

## Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Washington, D. C., Jan. 22, 1944.—The question of how best to provide a vote for those in the armed forces is the hot issue in Congress as this is written. I mentioned this problem in a weekly letter back in November when the Lucas-Green federal ballot bill first appeared.

After six days of debate, the Senate rejected the Lucas bill. Press and radio commentators were generally unfair in their report of the Senate action, claiming republicans had united with southern democrats to defeat the bill. As a matter of fact, the parties divided sharply. Of the senate republicans present when the roll was called on the bill, 12 voted for it and 18 voted against it. The democrats were divided about even.

The substitute bill passed by the Senate was hastily drawn. It had several outright errors in it and was both incomplete and inadequate. The bill the Senate passed was definitely open to criticism as to detail but was correct in principle. It recognized the fact that the Congress does not have the right to over-ride state election laws. The Lucas-Green proposal, which the Senate rejected, simply ignored the plain language of the Constitution of the United States which denies the right of Congress to pass such a piece of legislation.

Even before the Senate acted, the House Committee on the Election of President, Vice President and Senators and Representatives in Congress, of which I am a member, had this legislation under consideration. A companion bill to the Lucas-Green Senate bill had been introduced in the House by Eugene Worley of Texas, the chairman of our elections committee. Our committee tabled his bill and it was evident that it would not report out a federal ballot bill. That was early in December. Consequently Chairman Worley simply refused to call the committee together. When we were about to force him to do so, he called the committee and presented what was supposed to be a revised version of his bill with, as he said, all of the objectionable features removed. He must have been joking because it seemed to me his "compromise" bill

was even worse than the original.

Meanwhile, I had been working with several members of the committee to endeavor to improve and perfect the Senate bill (S. 1285). Tuesday after Congress reconvened following the holidays, our amendments to the Senate bill were taken up and Friday of that week our committee again tabled Worley's bill and reported out the Senate bill with amendments.

Then the real fireworks began. The curtain was drawn aside, so to speak, and the real form and nature of the opposition and its plans were revealed.

For some reason, the President and his organization are waging an all-out drive to block the passage of the state voting bill and to force the passage of the federal ballot plan. Our committee has been smeared and slandered. Every trick in the book has been used and some new ones invented. The rules committee of the House has been ordered to stall the bill and prevent its consideration on the floor. There has been some hot debate on the floor about this delay these last few days. The hope apparently is that enough heat has been put on the Senate to make it reverse action and pass the federal ballot plan—and they wanted that done before the House had a chance to vote on the original Senate bill. My guess is the vote in the House will be close.

The last half of this week has been devoted to the consideration of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation agreement and authorization for appropriations up to one billion, three hundred fifty millions for that undertaking. The plan is called UNRRA (pronounced unrah).

The Congress was invited to take part in making the agreement. It was worked out in several state department and executive conferences and signed. Now the Congress is asked to approve it and provide the money. This method of handling the problem is resented by a great many members of Congress but that is the way it was done and it will have to be passed to back up the word of our officials in their dealings with other countries.

## Statement By Oregon Highway Commission

Following a conference held Tuesday, January 18, in Salem, with the State Police, the Public Utilities Commissioner, the Office of Defense Transportation and the Office of Price Administration, the State Highway Commission adopted a new policy for the control of overloading of logging and commercial trucks without subjecting the industry to undue penalties during the war period.

Hereafter, instead of recommending to the Public Utilities Commission the cancellation of permits of offending operators, the Commission will insist that overloaded trucks be stopped and be required to take off the overload and the State Police will, under its statutory authority, enforce this requirement.

The Commission has had numbers of conferences with operators of logging trucks and feels that at least 85 per cent of them are co-operating sincerely to preserve the highways from the damage from overloads. However, its records show that a minor percentage are persistent and chronic violators and are overloading consistently beyond the statutory limits and above the 7,000-pound tolerance which the Commission is allowing.

