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Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

ALASKA—19TH STATE?

Not since February 14, 1912, when Arizona became the 48th state in the Union, has there been an addition to the family of states. Now the question is being asked: Will Alaska become state number 49? There is a bill in Congress to give her that status.

A congressional investigating committee has indicated, however, that Alaska has not attained sufficient economic stability and political maturity to qualify for statehood. President Truman and Secretary of the Interior Ickes disagree with this conclusion.

We don't propose to argue the question but if Alaska is not ready for full membership in the Union for economic reasons it is largely the fault of the United States.

There has been too much exploitation of Alaskan resources and too little effort toward helping that territory build itself up on a permanent basis. Too many American business concerns and individuals have made a practice of grabbing as much as they can in Alaska and leaving as little as possible. The Federal Government's tendency to treat that area as a step child has not helped much either.

Alaska is much more than a frozen wilderness. There is extensive acreage of fertile land that is wonderfully productive in the summer. Being situated on the shortest route to the Orient, Alaska has great possibilities as an air center in the coming age of flight.

After serving an apprenticeship for more than three quarters of a century Alaska is at least morally entitled to statehood if she wants it. But she is entitled to something more: a square deal from American business and government—and she certainly wants that!

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I was the worst fullback the Naval Academy ever had!"—*Fleet Admiral Halsey.*

"It's beneath the dignity of the Senate."—*Sen. Wherry, Neb., protesting naughty word "d-n" in floor debate.*

"The bogey of inflation can be quickly dissipated by maximum production under conditions of real competition."—*Pres. Ira Mooker, Natl. Association of Manufacturers.*

"America's strength should not be allied with any predatory ideology."—*Gen. Pat Hurley, resigning as Ambassador to China.*

"Privileges and responsibilities should go hand in hand. If labor is given further rights, corresponding duties should be imposed."—*Rep. Ed Gossett, Texas.*

"I'm Discharged, Deloused, Delighted!"—*GIs wire to folks back home.*

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A BAD DREAM



LETTERS FROM WASHINGTON

By HARRY ELLSWORTH
Representative in Congress
from Oregon

The internal strife on the majority side of the House concerning labor legislation has caused considerable confusion. Members on the Democratic side of the aisle seem to be divided into three general groups with vocal and able advocates in each. One group wants no labor legislation at all, or legislation favorable to labor organizations. Another group wants to crack down on labor and restrict unions. A third, and by far the largest number of Democratic Members, seems to feel that legislation in line with the recent suggestion made by the President is desirable. Since the Democrats control the House, and therefore determine what legislation shall be brought to the Floor, and when, the Republicans must sit and take what comes.

During the last several days, the House has been forced to vote on at least one proposition that many of us felt should not have been brought to the Floor at this time. I refer to the bill reported out by the Military Affairs Committee some weeks ago, and before the President outlined his views. This bill contains four provisions: (1) It would repeal the War Labor Disputes Act, otherwise known as the Smith-Connally Bill. (2) It would prohibit labor organizations from making contributions for political campaigns. (3) It would deprive for one year the collective bargaining rights of any labor organization which vio-

lated a no-strike provision in its contract. (4) It would make it possible for any labor organization to be sued in any federal district court in which any of its officers may reside.

If this bill had been the only bill pending, it would have been naturally in order for it to be taken up on the Floor. However, another bill embodying the President's suggestions is about ready for presentation to the House. The anti-labor faction on the majority side insisted on put-

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ting all the rest of the Members on this spot by attempting to have the May-Arends Bill (provisions outlined above) considered immediately. On a roll call vote, the motion to bring the so-called May-Arends Bill before the House was defeated. I think it safe to predict that some sort of labor bill will be passed by the House within the next few weeks, but I do not think such a bill will contain the provisions of the Arends amendments listed in the second paragraph above.

The House again passed the anti-racketeering bill known as the Hobbs Bill. This bill was passed by the House two years ago, but has never been acted upon by the Senate. The bill was fought by some Members who claimed it to be restrictive of the rights of labor. I fail to see how it could be so construed. Here's what the bill provides:

"Sec. 2. Whoever, in any way or degree obstructs, delays, or affects commerce, or the movement of any article or commodity in commerce, BY ROBBERY OR EXTORTION, shall be guilty of a felony."

Neither of the two very controversial proposals, universal military training and the unification of the armed forces, which have been so widely discussed lately, will be taken up before Christmas. If passed at all, neither bill will be enacted as originally proposed.

For the past two months, I have been working with the Department of Agriculture, trying to get a fair share of the nation's protein meal supply for Oregon. Poultry and livestock producers will suffer heavy losses if some relief is not obtained very soon.

When wartime restrictions were removed, protein meal processors dropped their Oregon accounts and shifted their production to affiliate feed mixing plants. Whereas requirements for Oregon run above 3,000 tons per month, dealers have had trouble contracting for even a small fraction of that quantity for the next ten months.

Early this month, I urged the Secretary of Agriculture to issue a

set-aside order or conservation regulation that would insure Oregon a fair share of the available supply. I have been informed that, unless the processors voluntarily remedy the shortage in Oregon, such an order will be put into effect.

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The American
(The Powell Gang)