

**Southern Oregon Miner**

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TELEPHONE 170

"THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE"

WHAT! A GOOD REPUBLICAN?

Words of praise for any republican make a strange mouthful for The Miner, but at this early moment we are wondering if our traditional antipathy of GOP's and our distrust for rival editors have not led us to misjudge the caliber and usefulness of Charlie (True Blue) Sprague as governor of Oregon.

We confess that the combination of being both republican and an editor was too much for our credulity. But, as these few weeks have slipped by, the governor is beginning to loom high as an alright guy and maybe a pretty good executive.

This week Charlie Sprague delivered a scathing criticism, along with his veto, toward the Columbia river pilots' group seeking to further their monopolistic control of a lucrative business. Hurrah for Mr. Sprague! And may he continue such policies throughout his four years.

It is just possible that Sprague may have many of the good qualities of Charles Martin without the verbal faults of the old campaigner. Mind you, we said just possible for, after all, the pilot group is an unimportant political factor.

It is a little difficult to determine whether Charles Sprague looks good at this point because of what he is, or because of what the state legislature is by contrast.



EGG TO CHICKEN; CHICKEN TO EGG!

The old question of which came first, the egg or the hen, has never been answered. Arguments invariably end up in a diced chicken-egg omelet confusion.

And so it must be with the problem of which came first, excessive New Deal spending, or excessive demands on the administration. Unusual expenditures are being made, and unusual pressure is being put on Washington by self-seeking groups from pension seekers to special privilege classes.

Just where the thing got started is an unknown quantity. Administration critics will say the New Deal started the cycle, but then such a view is partisan bias. Quite possibly an unusual need on the part of a large proportion of our people started the era of federal aid that seems to have no ending. And it was started, not in 1933 when Mr. Roosevelt took office, but back in 1929 and 1930, when the need was created by an extravagant people taking a credit joyride.

Once started, vicious cycles are hard to control. The same critic who will bellyache about the federal deficit will demand the loudest that his community, his county, his state be showered with federal silver.

It will be unfortunate for democrats in 1940 that they have held the balance of power during such uncontrollable times, just as it was unfortunate for republicans that they were seated in Washington when the 1929 debacle and its train of repercussions descended on a frightened nation.

Worst trouble with the governmental hen-and-egg proposition seems to be that we have eggs till we're ill at the sight of a yolk, and then we're chicken-fed till we go out and scratch in the barnyard. But one begets the other, and the other begets the one.



WHY NOT PASSPORTS FOR BUND MEMBERS?

Members and sympathizers of the German-American bund stirred up a hornet's nest Tuesday when they held a huge meeting in Madison Square Garden to denounce Jews, administration leaders, the national foreign policy and to poke ridicule at President Roosevelt.

The bund leaders exercised the American privilege of peaceful assembly and free speech to the point where the entire nation is becoming irritated. They reminded the American people that their fine traditions of tolerance sometimes demand an exorbitant price in patience and self-restraint.

The bund members slurred and slandered this nation's highest executive when the bund's national pub-



licity director referred to Roosevelt as "Rosenfeld." Public opinion should and will firmly condemn such exhibitions of contempt for American principles by people who make the United States their home.

Disrespect toward high government officials is bad enough when based on political difference, but when sneers come from a group of nazi sympathizers whose qualifications and value as American citizens are properly doubted, then such insults are intolerable.

The nazi bundsmen soon will learn, however, about the double-edged effectiveness of free assembly and free speech. Through the very privileges which they abuse, are they arousing a storm of opposition which is certain to destroy their movement.

German-American bund members may idolize Hitler's way of doing things, but they come to the United States to talk about it. And that is one of the great things about our country—even despised troublemakers are sheltered by the government they seek to undermine. That is why the United States is bigger than her foes from within.

LETTERS to the Editor

RETAIL SALES TAX

To the Editor: From a Miner editorial of Feb. 10 entitled "Setting the Stage for Another Sales Tax Phoney," we quote: "The only way a sales tax can and should be voted by Oregonians would be through a measure drafted to definitely transfer the tax burden FROM property TO sales. Only when a sales tax dollar cancels a dollar of real estate taxes will arguments made in behalf of the sales tax theory actually apply."

