

ILLINOIS VALLEY NEWS

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School District Controversy In Second Degree

Washington Weekly Letter

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH

There is an extremely important publication delivered daily to each member of Congress. It is entitled "Daily Statement of the United States Treasury." It tells in detail just how our federal government stands financially. On February 28th, 1946, our federal public debt reached its peak of \$278,451,079,946.48. Two years and one month later, as of March 23rd, 1948, the federal public debt is \$253,166,736,610.87. In other words, during the past 25 months, the debt has been paid off at the rate of one billion dollars per month. At that rate, the entire war debt, plus the 50 billion dollar debt built up during the New Deal WPA spending days, would be retired in 21 years.

Republicans believe that the present drain on taxpayers is too great. We also believe that capital which should be going into business and production expansion is being siphoned off in the form of high taxes to such an extent that our economy will be ruined unless this drain of capital into the Federal Treasury is decreased. Many Democratic Members of Congress agree with us. That is why the House of Representatives passed the tax reduction bill by a vote of 289 to 67.

Washington, D. C. weather is spring-like, with afternoon temperatures going toward 90 degrees. Blossoms are coming out earlier than usual. The annual cherry blossom festival scheduled for April 10th may have to take place without benefit of cherry blossoms, since the famous "Oriental" cherry trees which border the Tidal Basin are already in full bloom.

But the blossoms and the weather are the only things cheerful in this worried Capital right now.

The Russians, whether intentionally or otherwise, have recently made some substantial contributions to the intensive propaganda drive carried on by the Administration for the passage of the European Recovery Plan. The over-all result of the propaganda drive, plus the Russian moves in Europe, has been to create a spell of war fever here, not unlike that which existed in the fall of 1941.

Although the Russian take-over of the government of Czechoslovakia was a ruthless move, it must be remembered that Czechoslovakia was already a Russian satellite nation. The Italian elections scheduled for April 18th offer a serious threat of Communist victory there, but the people of Italy have, as recently as last October, voted against the Communists, and probably will again. Nevertheless, those two developments constitute the basis of the present war scare.

I do not mean to minimize the seriousness of the situation in Europe, but I think the zeal of those who have been testifying for, and speaking and writing about, the Marshall plan has not only crystallized the sentiment of our people for the plan, but accounts for a large part of our present war fear.

There is another heart-breaking similarity between present events and those of 1941. In 1941, we were shipping scrap iron, petroleum products and other war materials to Japan. Today, petroleum products, airplane engines and other essential war supplies are being sold and shipped to Russia and her satellites. Many members of Congress have been protesting this situation for months, but as this is written, nothing really tangible has been done about it. The President could end this business with an executive order.

We are about midway in this

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EXCELLENT PICTURES AT IVY THEATER COMING WEEK

A special attraction for Friday and Saturday, "Mom and Dad". It's more than a motion picture, in fact it's three pictures in one, plus a hygiene commentator, Mr. Elliot Forbes, in person. It is a vital and tremendously important event in every community thruout the nation. Mom and Dad is first of all entertainment, secondly, an impressive warning, and finally proof that immoral living doesn't pay.

Because of the nature of the story grade school age children are not admitted. It's ideal educational entertainment for high school age and older. In view of the fact that it's medical sequences speak out the truth frankly and boldly, so that all may see, hear and understand the facts of life it is shown to segregated audiences. For women and girls only at 2 and 7 p.m. each day, for men and boys only at 9 p.m. each night.

Ivy with Joan Fontaine and Patric Knowles, Sunday, a dynamic drama full of suspense. Richard Ney portrays the husband Joan murders and Patric the lover upon whom she casts suspicion so that she can be free to pursue another lover.

A double feature for Wednesday, Song of the Sierras with Jimmy Wakely. Against a background of outlaw intrigue, a thrilling horse race, with death and danger lurking in every foot of the course, furnishes one of the exciting moments, with music of Wesley Tuttle and his Texas Stars.

