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EDITORIALS

TIME TO CALL A HALT.

In our opinion the time has come to call a halt on the expansion of government in business. We can see no bright future for our country if all private initiative is to be stifled by bureaucratic control.

It is a recognized fact that the backbone of our country is the small business man. This man tired of working for others and started in business for himself, hoping to make a living for himself and family. He possessed little capital and was content with small earnings.

Today we see him crushed out of existence by the steam roller of government regulation.

Let us take for example the case of the small country newspaper which does a small amount of commercial printing in connection. The owner does his own work, and was, until the New Deal came along, with its codes and price-fixing, making a bare living. His customers were content to put up with a lower grade of printing which his limited equipment enabled him to produce, so long as he shaved the price a bit. With his lower overhead and by doing his own work this man was able to charge less for his product than the big shops did and still make a small profit.

But along came the N. R. A. with its codes and Price Determination Schedules. He was forced to raise his price to the level of the city shop with the result that his small trade, so laboriously built up, was gone. His former customers at once felt if they had to pay city prices, why not get the best quality for their money? Either that, or they ceased to buy printed matter at all.

Now the question we ask is, who has profited by the code? Is it helping bring recovery to force men who had been supporting themselves and their families, out of business and thus making more unemployment?

We have been told by the president and his "brain-trusters" that the idea behind the N. R. A. was to cut out selling products below cost—that every business man must charge a profit above his costs. We ask, if an man can find a cheaper building; can cut down his overhead below his competitor, why must he be compelled to charge the same price for his product? Isn't that plain gouging of the consumer?

We contend that so long as a business man pays the proper wages; works his employees the proper hours per week; it is NOT UNFAIR COMPETITION for him to charge a price for his product allowing a fair profit above his cost, regardless of what others may be compelled to charge, owing to higher overhead costs.

It is time to call a halt. We are content for the government to say what the maximum hours of labor shall be and what shall be the minimum wage per hour. But when it comes to fixing blanket prices for industry we believe they are going entirely too far.

PRaise FOR COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

In a recent speech, Chester C. Davis, Agricultural Adjustment Administration director, said that the history of dairy cooperatives shows that the following four main objectives have been reached:

A larger share of consumer's dollar for the producers; elimination of unfair and destructive practices in distribution and processing; development of leadership able to cope with leaders of agencies with which a cooperative must deal; extending to all producers in a given market the responsibility for doing their part to maintain stability.

Achievements like these, made during some of the most trying years the nation has ever passed through, show on what a sound foundation the cooperative movement rests. It has always been a stabilizing influence; it will be re-

membered that during the farm riots of a few months ago the major co-ops did as much as any agency, co-operate of official, to bring order out of chaos. It has never been awayed by giddy theories; instead it has kept firmly to the line of proven methods and time-tested ideas.

If the cooperatives can accomplish so much during bleak depression it is difficult to exaggerate their potential achievements. The American farmer has real cause for feeling confidence in the future.

"SEASONAL" ACCIDENT HAZARDS

The National Safety Council observes that the accident rate keeps step with the thermometer. With the coming of summer, all types of accidents, ranging from life-destroying automobile collisions to cases of sunburn, tend to increase.

A little common-sense will solve the problem these "seasonal hazards" present. When you go camping, regard axes, knives and other sharp implements with the respect they deserve—and in case you are cut or scratched attend to it at once. Many a person has died needlessly from infections resulting from minor injuries. And remember that sunburn can also be a killer, and that over-exercise after a year spent in an office chair amounts to holding out an invitation to the doctor—and possibly the mortician. There are obvious precautions that must be taken when it comes to swimming and other summer diversions and sports.

The automobile, of course, remains the greatest hazard of all. In summer roads are dry, the weather fine—and the speed demon is likely to take command. The potential danger involved in this cannot be overemphasized. Excessive speed—which can be simply defined as going faster than traffic and highway conditions of the moment justify—takes more lives and does more economic damage than any other driving error. Don't forget that the time-saving a few minutes of excessive speed may yet be not vital—and that it may bring summer to an end for you and your family for all time.

