

# Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Washington, D. C., October 16—Another session this week, this time with members of the Production Executive Committee of the War Production Board along with A. H. Bunker, head of the light metals division of WPB. Wilson (acting WPB chairman) president and did most of the talking, with Mr. Bunker to furnish statistics and technical knowledge as called for. The members of the PEC—including a couple of Army Generals and some Admirals—said nothing.

Once more we were told that the three alumina-from-clay plants previously approved for construction—one in Wyoming, one in South Carolina, and one in the Northwest—would not be approved now.

There is a little bauxite left in Arkansas—enough to last about two years. We have a small stockpile—about one year's supply. After that unless we can keep the sea lanes open, we will have NO alumina at all!

In face of these facts (which were fully admitted at both meetings), WPB to date refuses to consider developing a means of producing alumina in our own country. The thing smells to high heaven.

After the subject had been pretty well threshed over in the meeting, and we were about ready to leave (in disgust), Representative Coffey (D., Wash.) asked Mr. Bunker, (who, by the way, in private life is a top executive for Alcoa), who owns the bauxite deposits in South America. The reply was that the bauxite is principally owned by the Aluminum Company of America, but the British Aluminum Company has some holdings there also!

Coffey then said: "Thanks gentlemen, I think that gives us the answer to our question." And the meeting broke up.

Why did Wilson and WPB previously approve the alumina-from-clay plants and then some 60 days later reverse their decision? That question has been a hard one to get answered—probably never will be. Two rumors appeared this week which, if they are true, give an unofficial but rather nasty answer:

Rumor No. 1—Aluminum interests have only VERY recently completed negotiations for the purchase of some West Coast shipping facilities—assumption is such a deal insures post-war importation of bauxite from the very rich Dutch East Indian deposits.

Rumor No. 2—Aluminum interest DID NOT complete negotiations for control of one of the three proposed alumina-from-clay plants, thus giving them little or no interest in the proposed further development of alumina from clay in the United States.

These reports are passed along for whatever they may be worth. We are entitled to a much better and

more reasonable answer than has thus far been given officially—for the fact stands reaffirmed and undisputed by anyone that, if we have planes made of aluminum to use in fighting this war after three years—or to use in defending the country in the future—the raw material must be shipped in from South America (or from the East Indies, when and if we get control of them again)—unless WPB again changes its mind, back to its first decision, and permits the further development of alumina-from-clay within the boundaries of the United States.

It will be recalled that the first objection to the alumina-from-clay plant in the Northwest was because of a shortage of manpower. The objection has not, recently been advanced as the main objection.

But the manpower problem on the West Coast has not been entirely settled. Last Saturday, just after writing the weekly letter, I sat with a committee of Pacific Coast Congressmen and we heard heads of WPB, WMC, Army, Navy and Maritime Commission explain the Nelson manpower directive of September 18th and how it has affected purchases and the letting of contracts on the West Coast. The hearing lasted from ten in the morning (Saturday) until six in the evening. The stenographic report of the proceedings for the day is a volume  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick (typewritten). It is on my desk now in original form, so that I may correct any errors made in transcribing my questions and comments. But briefly, here is what we learned:

Order of September 18th was definite and final. Stopped contracts and purchases. However, Army, Navy and Maritime Commission had not actually cancelled any contracts or placed new contracts elsewhere—they apparently were waiting clarification or modification of the order.

Our little committee went into action October 5th. On October 8th, the services received a supplemental order modifying and clarifying the September 18th order. Our second hearing was held on the 9th.

Whether the activities of the committee had anything to do with the second or clarifying order, which did smooth things out considerably, no one will ever know—but the dates are interesting as a matter of coincidence, if nothing else. At any rate, as matters now stand, purchases will be made as formerly and contracts will be let as formerly—with the provision that regional committees will pass upon such contracts as may be open to question on the subject of manpower.

No action in the House again this week, but the program for next week, just received, indicates resumption of legislative business after what seems to have been an unreasonably long period of inactivity.



Washington, D. C., Oct. 21—The high command of both AFL and CIO are getting into full stride for the coming elections. Labor has a blacklist of senators and congressmen it intends trying to liquidate either in the primary or the general elections. The entire Oregon delegation, with the exception of Rep. Homer Angell of the third district, are on the list and several Washington congressmen are also slated for political oblivion if labor has its way. All on account of their vote on the Smith-Connelly anti-strike bill.

