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EDITORIALS

FAKE FLOOD CONTROL

A while ago the Washington Times-Herald ran an editorial on certain lessons that have been learned from the latest Missouri River floods. In the course of it, the paper made this sound observation: "Some hundreds of millions of dollars have already been spent on dams on the upper Missouri which were supposed to control floods. These dams are now exposed as the fakes that they are. Their promoters were the Army engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. The engineers are interested only in spending political pork. The Bureau of Reclamation wants to charge off as much expense as possible to 'flood control' in order to present a false picture of cheap electricity in its socialized power program."
 The country seems finally to be awakening to the fact that the government's alleged flood control program is a bill of goods. In the first place, flood control dams and power dams are horses of entirely different colors. The first must be empty when the floods come if it is to fulfill its purpose—the second must be full to turn the power-producing machinery. Secondly, it has been conclusively demonstrated time and time again that real flood control can best be achieved by a series of relatively cheap small dams and reservoirs, along with proper soil conservation measures.
 The Times-Herald hit the nail on the head when it said that our phony and enormously expensive flood control activities are primarily designed to advance the socialized electricity campaign—and to hide the true costs from the people. This is an indefensible deception—of the kind the socialists and communists pursue on every possible occasion—and it must be exposed for the cheap fraud it is.

THE CONSTITUTION IS NO "SCRAP OF PAPER"

Washington, D.C., June, 1952—On the heels of the 6-3 Supreme Court decision outlawing the President's seizure of the nation's steel mills, the Senate has been working far into the night thinking up legislation to make emergency Govern-

ment seizure legal.
 One of these proposals, offered by Senator Burnet R. Maybank (Dem) of South Carolina, was described by Senator Taft as "infinitely tougher on labor than the Taft-Hartley Act. But the most sensible move appeared to be that of Senator Harry F. Byrd (Dem) of Virginia, who presented a resolution calling on the President to apply the Taft-Hartley Act in the steel deadlock, pointing out that "action is imperative for the nation's safety." "It is unthinkable," the Senator said, "for the President not to use to the full the tools at his command."

Meanwhile, steel industry representatives and union leaders were in session in the office of Dr. John R. Steelman, acting defense mobilizer, in the White House. And while the report, as this is written, is "no progress," the chances of settlement were still regarded as favorable.

It would appear now that even President Truman is beginning to realize that by throwing his weight on one side of the argument he had injured both parties, to say nothing of the country and his own threadbare prestige. For, when he was asked at his weekly press conference for comment on the Supreme Court decision, he declined with a single word which indicated that he would not do so now, or at any other time. Two weeks ago he said that he had the power of seizure and that neither Congress nor the courts could take it from him. Three weeks ago he declared he would have nothing to say while the matter was before the Court, but would have plenty to say later.

Costly as the whole strike-and-seizure-and-strike-again uproar has been to the nation's defense, to the steel workers and to the industry, it will be infinitely worth while if it impress this Administration, and those to follow, with the ultimate futility of recklessness and the virtue of government under law.

Mr. and Mrs. William Stratton family recently moved to Medford where they have purchased property at 804 Bennett Ave.

LETTER FROM WASHINGTON
Harris Ellsworth, M. C.
4th District, Oregon

This letter is written earlier in the week than usual for the reason that Mrs. Ellsworth and I have been called out to Los Angeles because of the sudden death of Miss Margaret Gildea. Miss Gildea has been a foster mother to Mrs. Ellsworth since her childhood after her own mother passed away. We are flying out and back, and will be gone but a few days.

The Defense Production Act, the law which carries the authority for material allocation and for price and wage controls, has been under consideration in the Senate. It will be brought up in the House soon. The law will expire at the end of June unless extended. I think it is safe to predict that there will be very few, if any, basic changes made in it although it seems likely the renewals will be for a shorter term than a full year—perhaps until March 31, next year. At that time a new Congress and (presumably) a different President can take another look at the situation.

The Russian communist government and its stooges on both sides of the world are kicking up a lot of trouble. Whether it may get big or stay little no one knows—at least no one in the free world knows. The agreement by the Western powers on a treaty with the West German Republic was a serious blow to the Kremlin. This, coupled with the growing military defense in Europe, apparently leaves the Russian rulers in a state of frustration—if not fear. They would, if possible, frighten all

concerned as much as possible in the hope that one or more of the parliaments would be afraid to ratify the German agreement. Although during this month Americans are quite preoccupied with our own political problems, it must not be overlooked that right now is a time of world tension equal to none since the end of World War II.

