

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN

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QUOTING ANOTHER ROOSEVELT

Here's what Theodore Roosevelt had to say about criticizing the man who occupies the high office of President of the United States:

"The President of the United States is merely the most important among a large number of public servants. He should be supported or opposed exactly to the degree which is warranted by his good conduct or bad conduct, his efficiency or inefficiency in rendering loyal, able and disinterested service to the nation as a whole.

"Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that there should be liberty to tell the truth about the acts of the President of the United States, and this means that it is exactly necessary to blame him when he does wrong or to praise him when he does right.

Any other attitude in an American citizen is both base and servile. Nothing but the truth should be spoken about the President of the United States, or anyone else. But to announce that there must be no criticism of the President of the United States or that we are to stand by the president right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American spirit."

Timely Topics

By R. T. Moore

News items of the past fortnight indicate the continued trend away from collectivism in the national capital.

The total number of Federal employees has dropped below the three million mark. Men pledged to champion states rights and to preserve private enterprise have been elected in run-off elections. The Congress has embarked on a determined campaign to recover the constitutional powers improvidently yielded to the president in past years. The Senate makes plain that it intends to insist upon participating in treaty-making jointly with the president and that it will not stand for being sidetracked through the flimsy device of calling treaties "agreements." In short, the check against the chief executive and his bureaus provided under the constitution is to be firmly exercised in spite of protests based on war expediency. The best part of it is that these things are coming to pass because of the indicated will of the voters and taxpayers.

The president, alarmed by loss of popularity among the armed forces, has made a speech that shows his awareness of the trend in public thinking. The speech indicated an almost complete reversal of his former policies and a break with the New Deal. He has openly advocated labor conscription as a cure for war work stoppage, a thing which he indignantly rejected as fantastic and un-American only a short time ago. The most plausible explanation for this sudden reversal of policy is that the president, believing labor so firmly in his camp that he could risk its temporary displeasure, has deliberately slapped its face to please the servicemen and the farmers who have resented his failure to control the labor situation. Whether this be true or not the president is yielding to public demand that something be done about the domestic mess, and fast. But he continues to attempt the impossible by insisting on having all matters cleared over his desk.

A surprising development in the political picture is the about-face of the official Communist Party. It seems that everything is hotsy-totsy with capitalism now and bygones are bygones. The Communists are going along with the private enterprise system and it would seem that they have adopted the Democratic Party as the vehicle for political expression. Quite possibly some firm prompting from Moscow is at the bottom of this. Mr. Stalin is very realistic. He likes the way the American system has produced supplies for the Russian Army.

The splitting up of the bloc of FDR appointees in the Supreme Court is encouraging. It was feared that these justices would leave their decisions with New Deal politics and the Supreme Court has lost prestige because of this suspicion. But lately

TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, February 1, 1924)

Coquille permanently stepped out of the village class with the opening of its splendid new hotel here last Tuesday, for there is nothing which gives a small city more prestige than the possession of a comfortable, well-appointed guest house. And Coquille now has that in a superlative degree, with a manager who is popular with the travelling public and who is rapidly becoming a friend to all our citizens. . . . The opening of this hotel to the public is probably the most important event which has ever occurred in the life of this small city.

The Bituminous Coal Co., which is developing the coal land in section 25, back from the Masonic cemetery and a mile from the highway, expects to place high grade coal on the market here in another week.

Preparation for the construction of their new home for the Busy Corner was started here last Saturday by the Coquille Valley Mercantile Co., when workmen began the demolition of the

the justices have divided sharply along lines of independent, individual views regardless of political consequence. The contempt of the legal profession for the court is getting under their skins, a healthy sign that promises restoration of lost prestige.

Now that the trend is definitely away from collectivism and towards state and local government, it should be helped on its way by strong and efficient handling of local affairs by elective officers. There should be a vigorous reassertion of state initiative in the administration of intra-state matters. It is fortunate that Oregon has a good administration at this time, alert to the possibilities of permanent advantage from current war activities and pledged to encourage private enterprise in the development of our resources.

Much has been said of late concerning "fair profits" in connection with tax matters. The term sounds well politically because it fits any situation and everybody imagines that their particular profits are "fair."

But to show how impractical it is to establish "fair profit" levels by law, consider the annual report of the Swift & Co. operations just released to the public. This vast business organization has been able to operate and to maintain its business health on a net profit of 1.2 per cent per annum.

Contrast this with the average small grocery concern that must have a net of around 20 per cent to remain in business and you realize how impossible it is to legislate "fair profit" laws that can definitely state exactly what is meant by the term. The current attempts to limit profits through renegotiation of war contracts are not based on the exact science of statutory law but on the personal opinions of the particular officer who happens to be handling the case. It is a dangerous doctrine that substitutes opinion for law and Congress is trying to eliminate this vicious feature of the Renegotiation Act. Appeal to the courts is the only practical recourse for those objecting to the arbitrary findings of enforcement officers. It is to be hoped that the new draft of the Renegotiation Act will contain the right of appeal.

