

BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE

BUSINESS OFFICE AND PLANT
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STANLEY W. NETHERTON Editor and Publisher
MRS. EDNA BLACK Associate Editor-Office Mgr.
WALLY KAIN News Editor

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Need Must Be Great!

A nation, a state, a municipality or other political subdivision is so often hard pressed to find revenue with which to conduct its business that it goes far afield in its search for new categories of taxation.

Such must be the case of the neighboring municipality, Portland, in its latest announced ordinance which designates a blanket business category answerable to the provision of a \$12 yearly tax.

Listed in the businesses so affected are: author, free-lance writer, journalist and artist. All of these professions, by the mildest of examination, would prove unanswerable to the tax.

The constitution of the state of Oregon, taking its cue from the constitution of the United States, provides, "No law shall be passed restraining the free expression of opinion or restricting the right to speak, write or print freely on any subject whatever."

Assuming that the city of Portland expects compliance to its ordinance, under the threat of penalty for non-compliance, its action in the blanket business levy seems distinctly and flagrantly unconstitutional, contrary to the public interest and not worth the paper to which its description is devoted.

The meaning of the state constitutional bill of rights should be plain to interpret. An ordinance is, in effect, a public law and certainly the provisions in this quoted case deem to restrain the free expression of opinion inasmuch as the tax must be paid by the law-abiding.

Would it be that the city of Portland expects uncomplaining acceptance of a measure that strikes so unerring to the very roots of an inherited right? A question arises as to the success of the move.

Looking at the "practical" side, supporters of the ordinance might say, how would such an insignificant annual fee threaten to shake the foundations of a people's inheritance?

Well, looking at the practical side of it, the ordinance does more than blaze a trail to an untapped tax source. It establishes a precedent from which more serious things might develop.

If Portland could make such an ordinance stick, in this first trial, it could so arm the measure with effective penalties and provisions for non-compliance that a free-lance writer would hardly dare send a letter to the editor without bracing himself for a license payment demand.

Picking a Professional writer for a license prerequisite to expression of opinion or to writing freely, on whatever subject he wishes, seems short-sighted. There is no nationally-known writer of Portland residence but who has contributed to Portland's reputation, across the nation. There is a profession in which their home community might legitimately take pride, for in their accomplishments their home community somehow manages to enjoy a reflection of the note.

Rather than put any damper on them whatsoever, the city of Portland might well give every possible encouragement to its artists, authors, free-lance writers, etc. Certainly the stigma of trying to impose a "license" on the right to exercise free expression will give little luster to the incumbent city council.

The puzzling phase of this situation, of course, is how any grown person who is sworn to the task of administering the affairs of any major city in these United States, traditionally noted for its bill of rights and its freedom of speech and press, could be so unforgetful of basic values as to even want to impose such a restriction.

We can only comment, Portland's need must be very great, indeed, to allow such an attempt at taxation!

—W. K.

BABSON DISCUSSES INFLATION

Most of the talk about "inflation" is bunk. When people have nothing else to lay their troubles to they lay it to inflation; Merchants blame high prices on inflation; politicians blame all losses on inflation; while even farmers are blaming the weather on inflation. Certainly the investigations which are being held to study prices are mostly eyewash or whitewash.

WHAT IS INFLATION?

Inflation is not the fault of farmers, manufacturers, retailers or any other group. In fact, there is no such thing as "inflation." Our troubles are just a question of Supply and Demand. When there is more demand for goods than there is supply, prices go up and they call it inflation; but when there are more goods than there is demand, prices go down, and they call it deflation.

This means that the only cure for high prices, or inflation so-called, is to either curtail buying or increase production. This means that the cure is up to all of us. When we spend less, we are helping to reduce prices; while if we increase our buying, we increase prices. The only other cure for high prices is to produce more. This is up to labor. The real trouble with labor is not their wages so much as it is their restricted working hours and faulty production.

WHAT SHOULD WE EXPECT?

We should expect to continue to pay high prices for real estate until building increases, and the only way that building will increase is to allow rents to go up. Price fixing also retards production. So long as production is low then we are troubled by high prices. Take the ceiling off on rents and, of course, rents would go up for a while, but that would mean building would increase, and finally rents would go down. Only then would we have enough homes at a reasonable price.

We complain about the price of meat and various other things, but sooner or later the price of these products will be so high and the profits so attractive it will cause many more people to go into the business of raising cattle and other farm produce, and manufacturing other things that have gone up in price. These prices will again fall. It is true that the "mills of God" grind slowly, but they grind ultimately in the peoples' interests. Labor unions succeed in raising money wages but not real wages. Unless wage workers increase production as their wages increase, they are no better off in the end.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO CITRUS?

What has happened to the market for grapefruit and oranges is a proof of all I have said above. It costs much more to raise citrus fruit today than ever before. Wages are much higher, fertilizer is more expensive, and even the railroad freights are greater. Yet, the prices for citrus fruits today are less than they were when the cost of production was much lower. If all our troubles are due to "inflation," inflation should help the citrus growers with higher prices to overcome these higher costs.

