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CONFUSION

It is hard to imagine a nation more confused than this one right now. Radios blare dire forebodings of war, news of forced retreats, of hurried conferences; but new cars are being shown, food is plentiful, although increasing in price, government still spends and spends (trucks go by with Brannan blue potatoes, and if it wasn't for the news Americans might think they had reached an economic heaven.

Many have heard the cry of Wolf, Wolf, so often from the administration that no appeal is taken seriously. There is talk of higher taxes for the war but no single bit of evidence that the administration expects to curtail any of its political luxuries. We are either in a very bad way or someone is trying to sell us on a program we may not like. What Mr. Truman said to Mr. Atlee has not been fully reported. We are hearing that both of the brave boys were against appeasement (an unpopular word) but there is still talk of a truce which may be the same thing under a modern term. Experts seem to feel that they smell a "deal" coming up.

It now appears that we may call up more men as soon as we can provide clothes for them and guns for them. We may get to making war materials again if the war department decides what it needs. Always before this nation has had a couple of years in which to get ready for war and maybe it takes us that long.

Speakers are saying that we must rally behind our chosen leaders and support them in whatever they decide and for the first time in memory there is little response to that sentiment. Maybe the people think that no good result could come from such loyalty. Anyway the people are confused and are following their leaders in that.

OREGONIAN SALE

The sale of the Oregonian came as something of a shock to those who follow that newspaper. Apparently the owners waited until the first 100 years were passed before selling out.

Indications are that the sale was made for economic reasons; not enough income and aging stockholders who wanted to get ready for the undertaker and the tax collector. That, in itself, may be a shock to those who have so often been told that service to the public took precedence over economic considerations.

The new owner, Samuel Newhouse, has according to his printed record, been successful in building up a chain (pardon us, a group) of newspapers in New York and Pennsylvania. His success in that record was measured in subscribers and dollars not in services rendered on other planes than the economic.

For our part we wish the new owner well and hope that he will be able to fulfill his aims and that he publishes a newspaper that will win the leadership a paper named the "Oregonian" deserves and that he is able to make a paper adequately concerned with the problems of all Oregon without which neither the city nor its newspaper could exist.

RAIN MAKING

Dr. Krick talked at the wheat league meeting and his speech drew comment from far and wide. It is so wonderful to believe that man can control the weather, make it wet or make it dry, make the day to be cloudy or make the sun to stand still as Joshua commanded. Miracles, turning water into wine is paltry compared to turning clouds into rain.

Listeners wondered about the fabulous Dr. Krick who appeared to some of the unbelieving as a man with a goodly amount of seamanship. He is primarily a weather forecaster, an ability that should give him an intimation about where to conduct his rain making activities.

The promise of rain to a dry land farmer is a lure that brings

the most conservative to the hook. Rain is so important, even an inch at certain times is worth millions of dollars to a wheat grower. It is like getting into a \$500 poker pot with a five buck ante, this having rain promised. No one can sit staring at his pair deuces with such an opportunity before him. He has to bet. That is why the wheat farmer rushes to hire a rain maker. It is not a matter of conviction; it is a matter of percentages.

The farmers are pretty well protected in the deal because rain that is general over the northwest does not count for Dr. unless there is a greater percentage of increase in the area that pays him.

An extra five or six inches of rain in Gilliam, Morrow and Sherman counties might be worth 2,000,000 to 4,000,000 bushels of wheat and for \$8,000,000 it is possible to pay Krick a good sum without endangering the welfare of anyone. Of course wheat is a surplus crop and there is no need for the extra supply but the government doesn't know that yet.

TAX STUDY REPORT

If the recommendations of the 1949 Interim Tax Study committee are adopted, whether now or in the future, they will materially change the method of taxation in Oregon.

First principle in the report is the elimination of off-sets and exemptions.

For years Oregon has had but one direct state tax. That is the tax on property. Income and corporation excise taxes are used as off-sets to the property tax. This has made it necessary to first levy a property tax and then off-set it in order to obtain more money. When it was necessary to exceed the six percent limitation this was found very difficult because it was not generally understood. This was one of the major complications in Oregon's tax system.

The committee has recommended that the state tax be abolished as a source of state income. There was disagreement about whether this should be done by statute or constitutional amendment, but none about the desirability of doing it.

