

Letter from Washington

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4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

Hearings are now being conducted by both the House and Senate Public Works Committees on the CVA (Columbia Valley Authority) bills. There are several bills introduced by different Representatives and Senators, but they are identical. The bills were not written "on the Hill," as Congress is generally referred to here in Washington, but were written down town. Just who actually authors this type of legislation has not been stated but it is assumed that the writing was done by some bright young men down in the Department of the Interior.

Numerous witnesses from the Pacific Northwest States which are concerned with CVA legislation are here to present their testimony to the committees. I know that Governor McKay, Oregon Senate President Wm. Walsh, and Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives, Frank Van Dyke, are here. They will speak in opposition to the bills. I saw Dr. Paul Raver, Bonneville Administrator, in the House restaurant. He told me he was appearing in favor of CVA. I believe there are other proponents of the legislation here but thus far I have not seen them.

Speaking of visitors to Washington reminds me to say that the Capitol has enjoyed an unusually large number of visitors from distant states during the past two weeks. I believe newspapers have carried a story to the effect that the deluge of visitors has become a hardship on the members of Congress. Perhaps it has been a hardship for some—I don't know—but so far as I am concerned I was mighty glad to see the folks who stopped off here on their way to or from the various conventions. There were not many and it was very pleasant to see them and have a visit. I want everyone in my Congressional district who makes a trip to Washington, D. C. to be sure and look me up. I am not hard to find, and can always be located through my office, 1631 New House Office Building.

One of the most controversial and hotly debated issues of this session of Congress is the Truman Socialized Housing bill. I have discussed this bill at some length in previous letters; however I neglected to mention something that appears to be uppermost in the President's mind even though it is unimportant to me—and to most members of Congress. I refer to the so-called "Real Estate Lobby." The President wrote a letter to Congress (to Speaker Rayburn) decrying the activities of that "awful" lobby. The cold truth about it is that while there may be some lobbyists around who represent real estate dealers, I have never seen one. Before starting to write this letter I inquired of several members in the cloak room as to whether or not they had seen any real estate lobbyists. None had. But there is another side of this subject. Organized real estate lobbying against the bill was not noticeable—but the pressure group lobbying FOR the bill has been extremely heavy. Even the great American Legion organization has sent several communications to members urging the passage of the bill. The last of such communications received the morning debate on the bill began was a news release from American Legion

Azalea House Fund Passes Halfway Mark



Twenty-five thousand dollars is in the envelope Mrs. Norman Lunde, Troutdale, is shown handing to President A. L. Strand of Oregon State college during the seventeenth annual meeting of the Oregon Home Economics Extension council held recently at O.S.C. The check was turned over to President Strand to be held by the O.S.C. Foundation until \$45,000 is raised by 450 local home economics extension units located in 28 counties. The money will be used to build Azalea

House, a cooperative living group house for women students on the state college campus. Mrs. Lunde is chairman of the council's Azalea House board of trustees. Other members are Mrs. Loren Tucker, LaGrande; Mrs. John C. Rawls, Grants Pass; Mrs. Stanley Coates, Tillamook, treasurer; and Mrs. Kenneth McCormack, Florence. Mrs. Edgar Leming, Cornelius, is council president, having been re-elected at the recent annual state meeting.

headquarters here, the first paragraph of which states: "The American Legion threw its full weight behind the public housing bill today as the House of Representatives prepared to debate the measure." This statement was especially interesting first because the bill, if finally approved, will not particularly benefit veterans—nevertheless they will have the privilege of paying the cost over the next 40 years; and secondly the mail I have received from people in all walks of life whom I know to be veterans proves to me that the membership of the American Legion is not by any means solidly in favor of the housing bill.

A recent report of the Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-Essential Federal Expenditures, headed by Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia, states that the number of civilian employees in the executive branch of the Federal government in April increased at the rate of 350 PER DAY! This means that the annual cost of our Federal government increased during that month at the rate of more than a million dollars a day. How can we avert financial disaster in this country if such reckless spending continues?



By Charles L. Egenroad

Washington, D. C.—Experienced observers on Capitol Hill are watching with great interest the maneuvers of the Administration in its preparations for the threatened depression.

Roosevelt spent his way through nearly 10 years of depression under

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a pump-priming program that shot the national debt far beyond any imagined limits.

The same leeway does not exist in the nation's financial position as the Truman depression creeps along toward becoming a grim reality.

With the national debt now soaring above \$250 billion and Government peace-time spending exceeding the income from the nation's most prosperous years in history, the Truman "brain-trusters" are having to turn to other methods of obtaining pump-priming funds.

PUMP-PRIMING BACK AGAIN

Armament and foreign relief spending are being looked upon by Government economists as forms of pump-priming, but they are hoping to go beyond these factors and that is the real reason for the socialistic legislative program that is being pushed.

Payroll deductions for welfare funds of all types have been used for Government expenditures and replaced with Government bonds to the tune of about 25 billion dollars.

It has been a lucrative system of Government revenue outside the scope of direct taxation.

Therefore, increased welfare coverage, enlarged benefits that will need enlarged payroll deductions and new phases of welfare such as socialized medicine will mean more

funds for use merely by replacing the mwith Government bonds.

U.S. FACES ECONOMIC SLAVERY

Hitler found Germany's health insurance program, known as the Krankengasse, a most lucrative source of funds for arming Germany.

He used exactly the same tactics. The funds paid into Germany's health program were replaced with Government bonds and the money used to meet the cost of rebuilding Germany's war strength.

Diversion of these funds into Government spending, along with the funds collected from direct taxation, tends to confirm the recent remarks of former Supreme Court Justice James Byrnes that additional socialistic programs will make "economic slaves" out of the American people.

Nevertheless, some of the pump-priming in Mr. Truman's depression program would be made possible through the welfare schemes that have been offered.

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Of course, it should be remembered that the Government bonds now held in the welfare trust funds and any additional Government bonds used to replace money taken from those funds become a part of the national debt and can only be retired by additional taxation.

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