

THE CENTRAL POINT AMERICAN

Re-established, September 13, 1928

Entered as second class matter at the post office, Central Point, Oregon, under the Act of March 8, 1879

Published weekly at Central Point, Jackson County, Oregon and devoted to the best interests of the city and vicinity.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
Six Months \$1.25
One Year \$2.00

Payable in advance
Advertising rates on application
Office—Second Street, off Main

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Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

PRICE CONTROL—THE FINAL PHASE

The death rattle of price control is heard throughout the land. Practically all controls on food have now been abandoned. Decontrol of other commodities is proceeding at a rapid rate. It is certain that the OPA will be virtually out of business before the one-year extension voted by Congress last summer is reached.

Thus the nation is taking its first real steps toward the reestablishment of the free competitive market since stringent controls were imposed in the early days of the war.

In many instances, decontrol has been followed by substantial price increases at both wholesale and retail levels. And the consumer, before he goes off the handle at the sight of higher prices, should understand just what is going on.

In the manufacturing field, industries are simply adding to the cost of what they produce the unavoidable increased expenses resulting from inflated labor, material and tax costs. In this connection, it should be remembered that many of the low prices for goods ordered by OPA were meaningless—because

manufacturers simply couldn't afford to make the products, and so they did not appear on the market.

In the agricultural field, the elimination of subsidies has automatically raised prices to the consumer. The buyer, in other words, is now paying the whole cost of what he gets, rather than having the taxpayers pay some of it for him. And the farmer, like the manufacturer, must pass on enormously increased labor and supply costs. For example, the cost of cattle feed is now twice what it used to be. In addition, much of the available feed is of inferior nutritive value and that too adds to the cost of feeding the stock.

On the retail level, the position of the stores should be clear—and the inclination of some shortsighted people to "take it out on the merchant" should be heavily discounted. Any store must pay the going wholesale price for what it buys, then add the cost of operation and a profit to establish the price to the consumer. The only other course would be swift and certain bankruptcy. Stores, chain and independent, help the consumer by holding profit per unit sale to the minimum. In the sale of staples, for instance, only a cent or two on the dollar purchase goes into the storekeeper's pocket as profit. If he made nothing at all, the bill to the consumer would be reduced little.

As production, spurred by the return of the free market, rises, and as present confused conditions clear,

a stable price level based on the realities of current costs will gradually be reached. The end of artificial, unworkable price control means the end of an alien and unsound theory that has no place in a free economy in peacetime. As a practical matter, effective price control died when we virtually gave up wage control.

WHICH WAY?

There is no point in arguing whether or not this country can afford a \$300,000,000,000 debt. We've got it. The real point is what we are going to do about it. Only two courses are open to us.

We can keep up public spending at the present rate, let the budget remain unbalanced and further depreciate the dollar. This will make a future depression inevitable and imperil the war bonds, savings accounts, and insurance policies of all the people.

Or we can tighten our belts, cut government costs to the limit, start regular debt retirement procedures—and eventually pull out with a sound dollar and a solvent nation.

The choice rests with the people themselves.

"Excuse me," said the mild little man in the crowded cafeteria, who had returned with a cup of coffee. "but you have my seat."

"Oh, yeah," growled the big man. "Can you prove it?"

"I think so, Sir," the little man murmured timidly. "I left my pie and ice cream in the chair."

Locals

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wyatt, Table Rock, returned home Wednesday Nov. 6 from a week's vacation during which they visited their sons, Dick and Kenny at Oregon State College.

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Central Point

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Maye Goddard, a baby girl, 8 pounds, Nov. 9 at the Community hospital.

Mr. Clarence Griffith of Portland, attended the dedication ceremony and four-day celebration of the Myers-Holland Post. Mr. Griffith is attending law school in Portland.

Mrs. Lulu Jones of Western, Nebraska, is visiting her mother, Mrs. Hattie Dixon, her daughter, Miss Mary Jones, arrived recently to visit with them.

Pvt. Jim Anders, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Ray Anders, was to leave this afternoon for Camp Stoneman, Cal., where he is to report prior to shipment overseas. Anders, who received a delay en route from Ft. Louis where he was given three months basic training, has been visiting friends and relatives in this vicinity for the past week. He entered the army last August.

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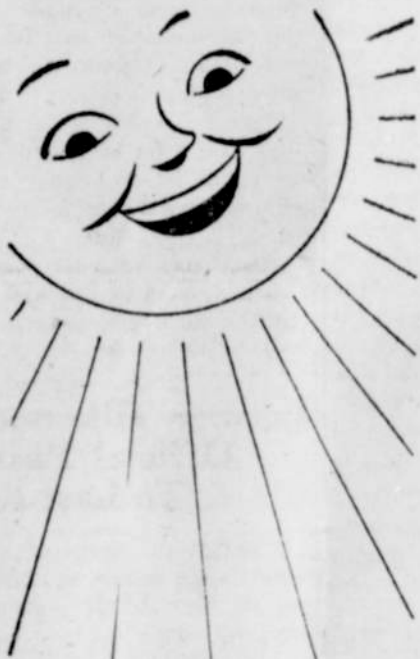
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