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Babson Discusses Spending

Babson Park Fla., March 7.—Too many people have a childlike unconcern as to what is done with their hard-earned cash after it passes into Government hands. Too many have a childlike trust of all institutions, from banks and insurance companies to government bureaus. All should study and investigate the concerns or groups which either receive or handle their funds.

We all should know where our tax dollars are going and how wisely they are being spent. Although savings are as low as they have been in many years, do you realize how extravagant is the new Truman Budget? It calls for two to thirteen times as much money to be spent by each government department in the coming fiscal year as was spent in any pre-war year. We enter the third year of peace with a proposed budget of around \$37,500,000,000, now in process of being whittled down by Congress. Nine billion was our peak in "huge" pre-war budgets.

Typical Budget Items

Why should it cost taxpayers almost \$700,000,000 more in 1947 than in 1946 to operate regular government bureaus and departments? Why does operation and cost of upkeep of the executive mansion have to be more than three times the amount spent before the year? Do we need over a million more civilian personnel in war agencies today than we did before Pearl Harbor? All our de-

ROGER W. BABSON STATE LEGISLATIVE TOPICS

partments are slated to get what we used to call "war-time appropriations".

The Department of Commerce, for example, is to have more than thirteen times the \$20,000,000 at its disposal before the war. It is difficult to understand why in times of good employment almost as much money is delegated to "relief" as in depression periods. The veterans, the farmers, the old people among us are adding to the unreasonably high budget by asking the Government to solve all problems. Individual self-reliance and economical planning are being discarded as everyone turns to Washington.

Subsidies

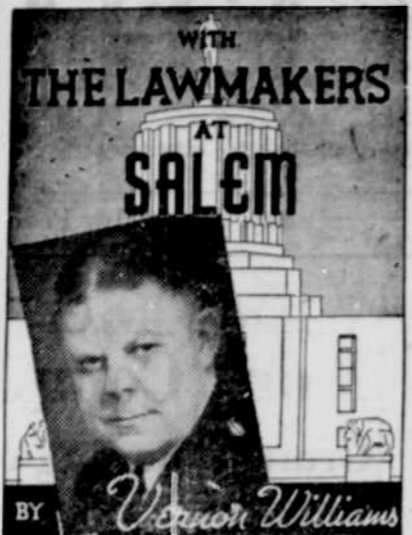
The cost of subsidies this year will be over \$13,000,000,000. Today many individuals who desire something for themselves or for a particular group first endeavor to obtain it through Washington rather than through their own resources and initiative. Formerly, only as a last resort, did our people take their problems to the Federal Government. Subsidies given to any individual or group cause a shift of some control to men and bureaus in the Federal Government. This control is unhealthy for our country.

Handing over much of the country's wealth to support certain groups is not democratic and is financially dangerous. The United States spent \$80,000,000 in price supports to the farmers on potatoes alone in 1946. More and more farm products are asking for price supports. Farmers will probably be paid well over \$320,000,000 for cutting down production this year. The program for export subsidies means the Government sells farm products overseas at a loss, after buying them here at high prices with the taxpayers' money. On-job training for veterans is to result in a billion dollar subsidy to businessmen.

Financial Suicide?

By recent estimates each worker labors almost a full day every week just for the Government. If over-grown and wasteful Government continues how much of the worker's pay will be "take-home"? Let us realize that every time we ask our Government for money we are really digging into our own pockets and those of our children for perhaps generations to come.

It will be a pity if we as farmers, businessmen, job-holders and veterans hand down to future generations a heritage of debt and greed. Both can kill at the roots and future opportunities for the high standard of living of which we have been so proud. We are at last learning to "turn over the box and look at the price" when buying merchandise; let us follow the same principle when paying our taxes. Surely, let us see what is in the box!



State House, Salem, Oregon, March 12th, 1947. Do you remember the "three golden balls" which always adorned the entrance of the old-time pawn shop? Those three balls meant it was a two-to-one bet you wouldn't get your watch out of hock and in our opinion, the same "golden balls" could safely adorn the entrance to the State Capitol, because it is a good two-to-one bet this Legislature won't get out of hock (they will still be looking for 8 or 10 million to balance the budget), before they adjourn sine die, which the rail birds say cannot be earlier than March 26th.

The longest previous session on record was 70 days and this session will reach its 70th day on March 23rd. So among other outstanding accomplishments of this Legislature, they will break all prior records for days in session unless a miracle happens and few, if any, of the political prophets believe in miracles.

The lawmakers are beginning to show the signs of wear and tear. The long committee meetings and the scores of arguments, both pro and con, on the many hot measures they have been revamping in committee for the past 8 weeks, have frayed their nerves down to the bickering and heckling stage. All anyone has to do to start a peach of an argument is sneeze, and the battle is on.