Though profit taxation is discriminatory and unsatisfactory in many instances, it is the best scheme yet devised to spread the heavy tax load on business. Leeway must be provided for adequate accumulation of reserves by established enterprise to finance expansion. Encouragement must be given new enterprise in the way of liberal depreciation allowance and a high level of excess profits tax exemptions. The present tax set-up is much too punitive to new business to be satisfactory.

With costs of government soaring to astronomical heights taxation has become the chief over-head expense of every business. Its scientific balance and just administration are vital to post-war economy. The burden will be distressingly heavy. Everyone, rich and poor, great or small, must contribute until it hurts.

Let no one be deceived. The terrific national debt has sentenced us to oppressive taxation for generations. There will be no escape from the burden for any class of people. It is a thing to which we must resolutely adjust ourselves. The saying: "Nothing is so sure as death and taxes" comes home to us with grim significance.

The outlook for the county's chief payroll, the lumber business, is very good in the post-war period.

A back-log of demand for housing construction is being built up at a great rate. Many of those purchas-

ing war bonds plan to use them in the financing of homes they can only dream of today. Farm building will absorb a huge quantity of lumber due to lack of ability to keep in repair during the rush-of-war production. The amount of this potential demand is impossible to accurately estimate. But the aggregate can hardly be insignificant as a factor in annual consumption.

Line yards in the farm towns of prairie states are almost wholly without stocks. One guess is that it will take all of the lumber production for one year just to bring up yard stocks to a decent normal.

Erection of new facilities and expansion of old in our new Pacific bases will absorb another large block of heavy lumber cutting.

Then last, but not least, is the tremendous need for lumber in the rebuilding of war-torn countries. The part our lumber industry is to play in this great reconstruction program depends upon trade agreements and our competitive position with other lumber producing countries. It is good sense to produce our lumber cheaply enough to enable other countries to buy it. We can produce it cheaply if there is proper coordination of effort. We have the machines, the men, and the know-how.

But lumber substitute industries are not idle. They are as fully aware of the coming opportunities as we are and are much better organized to take advantage of them. It is for this reason that we should take stock of ourselves and get our lumber-producing machines oiled up ready for business.

In this connection, a hearing held this past week in Marshfield produced evidence of a disgraceful scandal in our falling and bucking departments of logging camps. It was indicated that the shortage of manpower was taken advantage of by many workmen to chisel unearned wages by means of falsification of scales, collusion between scalers and fallers, and all sorts of schemes to extract more dollars from the taxpayers who are paying for all this lumber right now. The fact that this racket has become universal in the lumber business of the state is evidenced by the attendance of men from other lumber-producing areas, interested spectators anxious to find a way to eliminate this particularly reprehensible practice in their respective zones.

The exposing of this racket should result in a prompt and ruthless campaign to stamp it out without fear or favor. Joint action of government, unions and operators is called for before the new logging season gets under way. It is a betrayal of the good record of the lumber industry in the war effort and nothing should be left undone to hunt it down and destroy it.

How short-sighted it is to jeopardize a steady income through the years for the sake of a few lousy dollars in hand.

This incident proves the need for better organization of our lumber industry towards the ultimate goal of producing a good product at a fair price. Those who make it their life work must be vigilant to detect and destroy subversive activities so as to protect themselves and their families against loss of employment in the future.

The end of the war boom is not far away, we hope. It is unthinkable that the stewardship of caring for the jobs of those boys of ours in the armed services should be destroyed by the irresponsible acts of a few immoral men. It is our plain duty to see that this great industry is purged of such men and such practices. The traditions of American lumbermen are of strong, rough hewn men with plenty of bad habits. But they played square. Let's keep it that way.

Generous Support For U. S. O.

USO tomorrow celebrates its third anniversary with 2,809 clubs and other service units in operation in the United States and hemisphere bases, according to a report received by Chas. A. Sprague, president Oregon War Chest, from Chester I. Barnard, president of USO, which is a member agency of the National War Fund.

"Three years ago, USO was only a hope in the hearts of a handful of men and women," said a message to Mr. Sprague from Mr. Barnard. "Today it has close to 3,000 operating units, serving the fighting forces and the forces behind the lines all over the Western Hemisphere. And the troupes of USO-Camp shows are playing in every combat zone around the world.

"Practically all Americans have joined in making the USO what it is—a people's service to its fighting forces—by giving generously to USO. Every dollar USO has received has come as a voluntary contribution from the American people, made through such organized effort as Oregon War Chest.

"As USO observes its third anniversary, it gratefully acknowledges the support and cooperation of millions of friends."

The report to Mr. Sprague shows that the American public contributed \$14,000,000 in USO's first year to operate 554 units, \$24,000,000 in its second year to operate 1,615 units, and \$61,000,000 in the third year to operate 2,809 units.

THE PRICE OF A DRINK

"Five cents a glass." Does anyone think That that is really the price of a drink?

