have mustered the courage to keep plugging. Many have seen their profits destroyed and the savings of a lifetime swept away.

It is beginning to be clear that one must be very small or very large to survive. If very small, one escapes most of the bureaucratic annoyance and is left pretty much to himself. His greatest handicap is the priority difficulty. If large, the Government can not very well afford to let the business die and will therefore grudgingly concede whatever is necessary to keep things going.

This sort of thing throws our economy off balance and the danger is fully realized by legislative, government, labor and civic leaders of the better types. A real effort is being made to come to the rescue with something to do for the armed forces. Many good showings have been made by little shops able to convert to war work.

A little booklet entitled "Jobs, Freedom, Opportunity," is being circulated around as an answer to the question of what we are really fighting for. It is an answer to the post-war planning scheme of the English economist, Keynes, whose works have greatly influenced the American economy during the past decade.

This book lists the above three things as being of the greatest interest to the boys in our armed forces at this time. After reading it I must say that the text does indeed express the general theme and trend of thought of those returned soldiers and sailors with whom it has been my privilege to talk. They are unitedly interested in the prospect of jobs and opportunity for advancement. They are remarkably clear in their thought, for young fellows. One has not time for unimportant frills and trifles in the jungles of Guadalcanal or on the sands of Africa. Things that matter seem naturally to come to the surface and all others fade in such places. These lads will be hard to sell gold bricks to when they come home to us.

The Oregon legislature sought to protect the state's small businesses by reducing taxes and removing troublesome regulations wherever it could. But the Federal burden is so very much greater than the state-imposed that even the maximum help by the legislature will have little effect. The job must be done by both federal and state acting in unison.

It is significant that England has increased personal income taxes but left corporate pretty much as they were. The English are preparing for the business of peace by bolstering up their private economy. They have politely listened to the philosophy of Keynes and Beveridge and just as politely pigeon-holed them both. Old John Bull is bluntly realistic in the matter of business.

If the English are sold on the idea that free enterprise for profit is the only sound basis of economy, we should be more so. They have had centuries of experience and have tried about everything in the book. Isn't it proof enough, then, of the effectiveness of our business structure that they have adopted it?

We have built up the 'greatest country on the earth by free enterprise. We will deserve everything that will happen to us if we are foolish enough to trade it off for the nebulous theories of a foreign economist.

Our small businesses need nothing more than to be let alone. They are the life-giving cells of our national economy. If they die, the nation dies with them. Let the past decade of unfriendliness towards business be succeeded by a decade of friendliness and co-operation. Our troubles will quickly vanish and real social security will come to our people.

Woman's Club Annual May Day Dance, Saturday, May 1, in Coquille Community Building. Come and see the queen crowned at 9:00 p. m. Admission 55 cents per person. 134

