

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

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Timely Topics

By R. T. Moore

Of the several spectacular events occurring recently in Washington, public attention is directed chiefly to the food price situation and the OPA.

There is wide-spread dissatisfaction with the bureaucratic control of food production and several so-called "strikes" of producers have occurred in different parts of the nation. The trouble seems to be the difficulty in adjusting the OPA machinery to fit the varying conditions and circumstances of production in the many food producing centers.

This Administration has an underlying economical philosophy which substitutes bureaucratic control for the profit incentive to encourage production. It attempts to displace the unruly law of supply and demand with the rigid yard stick of a planned economy. It is now painfully evident that this philosophy of bureaucratic control is not workable in a country as large and as wealthy as ours. The Administration varies widely from that of President Wilson in the method of handling food supplies and distribution. Wilson chose to direct rather than set aside the laws of supply and demand. One of his devices was the loosely organized but remarkably effective Consumers League composed mostly of housewives. The League's function was to control prices by the simple device of a buyers' strike whenever prices exceeded a reasonable level. The cost of operating was practically nothing and the device worked quite well. Contrast this with the present system of rigid bureaucratic control of prices and rationing that costs the taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, costs the storekeepers enormous clerical work, and sets up a huge staff of employees that will be hard to get rid of after the war because of political expediency.

Older folks can judge the relative merits of these two systems by the light of their own experience. Younger folks will have to judge by the light of common sense because they did not go through the experience of World War No. 1. There is no better teacher than experience, although it charges like a specialist.

The theme of the Government's convention in Ohio seems to have been a question of restoration of States' rights. Every state represented seems to have had the same complaint, namely, that the tremendous Federal bureaucracy has usurped many vital public functions of the states and has deprived the taxpayers and voters of a direct voice in the functions of many departments of their State Government. There was demand that the Federal government withdraw to its proper place under the constitution and relinquish the strangle-hold it has on State economy.

This sort of thing has been creeping slowly over the states during the past decade. Little by little, through the device of expense sharing and huge public works, the proper functions of State government have been set aside by the alphabetical Federal agencies. Like a creeping paralysis, the process has been painless and not noticeable to voters and taxpayers. But heavy income tax levies reaching down to the lowest wage earner have drawn the matter into the broad daylight of publicity and the people are gravely concerned over the predicament they find themselves in and are demanding that the trend be reversed.

We have an illustration of this in the administration of the large western power projects built with taxpayers' money. Although local men, presumed familiar with local conditions, are employed to administer these power projects, they are powerless to get into every detail. The projects have been passed on by some department in Washington. There is no definite fixing of authority and no individual is responsible. Buck passing is rampant and maddening delays in decision on vital matters are the rule.

The attitude of the government agencies is that the money and the goods which they control is theirs

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, July 13, 1923)

The Coquille school directors have decided to build a play shed at the grade building and to provide better play equipment than the children have had the use of before.

Coquille's need of a community building was never more forcibly emphasized than it was the last two nights of the Chautauqua when hundreds could not be accommodated in the tent full of seats and had to stand throughout the programs.

During the past week more boards have been torn off the boys' bath house across the river from the city wharf, the windows of the girls' building have been broken. These bath houses are an accommodation to the swimmers but unless they are taken care of they will soon become utterly worthless. The buildings were originally provided by funds raised by the Woman's Club.

John E. Perrott returned yesterday morning from a business trip to Portland, where he bought new stock for the Variety Shop.

to dispense as they see fit. They point back to the time when business was in distress and welcomed the large sums dished out by the Federal Reserve Bank and RFC as being proof that business was incapable of handling the situation and that the entry of government into business is essential to the welfare of the nation. The large sums extracted from the taxpayers are assumed to be the exclusive property of the present administration and there is little heed given to the sources from which they came. The fact is, of course, that these sums so lavishly expended are the property of the American taxpayers and not of the administration. There is no legal or moral right to expend those sums in any other manner than for the benefit of the entire public and not merely for that of a certain favored group of people. The tendency to centralize all authority in Washington leads to a dangerous abrogation of the political franchise of the individual citizen. It is a step straight toward state socialism, or fascism, or communism. They all have the same basic philosophy, the ascendancy of the state over the individual. It is good to know that the strong stand taken by the governors is having its effect on Washington and seems to have halted this dangerous trend.

WASHINGTON, D. C. MAN SAYS PRESENT ADMINISTRATION STINKS

A friend in Washington, who was somewhat of a New Dealer before he went to Washington, D. C., from Coquille, writes to the Sentinel enclosing a copy of the Washington Post and calls attention to editorials therein. He says those Post items substantiate the statement he made once before that this country needs a hard-headed business man in the presidential office. He adds, "I don't think you people out west realize what is going on here in Washington. We see and hear how the government spends money shipping things back and forth, or in sending them 200 or 300 miles in the wrong direction. The department in which I work is no exception. I have not put in a hard day's work since I have been here. Government work is a position, not a job.

"Our government is the best in the world and I would not say anything that would hurt it, but—this administration just stinks."