The labor leaders of the northwest are really organizing their forces for this fight, which is evidenced by some of the moves they are making. Word has reached here that the teamsters and bottlers unions of Portland and like organizations of Seattle are demanding that members register to vote or their respective unions will refuse to accept their union dues which, in turn, would mean they couldn't work. Labor leaders know they can't get their men to vote if they are not registered, and that's exactly what happened at the last election. So this time they are attending to the matter.

This early activity is planned to give labor two shots at the blacklist. The first shot will try to beat those on the list in the primary battle. If that fails to work, then they will gang up against the blacklisted candidate in the general election, regardless of the political label his opponent wears. Incidentally, these voters registrations are running about 70 per cent democrat and close to 80 per cent in the Puget sound district. In order to properly finance this political battle it is understood the Washington and Oregon state executive boards of AFL and CIO will ask each and every member of all unions to contribute the sum of \$2 by February 1, which would amount to better than \$250,000 if all members kicked in, and it's reasonable to believe they will.

The long and loud squawks directed at OPA by western statemen seem to be taking effect. For several months cattle and sheepmen have been bombarding OPA for an increase of their slaughtering quotas. The cattle and sheep ranges of the west are abounding with livestock, which must be marketed now in order to save livestock men from serious losses. With stocks of winter feed at an all-time low, livestock men must thin out their herds or lose considerable through shrinkage and destruction during the coming winter months. Army and navy requirements, plus lend-lease, are supplied from a huge stockpile of meat on hand, enough to last for many months, hence a good part of the increased slaughter would go to civilian purchasers who are more than anxious to obtain more meat. OPA officials are looking with favor upon this request and if increased slaughtering quotas are granted it undoubtedly will also mean an increase in value of meat ration points for the housewife.

Slow but seemingly sure, the arguments for a sales tax are gaining momentum. This plan of taxation was given a big boost when the treasury department brought in its recommendations for additional taxes, which the house committee said were impossible and promptly kicked them out. The sales tax idea has been lurking in the minds of many lawmakers for years, and this was just the chance they wanted to bring it out in the open. With the heavy additional cost of government for war purposes, plus the inflation threat, sales tax advocates believe their plan the one and only safe way to raise the additional billions the government must have. Many organizations all over the country are now taking up

sportsmen, when there is no friendly co-operation between the two, that such a commission has outlived its usefulness. We are hoping that the governor rescinds the opening of the Curry county season. If not, it means that most of the elk in that district will go the way of the buffalo. Their heads will adorn the walls of city sportsmen's dens—glass eyes, replacing the gentle brown ones that looked with faith upon man.

The elk of Curry county are doing no harm—the residents wish them protected—so why should they be sold by the game commission at \$5.00 per head—the cost of an elk hunting license?

the cry for a sales tax which, in turn, is putting more starch into the backbones of many congressmen who have heretofore been very wishy-washy on the subject.

Before many weeks pass a sales tax bill will be dropped in the house hopper. In the meantime the proponents are busy selling the idea to their colleagues, and make no mistake about it the bill will get plenty of votes. The big question is, can it muster enough votes at this time to pass. Best guess is it can't. That's the reason the boys are holding off from introducing the measure now. In the meantime they are busy trying to line up the necessary years.

Some big shots in the administration who have always been against a sales tax are now mum on the subject—nothing to say for publication. Privately, they have come to the conclusion that it's about the only way left to get the enormous sum required to carry on the war.

## Coos-Curry Teachers Here November 1

Following is the tentative program for the Coos-Curry regional teachers conference to be held in Coquille high school on Monday, Nov. 1:

9:00 a. m. - 9:15 a. m. "Dizzy Life of the Schoolmarm."—Coquille School Teachers, directed by Mrs. Ruth Byers, Coquille High.

9:15 a. m. - 10:00 a. m. "Life in a Flying World"—Dr. Frank W. Hart, Civil Aeronautics Administration.

10:00 a. m. - 10:25 a. m. Business Sessions: Curry County—Mrs. Evelyn DeMoss, Brookings, president. Coos County—Ray Hunsaker, Marshfield, president.

10:25 a. m. - 10:45 a. m. recess and Balloting.

10:45 a. m. - 10:55 a. m. Departmentals:

Home Economics—Miss Bertha Kohlhaugen, State Super. Home Ec. or Miss Gertrude Roskie, Ass. Supervisor.

Social Science—Miss Joy Hills, Supervisor, Curriculum and Publications.

Math, Physics, Pre-Aeronautics—Dr. Siemens, C. A. A.

Junior and Senior High Curriculum—Dr. R. F. Hawk, prin., Vanport Schools.

Science Demonstration—Miss Tillie Schlumberger, (grades 4-9), Demonstrator State Dept. of Education.