INVESTIGATING "GOVERNMENT IN BUSINESS"

An article in the Chicago Journal of Commerce announces that government competition with private business, as illustrated by the Tennessee Valley electric project, is to be investigated by a committee selected from the board of directors of the Illinois Manufacturers Association.

The committee will visit Muscle Shoals and other parts of area under review, and report to the association, with particular attention paid to the following points:

1. How competition from the Federal government affects private utilities and the power-using public.
2. The effect upon industry of the government's selling electric appliances at very low prices.
3. The effect of the project upon the fertilizer industry.

4. The extent to which the plan has influenced or may be expected to influence the location of industries in the area.

5. The relation of the project of agriculture.

6. The possible effect of the project on taxation, and in further extending government competition with existing private industries.

That report, if it is dispassionate and factual, will be of great value to a public which is confused by differing arguments and opposed political and industrial philosophies. It must be remembered that the Tennessee Valley project in itself is of no great importance—it is however, vastly important as an indication of a trend which might eventually cover the country with tax-free, publicly-financed industries competing with heavily-taxed, privately-financed, existing businesses. The problems of employment, investment, taxation, industrial expansion are inextricably tied up with this greater problem.

There was never a time when it was more important to cast light on places which, to most people, are dark and hidden.

ONTARIO—Intensive use of poison bait recommended by County Agent R. G. Larson has saved many fields in the irrigated sections of Malheur county from probably complete destruction by jack rabbits reared down from the surrounding hills by the extreme drought.

The bait, prepared by chopping green alfalfa and mixing it with strychnine alkaloid, was placed in lines at the edge of the sage brush. Roy Johnson of Vale killed more than 3000 rabbits with 12 ounces of strychnine, and many other excellent kills were reported. The sum of \$1000 set aside by the county court for the payment of 2 1/2 cent bounties on rabbits was exhausted in less than two weeks.

Economic Highlights

Happenings That Affect the Dinner Pails, Dividend Checks and Tax Bills of Every Individual. National and International Problems Inseparable from Local Welfare.

Today Central Europe is the madhouse of the world. Great powers are literally sitting on powder-kegs, and only a spark is needed to produce the greatest explosion since 1914. The last world war started when a half-insane anarchist murdered an obscure Grand Duke in a city few Americans had ever heard of. It takes years to prepare the stage for major wars—to build up the hatreds, the mistrusts, the fears, that underlie them. Once the stage is set, however, only minutes are required to get the play going.

Behind the assassination of Chancellor Dollfuss, Austria's five-foot-tall iron man, is an involved, crooked, close-to-untraceable chain of events that go back to the post-war peace pacts. Modern Austria is a head without a body. In the days before 1914, the old empire embraced 250,000 square miles of territory, harboring a population of 59,000,000. After the war, the map of Europe was remade to the order of the victorious countries, and when the operation was finished, Austria had been reduced to 7,000,000 people, with a little over 30,000 square miles of territory. Much of this land is worthless from the standpoint of production—and neighboring nations erected high tariff walls to prevent the small amount of export Austria could have had. Only loans have kept her from bankruptcy during the past fifteen years.

As a result, her people are despairing, frightened, wondering. She is thus always facing potential revolution. It is that fact that Hitler is seeking to take advantage of. Germany, too, was dismembered by war—and the Nazi dream is to restore the territorial empire that once made Potsdam the most important capital of Europe. Hitler believes that the way to do that is not by invasion—France, Italy and perhaps England, with great armies and navies, would crush him as soon as he started if he tried that course—but by establishing Nazi governments in other central powers, of which Austria is one. Dollfuss was the great defender of Austrian independence—a Christian Socialist, he, although a supreme dictator, hated the Nazis—and his removal was essential to Nazi hopes.

The Nazi attempt to take over the Austrian government, daring as it was, failed Italy at once moved 50,000 troops to the Italian-Austrian frontier—she, with France, is pledged to maintain Austrian independence. There is no altruism in this—it simply represents self protection. She knows well that if the Hitler dream is achieved, Germany once

more will become a great industrial and military power and that she will be only a matter of time before she again tries to conquer Europe.

