

# Coquille Valley Sentinel

Dedicated to the Development of Coquille Valley

An Independent Paper

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## The Basic School Bill

It is the feeling of this paper that the taxpayers and voters of the state should study carefully the so-called Basic school bill which will be voted on in November. It would increase real property levies and raise your real taxes to a point where it could lead to real economic disaster for it strikes at the basic producer of wealth—land. For our money it is a crackpot piece of legislation that would raise a total millage levy from an average of 17½ to 40 mills with no thought of the morrow when values may be more realistic.

The Oregon State Teachers' association dodged the issue of a sales tax to give them higher salaries and better buildings—though they would maintain that because the Smith have better salaries in Washington and California, they'd like them, too.

Such proposed legislation as is put together in the Basic school bill cannot but hurt the cause of securing better and better educational systems. Thoughtless taxing legislation is a result of intellectual chicanery by Oregon educationists.

Coquille valley residents have the vacation wonderland at their fingertips . . . a few minutes takes you to the most scenic parts of America's seacoast . . . or if you prefer the lakes along the coast . . . or the mountains and the Rogue. And if it's Eastern Oregon, a quick jaunt by car puts you in the midst of lovely pines and alongside the white water rivers of the Cascades.

Adoption of the city manager budget by the council last Thursday will be a good piece of work if a capable man is found to take the first position. A good city manager can pay for his salary in a municipality as has been proved by any number of cities who have that form of government.

Coos-Curry counties richly deserve a pioneer museum to preserve the colorful things of the past which are fast disappearing. Even more to the point, the memories of those who know the histories of many an object of historical interest are getting more vague on certain points. Encouragement should be given the Coos-Curry pioneer groups who would build and see that displays of this great Southwestern Oregon country are preserved.

From many a kitchen door these mornings comes a wafting fragrance that knows no peer—it's wild blackberry jam in the making with all the perfumery of the wild and hidden places captured for a long winter day when bread and butter and blackberry jam make a kingly repast.

## TWENTY YEARS AGO

(Taken from The Sentinel of Friday, July 16, 1926)

The slide, just this side of China camp bridge, on the Marshfield highway, broke loose again about six o'clock last Sunday afternoon and for about four hours earth and rock were sliding down the surface onto the highway. The result of slide damage last February cost the state \$20,000 and it is expected that to remove enough of the hill to get back to the state of sliding rock will cost two or three times that much more.

President Coolidge last Tuesday signed the bill which will reimburse the counties of Oregon for the money lost in taxes through the reclaiming of the O. & C. railroad grant land by the government. Just how much Coos county will receive is not at all certain. Dispatches from Washington mention the sum of \$422,000. However, the assessor's office figures it to be \$587,000.

The forty-two dollar per capita circulation of money in America includes such moneys as are lying in the vaults of banks, hoarded, and in reserves. The money actually in circulation daily serving the people is probably less than ten dollars per capita.

G. Russell Morgan, secretary of the Coos & Curry Game Protective

Association, received 16 bull frogs from the State Game commission Wednesday, which he planted in the slough just before China Camp bridge and in Fat Elk.

Roadmaster Gilbert has been instructed by the county court to notify all road patrolmen to give notice to property owners along all highways to cut all noxious weeds and especially the Canadian thistle.

Prospects for the extension of the Oregon Electric railroad from Eugene to Gold Beach via Coos Bay are more than favorable, according to J. T. Brand, president of the Marshfield chamber of commerce.

The year 1925 showed a decrease of 1,177,900 horses and mules in the United States as compared with the beasts of burden now in this country practically all of them are in agricultural work.

The Chamber of Commerce directors, at their meeting Wednesday evening, endorsed the plan of the fire department to purchase a chemical truck by means of public subscription.

Chas. A. Baer, for five years a Ford salesman, and for eleven years in the automobile game, this week began selling Dodge Bros. cars.

## Timely Topics

By HON. R. T. MOORE

Uncertainty still remains at this writing as to ultimate fate of the OPA measure. Foreign countries who have borrowed from U. S. join Americans in concern lest prices get out of hand. Most of foreign loans will be spent for U. S. goods and the value of such loans will be lessened if further inflation sets in. The economical benefit expected from such indebtedness could easily be dissipated thereby. In the meantime the debate continues as the public takes release of price controls calmly and in stride.

Several press and radio commentators with leftist leanings have vociferously predicted greedy seizure by American business of the chance to profit unreasonably under current shortages of goods. But the totally unexpected and yet universal tendency of responsible firms to hold price lines has confounded this theory. The stand taken by leaders in virtually every industry has been surprisingly effective in controlling prices. Only minor increments of inflation have shown any inclination to take advantage of the situation. The great majority have elected, and wisely, to hold firm until forced by higher costs.

The common sense of American shoppers has generally defeated efforts by lone merchants to price unreasonably. The American housewife can thus accomplish quickly and thoroughly what the OPA has failed to do even after expenditure of huge sums of tax money.