Social Studies—Miss Florence Beardsley, Elementary Super. State Dept. of Education.

Primary Arithmetic—Mrs. Lillian Downey, Education Demonstrator, D. C. Health Co.

4-H—Mr. Harry Seymour.

Noon Hour Recess.

1:30 p. m. to 1:50 p. m.—Dr. Frank W. Parr, Executive Secretary, O.S.T. A.

1:50 p. m. to 2:10 p. m.—Supt. Rex Putnam, State Department of Education, Salem.

2:10 p. m. - 2:30 p. m.—All Sing—Mr. Harold Withnell, Music Director, Coquille.

2:30 p. m. - 3:05 p. m.—"Three in a Bed"—Dr. R. F. Hawk, principal at Vanport Schools

3:10 p. m. - 3:30 p. m. Introduction of Officers—Ray Hunsaker, Marsh-

field Pres. County Division; Mrs. Evelyn DeMoss, Curry County.

Harbison's myrtlewood for Christmas gifts.

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## Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LENEVE

At the time of this writing a howl of protest has gone up from about every throat in Curry county regarding the opening of the elk season down there. There are only an estimated 100 elk in the entire county and the season has been declared open on any elk bearing horns.

When it was known that the season was to be opened, the residents and sportsmen protested to the State Game Commission, but that august body turned a deaf ear, just as they did when commercial, civic clubs and sportsmen in general protested the opening of the elk season in Coos county last year.

As we understand it, (please correct us if we are wrong), the members of the state game commission are supposed to co-operate with the sportsmen and make laws that meet with the latter's approval and not laws to their own selfish interest and which are put across with such bull-headedness that they won't change their minds in spite of any protest waged against it.

At the time of this writing, residents of Curry county are calling upon Governor Earl Snell to rescind the law, as the game commission has stated that it is beyond their power to do so. However, we have not heard of the members of the game commission themselves, asking the governor to rescind the law. If they would ask it, beyond a doubt the governor would comply with their request, but to do so—to ask the governor to rescind the opening of the season—the commission would practically have to admit that they had pulled a boner in opening the season in Curry county in the first place. We feel that another boner chalked up against them wouldn't hurt their prestige any, as it is.

The opening of the season will

mean that the beautiful herd of elk that frequent Hunter's Head will be endangered, for they roam over the boundary of the state park often. The lordly old bulls that strode majestically in that stretch of country (Hunter's Head) will be laid low by a bullet, the chances are. Those same old fellows that looked with a friendly and kindly eye upon the passerby.

It is not one whit different than declaring an open season upon a herd of domestic cattle. In fact, there are thousands of herds of cattle that roam the open ranges that are a whole lot more wild and harder to approach than the bull elk of Curry county.

Such herds of elk at the Curry county—yes, and the Coos county elk as well—should be preserved. Game commissions as well as the sportsmen should take pride in them. The sportsmen have demonstrated the fact that they do, but such cannot be said of the game commission.

Hundreds of tourists, as well as the natives, have viewed the herd at Hunter's Head, for many, many years. They have become a sort of fixture there, an attraction, and actual asset to Curry county. But many of them have been sentenced to death by the game commission by having an open season declared upon them.

The noble animals that have placed explicit faith in man, after an association of years, have been placed on the slaughter block, so to speak, and by a body of men who are supposed to have the interest of wildlife at heart. It is, indeed, a pity that we can't have a commission that will co-operate fully with the sportsmen of the state at large. Not long ago we lauded this same commission for opening the deer season in the face of opposition, but now the question arises in our mind as to whether it was the fact that they had the welfare of the sportsmen in mind, or the money in view that was derived from the sale of licenses?

It appears to us that when a commission goes over the heads of the

**THE OLD JUDGE SAYS...**

"You were absolutely correct in making the statement you did, George...not a drop of whiskey has been distilled in this country in over a year."

"That's what I told the boys down at the lodge, Judge, but they were so surprised I thought maybe I was wrong."

"No you weren't, George. The truth of the matter is that a year before Pearl Harbor, the beverage distilling industry voluntarily offered its facilities to the government. Many companies started to produce alcohol for war purposes almost immediately. And just as soon as the government's requirements increased, the distilling facilities of the entire industry were converted 100% to the production of war-alcohol and nothing else. As a matter of fact, the beverage distilling industry is producing about half of the government's needs for this vital war material. And that's a 24 hour a day, 7 day a week job, George."

"I'm glad I told you about my talk with Sam, Judge. You've given me a lot more facts on that subject."

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