Most desperate of Austrian problems now is civil war—Nazi sentiment is strong among the Austrian people, and the government will be ruthless in seeking to subdue it. The new Chancellor is Dr. Kurt Schuschnigg, an ardent anti-Nazi.

When Dollfuss died, it looked as if the lid had been taken from the Central European powder keg at last and that the spark was about to be applied. Then the lid was clamped down again. But it sits loosely in its position, the dynamite is still there, and the fuse ready for the match.

The only certain thing one can say about the business outlook at this time is that it is uncertain. A number of factors have united to retard the further progress of recovery. Among these are: Lethargic credit, due largely to uncertainty as to what is going to happen to the dollar; the rising level of construction costs; fear that the new securities act is going to deal another blow to industrial financing; the growing labor problem; the belief that government will further restrict and regulate business; the prospect of still higher taxes. Surveys indicate that the small business is finding the going hardest; the increased cost of doing business is more serious to it than to the large industry with sizable cash reserves, which can stand financial drain longer.

Of all these problems, that of labor is as serious as any. The San Francisco general strike is over, and there is no apparent danger of other cities having to undergo a similar experience. A number of striking unions have voted heavy majorities

in favor of arbitration by a government board. All that is encouraging. But the fact remains—and business leaders know it—that labor leaders are not satisfied; that success to them means 100 per cent closed shop industry. There is much bitterness, much anger, much misunderstanding, in the ranks of both workers and employers. Arbitration can smooth matters over and effect certain adjustments—but it can't solve the problem entirely. It seems certain that labor will continue to be a burning issue for many months to come.

The belief is widely held that the question of future political trends is also a dampening influence on business, and that industry will be quiet until the results of the November elections are known.

Medford Chosen For Municipal Survey

Eugene, Ore.—Medford has been selected as the second city to be surveyed by the League of Oregon Cities, and a complete analysis of its finances, administration and other details will be made available to officials of other cities of the state, it was announced by Herman Kehrl, executive secretary of the League and director of the University of the University of Oregon bureau of municipal research and service.

Medford was selected as a representative of cities from 8,000 to 12,000. Charles McKinley, professor of political science at Reed college in Portland, will make a thorough study of all city activities. The information will be sent out from the Eugene office of the League.

Oregon City was the first city to be selected for the survey, and the work there has been completed by Professor McKinley. Selection of a city from 2,000 to 2,500 population will be made as soon as the work is completed at Medford.

Orchardists Warned To Watch For Blight

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completion growers of this variety are warned to make plans to remove all hold-over blight as quickly as possible, according to L. P. Wilcox, County Agent.

Trees when relieved of their fruit crop will immediately increase their vigor and oftentimes dormant blight cankers, if present will under such conditions renew their activities.

Growers should go over all trees thoroughly, cut generously of wood in case cankers are found and use without stint the recommended disinfectant on both tools and cuts.

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Thoroughbred Racing: Sport of kings—afternoons. Grandstand admission reduced from 50c to 25c—reserved seats and boxes 25c and 50c extra. New mile track.

Free Double Night Show: Circus acts, vaudeville, comedy and thrillers on the platform plus a contest rodeo (re-day-o) in the Arena. This is not hippodrome Wild West, but tough selected buckers from California and Oregon Ranges. Bucking Brahmas from Texas; longhorn bulldogging steers from Mexico; cowboys from Mexico and Canada. A varied program to suit all. General admission to night show FREE. Reserved seats 25c. 3,000 free seats. Free standing room for 10,000 more.

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Rainproof Fair: In case of rain come see how the new 1,000-foot long rainproof indoor trail keeps the crowds dry and happy. Races, rodeo, and other programs go on RAIN OR SHINE.

Admission to Grounds: Reduced from 50c to 25c. Children under 10 free. Car admission including parking, 25c. No pass-out checks. Everybody pays the reduced rate—Employees, Concessioners, Exhibitors, Contestants, Friends, Patronal all.

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