The Commission's experience is that the nominal fines which have been imposed by justices of the peace upon violators is no deterrent to the practice since the profit from the overload more than pays the fine and costs assessed. The suspension of permits has in numbers of cases imposed a very severe penalty since the permit is issued for the whole fleet of an operator rather than to individual trucks. This ties up the whole operation instead of just the offending driver and truck.

The Commission questions that it has authority to permit overloaded trucks to continue over highways and bridges after the weighmasters have determined the overload. Therefore, the police will require the overloaded trucks to pull off the highways and the overloads be removed.

Moreover, the Commission will hereafter send a record of violations to the OPA which is very much concerned over the effect of excessive speeds and weights upon tires and gasoline. The violators will, therefore, be subject to the additional penalty of having rationing boards reduce tires if, in the judgment of the OPA, the offense warrants such drastic action.

The public may not realize that the Highway Commission has been quite

patient and cooperative with the logging industry and that in addition to the statute tolerance of 5,400 pounds given a logging truck in gross weight and 1,000 pounds on axle weight, the Highway Commission on its own motion and within its discretionary power, as granted by statute, has increased the tolerance weight of 54,000 pounds, plus the tolerance of 7,000 pounds, giving 61,000 total gross load, as the maximum that the highway bridges and pavements will stand and that operators should be able to load so as not to exceed a tolerance of 3 1/2 tons.

Pursuant to a statute enacted in the Forty-second Legislative Assembly, the Highway Commission has given special wartime emergency permits to commercial carriers permitting an increase in length of the vehicle to 60 feet and an increase in weight from 54,000 pounds to approximately 71,000 pounds, when the operators use equipment having an over-all length of 60 feet equipped with additional axles so as to reduce the load concentration. The Commission feels that in granting this additional privilege the commercial haulers must stay within the limits set forth and will likewise insist that overloaded commercial trucks be stopped and required to take off the overload and the State Police will, under its statutory authority, enforce this requirement.

The Commission feels that the overload problem must be solved if the state's highways are to last for the duration of the war and, after conferring with Washington authorities, knows that it is giving as much or more co-operation with the truck operators as its neighboring state is. The Commission wants to do all in its power, in its wartime emergency affecting transportation, to expedite the movement of goods and services but cannot be unmindful of its duty to the citizens of this state in protecting the public's large investment in highways.

### Nancy Boles Member Of Vested Choir At The University

Among a group of 35 girls chosen for vested choir on the University of Oregon campus last week was Nancy Boles, junior in education. Miss Boles is a member of the women's sorority, Kappa Kappa Gamma. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Boles, Coquille.

Arthur Hooton is back on the job in the electrical wiring and repair business. He can be found north of ball park on Fairview road; phone 222R.

## Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LENEVE

The life of Old Crooked Horn, Curry county's historic bull elk is ended. The old monarch fell a victim to a hunter the past season and his death was mourned by many citizens of Curry county, inasmuch as he was gentle to the extreme, placing trust in man, who at the first opportunity betrayed that trust and sent the old fellow to an untimely death.

Slaying old Crooked Horn may easily be compared to shooting down the family milk-cow. What a thrill it must have been! How proud the man must feel who did the slaying and how proud the state game commission must feel to have such animals as old Crooked Horn slain, by opening the season on them.

For years after the elk season was closed many years ago, elk were seldom seen close to civilization, but gradually the herds drew closer and closer to habitations, their trust in man being finally restored to the extent that they would pay visits to lookout stations and farms in outlying districts. And the big herd at Hunter's Head would stand beside the road watching the passerby without expressing the least fear. Men on lookout towers in the Forestry Service, would feed the big animals in different districts until they were as tame as a herd of milk-cows. The elk began increasing in numbers and gradually worked in closer to civilization, depending upon man for protection against their natural enemy, the cougar, which is death on calf elk.

The animals were really getting a fine start toward a come-back, after having been almost exterminated at one time. So, instead of encouraging their propagation, as was the wish of every self-respecting hunter in Coos and Curry counties, the game commission declared an open season on them, with the result that the cream of the herds were either killed, or wounded and left to rot in the woods—the finest big bulls exterminated, as the case of old Crooked Horn.

