

SOUTHERN OREGON NEWS REVIEW

Published every Thursday by
THE SISKIYOU PUBLISHING COMPANY
Ashland, Oregon 167 East Main Street
Caryl H. Wines and Wendell D. Lawrence, Publishers

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Entered as second-class mail matter in the post office at Ashland, Oregon, February 15, 1935, under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

HOT AIR DID NOT WORK

A few months ago the Newburyport plan was enthusiastically ballyhooed from coast to coast. It was a scheme for stopping inflation in its tracks by cutting retail prices. Within a few weeks the fuss died down and the plan was dropped. Hot air and good intentions are poor weapons to combat economic law.

Another scheme has now appeared. The government has launched a series of antitrust suits against basic industry, with the clear implication that these industries have been a substantial factor in bringing prices to current levels. Regardless of the legal justification for the suits, promotion of the idea that any basic industry today has deliberately raised prices on the obsolete theory of charging all the traffic will bear, is just plain political maneuvering—an effort to find a scapegoat. And it is doomed to failure, as was the unworkable Newburyport plan.

Our present inflation is deeply rooted in events of the past 15 years. It began with the idea that modern governments do not need balanced budgets, that expanding public debt is beneficial. It began with the development of the philosophy that the public treasury be pledged to forever abolish the responsibility of the individual to provide for himself. It has simply moved faster since the war which saw the public debt jump to nearly three-hundred-billion dollars. It will not end until every community and every individual finally comes to realize that government, even the immensely powerful U. S. government, must learn to spend less than it takes from the people in taxes.

If the government is going to start blaming various groups of private citizens for the inflation which was largely brought on by its own actions, why not start with the labor unions? Or better yet, why not start with an educational program to show people that when congressmen are patted on the back for securing unnecessary appropriations for hometown activities, the ground is being prepared for still higher prices to come.

No, inflation of the kind we have in America today is not a superficial ailment, and it cannot be corrected by superficial treatment.

SOCIALISM IS INEFFICIENT

One characteristic of socialism is its inefficiency.

The best current example of that at present is England, where the Labor government has been attempting to make the enormous transition from a free enterprise system to a socialistic system with unusual speed. The result has been a severe decline in production. The British mines are producing less and less coal—and for the first time in her history, England is having to import coal from us. The British mills are producing less steel. The threat of immediate socialization is a damper on the British electric industry. And the output of export commodities, which was depended upon to revitalize England as a financial power, has been far below the forecasts.

This inefficiency is implicit in the socialist system. First of all, socialism destroys initiative—what rewards there are go to the state, and the best the individual can hope for is a political job. Second, socialism depends upon the use of force of one kind or another to achieve its ends. Labor is compelled to accept a certain kind of employment whether it wants it or not—and the man who works under compulsion never does his best. Third, socialism ties up all the energies of the country in an impenetrable jungle of rules, regulations, red tape, priorities, ration schemes, and so on. Again, initiative is smothered.

We hear much of Russian production. But here, again, it is the result of mass effort—of an unlimited supply of slave labor with an incredibly low standard of living. Judged by any American standard, Russia is abysmally inefficient.

Only under free enterprise do we attain maximum efficiency, the maximum standard of living for all—and most important, maximum freedom for all. That is the one fact Americans must never forget when schemes for further government ownership of industry are presented here.

TRUCK ROUTE

Many thanks are due Ralph Billings for his offer to give the city right-of-way through his farm on the Northwest of town for a truck route. That the highway planning committee saw fit to select the route which follows along the upper side of the railroad tracks, rather than the one offered by Billings is no reflection on the committee nor Billings.

The important thing is that the community seems to be destined finally for a truck route. We think that Billing's gesture was a fine one, and we also feel that

it had a lot to do with getting some action on the truck route.

Little by little, despite all the scoffing and griping which is done; day by day this community forges ahead. It simply can't help itself. Despite any mossback reactionaries who might be in either high or low places the city will progress because this section of the United States is in the midst of growing pains.

It may be that the city of Ashland will have to expend some money to get the truck route into operation. If so, it should be done, immediately. A man taxes himself when he calls the plumber to fix the plumbing at his home. We should be willing to fix the traffic flow through our city, even if we have to pay a bit for it.

The sooner the city reroutes the truck traffic onto the proposed truck lane the better off the entire community will be.

Open Mike

by Doyle SEELY

With the opening of the fall football season, the identification tag of KWIN has been changed from the usual "Voice of the Rogue Valley," to "Your friendly Rogue Valley football station."

And a football station it is, indeed! Last week saw the first two games of the season broadcast, and this week-end will find two more in a period of less than 24 hours. Friday night, KWIN will carry a broadcast of the Ashland-Lakeview game, the Saturday evening at 6:45 comes the Oregon State-Utah game.

The schedule for the rest of the football season reads just about the same way - that is, a game on Friday nights, and another on Saturday's.

In addition to the football games, the KWIN sports program also includes the world series, opening next Tuesday, with broadcasts through to the conclusion of the affair.

The latest staff change out Helman way has Lee Bullis leaving or greener pastures. Lee has been with the station since it was first started, coming to Ashland from KMED. His next post is with the projected station in Medford. Hence the nick-name, Lee "I change stations every year" Bullis.

His spot as program director is being filled by Chuck Field

(Wake Up Rogue Valley), assisted by Verne Bailey of Medford.

Ed Barnett, KWIN sales manager, returned this week from a couple of weeks active duty with the army, where he rated a salute as Major Barnett Ed was back at Fort Knox for the ordeal.



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CHIPMAN'S REMODEL

The interior of Chipman's soda fountain and magazine stand is being redecorated and the ceiling

is being lowered. Cliff Wilson has the contract. Culmer's Cab Stand is also being re-done by Wilson.



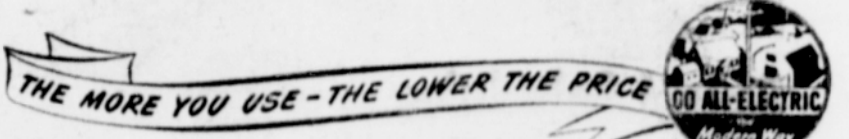
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New ways the telephone can reach remote areas



Radio telephone allows your voice to "ride the beam" into Death Valley, across the channel to Catalina Island . . . to Mount Hood . . . between Marysville and Redding. With transmitters like this one we can span sea or desert by radio and your voice sounds exactly as though it were coming over a telephone wire.



Power-line carrier is another new device which makes telephone communications possible in remote, sparsely settled districts. Your voice "hitch-hike" along existing power lines on radio waves that are tunned to follow the wires. Several power-line systems are now used on the Pacific Coast . . . and they're as safe and effective to use as any.



These developments are dramatic . . . but most of our expansion program must be pushed with "everyday" things like this post-hole digger . . . wires and cables and switchboards. Our construction program of \$200,000,000 this year brings us closer to our goal: the finest telephone service for the West.

New Working Dollars . . . Millions of new dollars needed to build buildings and buy new equipment to meet the public demand for more telephones and more service do not come from tele-

phone bills. New dollars come from people who are willing to put their savings into the business. We must earn enough to attract these new working dollars.

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