PARENTS INTERESTED IN MUSIC ARE ASKED TO ATTEND MEETING

Sydney E. Bouch, musical instructor at Kerby high, is holding a meeting for parents who have children in the schools, both grade and high, and requests all parents to come to the meeting and hear a message from him.

Mr. Bouch is greatly interested in the musical future of our schools and wants to assist in getting musical organizations together. He stated that 11 children were interested in playing in the school band. These children should be encouraged in their music.

The band is not the only organization. Chorus, mixed and with girls and boys clubs separate. Other glee clubs are interested, and Mr. Bouch would like to have the opportunity to tell the parents what the future has in store for children of this district.

GARDEN CLUB TO HOLD ANNUAL DAFFODIL TEA

The Illinois Valley Garden Club will have the Annual Daffodil Tea at the home of Mrs. Harry O. Smith on Sunday afternoon, April 11th, between the hours of 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.

Plans have been made to have open house with refreshments and a small admission charge, to be applied to the club's funds.

The hundreds of blooming varieties of daffodils are well worth seeing and a sight enjoyed by many people.

Girl Scouts Are Making Scrapbooks for Veterans

Girl Scout Troop No. 1, had a very short meeting last week, because most the members wanted to go to the high school carnival.

The girls are making scrapbooks for the disabled veterans in hospitals.

Mrs. Harry O. Smith returned home from Portland this week where she attended the Primrose show held in that city.

In order to correctly inform the readers of the Illinois Valley News and the Grants Pass Courier concerning the change of principals of the Kerby School for next year, the Kerby sub-district committee members and the county board members make the following statements:

Mr. Eugene E. Dove requested the committee's recommendation for a three-year contract.

Considering the best interest of the school, and the fact that we represent a great number of patrons who had expressed different opinions on Mr. Dove's efficiency, we did not vote to grant Mr. Dove's request; but we did not wish to jeopardize his professional career.

Under those conditions, we recommended to the county board that Mr. Dove be retained for one year.

F. A. KAUFMAN
EFFIE M. SMITH
R. G. SOWELL

Kerby Sub-District Committee

At the regular county board meeting February 24, Superintendent L. C. Moffitt recommended re-election of Mr. Dove, but no action was taken.

Knowing the Kerby committee's recommendation, Mr. Dove appeared before the county board on March 8 and stated he was interested in nothing less than a three-year contract.

Under the county school law, the sub-district committee has the right to reject any teacher before March 1 each year. This eliminated the possibility of granting a three-year contract for the Kerby position.

When the board so informed Mr. Dove he said he would not be interested in any other school in the district. He submitted his resignation dated March 8, to become effective at the end of his present contract. It was accepted March 22, after more than two hours of discussion and at the recommendation of Mr. Moffitt.

CHLORIS T. AXTELL
LEW F. KRAUSS
N. A. WATERS
REN D. SIMS
FRED VARNER

Josephine County School District Board.

The two statements above received by The News, while in a half-hearted way try to explain why Mr. Dove was not re-engaged, the statements are absolutely inadequate to satisfy The News.

Just why our local committee injected itself into the controversy is more than we understand. We merely mentioned that the local committee recommended that Mr. Dove be given a one year contract. This they agree they did. As far as we are concerned, that cleared them, and we can't understand why they sent their letter, especially coached in terms not at all complimentary to Mr. Dove's efficiency. If this is the way they felt about it, they should not have recommended him in the first place, and since they did recommend him, their letter, to say the least, is in bad form. It would have been much better if the local committee had stayed out of the picture. We have great confidence in our local school committee, and we do sincerely believe they were ASKED to send the letter, and it was not of their own volition, and we think the letter was written for them.

Now the county school board comes into the picture—Maybe we're getting some place. We definitely asked Mr. Moffitt to make a statement—we didn't ask the school board or the local sub-district committee.

The above letters from the board and the committee, clearly state the facts as we know them. But they stop where they should have begun.

We are going to tell our story as it has been told to us. Mr. Dove did ask for a three-year contract. We believe a principal has as much right to have a three-year contract as the county school superintendent has a right to ask for a three-year contract. But they tell us in the above letter a Kerby

Mass Meeting Called for April 9

principal cannot have a three-year contract. We believe we have the right to ask what kind of a principal can the board secure on a year-to-year contract? He can only have a single year contract. What security has any principal that he will be re-engaged the next year?