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNTY COURT

Table listing court proceedings with names, addresses, and amounts. Includes entries for Mrs. Lillian Short, Tallant Greenough, State Ind. Acc. Comm., West Coast Telephone Co., H. R. Horner, Marie Bellah, Edna Peterson, Alice Perrott, Eleanor Peterson, Muriel Davis, Catherine Trendall, Juliene Freeman, Marie Clinton, J. W. Leneve, Georgianna Vaughan, H. C. Getz, Eli Sanders, May Eneale, Idyle A. Godard, Dr. G. E. Stark, Lela Elrod, Ethel C. Littler, Carolyn Huff, James H. Leonard, Louis J. Langenberg, Earl L. Schroeder, Chas. Roberts, Belle Whitsett, F. C. McNelly, Edith McNelly, H. R. Clark, Lela Elrod, Ethel C. Littler, Coquille Medical Service Bureau, Mutual Benefit Health & Acc. Comm., James H. Leonard, Lars P. Peterson, Frances Skyles, E. L. Peterson, P. W. Culver, Louis P. Fugate, Hazel Foss, Koke Chapman Company, Coos Bay Harbor, Hans Nelson, Campbell Funeral Home, Drs. Peacock, Long & French, Burks Camera & Art Shop, Louis J. Langenberg, City of Marshfield, Chadwick Lodge No. 68, A. F. & A. M., Coquille Bakery, Stonecypher Packing Co., Central Transfer Co., Marchant Calculating Mach. Co., West Coast Telephone Co., West Coast Telephone Co., Services, defense council, Marshfield Chamber of Commerce, D. H. Benson, James McWilliam, E. C. Standley, Coos Bay Times, Emma M. Pierce, Helen Winegar, Georgia Davidson, Wilda Mae Van Meter, Yvonne Kern, Wilda Ostrander, Alice Rhay, Jean Newton, Jean Williams, Wm. F. Howell, Wm. S. Howell, B. K. Werner, Burroughs Adding Machine Co., L. W. Oddy, Charles W. Forrest, Chas. Stauff, Leonard C. Wiltsky, Chas. Stauff, Western Union, Mrs. James H. Leonard, F. C. McNelly, Coos County Farm, Pioneer Grocery, Busy Corner Grocery, A. G. Trendell, Harold Zeigler, C. J. Martell, John B. O'Sullivan, Charles Matzer, Carl Mathews, L. C. Burner, C. F. Hawk, Orin Demarest, Chas. Hofer, Bill C. Daggett, William Dinsmore, Cecil Hartley, Coll McLean, Carl Shore, Ben A. Wigle, Jason Smart, Walter L. Taff, Ben Kuhnert, Van A. Spores, Berlyn Billings, Gustav Amundsen, Howard Carver, Ora Young, C. F. Christian, Harold Robert, Teen Miller, Don Crouch, Sye Davis, L. E. Hamlin, Charles Wolff, Robert Palmer, Alda L. Nosler, Arlyn Barklow, Lou L. Spencer, Zeno Bridge, S. P. Bright, Henry Wisti, Chas. E. McDonald, Bullards Ferry, George Huther, Fry Medical Service Bureau, Mutual Benefit Health & Acc. Insurance Co., Chas. Stauff, U. S. Collector for Intl. Rev., Isaac R. Tower, Shell Oil Co., Mountain States Power Co., Peoples Water & Gas Co., Hazer Hardware Co., Howard Cooper Corporation, Nelson Equipment Co., Interstate Tractor & Equip. Co., Columbia Equipment Co., J. A. Lamb Co., Oregon-Nevada-Calif. Freight, Huling Lundy & Sons, George Huther, George A. Martin, West Coast Telephone Co., West Coast Telephone Co., services, Coos Bay Logging Co., Cecil Hartley, Kruse & Banks Shipbldg. Co., George Yost, W. P. Fuller, Robert L. Owen, State Ind. Acc. Comm., State Ind. Acc. Comm., Mountain States Power Co., Q. K. Rubber Welders, Coquille Service Station, George F. Burr Motor Co., F. A. Robb, Gregg Hardware Material, Moore Mill & Lumber Co., Lumber, Southern Pacific Co., Feenaughty Machinery Co., Coos Bay Stationery Co., City of Coquille, Union Oil Co., Coquille Wood Co., Industrial Repair Co., Farr & Elwood Co., Pioneer Hardware Co., Oregon Pacific Co., Rogers Rock Products, McGeorge Gravel Co., F. S. Slover Co., Smith Wood Products, Inc., A. B. Daly & Co., Western Auto Supply Co., Mintonye & Wardrip, C. J. O'Neil, Golders Auto Parts Co., Bay Motors, Orchard Auto Parts Co., Thornton Tire Service, Southwestern Motor Co., Earl Littrell Supply Co., Southwestern Motors, J. & J. Tire Co., Isaac R. Tower, J. E. Haseltine & Co., Stevens Cash Hardware, McNair Hardware Co., Standard Oil Co., STATE OF OREGON, County of Coos, I. L. W. Oddy, Coos County Clerk of Coos County, Oregon, and ex-officio clerk of the county court, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a statement of the amount of claims allowed by the county court, at the regular April term thereof, as the same appears on the exhibits of claims in my office and custody. WITNESS my hand and the seal of the County Court affixed this 15th day of April, 1943. I. L. W. Oddy, County Clerk (Seal) By J. W. Leneve, Deputy