One of the Post editorials is headed "Scolding the Press," and is reprinted below:

It is not a dignified spectacle to see the President use his press conference time after time as a vehicle for the flaying of the free press of America. On Tuesday he attained a new peak in scolding. There was nothing particularly abhorrent about it. It was all-inclusive; columnists and commentators, news reporters and radio analysts. He just stopped short, as one of the scoldees put it, "of holding them collectively responsible for the wave of feuds, resignations, recriminations and wide-spread turmoil that have attended domestic phases of the war program in recent weeks."

Such a comprehensive excoriation is simply not justified. The newspapers have not invented or even fomented any of the wranglings which of late have disfigured the Washington scene. They did not cause the rumpus which terminated when Mr. Davis quitted his office as Food Administrator. They did not set Mr. Ickes and the War Labor Board at loggerheads. They did not inspire either Mr. Jones' sabotage of the BEW or Mr. Wallace's blistering counterattack. These troubles were

If you hear the siren sounded at seven o'clock Thursday evenings it will not be necessary to rush out madly and look for the fire. It will be a summons to the fire department for drill.

Dr. G. Earl Low reports the birth of a son to Mr. and Mrs. Harold K. Hodge, at Fishtrap, Tuesday night.

Mrs. R. A. Wernich is enjoying a visit from her mother, Mrs. A. M. Gray, who arrived here from Minneapolis, Minn., yesterday. It is her intention to remain here until Mrs. Wernich disposes of their home on the highway and is ready to start east. Mr. Wernich has been in the east for six weeks and Mrs. Wernich expects to join him some time next month.

One of the best attractions of the Chautauqua was the contortion exhibition given by Miss Dena Ellingson, who was assisted in part by Doris Kay. Miss Ellingson, who has appeared before a Coquille audience on previous occasions, is self taught along that line, and shows great ability.

generated within the Administration till by the force of their internal combustion they blew up. Even Mr. Elmer Davis is now forced to admit that the recent sound and fury constitutes legitimate news. The newspaper press would be untrue to its trust if it failed to record it. Only by having the news will the American people be able to insist upon improvement.

The time has come to ask what is back of the President's onslaught. Is the confidence of the American people in their free press? It looks like it. The President is not content with criticism of the way newspapers are conducted or of their news sense of proportion. He is constantly casting slurs at the integrity of the news-men. They are accused of being artists in color, not for the fun of it, but because or orders from their "bosses." Such charges are questionable in taste, but, more importantly, they are serious from the standpoint of public policy. If the President were to succeed in undermining public confidence in the free press, serious consequences might follow. After all, the press is the cornerstone of our free institutions, and we should be well on the way to the loss of other freedoms if the people's faith in the press were lost. It is only when the people have lost faith in their institutions that the man on horseback has a smooth ride.

We prefer to think that the criticism is merely the spleen of a man who is harassed by the delinquencies of his Administration. It is human to find whipping boys. However, it may be dangerous for the President in this case to make the newspaper press a whipping boy. That will retard instead of furthering both the war effort and the maintenance of a free America. If the Administration's house is not in order, as it isn't, then the honest thing to do is to try to put it right, not to put up camouflage.

Oregon War Chest Drive To Be Held In October

Thirty-four counties of Oregon have selected chairmen and are now forming their committees to conduct the Oregon War Chest drive in October, according to Charles A. Sprague, state chairman, and the other two counties will be organized soon.

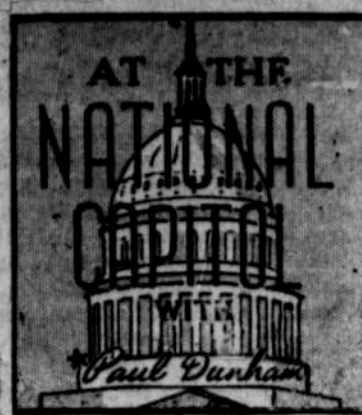
The Oregon War Chest is the local representative of the National War Fund and will conduct the campaign to raise funds this fall for sixteen agencies and their allied organizations. There will be one, big, coordinated drive in place of numerous small ones, thus affording a great saving in manpower and in expense.

Every effort will be put forth to give every resident of Oregon an opportunity to contribute to this work of the war-related agencies and to the local agencies. The Oregon War Chest is developing rapidly and people are responding. Indications point to the fact that Oregon will be leading in this movement as it has in so many war-related movements in the past.

Circuit Court Cases

- July 13—Cleo Yvonne King vs. Leonard LeRay King. Suit for divorce.
- July 13—Edith M. Collins vs. Frank L. Collins. Suit for divorce.
- July 13—Elmer Myers vs. Emily Myers. Suit for divorce.
- July 14—Blanche Ray vs. Lloyd G. Ray. Suit for divorce.
- July 14—Kate S. Sanford vs. George W. Sanford. Suit for divorce.

Calling cards, 50 for \$1.00.



