

SOUTHERN OREGON MINER

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Washington Newsletter

—By—

HARRIS ELLSWORTH
Congressman from Oregon

OPA. The next problem to be faced by the House is the consideration of the extension of the Price Control Act (OPA). The senate has already acted on this legislation and incorporated in the bill both of the cost of production amendments—The Where

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ry Amendment prohibiting the setting of prices on farm products below the producers' cost of production, and a similar amendment authored by Senator Thomas of Oklahoma, applying to meat processing and other manufactured food products.

I have attended some of the hearings held by the House banking and Currency Committee on this legislation. The stories of the abusive administration of the OPA act are enough to give the most hardened supporter of Chester Bowles, the OPA Administrator, a severe chill.

As I have said before, the Congress faces an impossible situation with reference to the OPA problem. Price control is necessary. The Price Control Act is basically a good law. The difficulties, shortages and persecutions that have resulted stem from executive orders and administrative practices. We can incorporate a few more checks and safeguards against such maladministration, but we cannot write administrative details into the law. The troubles with OPA are troubles born in the executive department of the government, and must finally be corrected there. President Truman will surely soon be compelled to overhaul the functioning of his

price control agency.

Summer Heat. Washington has enjoyed an unusually cool and delightful spring. Until this week, the weather has been very similar to the very best Oregon spring and summer climate, but the high temperature and high humidity combination is going full blast now. It is extremely unpleasant.

Apparently most of the urgent business of Congress can be finished by the end of this month. It is anticipated that a recess will be declared shortly after July 1st until after Labor Day. I hope, therefore, to be able to spend half of July and all of August in Oregon.

EISENHOWER VISIT. Preparations are being rapidly completed here for the triumphal return of General Eisenhower. He and a number of other officers who are returning with him will be taken in a procession from army headquarters offices in the Pentagon Building to the Capitol, where he will appear and speak at a joint session of Congress.

This will be a great event here, and I suspect the pomp and ceremony of it will be enjoyed by everyone with the possible exception of General Eisenhower himself. I had the good fortune to spend some time with him last fall in Paris, and know him to be a very unassuming man, and a person who obviously does not care for this sort of thing.

General Eisenhower is a great man and a great commanding general. His feat in leading our armies to a complete victory over Germany in exactly eleven months is the greatest military achievement in all history. There have been other great military victories, but none with operations conducted on such a vast scale or under more difficult conditions. Great as this achievement was, I think the fact that General Eisenhower was able to win victory with such a relatively small loss of men, considering the millions involved, is the thing for which he should be honored most. Victory at a high price is still victory, but victory as won by General Eisenhower and his armies with an absolute minimum loss of life is sweet indeed.

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Cruelty to Ideas

By Ruth Taylor

Have you ever been against an idea just because you didn't like the person who promulgated it? That is cruelty to ideas - and I reckon there have been times when you've been as guilty of it as I have.

But remember, as Don Marquis used to say, an idea isn't responsible for the people who believe in it.

Did you ever try watching your own prejudices for one day? I did once. I kept a list of every bristling up, and it was pretty illuminating. When I analyzed my list, my opinion of myself reached a new low!

Here are some of the things I found out:

Prejudice against individuals is often prejudice against the people who sponsor them. An idea may be so good that even a bad man will accept it - to say nothing of the people who just want to climb on the bandwagon. Make up your mind for yourself - study the situation, and draw your own conclusions. What's the use of being an adult if you can't make your own decisions.

Prejudice against individuals is too often a mirror reflection - you see in them some mannerism, some shading of expression, some tone of voice, some characteristic of someone whom perhaps you have just cause to dislike - and you group the two together. You generalize - when really your likes and dislikes should be based only on the individual.

Prejudice against groups is too often either a hangover or a misconception. Either it is based on a careless statement overheard in childhood and accepted as a fact, or a stereotype acquired in some thoughtless way. One may be an alibi - often unrealized by the holder - against some one's else ability. It is much easier to say it is a group against you than to admit personal shortcomings. The first defense of the incompetent is to incriminate.

Prejudice against the untried and the different is too often a defense mechanism. We fear the unknown. We dislike it because we don't want to admit our own ignorance. We don't like to feel inferior to ourselves - to we just say that what hasn't come within our ken is no good.

The best cure for all prejudice is knowledge - for the cause of all prejudice is ignorance. We wouldn't ever intentionally be cruel - even to ideas. So let's get wise to ourselves!

Increased Traffic Ups Traffic Accidents

An upward trend in rural traffic volume in Oregon is matched by an upward trend in fatal accidents reported in the state during the first four months of 1945, Secretary of State Robert S. Farrell disclosed today.

The traffic volume for the first four months of the year showed an increase of 13 per cent over

the volume on rural highways for the same period of 1944. These figures are from the automatic traffic counts maintained by the traffic engineering division of the state highway department.

Traffic deaths for the same period this year totaled 89, as compared to a toll of 77 for the same period a year ago, or an increase of 15 per cent.

The increase in deaths, however, is chiefly accounted for by increases in urban areas," Farrell said. "Rural deaths for the four

months of 1945 totaled 42, compared to 41 a year ago. Thus, the greater number of fatalities in urban areas accounts for the death increase for the state as a whole."

While the traffic volume counts are taken only on state highways in rural areas, they do indicate a trend for the use of vehicles in the state as a whole, and Farrell pointed to the increase as evidence of need for greater care in driving to avoid the same upward trend in traffic fatalities.

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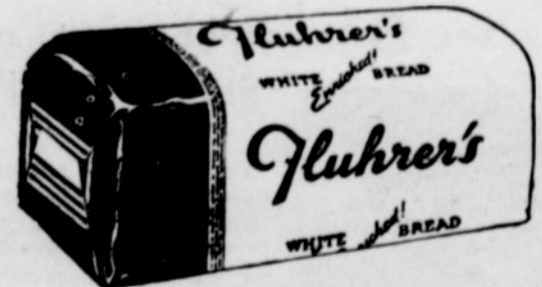
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