Such elk as Crooked Horn should be roaming their favorite haunts today, and they would be too, if the proper men had been at the helm of state game affairs—men who would lend an ear to the wishes of the citizens instead of selling the poor old elk off at public auction of \$5.00 each—the price of a special elk hunting tag—in order to enrich the coffers of the game commission.

The whole thing smells to high heaven and leaves a stench in the nostrils of true sportsmen and self-respecting residents of Coos and Curry counties that will linger for years to come. Personally, we would be ticked pink to see a petition circulated to recall each and every member of the present game commission, with the exception of Capt. Chas. McClees. Charley is one member we have confidence in, and he alone. However, Capt. McClees is not a member of the commission.

We are sincerely hoping and trusting another fall sees the season closed on elk in southwestern Oregon and that the noble animals be given a chance to propagate in peace for years to come. If such a closed season is not forth-coming, it simply means that the elk are heading the way of the buffalo.

## Post-War Taxes

(By George Peck)

In case anyone may have developed the idea that the coming of peace will bring with it a considerable surcease from the back-breaking taxes we are now paying, he is due to receive a rude shock. There will be some reduction but we will be paying high taxes for a great many years after the war is ended, taxes much higher than any we have ever before paid in peacetime.

Representative Carl Knutson (republican of Minnesota), ranking republican member of the House Ways and Means Committee, and who will become chairman of that committee if republican dreams come true next November, has forecast a huge federal budget in the early postwar years.

Now, we have been accustomed in recent years to hearing and reading about large federal budgets, but these reports have emanated from the New Deal wing of the democratic party. Therefore, it is a bit off of the beaten track to hear a republican "sound off" in that vein, and especially so that particular republican stands better than an even chance of becoming chairman of the House Committee which has all to do with fixing tax revenues.

Mr. Knutson definitely advocates postwar reductions but asserts that they must be so scheduled as to carry an unavoidable but highest peacetime budget in the history of this nation. "Present tax rates have passed the point of diminishing returns," says Mr. Knutson, and adds by way of explanation that individual and cor-

porate taxes will have to be adjusted downward to provide maximum revenues, and not be so confiscatory as to preclude maximum encouragement to private enterprise.

The Minnesota congressman estimates that fixed federal government expenditures in the postwar era may well reach 17 billion dollars annually. In arriving at this estimate, he figures four billion dollars annually for the Army and Navy, and has allowed a leeway of several billion dollars for unemployment and agricultural relief, rehabilitation of our Armed Forces and other relief measures.

To meet this staggering peacetime budget, Mr. Knutson considers a national income of 100 billion dollars annually is necessary which sum incidentally is higher than this nation has ever achieved in peacetime. He feels that this unprecedented goal can be reached however if there is a downward revision of taxes thus encouraging venture capital to develop new industries created by the war and to expand old ones. Says Mr. Knutson "These potential new industries can easily take up the full employment slack which will result from the conversion from wartime to peacetime economy."

Yes, Mr. Knutson holds out no hope for drastic reductions in taxes when the guns cease firing, but he does make it quite clear that if the federal government is to be able to raise sufficient revenues to cover postwar budgets, there must be a

downward revision, that taxes must be cut so as to keep them below a confiscatory or punitive level.

Strange to say, Vice President Wallace has apparently, at long last, begun to make a study of sound economics. Recently, he made the following remark which seems to coincide with the views of the Minnesota congressman: "Our whole tax structure, including individual income, capital gains and corporate taxes, will need revamping to stimulate maximum production and employment."

The statements of Vice President Wallace and Congressman Knutson are in themselves grains of comfort. There is also another solace looming

on the horizon. Representative Frank Carlson (republican of Kansas), also a member of the House Ways and Means Committee, assures the taxpayers that immediately the committee has disposed of the Revenue bill, its next piece of business will be to do something about simplifying tax report forms. This will come too late to avoid the headaches that some 50 million of us are going to encounter on next March 15, but it is good to know that congress is planning to give us an aspirin for future tax-filing dates.

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