Washington, D. C. has been swarming with visitors for the past few weeks. From the standpoint of climate, the months of May and June are about the best of the year here. (Although a few days ago we suffered a brief hail storm with hailstones as big as marbles!) It is a pleasant sight to see the crowds of visitors in the corridors of THEIR Capitol.

And speaking of Washington being crowded—the Joint Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Expenditures (the Byrd Committee) reports that civilian employment in the Executive branch of the government increased by 10,665 during the month of April. The total number of such civilian employees on April 30, the Committee said, was 2,549,714.

Remember the signs we used to see during the war: "Is this trip necessary?" Possibly it might be good psychology if in the head offices of the various departments there could be some signs reading something like this: "Are all those new employees necessary?"



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HAYSEED
By Uncle Sam
THE INDIVIDUAL

If individuality ever favored any people it was the early Americans. One great economist once said that the American might be a crank or eccentric but individuality was a mark of American tolerance. The more responsibility placed upon the shoulders of the individual the better the results for democracy. When the responsibility is placed in the hands of boards, committees and bureaucrats the more regimented and more bunglesome the government becomes.

The individual develops a self reliance that cannot be developed under state regulation and controlled life. The person who is an individualist only asks for an opportunity. The person who wishes to be made secure whether he earns or does not earn cannot thrive well in a society where success depends upon initiative and energy.

It does not take a master mind to see that individualism is passing away along with democracy. If one takes the label of a liberal he must go on with the class no matter what the future may be. If one labels himself as a conservative he must display his tag even though many

of his tenets have been exploded and burned and destroyed decades ago.

This is not an age of individualism for we are living in a society where people are doing things because others are doing the same things. Our age is travelling in masses on bloc tickets.

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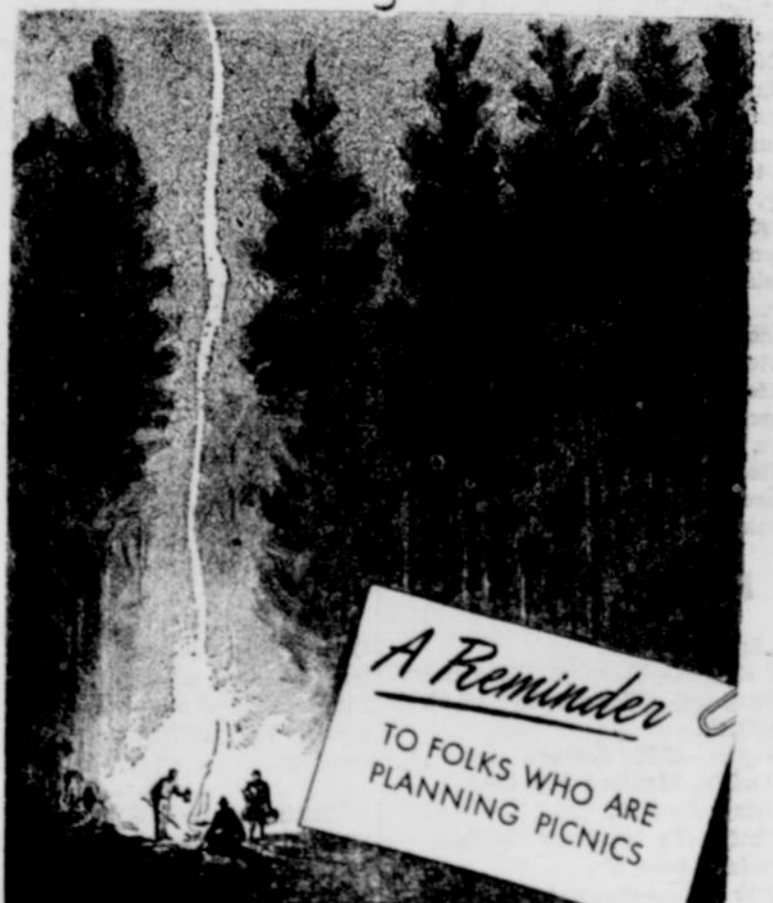
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