Washington, D. C. July 15—Flocks of congressmen breathed a long sigh of relief when the senate dropped its demand, via the McKellar bill, for senate nomination and confirmation of all employees of war agencies drawing \$4,500 per year or more. The house had repeatedly refused to bow to this bill. For years congressmen have seen their patronage go from bad to worse. Most all of the juicy jobs, such as United States attorney, big town postmasters, United States marshal, collectors of customs and internal revenue, have always been the patronage of senators, especially so, if the senator was of the same political faith as the incumbent president. The poor congressman had to be content with handing out a few small postoffice jobs and other low bracket positions to the faithful who did the campaigning for him and all the other political chores, come election time. And the congressman has to go through this same song and dance every two years, senators only every six years, which makes quite a difference politically speaking.

For years past, civil service has been gradually blanketing all such jobs to a point where the congressman has few jobs to hand out, except his office staff, which is generally loaded with close relatives or in-laws. The top hands of the congressman who keep the home fires burning while he is at the national capital expect to be rewarded for months of campaigning work if their man wins, because no one likes to work for nothing. These rewards have always been political appointments or other favors the congressman is in position to dish out. So, when the house turned thumbs down on the senate McKellar bill it helped to save some of their little remaining patronage in the higher brackets.

Train, and even bus travel from now on will be tightened up on John Q. Public. Railroads and bus lines will demand advance reservations (some have already done so), including coach passengers traveling but a short distance. Army and navy personnel, plus long hauls of war materials, have taxed all railroad facilities to the limit. Railroad officials predict that in the very near future all passenger reservations will also have to be accompanied by a statement showing the trip to be necessary. The mad scramble for railroad tickets after congress recessed taxed accommodations to such an extent that many of the lawmakers had to wait several days before they could board the "choo-choo" for home.

During the two months' recess administration top hands and advisers to the president will try their best to smooth out the numerous wrinkles in the entire OPA set-up. This government agency has caused Mr. Roosevelt more continual grief than anything else. Several major adjustments for OPA are known to be in the offing which, it is hoped, will rid the agency of much trouble. The college professors and the long-haired boys who have been running the whole show, and also running it into the ground, are definitely on the way out. Close advisers of the president have convinced him that therein is the reason for much of OPA's grief. Other strenuous efforts will be made to iron out the difficulties existing between top hands in some of the other war agencies, which likewise have embarrassed and annoyed the president.

From all indications, Oregon's Senator Rufus Holman intends to make immigration one of his leading arguments for re-election. The senator will be joined in this campaign by several northwest congressmen, who also are to be re-elected or defeated next year. Senator Holman who is a member of the senate committee on immigration, has made quite a study of the subject and believes that immigration laws should not be relaxed, as advocated by some of his colleagues, but tightened. While vacationing in Oregon during the recess Holman intends to contact everyone possible to obtain their views on the matter.

Among the members of the present congress there are 61 senators and 162 representatives who are veterans of the war with Spain or world war No. 1, and several of the latter who have also seen brief service in world war No. 2. This may or may not be significant of the type of legislation which will be enacted for the benefit

of the boys who return when peace is declared, but it is not unreasonable to expect that the general congressional attitude will be more liberal toward veterans than it was during the days of agitation of a bonus for the boys who fought Germany in 1917-1918. Already congress has shown a disposition to extend the generous provisions which have been made for dependents of men in the armed forces and when married men with children are inducted a still further expansion is probable.

Rural Electrification—Washington, with its numerous public ownership enterprise in the field of electric power, gained only 55% from 1934 to 1942 in number of electrified

farms, while Oregon with its preponderance of private ownership gained 158%, according to REA statistics reported in Congressional Record of June 23, page 6438. Washington's agricultural areas being more densely settled, with more farms and smaller area per farm, was ahead of Oregon in 1934 in having 47 1/2% of farms electrified as compared with Oregon's 27 1/2%. By June 30, 1942, Oregon had 46,010 farms electrified, or 74.4%, while Washington had 62,140, or 76.1%. Average for all states is 38.3%, with Rhode Island leading at 91.9%, followed by Connecticut, New Jersey and California.

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What is America Fighting For?



Freedom of Enterprise!

(One of the Essentials of a Democracy)

Of the principles for which America is fighting, none is more important than our freedom of enterprise.

What is that? It is the right of every American to be his own boss, if he so chooses. It is the right of a man to buy his own stock of goods, or develop his own service, and offer to fill the needs of his neighbors. It is every American's precious right to exchange fair dealing for a fair and honest profit. Free enterprise is the principle upon which American business is built—be it the corner grocery or the great factory.

Today our free America is threatened, but the spirit that developed America's free enterprise—the initiative, the toil, the will to do—will again spell final Victory!

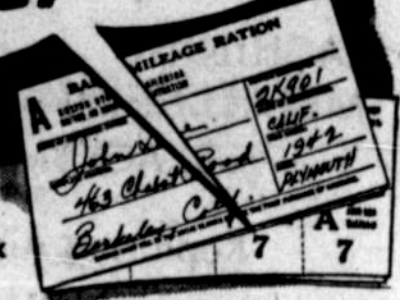
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