Also according to the letter above from the county board, our local district committee does NOT have the right to reject the new principal that the board will engage for us. It clearly states they must do so before March 1 of each year. They will have no voice in our new principal.

Now for later developments which the board does not touch on. After Mr. Dove was informed that he could not have a three-year contract, he reconsidered and said he would take a one-year contract. Mr. Moffitt did recommend him for a one-year contract. The board refused to act on his recommendation at that time. When the board was informed that Mr. Dove would accept a one-year term, they dilly-dallied for two hours trying to find ways and means to reject the offer. No one seemed to have the intestinal fortitude to step up and say "We don't want Mr. Dove." It seems the board was half inclined to give Mr. Dove another year's contract, when Mr. Simms asked Mr. Moffitt if he did not recommend another contract for Mr. Dove. Mr. Moffitt answered that he did. Then Mr. Simms asked what is your recommendation now.

After the board had spent two hours debating the subject, and when they had an opportunity to re-engage Mr. Dove, or reject him, Mr. Moffitt said he recommended accepting Mr. Dove's resignation. Quicker than we can tell it, the motion was made and seconded and carried unanimously.

In our editorial last week we asked Mr. Moffitt for a statement. If he had made it, we believe it would be substantially as we have stated.

Our last week's editorial may have seemed a little harsh on Mr. Moffitt. Personally, we consider Mr. Moffitt a gentleman of high calibre, and we believe in his integrity, and we do not censure him for making the best possible deal for his own security, we would do the same, but we can't understand why if it is good business to engage a good superintendent for a three-year contract, why can't we have a good principal for a three-year contract? The board has set a precedent which will act to the great disadvantage of the Kerby or any local school in the county.

We want to make this point clear—We are not interested in Mr. Dove's future, as much as we are in the principalship of Kerby school. We would do the same thing for any good principal. We object to being shoved around with new principals. We objected to Jerry Medcalf leaving on the same grounds, and we will continue to object to having new principals, when we could with equal assurance, keep a good one when we have him.

The county board's action in deferring acting on Mr. Dove's contract until after March 1, smacks of some ulterior motive. They knew that after March 1, the local sub-district committee would have no voice in their new principal. We could easily believe it was deliberately done.

As far as Mr. Moffitt is concerned, he is acting under orders of the county board. We think now the "nigger in the woodpile," is the county school board. After all they had the last say, and we think they deliberately fired Principal Dove under the pretext of accepting his resignation.

Principal Dove is no angel, we know that. He has his faults as well as others. But he was a better man than fair principal, and the teachers liked him and the children liked him. We wonder if the board took these things into consideration. We can understand some of the actions of the board

All citizens of the valley who are interested in the Valley's development and the Rogue Basin Irrigation project, are asked to take time and come to a big general meeting to be held in the American Legion hall, Friday evening, April 9th at 8 o'clock.

This meeting is called for the purpose of the Valley resident's action in regard to forming an association that will represent the people of the valley in all the hearings to be held in the future regarding the irrigation project for the Illinois Valley.

If we are to have a representative who will look out for our interests, the people at large must form an organization, (no cost involved) and elect their representatives to attend meetings and fight for our project.

Victor Boehl, president of the Rogue Valley Irrigation association, will attend this meeting and explain why it is necessary to form the organization. Other prominent men who are interested in the project will also be present and talk.

Please remember the date and attend this meeting. Every farmer in the Valley should attend and learn what it means to them to have the project. Every business man should attend and learn all about the project.

Friday night, April 9th in the American Legion hall, 8 o'clock.

SPEAKERS GIVE TIMELY TALKS TO CLUB WOMEN

The Business and Professional Women of the Valley held their first regular meeting last Tuesday evening at the home of Edith Hall. Hereafter meetings are scheduled for the last Tuesday of the month, place to be voted by members soon.

