

Tom Robb On Honor Roll At Pacific University

Tom Robb, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Robb, of Coquille, was one of five juniors who earned places on the second semester honor roll at Pacific University as announced by the registrar's office last week. Tom is majoring in pre-legal courses. He graduated from North Bend high school in 1942 and while in high

school was very active in athletics.

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Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Fuel Oil Still Critical. The Petroleum Administration for War has just informed me that, contrary to what appears to be a general assumption, the fuel oil situation is still critical. The following is the Petroleum Administrator's statement of the problem in his letter to me:

"As we shift our war emphasis to the Pacific, the fuel oil requirements of the military increase tremendously. We have the largest navy this world has ever seen, and every ship in that great navy—battleship, cruiser, carrier, landing barge and all others—is powered by fuel oil. Most of this fuel oil is 'Navy Special,' which is made up from a blend of heating oil and heavy industrial fuel and furnished only to the navy. Diesel fuel, another of the principal navy products, is interchangeable, gallon for gallon, for heating oil.

"Now our war is many miles farther away, and the distances are increasing every day, so more and more fuel oil is needed to support our military activities. Just as an example of what this means to the home owner, it has been estimated that 600,000,000 gallons of fuel oil were required to bring up the men and materials to start and carry out the Okinawa campaign. That amount of fuel oil, if divided among home-heating oil burners in the rationed area of this country, would have given to each one an additional 300 gallons—an average of about an eighteen per cent increase in rations for this coming winter.

"The situation has changed from a two-front gasoline war to a one-front fuel oil war. Consequently, we were recently able to make available additional supplies of gasoline for civilians, but I am sure you realize that as long as the Pacific War lasts not only is no increase possible in fuel oil, but we will be hard pressed to furnish as much as last year. Our supply program provides for the same amount for civilians as during the 1944-45 season, and we will make every effort to fulfil that program. Barring unforeseen circumstances, such as a further increase in military requirements or a breakdown in our transportation system, due to causes beyond our control, we expect to meet our pro-

gram."

OPA Law Extended. The House battle over the OPA law extension ended last Saturday night. We were in session until nearly 8:00 p. m. I am familiar with all of the amendments passed by the House. I can assure you they were not, as advertised by the anti-Congress propagandists, "crippling amendments. If they had been left in the bill in conference, they would have improved the functioning of OPA.

I consider it almost a shameful thing that, in view of the numerous indictments against OPA and the administration of the price control law that, (a) the Administration forces defended and upheld OPA and in stated that no changes be made in the law, and, (b) neither the Administration nor OPA came forward with any suggestion for improving amendments—holding stubbornly to the stand that everything is fine. Such an attitude will not help win back public confidence and will not make OPA problems of the future any easier.

Contact Offices For Veterans. As soon as desirable space can be obtained and personnel procured, the Veterans Administration will establish what they call "contact units" at Coos Bay and Eugene. These units will be staffed by a contact representative and a clerk-stenographer. More personnel will be added if required. These contact units are for the purpose of helping returning veterans re-establish themselves in civilian life, and to provide them with information as to their benefits under the GI law and the necessary procedures for obtaining such benefits.

Congress will shortly recess for the summer. I am planning to spend all of August and at least a part of September in Oregon. I hope to be able to visit every county in my district and bring my knowledge of local conditions and problems up to date. My office in Washington will be open during the summer. All matters which need attention here will be handled promptly.

This is the last letter I shall write until Congress reconvenes this fall.

eliminated.

In introducing his bill, Senator Hatch admitted that extreme partisans of economic groups will not be satisfied; that the bill does not offer to employer or employee any aid in advancing purely selfish interests, and does not even insure that the consumer will always be served; but it does provide the ways and means whereby any party to a labor controversy can be assured that his interests will be given careful consideration, and it does insure management and labor a public hearing and public aid in sustaining any well-grounded claims.

Senate committee on agriculture and forestry has been asked to recommend an investigation of the newspaper shortage, though it cannot reasonably be hoped that action can be taken in time to remedy the distressing situation of newspaper publishers. Senator Butler of Nebraska, author of the resolution, intimated that the shortage in part is due to the enormous use of paper by the government which, he said, had increased from 124,500 tons in 1941 to 1,054,512 tons in 1944. It is contended that war requirements do not justify such extravagant use of paper and that enormous quantities are wasted in the publication of propaganda by the several agencies of the federal government. Editors have even complained that their desks are littered daily with these releases for the publication of which they have no space and the matter in which is of no public interest or importance.

An idea of the stupendous task facing the surplus property board may be gained from its preliminary progress report in which it is stated that one-fifth of the nation's industrial capacity, representing an investment of \$16,000,000,000, is owned by the government. In the main this property is in the form of war plants for much of which there will be no peace-time use. Only a small part of this property has been declared surplus and no disposition will be made of it until after the defeat of Japan. The government also owns 9,000,000 acres of land of which only 189,000 acres has been declared surplus.

If, as now proposed, congress recesses this month until after Labor day, a number of important measures will remain up in the air. Nothing has been done on President Truman's proposal for an increase in unemployment compensation; no hearings have been held on any of the full employment bills, no hearings on the Wagner bill to extend health and insurance benefits under social se-

curity, and there still is disagreement on the full pattern for reconversion of industry after the war. Each of these measures has highly controversial features and a decision on any of them is certain to be preceded by lengthy debate.

State Game Commission to Hold 1945 Bag Limit Hearing July 14

The 1945 hunting seasons, bag limits and other regulations affecting large and small game will come up for consideration when the Oregon State Game Commission holds its annual hearing for this purpose at ten o'clock, Saturday morning, July 14, at its Portland offices.

Until the regulations are formulated by the Commission there is no information available as to whether or not special doe deer or cow elk tags will be issued this year.

The hearing is open to the general public.

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Washington, D. C., July 5—What is intended to be and may become a substitute for all existing laws dealing with labor relations, except the railway labor act on the lines of which it is modeled, has been presented to the senate in the form of a bill by Senator Hatch of New Mexico in collaboration with Senator Burton of Ohio and Senator Ball of Minnesota. The undisputed purpose of the measure is to provide procedures by which strikes may be averted while at the same time assuring justice to the claims of both labor and management. It is a large order, but in introducing the bill Senator Hatch expressed confidence in the success of the law in the event of its enactment and the belief that both labor and management would recognize its fairness.

The title of the bill is Federal Industrial Relations Act, and the proposed initial procedures are copied from the railroad act. It would apply only to employers and employees engaged in interstate commerce or enterprises which directly or substantially affect interstate commerce, specifically excluding local business and small establishments, agriculture, domestic service and government service. It would apply, however, to local utilities the continuous operation of which is deemed a public necessity.

The measure would establish the legal duty of employers and employees to make every reasonable effort to settle controversies by agreement. If this effort fails, either party can invoke the services of a national mediation board of five members appointed by the president. If mediation fails, the mediators will propose arbitration. If this is refused, a fact-finding commission may be appointed the findings of which, in case of public necessity, can be given the force of an arbitration award which shall be binding for one year but not for more than two. The right to strike is expressly preserved, but it is assumed on the basis of railroad experience that the need for striking will be practically

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