

### Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Reaction to news, especially war news, here in Washington is always swift and sometimes drastic. It is the trend of news is good, there immediately follows a spirit of optimism and optimistic prediction. Last summer when the war was running heavily in our favor, disquisitions had to do with post-war plans, reconversion and re-employment.

Lately the news has been discouraging. Not only has the news from the European war front been bad, but the development of our relations with our Allies has been disturbing. Even the civilian front here has taken some minor beatings, what with very little gasoline, few cigarettes and the cancellation of carefully saved ration points. Consequently, this has been the gloomiest Christmas season in Washington, D. C., since the Civil War.

Perhaps the greatest shock here—apparently even a greater shock than the news of the German offensive—was the statement by the President that the Atlantic Charter does not exist—that it was just some "scraps of paper." Noticeable evidence of shock was in the Senate debate on the confirmation of new assistants for the Secretary of State. Former stalwart New Dealers and Administration "yes men" were heard to question the President's foreign policy and even voice criticism of it, or to be more specific, criticism because our foreign policy is not defined.

From the bad war news comes a noticeable trend to give the War Department almost complete control of the War Production Board. Previous decisions regarding increased production of civilian goods have been voided.

The organization of the House of Representatives is almost the same for this Congress as for the one just ended (78th). The principal difference is that Democrat control is more definite. During the 78th Congress, the majority of the Democrats was so thin that their control of the House was never certain. During the last six months, the margin of difference was less than half a dozen. Now, however, the margin is 40 which appears to be ample for the

### B. B. Officials Assigned

At a meeting of basketball officials, coaches, and administrators following the Jamboree in Coquille, December 19, it was decided to meet the problem of securing officials for all county games by having officials assigned. This plan is new in Coos county but has been used very satisfactorily in some other districts of the state.

Carl E. Morrison, Superintendent of Coquille Schools and President of the Coos County Schoolmasters Club, was selected to make the assignments. Available officials who worked the Jamboree games were agreed upon and assignments for the first half of the season has been made.

Second half officials will be assigned by January 26, and any other certified officials interested in working games during the second half of the season are asked to notify Carl E. Morrison at Coquille as soon as possible.

Following is the schedule of games and officials for the balance of the first half of the 1945 season:

Friday, Jan. 12—North Bend at Coquille; Shanklin and Hyde. Myrtle Point at Marshfield; Snyder and Miller.

Tuesday, Jan. 16—Coquille at Myrtle Point; Shanklin and Hyde. North Bend at Marshfield; Snyder and Miller.

Friday, Jan. 19—Marshfield at Coquille; Snyder and Miller. Myrtle Point at North Bend; Hyde and Hook.

Friday, Jan. 26—Coquille at North Bend; Snyder and Miller. Marshfield at Myrtle Point; Shanklin and Hook.

Old papers 5c a bunch.

### That Nagging Backache

May Warn of Disordered Kidney Action

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### Timely Topics

By R. T. Moore

The terrific job of raising and raising taken by the government during the standard of living in our dependent countries to the extent that years of high commercial activity will be required to restore pre-war levels. The United States has poured out natural resource and productive power in a flood that is engulfing the entire world and is sweeping Axis militarism to its doom. In spite of the temporary reverse in Belgium, it still seems safe to look for the ending of the German war within months and the Japanese within a year thereafter. It is well to consider now the plans for peace-time economy that will create and maintain the high degree of activity in the production-consumption cycle necessary to provide jobs for all employables. This is the common factor of all post-war plans and must be at least approximately if national income is to be held at figures high enough to insure prosperity and economic stability.

Since American free enterprise is built upon the credit system, an indispensable component of any undertaking to create maximum employment must be the establishment of an adequate credit service. This should embrace the providing of funds for productive enterprise, the formation of a liberal consumer credit system, and the servicing of retail credit with a view toward the rehabilitation of the unfortunate debtor and the constant restoration of his buying power to the channels of trade.

The unfortunate debtor, whether he achieved that state by accident or design, is the primary problem and chief menace to the efficacy of our credit system. And since prevention is always better than cure, attention should be given to means of helping unfortunates avoid credit pitfalls by a scientific, sympathetic consideration of their circumstances before credit is granted. Larger businesses can, and do, afford the overhead of a personnel trained for this purpose. But the multitude of small businesses can get this service only through co-operative pooling of resources in forming an agency to police the common credit policies. Though such agencies are local, they usually affiliate with a nation-wide association to broaden coverage and to keep abreast of credit development. A good example of this type of credit agency is the recently organized Retail Credit Association of Coquille.

Price and cost-report make the necessary investigation of business personal affairs for credit purposes a delicate diplomatic problem. Public confidence in credit agencies must first be built up by educational campaigns backed by strict observance of professional ethics regarding the handling of confidential information. The officers of the local agency are charged with the duty of keeping its operations on a high moral plane so that the public will come to regard it as a trusted friend interested solely in the credit welfare of the customer. For it is in fact the best friend the common man has in the commercial world. If heeded carefully, its wise and kindly counsel will prevent many a heart-ache. And if disaster should suddenly strike, its helping hand is out-stretched to assist in a rescue.

Years of unsatisfactory and extremely expensive experience with legal methods of debt recovery make it hard to convince the public that modern credit agencies are, indeed, the beneficial institutions they presume to be. The unpleasantness accruing to credit difficulties is all too well known and a stigma attaches to all cases although the majority occur through accident rather than design. The credit agency seeks to isolate the dishonest from the honest and to help the latter work their way out of debt. The only treatment for the dishonest is, of course, the absolute refusal of all credit.

