

### Timely Topics

By HON. R. T. MOORE

The important issue as to whether we are to continue in free, competitive economy or to be regimented under one of the Keynes-Beveridge-Wallace type is yet to be decided. A coalition of Republicans and old-line Democrats in the Congress is defending the American free enterprise system against the onslaught of leftists who champion state socialism. Test votes on leftist-sponsored measures indicate that the coalition will prevail. But the margin is rather close and the battle is just beginning.

The leftist plan originated in Europe. It proposes an attractive scheme for economic security based on the theory that the government has the responsibility to guarantee full employment to all employables. A long term program of planned federal expenditure directed by social rather than economic priorities is proposed to give stability and orderly expansion to the whole economic system. A survey of the federal outlay needed to supplement private outlay in maintaining full employment must be made each year as a basis for the federal budget. This is the "compensatory budget" idea long popular in New Deal circles.

Obviously, the key to the whole scheme is the accurate estimate of what private outlay will be in each calendar year. Federal expenditures would depend upon the accuracy of this estimate for their effectiveness. The system thus revolves about the guessing skill of those responsible for the survey. This weakness alone should suffice to condemn the plan. For who can be found with prophetic power equal to accurately predicting what the American people will spend during a year and for what they will spend it?

Another and more dangerous weakness in the plan is that it contemplates price controls and wage regulation to implement its administration. True, the price controls are presumed to be confined to essential goods in short supply. But experience with OPA administration proves the impossibility of selective price controls without being eventually forced to exercise some degree of control over all prices. And the wage regulation is the inevitable result of assumption by government of responsibility for full employment. If the State is to guarantee jobs it must also tell the worker where he is to work and what his pay shall be. Labor unions would soon be emasculated or destroyed entirely under such a system. Yet, strangely enough, many American labor leaders are active supporters of this theory of government.

Experience in the fascist countries of Europe shows that a regimented economy has less variation in business cycles than a free economy. State socialism can always find jobs for everybody. But a goodly portion of the labor must be forced instead of voluntarily to make the scheme work. And forced labor is "out" as far as America is concerned. In spite of our periodic booms and depressions in the past our living standards are far higher than those in any other country. We would be foolish indeed to discard the free economy that has brought us indisputable world leadership simply because it produces an occasional depression. Rather, let us keep it in operation and improve it gradually as wisdom dictates so that depressions are held to a harmless minimum.

There is growing indication that the people are getting tired of big federal spending with its confiscatory taxes. Private bank accounts are sizeable and the possessors prefer to do their own spending and for things they want and need. It has become more difficult for economic theorists to persuade the public to turn over their funds to a paternal government to be spent for things they don't want and don't need. There is realization that greater production is the key to higher living standards and that no sugar-coated theory of economics can successfully replace American free enterprise.

### Game Commission Calls Off Season

On account of protests sent in from Baker county, the special elk season announced for the last four days of December in that area has been cancelled by the Oregon State Game Commission.

Anyone who has purchased an elk tag since December 17 will be entitled to a refund by forwarding to the Game Commission office in Portland the elk tag and a written request for refund, giving the name and address of the owner of the tag.

Stone's Poinsettias are prize winners. 4911c

### Farrell Urges Safe Driving

An average of five traffic fatalities has marred each Christmas week-end for the past four years in Oregon. Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell disclosed today, in a statement urging Oregon drivers and pedestrians to avoid accidents during this holiday season.

"Now that battle casualties no longer mar the Holiday spirit for so many American homes, it would be ironic indeed for traffic casualties to continue this tragic blight this year," Farrell said. "Traffic deaths are ironic because they are unnecessary; in most cases, a little ordinary care, common sense and consideration for others will prevent them."

As proof of his contention that traffic accidents need not occur, the Secretary of State cited the accident record in this state during 1944 Christmas week-end.

"There were eight fatalities last year and five of these involved intoxication. Two other involved drivers who fell asleep at the wheel and the other involved a pedestrian who ran out into the path of an approaching car."

"None of these fatalities were the inevitable results of motor vehicle use. The exercise of a little restraint, common sense and ordinary care would have prevented them."

Farrell urged Oregon drivers and pedestrians to observe these simple precautions to avoid accidents during the Christmas-New Year period this year:

1. Hold speed to reasonable levels in view of existing traffic conditions.
2. Observe the right of way at all times.
3. Avoid driving after drinking.
4. Never drive when fatigued.
5. As pedestrians cross streets only at designated spots. Always watch for approaching cars and at night, never walk across the path of approaching cars.

### State Department Approves Vet Loan

The State Department of Veterans' Affairs has approved loans to Oregon veterans of World War II amounting to \$93,150 for the acquisition of farms and homes, Hugh E. Rosson, director, announced today. The average loan was for \$2,388.