With the state property tax abolished income and excise tax funds will go into the general fund for direct appropriation—not as funds to off-set a property tax.

When the corporation excise tax was passed it also was a tax used to off-set property taxes. Therefore exemptions were given to corporations paying heavy personal property taxes. Under certain circumstances there has been no corporation tax in Oregon because of off-sets.

The committee has recommended that these off-sets and exemptions be abolished and that corporations making a profit be taxed at the rate of six percent. The present rate is eight percent but because of off-sets the effective rate has been around six percent in recent years.

Elimination of exemptions will also bring income making church property, co-operatives, building owning corporations under the tax. The committee theory is that all corporations making profit pay tax.

The six percent limitation has been a bug bear in Oregon especially since the rapid growth has come to the state in recent years. The committee recommends that voters of a taxing unit be allowed to change the tax base on a vote of the people held at any primary or general election. This is done to assure a fair turnout of voters, not a mere handful as sometimes vote at special elections.

The personal property tax is recognized as being highly unfair all over the country. The tax paid in many cases bears no relation to the profit made from ownership of personal property and many pay little or no tax while others are overtaxed. Sheepmen, for example, get their crop off to market while cattlemen cannot do so. The committee recommended that there be a monthly inventory of tangible personal property and that other reforms be made to bring more personal property onto the tax rolls. The business tax was turned down by the committee because no method of apportioning it back to the counties was devised, yet, the legislature was urged to study such a form of taxation as an alternative to the personal property tax.

Necessity of making voters informed about measures on the ballot by changing the constitution so that the cost of such measures were given on the ballot was recommended. A cigarette tax to pay for the soldiers bonus and several other suggestions were made.

Generally the committee did not recommend new taxes; it did study Oregon's tax system and pointed ways it could be simplified and strengthened and made fairer.

About the County

about folks you do know or would enjoy knowing

Mrs. George Fox The Rufus high school students and some guests enjoyed a party at the school house Wednesday night. Games were played, some dancing done. The girls served the lunch. The high school teachers were chaperons.

Work on the play is under way. The play, "The Fight Before Christmas" is cast by Mrs. W. E. Rice, Mrs. Adrian Roberts, Mrs. Joe Morris, Vincent Rice, Fay Brackett, Ernie Engles and James Tate. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bryant of Seattle were over night guests of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Wilson Sunday night.



TALK PLANE COSTS . . . Air Force Undersecretary John McCone (left) tells the house armed services committee that an additional \$15 to \$20 million dollars will be required to offset rising prices in the military expansion program. He was corroborated by Lt. Gen. Nathan Truman (right), as the committee considered the advisability of asking Truman to invoke wage and price controls. Inflation, McCone said, would cost the air force an amount that would pay for 750 jet fighters.

Rufus high school boys in a game of basketball at the Rufus gym Thursday night. The score was 41 to 30.

The Rufus church Christmas program will be given Friday evening December 22 at 8 o'clock.

Eureka Lodge No. 121 A.F. & A.M. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings each month. Visiting members cordially invited to meet with us. C. S. Bennett, W. M. H. B. Pinkerton, Secretary

Moro Lodge No. 113 L.O.O.F. Meets 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in L.O.O.F. hall. Transient and visiting brothers are cordially invited to meet with us. Marvin Howell, N. G. Leo Watkins, Secretary

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Thompson of Cornelius are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Benton Barnett of Miss Audrey Blackburne who is employed in The Dalles spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Blackburne. Also a guest of the Blackburnes last week was their son Roger Blackburne and his fiancée of Pendleton.

Lupine Rebekah Lodge No. 116 Meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month. Visiting members welcome. Helen Kruger, N. G. Lucille May, Sec.

Settlechem Chapter No. 78 O.E.S. Meets every second and fourth Thursday in each month; visiting members invited. Moro, Oregon. Olive Young, W. M. Naomi Van Gilder, Secretary

Beefo's Beefo's

BEEFO'S

At the CAPITAL CITY, Moro, Oregon

There will be a DANCE in Wasco SATURDAY, DEC. 16

sponsored by the American Legion

with entire proceeds going to

VETERAN'S BENEFIT FUND

Hanson Orchestra

Beefo's Beefo's

Christmas Trees



for patrons and

friends of the

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75.00	77.00	81.00	86.00	94.00	100.00	
150.00	154.00	162.00	172.00	188.00	200.00	
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