Current experience in the lumber industry illustrates what is happening. Leading mills, almost without exception, have turned down a substantial volume of business offered at large increase over OPA ceilings. The feeling is that no general increase in lumber prices will be needed to stimulate production. Only those price adjustments necessary to found out cutting schedules equitably should be made. Lumbermen are anxious to protect future markets by asking the consumer to pay no more than a fair price commensurate with present costs. Any tendency to take advantage of juicy offerings stemming from desperate need for construction lumber will be confined to the hit-and-run type of sawmill. It is quite possible, however, that sawmills may be voluntarily given a somewhat greater share of the industry's profit as emphasis is laid on production. The latter is the only effective means of over-coming shortages in lumber for home-building.

This writer enjoyed an enlightening conversation with a mid-west lumber yard operator. The latter had offered business at a generous increase over ceiling prices and had given the assurance that this would not mean an increase in price for his customers. He pointed out that his yard was running at about a fourth of normal volume under the rather wide markup granted by OPA. If he could get lumber enough to operate at full capacity he could well afford to cut his per unit mark-up. Hence his offer of business at the price advance made sense. He could hold the cost to the consumer at present levels and still make more for himself. In his case at least, the OPA pricing turned out to be a floor rather than a ceiling.

The real strength of America lies in the capacity of the common citizen to make his own decisions intelligently. Evidently, in spite of the temporary lapse into a tendency to lean on the government, this capacity is still retained by the people. The sudden dumping of price controls into the lap of the public is a good object lesson. The people have done a very good job with voluntary controls that are far more effective than federal compulsion could ever be.

## Weekly Letter

By Congressman Ellsworth

### Procedure On OPA BILL

When and if the OPA bill, on which the Senate is working, comes to the House, it will NOT be brought to the floor, debated and read for amendment. The legislation will most likely come back to the House in the form of a Conference Report. The technical situation is that the Senate is amending House Joint Resolution 371, which was passed by the House in the form of a simple 20-day extension of the OPA law which expired June 30th. Any other provisions will be placed in the bill by the Senate. When the Senate has completed its work on the House, the only question at that moment before the House is: Shall the House agree to the Senate amendments to the Joint Resolution? There might be a House vote on that question, which could end Congressional action on the bill. In other words, if the House should happen to vote to agree with the Senate amendments, the bill would then be completed by both Houses.

What is more likely, however, is that the bill, as amended by the Senate, will go to a conference of seven Senate and seven House members, and final action in the House then will come on the Conference Report. There is ordinarily debate of only one hour on such a report. What all of this amounts to, then, is the simple fact that the OPA bill now before Congress may be passed by the House of Representatives after only one hour's consideration.

It looks now as if the OPA bill which Congress will pass this time may be more objectionable to the President than the previous one.

Food Prices  
The Republican Congressional Food

THE OREGONIAN  
AGENCY

YOUR OREGONIAN AGENT

J. V. SIMS  
Phone 191X  
Coquille, Ore.

Study Committee has made a partial survey of what has happened to food prices since June 30th. Meat, milk and butter prices seem to be holding at the former price plus the subsidy. Fresh vegetables and fruits are generally lower-priced than OPA ceilings, with price allowances for quality. Poultry prices went up about 10c. The price of cheese advanced advanced 4c to 5c a pound over OPA ceiling. The subsidy for cheese was about 6½c per pound. There was no important change in the price of packaged groceries during the week just passed.

An accurate appraisal of the price situation is very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain on a day to day basis, but our studies quite definitely reveal that there has been no "run-away" tendency in food prices.

### Subsidy A Deception

The people have been fooled for a long time about the real price paid for food. Consumers have been paying only part of the cost, and the Federal Government, with tax dollars, has been paying the difference. So, when the government stopped paying this difference, the price of food had to rise. In other words, we are now required to pay the entire cost for the groceries we buy. The best example is that relating to the cost of butter. OPA kept down the price of butter to all of us by paying 15c out of the public treasury for every pound that was produced. Now we are called upon to pay that 15c. And so it is with most food items. In the case of meat, OPA allowed the meat packers and producers \$30 for every 1,000 pound steer that was killed. Annual cost for this subsidy was 750 million dollars. With no subsidy payments, we will have to make up that sum if we want meat. This subsidy business has lulled the public into a false concept of the price of food. OPA has not held these prices down. It only made up the difference out of the U. S. Treasury. We cannot expect to get something for nothing.

We must bear in mind also that



Measures of thoughtful consideration of friendly concern, contain more real value than the baubles of barter. Recognize the good qualities of a friend if you would make him rich in happiness, and add to the stature of his and your own soul. Invite him into your life.

Service can be merely a printed word, or a series of experienced acts that result in a dignified performance of helpful measure.

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OPA in recent months has granted more than 500 price increases. As one commentator said, "It was not preventing price increases. It was de-

creasing them." OPA was getting itself in an untenable position.

Sentinel Classified Adva. will sell it.

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