Up to December 19, a total of 127 veterans have applied for loans, with Multnomah county leading and Marion, Clackamas and Lane counties following in that order. The first loan was approved on October 15.

A maximum of \$3000 but not to exceed 75 per cent of the appraised value of the property may be loaned veterans of Oregon under the act, approved by the 1945 session of the state legislature. The act is administered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. Rosson pointed out that application may be made by any eligible veteran, in writing, at the department's offices in the State Library building, Salem, or at the Portland branch office in the Oregon building at Fifth and Oak streets. The veteran will be sent an application form along with instructions, or these may be obtained from any county or veterans' organization service officer.

Mining Location notices for sale at this office.

### Out-of-Doors Stuff

By LANS LENEVE

There has been given a lot of newspaper publicity to the fact that the Wild Life Service is establishing stations for the control of predatory animals throughout Coos and Curry counties.

This looks good, on the face of it. To the general public it will appear that trappers are established at stations to wage warfare on predators. But, here my friends is the real picture: These so called stations consist of an old horse that has been laid up onto the high ridges killed, and his carcass poisoned, and hundreds of smaller baits poisoned and placed over a large radius near the carcass.

This so-called Wildlife Service hires a bunch of bums—that word is spelled in capitals, too—BUMS. Men too lazy to string out a decent line of steel traps, but resorting to poison bait instead. These BUMS bring in reports to an influx of coyotes—in order to hold their murderous job and in order to string out more poison bait.

Poison bait takes toll from mink, from marten, from coon, all a swell priced fur at the present time and one which the returning vet can make a living at. There has been almost five billion dollars worth of fur destroyed in the Northwest by these BUMS to date and we are wondering whether or not the citizen-sportsmen are going to stand for the total destruction of furs that bring a living to some 10,000 persons in this state.

There are certain heads of the Wildlife Bureau and their BUMS, the poisoners, who would destroy everything that walks the forest trails. They are the greatest menace to our wildlife and fur industry in existence to day.

I can furnish proof that there is 125 miles of territory, infested by poison bait where there isn't a predator doing any damage. Moreover, a few traps set out by trappers (The BUMS never set traps—they're too lazy) and every predator that happened along would be trapped. But as it now stands, there are hundreds yes, thousands of dollars worth of fur being destroyed. And by poison bait.

Why should persons with no respect whatsoever for our wildlife be permitted to ply their poison trade in our fair land? They are persons without a bit of respect on earth for game, or game animals. They represent one of those screwy bureaus that was created by a screwy administration and are working in accord with the same screwy set-up.

We folks who have fought and fought for the propagation and protection of our game birds and animals, do not wish to stand aside and watch the complete extermination of them.

Where have our blue grouse gone? They have gone the way of the poison-slinger. Our mountain quail have gone the same way. Our grey squirrels have gone the same route—and now with the remnants of these swell game birds, as well as our fur-bearers seeking a comeback, here comes the BUMS again to spread more poison.

There's something wrong with the county courts of Coos and Curry county who will allow this and we are not mincing any words when we make this statement. The members of these courts should harken—bend an ear to sportsmen, instead of entirely to stockmen. After all, our greatest asset is wildlife for this

county. People aren't traveling hundreds of miles to glimpse a few herds of sheep or cattle. No. They are coming to our county for the hunting and the fishing. We are trusting that somebody will awaken before it is too late.

Are we going to allow our wilderness to be poisoned by these BUMS—every living thing killed, or are we going to put up a fight for the preservation of the last of our game birds and furbearing animals? Are we going to let the Wild Life Service move in and take over and put the sportsmen out of business and the trapper, or not?

Are we going to take it sitting down, or are we going to stand up and fight?

We should like to see the county court of Coos county investigate the deplorable condition regarding this poison bait. We are sure that were

they acquainted with the true conditions that they would not allow this poison to be spread. There is something rotten somewhere, and we have faith enough in the county court to believe that it is not their doings, that they just took too much for granted and gave the BUMS full sway without a proper investigation. Let's have that investigation. The sportsmen have it coming.

### Don Smith Employed At Southwestern

Don Smith of Coquille, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Smith, is now employed as a bookkeeper in the office of the Southwestern Motors, it was announced today by Cliff Gulseth. Don was recently released from active military service.

### License Examiner Coming Friday

A traveling Examiner of Operators and Chauffeurs is scheduled to arrive in Coquille, Friday, Jan. 4, and will be on duty at the City Hall between the hours of 11 a. m. and 5 p. m., according to a recent announcement released from the Secretary of State's office.

All those wishing permits or licenses to drive cars are asked to get in touch with the examiner during these hours.

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