It is refreshing to occasionally discover an editorial gem frankly intended to enlighten rather than to confuse the reader. As a matter of undisputable fact there is no form of taxation as equitable, adaptable and as economical as the retail sales tax.

Equitable because it touches the consumer according to his ability to pay and such ability can in no way be determined so accurately as by what he can afford and does buy.

Adaptable because it applies to all retail sales and irrespective of sales volume, a definite per cent establishes the amount due as taxes, making collections almost automatic as contrasted with the cumbersome and expensive methods of collecting other forms of taxes.

Economic because every cent collected upon the final transaction is available for the purpose for which the tax was intended as contrasted with taxes collected at source of raw material such as, for instance, taxes assessed against the land direct. In this case five cents applied to the dollar for farm products adds to itself as the product passes through the average of five transactions

before reaching the consumer because the profit percentage of about 20 per cent applies to the five cents tax the same as to the one dollar and the consumer is forced to pay five cents extra for each five cents taxes available to the government which penalizes the consumer 100 per cent more than if he paid the five cents directly as a retail sales tax.

Under an intelligent and proper economic order all costs of government should be met by a carefully adjusted sales tax. A retail sales tax should be assessed without discrimination against all necessities while a super-tax should be assessed against all luxuries through the wholesale trade.

In no case should a retail sales tax ever, under any circumstances, be permitted unless it definitely abolishes an equal amount of intangible or invisible taxes and it should never be invoked to reduce or abolish income, inheritance or gift taxes. Taxes most nearly at source of supply should be disposed of first and this means, of course, taxes upon productive real estate.

J. A. COOMES.

- Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hash and daughter Edna entertained Mr. and Mrs. Chris Pedersen of Ashland at dinner Thursday evening.
- Mr. and Mrs. Gene Seltz of Hornbrook visited recently for a few days at the home of Mr. Seltz' parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. M. Seltz.



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OF ALL THINGS!

By MINER STAFF WRITER

JUST THE GOOD old American way: Selling Japan all of her petroleum requirements and then she uses the oil to bomb Chinese civilians and carry on a war the winning of which would strengthen the dictator nations and in return having the open door slammed in our face and being forced to expand our naval and air forces to protect ourselves from the buyer of the oil.

Inside of six months, says Darryl Zanuck, production chief of Twentieth Century-Fox, there won't be any movie stars plugging breakfast foods, cigarets, coffee or other merchandise on the commercial broadcasts. The theater owners have let out a squawk that if a star is good on a broadcast the public stays away from the film and if they are poor the cinema addicts turn thumbs down also. Nothing said about a mediocre performance...

On account of a breakdown with Brazil in their barter arrangements, Germany is suffering an acute shortage of coffee and has been forced to resort to rationing—and those Teutons are hard hit when they can't have their coffee. One joke going the rounds runs, "Sure any store will sell you a pound of coffee if you will buy two pounds of butter and a dozen eggs along with it; all you have to do is to find a store with that much butter and eggs."

Also Germany's various shortages may force her to return the Sudetens to the Czechs, says the London representative of a New York paper. The Sudetens have not proved the rich market that Hitler supposed they would be. Well, it's not hard to believe. We've heard a number of times that they are going to turn the U S back to the Indians and this is a lot richer country than the Sudeten section.

Shanghai, because no passport is required for entrance, is becoming a haven for refugees, particularly Jews from Germany, 2100 having located there recently.

Want-ad in Portland Oregonian: Milk minded young man wanted for creamery work. We've heard of lots of different kinds of minds but never that kind before. And the Workers' Alliance, union of relief recipients, is advocating a pension for those over 60. From the looks of some of the relief

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**First Bapti**  
Charles E. Du

Church school m. C. N. Gillmore. Morning worship. The pastor will pre. Young People's at 6:30 p. m. Evening service. "The Armor of Go of the pastor's ser. Prayer and con 7:30 p. m. Wednes

Norman Hamill Oregon, visited her with friends.

**QUALITY BUILD MAT HELPFUL BUIL SERV**

**ASH PHON OAK ST. at**