Present were 35 ladies and all enjoyed the delicious potluck dinner. Many things were discussed among these a talk by Fern Trull, president of the Grants Pass Club, on the stand women are taking in world affairs and the possibility of them having their say at the peace conferences.

Kathleen Clark gave an interesting reading; Edith Hall read the "Idea." Marie Wilcox, state representative from Josephine county, spoke on the rapid growth of the Illinois valley.

The Grants Pass visitors were Fern Trull, Marie Wilcox, Margaret Grunzie, Lela West, Elsie Garvey, Florence McElanahan, Janice Westaby, Bonnie Borie, Daisy Clow, Maude McQueen, Velma Smith and Jean Sands.

STATE MINING INDUSTRY MAY BE REVIVED

Necessity for stock-piling needed minerals as the result of current unsettled world conditions "may inject new life into the mining industry in Oregon," a March report of the State Post-War Readjustment and Development commission states, says the Courier.

It has been 11 years since O. & C. lands were closed to prospecting by order of the then Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes, an area comprised of two and one-half million acres.

F. W. Libbey, director of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, has testified that these lands are known to contain ores which include bauxite, refractory clays, gold, silver, copper, lead and zinc.

Libbey declared that while 22 wartime producers provided 9000 flasks of mercury, there is now but one firm operating.

against Mr. Dove. If a member of the board wished to correct Mr. Dove's attitude and they wanted him, it could have easily been done but the board chose to keep silent and get in the last lick.

This is all there is to the controversy as far as the News is concerned, unless the board chooses to prolong the argument.

Did You Know?

Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce Activities

Due to the limited seating capacity at the Crescent City Chamber of Commerce dinner last Monday evening only four guest tickets were sent to the Illinois Valley Chamber to attend their 35th annual dinner banquet.

Four of our members crossed the state line on a sort of good will mission and to shake the hands of our neighbors of Del Norte county of California. The meeting was very interesting and progressed exceedingly well. The chief purpose of their meeting was to elect their new officers and in spite of very good entertainment, a guest speaker, our own Dr. Elmo Stevenson, president of Southern Oregon college, the meeting was concluded at 9:30 p.m. calendar time, Oregon time, that is, not daylight saving time. All in all, the meeting was a huge success.

This meeting, along with others in the near future, is the beginning of a new friendship with the Crescent City Chamber, inasmuch as we have many mutual interests, namely; we are both part of the great Redwood Empire, and the much hoped for Crescent City harbor. We were informed that the appropriation money for the harbor has been granted by the federal government and it is as our neighbors say, in the bag. That is certainly grand news for both of us.

The Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce is working on these issues and many others for the betterment and future of this area, and now that we are really acquainted with our next door neighbors we must do our very best. The more we do to help the better the future of this part of the country, and we certainly want to have a part in that future.

The Illinois Valley Chamber of Commerce send their thanks to the Crescent City Chamber of Commerce for their invitation, and as soon as arrangements are made, we shall be the hosts for dinner.

It seems they are having growing pains like we in the Valley, but the deeper the pains the better we like it. Remember, money spent in the Valley, makes the Valley grow!

Modern Ceramics To Be Discussed At O'Brien Women's Club Meeting

The next meeting of the O'Brien Women's Club will be held Friday, April 9th at the home of Mrs. Frank Rauber. The special feature of this meeting will be a talk on modern ceramics by Bill and Connie of the well known Bill-Conn trademark. All members are urged to attend as this program promises to be most interesting and enjoyable.

HAM AND HIS GANG PLAY AT LEGION DANCE

Big doin's at the Legion Hall next Saturday according to Don Rosenberg, dance chairman, when Ham and his Gang of Grants Pass again will furnish music for their dance, and a record attendance is expected from all reports for this event. Delicious eats are a feature at midnight by the Auxiliary ladies, so plan to attend this dance next Saturday and enjoy an evening of music, recreation and eats.

Auto Examiner To Be In Cave Junction

A traveling examiner of operators and chauffeurs is scheduled to be in Cave Junction, Friday, April 12 and will be on duty at the American Legion hall between the hours of 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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