BUSINESS OFFICE AND PLANT

Tualatin Valley Highway and Short Street — Beaverton Phone 2321 Farmers Not Being Fooled Published Friday of each week by The Pioneer Publishing Co., at are not being fooled by these squeeze in food prices and sys-

Beaverton, Oregon. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office high prices. They know that tematically gouging the poor \$2.90 for wheat and \$2.65 for consumer. Quite frankly, I think

STANLEY W. NETHERTON _____ Editor and Publisher remember that, throughout all fact is that in most instances, MRS. EDNA BLACK _____ Associate Editor-Office Mgr. U. S. history, only during and the farmers' percentage profit News Editor directly after wars, have farm margins today are no greater JOHN L. TREEMAN _____ Circulation-Advertising ers made such money, Moreover, than normal. What has hap-

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'PEOPLE MUST BE HEARD'

Tuesday, October 7, another day when the responsibilities of good citizenship demand that registered voters go to the polls and to dump at once. They admit and wasting a greater volume of vote. For the fifth time in fifteen years, Oregonians are called they are now playing the same food, per capita, than ever beupon to decide whether or not tax structures be revised to allow with wheat and corn as invest- fore. Even a very small reducthe introduction of a state sales tax of 3% on any and all retail sales of tangible personal property. The tax will likewise be levied for the privilege of using within this state any article of Reasons for Higher Prices tangible personal property purchased subsequent to passage of the

Included in exemptions from the tax are retail sales of human food, newspapers, religious literature and a few other items.

Characterized by its backers as relief for state income levies and tinue due to its poor crop con- price rises. Food is the most ima source of revenue for cities, counties, school districts and state ditions. welfare funds, the ballot title indicates the major cut from its proposed revenues will be "two-sixths to general fund for governmen-

Sales-tax forces, in the official state voter's pamphlet, put out by the Secretary of State, have prepared a comprehensive tablebased on national consumer expenditures for 1945-- which purports to show "extensive boosts" in state income tax payments for the \$5,000 to \$10,000 brackets of taxpayers, should the bill fail of en-

Even though figures based on 1945 prices could not be expected to carry through in 1947, a \$5,000 income would be saved \$1.34 per year in state payments while \$10,000 earnings would save \$6.90 per year in tax payments, by passage of the levy.

On the other hand, gross income of \$1,000 would pay an estimated \$4.50 per year; \$1,200 an annual tax of \$5.88 and \$1.500 would be to Liquor. The eight billion dolassessed \$9.60- even though none of the three classifications would lar liquor business consumes be subject to state income tax, regardless of the fate of the pro- huge quantities of grain for brew-

Sales tax opponents, pointing to the records of Washington and California and their sales-tax experiences, argue such levies encourage easy spendings but at the same time do not tend to lower duction of liquor.

Another of their many objections is that a sales tax merely "passes the buck", taxing the necessity to spend rather than the ability 000,000. The tremendous in-

Oregon State Grange and Organized Labor are in the forefront the war has greatly stimulated against enactment of the sales tax.

Sharing the ballot, a cigarette tax bill would levy two cents a package on cigarettes until a general sales tax were adopted. Opposition to this assessment stems from two main arguments: Cigarettes are already taxed 6.8c per package, making further tax inequitable and discriminatory; and cost of administering the measure would be passed to the buying public in excess of the two cent tax.

Regardless of arguments for or against these two measures voters must vote and vote inteligently. Such is the essance of democratic government.

The People must be heard!

"A DOLLAR AIN'T A DOLLAR"

Repercussion from national grain and livestock markets have showed in fluttery local trading. Consumers, oppressed by un when I can wait until 1948 and heard of high prices for bare necessities, have begun to wonder take advantage of a new tax law whether such uneasiness marks the beginning, the end or a freak- more favorable to the taxpayish respite from astronomical prices which will only lead to more ers?," Certainly with an election outlandish heights for the soaring costs of living.

From the Dun and Bradstreet wholesale food price index, of September 10, the total price per pound of 31 foods in general use broke all existing records- \$7.02.

Previously the figure of last March 4, at \$6.77 was tops.

When OPA was killed, along with pious proclamations that this much belabored and abused agency was directly causing "inflation", the total price per pound of the identical foods stood at \$4.30.

Food that cost \$16, when the war began in 1939, cost \$24 under OPA; went to \$31.30 last Nevember, when the lid was pried off and now crowds a record \$34. The dollar has been cut in value by more than 50%.

Really caught in the middle of the whole confusing picture are retail meat and grocery dealers. Majority of them would welcome price relief quite as much as would their customers.

If the bottom should sag a little, overstocked merchants, caught with heavy inventories, will have losses to absorb which toughen-

ing buyer resistance will make even more drastic. And it doesn't help much to realize that a dollar ain't a dollar

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BABSON DISCUSSES FARM PRICES

have been flying over the great come taxes in 1948. farming area of the Central Present Food Price West. I have not only seen Investigations things with my eyes, but also heard things with my ears.

They also tell me that altho The real villian in the picture farm prices rise gradually dur- is unprecedented demand for begin to fall and all farmers try

ditions. The American grain harvest will be 15,000,000 tons prices today under normal, due to spring floods and unsatisfactory growng conditions, with a constant y increasing population.

Wasteful American Eatng Habits. Americans have al ways been the most wasteful people in the world when it comes to food consumption. High consumer income has in creased this wastefulness.

(4) Putting So Much Grain Ining of alcoholic beverages. Despite starvation abroad, this "non-essential" industry continues uninterrupted in the pro-

(5) Increase In the Currency From \$7,000,000,000 to \$27,000,crease in currency since before the power of the American public to purchase food products. WAITING FOR THE

1948 TAX BILL There is a good reason to believe that large amounts of grain are held on the farm. This is not just a case where farmers are gambling that prices will contin ue to rise above present inflated levels. Grain farmers are fully awere that there is an excellent chance that the personal income tax may be reduced in 1948. The

farmer asks himselfthe question: "Why should I sell my grain now and pay an income tax on the proceeds at the 1947 rate year coming up, politicians will look with great favor on some

A. C. RONNING

BEacon 2990

During the past 24 hours I sort of reduction in personal in-

There is much talk in the newspapers about distributors and processors of food products Let me first say that farmers taking advantage of the present corn is not going to hold. They this is plainly propaganda. The the wise ones are now using pened is that, due to a higher their profits to get out of debt, dollar volume of business, the to buy for cash new machinery, normal profit margin produces and lay up a good bank balance more dollar profits. Hence, do not blame the farmers.

ing boom time, yet when prices farm products both at home, they collapse all at once. where consumer income has nev-This is because farmers get pan- er been so high, and from Europe ic stricken when they see prices where famine conditions are so prevalent. We are eating more ors in 1929 played with stocks tion in our consumption of food would prevent a serious squeeze on food prices which we now (1) Exports to Europe. Dur- face. It is most desirable to be ing 1946 more than 15,000,000 frugal, at this time, not only tons of food were shipped to to assist those who are less for-Europe. Heavy movements of tunate, but to help avoid a drasfoodstuffs to Europe will con- tic deflation as a result of further portant item in the average fam-

> Very frequently a fight for what is right degenerates into a quarrel for what is left.

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