"Five cents a glass," I hear you say, "Why, that isn't very much to pay." Ah, no, indeed, 'tis a very small sum You are passing over 'twixt finger and thumb, And if that were all that you gave away,

It wouldn't be very much to pay. The price of a drink! Let him decide Who has lost his courage and lost his pride,

And lies a groveling heap of clay Not far removed from a beast today. The price of a drink! Let that one tell Who sleeps tonight in a murderer's cell

And feels within him the fires of hell. Honor and virtue, love and truth, All the glory and price of youth, Hopes of manhood, the wreath of fame,

High endeavor and noble aim— These are the treasures thrown away As the price of drink from day to day. "Five cents a glass!" How Satan laughed

As over the bar the young man quaffed The beaded liquor; for the demon knew The terrible work that drink would do.

And ere the morning the victim lay With his lifeblood swiftly ebbing away. And that was the price he paid, alas! For the pleasure of taking a social glass.

The price of a drink! If you want to know What some are willing to pay for it, go Through that wretched tenement over there

With dingy window and broken stair, Where, foul disease, like a vampire, crawls With outstretched wings o'er the moldy walls.

There poverty dwells with her hungry brood, Wide-eyed as demons for lack of food;

There shame in a corner crouches low; There violence deals its cruel blow And innocent ones are thus accused To pay the price of another's thirst.

"Five cents a glass." Oh, if that were all, The sacrifice would, indeed, be small. But the money's worth is the least amount

We pay; and whoever will keep account Will learn the terrible waste and blight That follows the ruinous appetite

"Five cents a glass!" Does anyone think That is really the price of a drink? —Author Unknown.

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Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Washington, D. C., January 29, 1944—No Rivers and Harbors bill was passed during the 77th Congress (elected in 1940, sessions in 1941 and 1942). A bill was reported in November, 1941, but was not considered on the Floor of the House. National defense work on rivers and harbors has been done, but regular improvements were delayed for the duration.

Last week, however, the Rivers and Harbors Committee of the House reported out a Rivers and Harbors bill. Oregon is represented on this committee by Hon. Homer D. Angell of Portland. The bill had been in the course of preparation for a long time. Several large controversial projects (including the Florida ship canal, for example), were originally included in the bill, but these have been eliminated. It seems likely, therefore, that the bill just reported will have favorable action by both House and Senate.

Oregon projects in the current Rivers and Harbors bill, which are of particular importance to our Fourth District are as follows:

Coquille River—To modify existing project to the extent of providing a channel 13 feet deep at mean low water from sea to one mile above Coquille River Lighthouse, and for snagging to state highway bridge at Coquille. Estimated cost \$2,000 annually for maintenance in addition to that now required.

Chetco River—To provide for stabilization of the channel through the bar at the mouth of the river by the construction of jetties and dredging. First cost \$190,000. Annual maintenance, \$8,000.

Umpqua River and Harbor—Modification of existing project recommended to provide for a channel 200 feet wide and 22 feet deep from the main river channel near mile 8 to and including a turning basin of same depth 500 feet wide and 800 feet long opposite mill dock at Gardiner. Estimate first cost \$55,000. Annual maintenance \$10,000 in addition to amount now required.

Also modification of existing project on channel is recommended providing for 10-foot depth 100 feet wide from deep water in river to vicinity of docks in Winchester Bay with mooring and turning basin 10 feet deep, 175 feet wide, and 300 feet long at the inner end. First cost \$44,000 with \$1,000 annually. (Local interests expected to furnish \$10,000 toward first cost).

Willamette River—Open channel navigation works as may be necessary, recommended, to secure with stream flow regulation controlling depths of six feet to the mouth of the Santiam River and five feet thence to Albany. Also reconstruction of the Locks at Oregon City. Estimated cost, \$3,600,000.

Another item is included in the bill which, although the suggested

improvement in California, is of particular interest to Southern Oregon. It is the proposed improvement of the harbor at Crescent City, with an estimated \$1,810,000 to be spent on the work.

Add one item to the discussion of the Soldiers Vote Bill contained in my letter last week: The President sent a special message to Congress on the subject. He DEMANDS the passage of the Green-Lucas (or Worley) federal stream-lined ballot plan, calls the committee bill a fraud, and practically calls those who oppose the stream-lined, bob-tailed ballot plan traitors.

It seems to me the President is a bit over-anxious for the passage of the federal control plan. We all want the soldiers to vote, but I think it will be far better to provide a full and complete ballot with names on it than a ballot for only three offices—President, Senator and Representative—with no names on it. I think it will be far better to provide the ballot in an orderly and constitutional way than to attempt to provide any kind of ballot in a legally doubtful manner.

The committee bill which the President calls a fraud would pave the way for a complete ballot for soldiers to be provided by the states on a constitutionally sound basis. The issue will probably be decided this coming week although action has been delayed by the Administration until as much pressure as possible could be applied—and the pressure for the federal ballot plan has been PLENTY!

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News for you about the WAC

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