

Letter from Washington

HARRIS ELLSWORTH, M.C.
4TH DISTRICT, OREGON

After considerable deliberation the Commission charged with the responsibility of renovating, replacing or rebuilding the White House, has decided to restore it and leave the external appearance as it is now. (It badly needs a coat of paint.) I learned from one of the members of the Commission recently that one of the troublesome problems faced by their group is what to do with the old lumber, bricks and stone removed from the building. There will be a vast amount of such stuff, he said.

After all, the White House is no ordinary building. Every ounce of wood and masonry in the structure is steeped in history. Some of the replaced timbers are blackened from the fire set by the British during the war of 1812. Some of the stones, I am told, bear chiseled inscriptions, names and dates done at the time they were laid in place.

None of the material will be destroyed—at least not until everything that is wanted by museums and for souvenirs has been saved. Definite plans have not been made but it is guessed that the old wood may be made into gavel, canes or panels and that paper-weights may be made from the bricks and stones. The Commission is having a hard time deciding just what to do about it.

The Administration demand that we supply arms and ammunition to the Pact countries is meeting tough sledding in the House Foreign Affairs Committee. This country is asked to dig up an additional billion and a half dollars for that purpose. The idea does not appeal to me and I do not think we should take any such dangerous step in haste. Off hand it seems to me that piling up that much high grade military equipment in Western Europe would be offering a mighty tempting prize for a predatory power.

Our country has been correctly referred to as the "Arsenal of Democracy". If the arsenal is kept here we know pretty well what is going to happen to it. Our experience is placing large stores of arms and ammunition on other shores is not encouraging. The Russian army even now moves on trucks made in the U.S.

On the other hand the United States is spending an enormous sum for war materials. During this fiscal year our spending for the Department of Defense alone will amount to about \$40,000,000 per day (counting Sundays and holidays). In dollars that will represent just three times the amount to be spent on military defense in Europe—including the billion and a half dollars from us if they get it!

Under the terms of the Pact as signed and sealed, we are bound to go immediately to the aid of any European country which may be attacked. If military equipment is kept here it can be quickly sent where and when it is needed most. If it is sent abroad, we have no actual way of knowing just what will become of it or precisely where it will be if and when it is needed.

FOOD... through the ages..



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Economic Highlights

Times change, and so do economic theories. This is well illustrated by an article in U.S. News & World Report describing present government fiscal policies. It begins: "Reflation—revived inflation—is to be sought by government from here on out. Deflation, mild and brief, has proved too much for the White House to accept without trying to bring a turn back toward inflation."

Various strategems will be employed—if the President has his way—in an effort to accomplish this. To quote the News again, "The expressed hope is that, if the plan succeeds, it will not result in a new inflation of prices. The objective, instead, is an expanded use of credit."

Mr. Truman's ideas on the subject were expressed, in part, in his Midyear Economic Report to Congress, and in his last radio talk to the nation. First of all, he is holding tenaciously to his belief in the wisdom of big spending, even though a deficit results. For the current fiscal year, he wants a budget of about \$42,000,000,000 which, it is reliably estimated, will mean a government operating loss in excess of \$5,000,000,000.

He has, however, apparently changed his mind on the \$4,000,000,000 tax increase he formerly favored. Some thing he would even find tax decreases in certain fields acceptable. Sentiment in Congress would seem to favor this.

Not so long ago, the White House backed a "tight money" policy. Here too, the President's stand seems entirely different now. Stock market margin requirements have been reduced. The controls on installment buying have been abandoned. Both the President and Congress favor liberalized credit plans for new housing.

As the U.S. News sums it up, "Policies of government, basically, will be aimed at stimulating a broader use of borrowed money, both by Government itself and by

private individuals and industry. The plan to revive prosperity, the President predicts, eventually will lead to a national income of \$300,000,000,000."

The President's Council of Economic Advisers put the situation in these words: "The mere fact that the Federal government is currently withdrawing well over \$40,000,000,000 a year from private-income channels and is disbursing a like or even greater amount into the market and income stream means that the government is already the most influential single factor in the current operation of the economy."

The unanswered question is how long this kind of spending beyond income can be maintained without exhausting the nation.

Josephine Fair Board to Put on Mammoth Pageant

The Pageant Committee of the Josephine County Fair Board has completed the pre-production plans for what promises to be the most ambitious show undertaken in Southwest Oregon. The pageant, a mammoth spectacle, will be presented on a huge stage to be constructed at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in Grants Pass. It will consist of 16 episodes depicting the history of Southern Oregon, and will be presented the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday, September 14, 15, 16 and 18. The cast will consist of over 500 local participants under professional direction. Costumes and scenery will be supplied by Geller Productions of Hollywood.

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Over 32 service and fraternal organizations attended a meeting in the high school library in Grants Pass last night to pledge their participation in the giant spectacle.

Tomorrow night, the initial meeting of the Popularity Contest contestants for the title of Queen Of The Fair will be held at the Chamber of Commerce in Grants Pass at 8 p.m. Girls between the ages of 16 and 26, married or single, who wish to compete for this honor should attend this meeting. The queen and the six runner-ups who will form her court of honor will receive valuable merchandise prizes. All participants will be eligible for cash bonuses.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hesselgrave spent one day last week at Brookings, Oregon.

SPECIAL SCHOOL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the legal school voters of School District No. 6 of Jackson County, State of Oregon, that a SPECIAL SCHOOL MEETING of said school district has been called and will be held at the Central Point High School Gym within said school district on the 29th day of August, 1949, from 7 o'clock P.M. until 9 o'clock P.M. for the following purpose:

To vote upon the question of the consolidation of the following named school districts: Consolidated School District No. 6 Tolo School District No. 98 Dated at Medford, Oregon, this 8th day of August, 1949. JACKSON COUNTY DISTRICT BOUNDARY BOARD. By J. B. Coleman.

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This notice cancels previous notice of election set for August 15, due to the destruction of the Tolo Schoolhouse by fire. This loss makes it necessary to post notice of the new voting place for District No. 98 and extend the date of the election of August 29.

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