The scientific adjustment of credit to the peculiar circumstances of the individual will go far toward removing debt hazard for the honest man. Coupled with a system for the refinancing of debt on a fair and equitable basis if misfortune should strike unexpectedly, it will remove the stigma of debt from the honest man while at the same time maintaining his credit rating and self respect. The credit agency thus becomes a potent factor in the operation of the national social security program. It reduces the need for public relief while at the same time assisting in the maintenance of high consuming power among the common people, both essential to the success of the social security system.

It can not be too often said that the most valuable asset the ordinary person has is his or her credit rating. It is the measure of community regard. It is a shield to ward off suffering and deprivation when misfortune comes. For then, the strength of the community becomes the strength of the individual and its resources his resources through the granting of credit sufficient to overcome the emergency. It is the

### Personal Items From An Apartment House

Mrs. Hallingstad, who operates the apartment house in the north part of the city formerly known as the Academy, hands in the following news items about comings and goings of her tenants:

Mrs. Sylvia Taylor has recently moved to the Hallingstad Apts. She is employed as bookkeeper at J. C. Penney's.

Mrs. Wanda McPail and baby daughter have taken up residence at the apartments while her husband is in service.

Mrs. June Whitacre has recently moved here from Olympia, Wash. She has taken a position at the Modern Beauty Shop.

Mrs. Phil Standley, Mrs. Allen Standley and daughter, Karen Lee, are now living in the apartments since their store was demolished by the plane crash.

Mrs. E. C. Molhu is expected home soon, after having attended the funeral of her sister at Portland.

Mrs. F. T. Clayton has taken a position at the Coquille Coffee Shop.

Mrs. Ernest Riley is happily awaiting the arrival of her son from Portland. He has been a patient in the Emanuel Hospital there.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Harding have recently moved here from Olympia, Washington.

### Townsend Club No. 2 Notes

Townsend Club, No. 2, met at the home of Mrs. Alma Halter on January 4, in honor of Dr. Townsend's birthday, which was on January 13.

The meeting was opened with prayer and a salute to the flag. New officers were installed and two new members were taken in, after which the meeting was turned over to the new Auxiliary president, Mrs. May Curtis. Mrs. Viola Liday extended an invitation to meet at her home on East 11th street for the January 18 meeting, which will convene at 2:00 p. m.

Luncheon was served by the hostesses to the following: Anna Smith, Violet Liday, Mary Rocco, Florence DeNoma, May Curtis, Laurel Todd, Alice Sargent, Mary Keck, Bertha Wilson and Alma Halter.

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practical application of democracy to commercial life. It is the key to the enjoyment of the good things that democracy provides for its citizens. It is applied Christianity and should be cherished as a high privilege. It is peculiarly American in character and one of our most valued institutions, to be guarded eternally with diligence and zeal.

In the establishment of the new credit agency at Coquille there is promise of a healthy development in the retail business of that area. It is staffed with able, experienced personnel who have earned the confidence of the public. Its operation merits the full support of the public and will materially assist in providing the needed stimulus to retail commerce when peace comes and our service men return to their places in community life.

The news that some of our old, established textile firms are considering moving to South America where costs are lower and business atmosphere more friendly is causing concern in high government circles. The textile industry has been driven progressively from New England to the South and now to South America by steadily rising costs that have prevented successful competition with foreign industry. Its decline would have devastating effect on our cotton industry and seriously hamper plans for post-war employment.

Here is another grim warning that there must be a drastic change in the prevailing unfriendly attitude toward business. Abnormal war activities have stimulated employment to the point where the working public has been lulled into a false sense of well-being. There is scant attention paid to the future and leadership prefers the politically expedient satisfaction of today's demands rather than to attempt the wiser, but less popular, policy of building for tomorrow.

If we are to hold our high standard of living and if labor is to reap the full benefit of its collective effort we must have constantly increasing production per man so that our products can be bought and sold in volume against stiff competition. No benefit accrues to the increase in dollars paid for a day's work unless accompanied by more production at lower unit cost. Prosperity does not lie in having dollars but in the quantity of goods the dollar can buy. Business health does not lie in low volume with high unit profit but in large volume with low unit profit.

The administration, and the labor

leadership closely allied to it, should proceed to advocate and encourage increased production per man. This can be accomplished through more efficient use of man-power, development of machines, active and vigilant industrial research, and a friendly atmosphere for business to operate in. Some progress has already been made along these lines. But much remains to be done, and quickly, if once again we are not to be guilty of providing "too little and too late."

The editor of this column is now in the legislature where he will revive the Salem Sampler and attempt to give his readers a word picture of what goes on. He will outline the main arguments pro and con on all major bills of interest to Coos county folks and will spice things up a bit with some of the side-lights of life at the capitol. He hopes to make it both interesting and informative.

### Angling Regulation Hearing, Jan. 13 Set by Game Commission

The annual hearing of the State Game Commission in regard to angling regulations will be held Saturday, January 13, at 816 Oregon Building, Portland.

At that time seasons, bag limits and other regulations affecting the taking of game fish during 1945 will be under consideration.

### JUST THINKING

When the golden sun is sinking slowly in the West,  
'Tis then I get to thinking of the place I love the best,  
The little house by the road side, I can see it red and white,  
It's home to me and I think of it, when the sun goes down each night.

I think of my wife and little boys,  
Think of their troubles, sorrows and joys.  
I think of the things that could happen each day,  
And fervently hope Peace is not far away.

I think of the day when the fighting is done,  
And the word goes around that the war has been won.  
It's then that I wonder what fate holds in store,  
Will I be home or on some far distant shore?

But of all these things, the foremost in my mind,  
I've thought of great numbers but none can I find.  
That will compare with that great joy of joys,  
The permanent reunion with my dear wife and boys.

By H. W. PRIBBLE,  
Stationed at Camp, Polk Pa.

Insurance Specialist, F. R. Bull.

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