One always hot subject the lawmakers hoped would slumber peacefully during this session, is MILK. But such was not to be the case. Last week several bus loads of women from Portland, all members of the League of Women Voters, descended on the Capitol like a flock of starlings and in no uncertain words demanded that the present Milk Control Law be revamped for the benefit of the consumer. The gals charged that the present act, and the slipshod manner in which it is being administered by the State Department of Agriculture, is a disgrace and should be changed. The ladies were very ably backed up in their arguments by representatives of several large grocery chains, who told the lawmakers they wanted to sell milk for two or three cents per quart cheaper than the present price but were unable to do so because of the present law. Hence, look for a good milk battle again before this session adjourns.

After spending about \$50,000 for a tax research study program during the past two years, this legislature is running true to form by kicking practically all of its recommendations out the window. The 3 per cent sales tax measure which first must get by the voters seems to be the one and only sure solution for the tax mess Oregon finds itself in, according to the many opinions expressed by a majority of lawmakers in both Houses. A flock of other tax raising measures, which are supposed to raise around 5 million dollars annually, include a tax on cigarettes, slot machines, pari mutual betting, bookmakers wages and amusement devices. Apparently these bills are not receiving very serious attention from this legislature. The boys say a sales tax, which would raise around 30 million per year, would put the state in the black ink column once and for all and therefore it would not be necessary to levy the many nuisance taxes which are now going thru the legislative mill.

When this session does adjourn it will still break another record. A record number of House and Senate bills are scheduled to die in committee because of the vast number introduced. Up to Monday of this week, 875 bills had been dropped in the Hoppers as against 710 for the same period of the 1945 Session, an all time high and many more are on their way. Before the lawmakers call it quits, it seems a certainty that more than 1,000 bills will have been introduced. Yes indeed, the accomplishments of this session is nothing to write home about.

Views From The Press Gallery—A hundred or so of his old time friends gave Ralph Watson, long time political writer for the Portland Daily Journal, a big banquet. . . And Ralph was presented with a beautiful gold wristwatch. . . Watson is retiring from the newspaper business at the end of this session. . . Dean of the Press, he covered his first session in 1907. . . 40 years ago. . . John W. Kelly, who for years was the political writer on the Oregonian was the Toastmaster and John covered his first session in 1898. . . Mates, that was a long time ago. . . A stag affair and good time was had by all. . . Seven bucks a plate was the tariff and everyone paid, even the newspaper men. . . The free list was entirely out. . . And WHATTA Night, Larry Smythe, who has been second in command for the Journal for a number of years, will take Watson's place.

TWO WASHINGTON COUNTY TURKEY PRODUCERS TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PRICE SUPPORT

Two Washington county farmers from the Gaston area took advantage of price support offered by the U. S. D. A. by selling 56,057 pounds of dressed turkey to the government Saturday morning.

This price support is in accordance with the Steagal Amendment passed by congress during the war. The price of turkeys along with several other basic farm products is to be supported at 90 per cent of parity until December 31, 1948.

The regular price of turkeys this year has fallen below the cost of raising them and this will enable these two farmers to get back their cost of production.

It is one of the ironies of life that when one grows tall enough to reach the jam on the pantry shelf, the craving for jam has disappeared.—The Advocate.

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To Eat Babe

Steel Jaws—The crocodile lay waiting in the shallow water while the tribes people on the bank beat the drums. It was planting time for this African tribe and the river brute, this crocodile, was their god. He could give them a harvest of much or little, as he might choose. And so, by dance and shouting, they sought his favor and at the end, his steel jaws would close over the babe that some mother must offer to further win him.

Open Blind Eyes—The morning light is breaking and God's messenger people are on the move. They are to give the Bible to the furthest tribe — "To open their eyes and to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God." Acts 26: 18. All must be reached and told of the one living and true God and of how he proved his love by offering up his only-born Son.

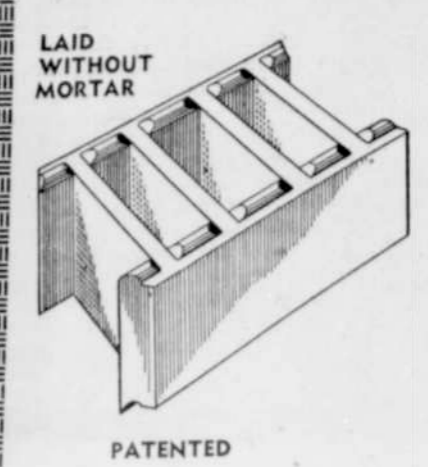
to die for their sins. Yes—Let sinful man receive Christ into his heart as Lord and Saviour and God gives that man eternal life. In place of fear and shame, comes joy and peace and cheer.

At Nightfall—At the end of life, what have you? And what for today? "O Happy Day that fixed my choice on Thee, my Saviour and my God."

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