The answer is that there is no such thing as "inflation." It is only a question of supply and demand. Citrus growers do not benefit unless there is more demand for their products. Right here in Florida we see the cattle people very prosperous while the fruit growers are very sad. The reason is that there is an excess demand for meat with a small supply, while there is a big supply of citrus and a small demand. Neither the price of beef nor the price of citrus is due to "inflation."

WHAT SHALL HOUSEWIVES DO?

We all should buy the things which are in surplus supply rather than, through habit, continue to buy the high priced things. The next time you go shopping ask the clerk to give you a list of the things that haven't gone up, and then change your food customs to using those things. This also applies to shoes, clothing and household furnishings. Now that the turn of the year is past and there are "sales" going on, this is the time to do your buying. Wise buyers will stock up with goods during the month of January while these mark-down sales are in progress.

Two Beheaded

Inside Asia.—John and Betty Stam, gospel workers from America, were taken, stripped naked and led through the jeering crowd to the block and beheaded. Long since they had come into heart-belt that Christ had died for them and they were cleared and eternal life theirs.

Then came the day when they yielded their lives over to be used of God whenever and wherever. You may never be called on to go to China and die but the Bible urges you as saved, to yield your life over. Whether it be washing dishes, running a farm, office work or what. Yield—yield—all you are to do God's will. So you earn eternal reward.—"Must I go and empty handed?"

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BEAVERTON PERSONALS

YEARLY CHURCH REPORT

All members of the Beaverton Church of Christ are asked to be present for the yearly report to be held in the basement of the church Friday, January 30, at 6:30 p. m. A basket lunch will precede the meeting.

MINOR OPERATION

Mr. O. G. Wiggin went to the St. Joseph's hospital in Vancouver, Wash., Thursday where he will undergo a minor operation. An infection in a corn on his little toe has necessitated the removal of the toe.

BUSINESS AND FUN

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wilson have spent the last week at the southern Oregon beaches on a combined business and pleasure trip. Their son Gordon Wilson, has been staying with his grandfather, Mr. Fred Poe, in their absence, and their daughter Louise has been staying with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Dick McDougall.

TAKE APARTMENT

Mrs. Mabel Harrison and son Paul have recently moved into one of the Leavitt apartments on Fourth and Angel.

FROM HILLSBORO

Edward Losil and Helen Quailby, from Hillsboro, visited at the home of Mrs. Susie Losil, Saturday evening.

FROM BETHANY

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Stoller, of Bethany, were Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mrs. Susie Losil. Sunday evening guests were Mr. and Mrs. James Mulkey and two daughters.

DINNER AND THEATRE

Mr. and Mrs. Ben McCue and son Donnie, were dinner and theater guests of Mrs. M. E. McCue of Portland Saturday evening.

OL' FLU BUG

The flu bug has kept Miss Sylvia Kain of Menlo Drive confined to her home for several days.

LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion auxiliary held its regular meeting Wednesday, January 21 at the Odd Fellows hall in Beaverton. The business meeting was conducted by Florence Miller, president. Several new members were there. Ways of raising money were discussed. Mrs. Jeanette Kirkland, a recent bride, was the recipient of many lovely gifts given to her by the women of the auxiliary as a surprise. Bingo was played and delicious refreshments were served.

SELLS STATION

Mr. Jack Hampton, operator of a station at Raleigh Hills, has sold out to a Mr. Webb of that community, who will take over this week.

MOVE TO WOODBURN

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Burk and family plan to move to Woodburn, Oregon in the near future, where they have purchased a home. Mr. Burk is a distributor of Watkins Products in Clackamas county, and the move will bring him closer to his territory.

ROAD PETITION

Plans are under way to have a hard surfaced road made of Spencer avenue. A petition has been circulated and has been signed by most of the property owners, to be presented to the Washington county road commission. If the proposal is accepted by the commission, it will be a big improvement to the communities west of Beaverton.

EXAMS AND HOLIDAYS

Mid-term examinations were held at the Beaverton high school last week. Upon completion of their examinations on Wednesday, the students were given a holiday for the rest of the week.

SKATE CALLED OFF

The skating party scheduled by the Christian Endeavor of the Church of Christ, for last Friday, had to be called off because of the illness of several members of the group. It is hoped that another party can be scheduled in the near future.

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NEW LEASE DUE ON DOG'S LIFE

A dog's life is one of those rather common things. But, according to D. F. Kanneman, enforcement officer of the county dog control board, dog owners have until March 1 to get a new lease on their pet pooches license or suffer the threat of legal impounding. The license is county-wide.

New Headlight for Tractor

With an increasing number of farmers operating tractors at night, a special sealed-beam headlight for the tractor has been developed. Its lens is designed to concentrate the light on the area immediately ahead of the machine.

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