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Office—North Second StreetARTHUR EDWARD POWELL
Editor and Proprietor

EDITORIALS

CREATING A POWER SHORTAGE

The head of one of the principal power companies in the Pacific Northwest recently said that a serious power shortage exists in the region, and will continue until 1952. The future of private construction of generating and transmission facilities, he observed, will depend largely on the attitude Congress takes toward authorizing new government construction in the power field. Finally, he added that it is difficult for anyone to build new facilities "unless the government says it will quit."

That last statement goes to the heart of the matter. For many years the government, through its ownership of Bonneville, Grand Coulee and other socialized power dams, has dominated the electric business in the Pacific Northwest. There has been agitation for taking over all of the private utilities in the area, and establishing a cast-iron authority based on the TVA model. The constant threat of government tax-subsidized competition has discouraged normal expansion of the investor-owned electric companies which pioneered power development before anyone had heard of Bonneville or TVA. The government, therefore, has been solely and entirely responsible for the tight power situation that exists in the Northwest today.

It is a fact that the electric power supply is most adequate in the regions which the government has not entered. There the private utilities have kept up with enormous growths in demand. They are providing first-class service at low rates—and they are paying out enormous sums in taxes. They are regulated, in the public interest, by state and Federal commissions. In those regions, the people aren't dependent on political considerations for their supply of electricity. The Pacific Northwest, on the other hand, is now learning what happens when we permit the bureaucrats to take over control of an essential service.

FIRE PREVENTION IS A
COMMUNITY MATTER

Every community in the country, the National Board of Fire Underwriters points out, should have an active fire safety committee, working on a year-round basis.

The committee, if it is to be successful, must have a chairman with energy, enthusiasm, and proved leadership ability. Its membership should be drawn from all elements in the community—churches, hospitals, industrialists and labor unions, service clubs, theatres, veterans' organizations and the rest. And its duties should run the gamut of fire hazards, from ineffective building

codes to the existence of fire traps that need to be condemned.

A considerable number of committees of this nature have been formed and are now at work. There is no better way to bring home to the people of any town the danger that fire presents to them—along with easily understood instruction on how to make property safe. Fire prevention, after all, is basically a local matter. Every community has its own special problems. National and state fire safety organizations are doing a splendid and essential job—but they can't individually cover every village. And there's where the local committees enter the picture.

Organized fire prevention work is reaching a peak of activity now, as a result of our record fire waste. More effort and more thought is given to stopping fire than ever before. And a local fire safety committee in every community, no matter how small its population, is a vital element in the campaign against one of the greatest destroyers of life and property.

IT'S BEEN TRIED BEFORE

Some years ago Mary G. Lacy, an employee of the Department of Agriculture, wrote a little study called "Food Control During Forty-six Centuries—a Contribution to the History of Price Fixing." It has recently been reprinted, and it should be required reading for anyone who still thinks that the government, by fiat, can successfully control the distribution of goods and the prices at which they are sold.

Attempts at food control are almost as old as history. It was tried in Egypt in 2800 B.C., and the end result was a system of land tenure under which the land became the personal property of the king. It was tried in China and Athens and Rome. Much later on it was revived in England, Belgium and other countries, always with a singular lack of success. And, though few Americans know it, price-fixing was attempted in this country during the colonial era, and totally failed to remedy the problem it was supposed to cure.

As Miss Lacy sums the matter up, "The history of government limitation of price seems to teach one clear lesson: That in attempting to ease the burdens of the people in a

time of high prices by artificially setting a limit to them, the people are not relieved but only exchange one set of ills for another which is greater."

When price control was tried four thousand years ago it led to a decline in production, to the withholding of goods from a market which was no longer profitable, and to a raging black market. It did exactly the same thing here when it was continued for a time after the last war. Only a free enterprise economy, in which manufacturers, farmers and retailers must compete for business, can produce abundance. And only free competition, all the way from the source of raw materials to the stores in which finished goods are sold, can establish a price which is fair, and is based upon the going cost of doing business.

Two car loads of young people from the Church of Christ enjoyed a roller skating party at the Roller Dome Rink near Grants Pass Monday evening sponsored by the Crater Lake Christian Endeavor Union.



By Charles Egenroad

Washington, D.C.—In his present political campaign Mr. Truman has revealed an unwillingness by the executive branch government to administer the laws as passed by the legislative branch. This is not the first time he has exposed this executive disregard of constitutional requirements.

However, as opposed to his present attitude, when he first revealed the existence of this policy he severely denounced it. That was on July 3, 1945, when he felt the executive departments were threatening to ignore or circumvent the laws.

At that time the Democrats controlled both the Congress and the

IT NEVER FAILS



duty of an officer in this department is to accept the laws as Congress has written them and as the courts have interpreted them. The fact that he may think the Congress should have written, or the courts should have interpreted, a law differently in no case justifies him in ignoring or attempting to circumvent the law. I will expect full cooperation on this policy."

After the order was issued Mr. Schwellenbach, in a press conference, said that his assistants studying departmental reorganization had not yet turned up any case where the law was being ignored or wrongly applied. "But," he said, "I've helped to pass laws in the Senate which I wouldn't recognize if I met them on the street after the executive department got through with them."

Throughout his political campaign Mr. Truman has spoken rather plainly of the unwillingness of the executive department of Govern-

ment to accept the laws passed by Congress. During the 80th Congress he went so far at one time as to say in a veto message that the law could not be enforced. It is being enforced—and successfully.

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