

EDITORIAL

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Housing Situation Still Acute

Mark Twain's famous weather observation could easily be applied to the housing situation in Heppner—everybody knows there is a housing shortage but no one does anything about it. That this may not be misinterpreted, it might be better to state that nothing in a general way is being done.

Heppner is no different from thousands of other small towns throughout the nation, but it is a certainty that this town needs its full share of 10 million new dwelling units that must be built in the next ten years if the United States is to maintain a high level of business activity and reap the attendant results.

No doubt the high price for building materials and the unprecedented wage scale is deterring many people from building homes. This is true in relation to investment building, and with good cause, for it is too great a risk to build a house that in accordance with present price levels should bring from \$75 to \$100 a month which would drop to a level of from \$35 to \$50, or even lower, if deflation sets in. Yet, people must have housing and something should be done about it. The fact is that people are paying high rent for "just a place to live in" can not be denied, here as elsewhere. Hope for improvement is all that keeps some of our poorly housed residents here and when they lose hope they move out. Lack of housing has kept numerous people from locating here, some of them interested in business enterprises—where there is also a lack of ample facilities—and it is safe to say that an effort to meet the situation would bring new people here.

Regardless of the high cost of building houses, Heppner has witnessed the addition of a substantial number of new homes the past two years. In most instances the building has been done with a modest outlay of cash for labor and by not going in for anything fancy in the way of architecture—just comfortable homes that the owners can call their own by the time they are ready for

occupancy. It is understood that several more homes will be built in the same manner during the coming months by people now renting. This will offer relief to the extent of nine or ten units, but will be only a start on the actual need.

There is this to say about the housing situation. With an estimated 10 million new units needed, extensive study is being made in government circles, builders' supply concerns, and the building trades for the purpose of devising new methods of construction, new materials, so that the cost per unit will be within range of the two out of three prospective builders who are not able to invest from \$8,000 to \$10,000 in homes. We may have to struggle along until these angles are straightened out, and in the meantime many of our residents will remain unhappy and will be looking elsewhere for homes.

Cutting Us Down To Size

If you have been wondering what all this government rag-chewing is about, read this from Kiplinger's Magazine and you may have a better understanding:

"Infant industries were once downtrodden, so we made tariffs to protect them. Then they got wrong, so we are now reducing tariffs. Farmers were once downtrodden, so we passed laws to give them a fair break, and now they are prosperous, and we are beginning to hear some grumbling against farm subsidies. Labor unions were once the under dogs, so we passed laws to give them a chance, which they took, and now we are trying to enforce a law to curb them. Co-operatives were once deemed worthy of the special privilege of not being taxed like regular businesses, and they got so big and strong that now there are bills in Congress to make them pay taxes like private firms and ordinary folks. It just goes to show that when you get too big and strong, you ought to watch yourself, for someone is sure to come along with the vicious idea of cutting you down to size."

WE CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT EITHER!



Washington Week

By CHARLES H. ELLIS, JR.

Washington, D. C.—It is too much to expect in a campaign year that a State of the Union message would escape critical examination. Possibly one reason for the chilly reception, even among Democrats, was that the message was not the considered product of the Executive and his Cabinet, carefully worked out to inform Congress on the grave problems confronting the country. Ostensibly, it reflects what possibly was a synthesis of memoranda from various Departments, accepted and included in the message with scant attention to their inconsistencies or conflicts of interest.

At any rate, that is the current explanation for Mr. Truman's unfortunate message. While he was calling on Congress for more controls and more regimentation for the United States, his own State Department was urging European countries to get rid of controls and return to a system of free enterprise. It looks as if President Truman wants free enterprise for all countries—except the one of which he is President.

But it was on the tax question that Mr. Truman threw consistency, as well as justice and economic, out the window altogether. His tax proposal is as phony as a \$40 bill. Last year he vetoed the Republican tax reduction bill on the grounds that it was inflationary. Prices are higher now, but by some miracle his own tax reduction would not be inflationary. A tax cut of \$40 per taxpayer—or voter—would be offset by high-

EVERYBODY WATCHING

Oregon has taken the kickoff in the political game of the west. The May primaries are the earliest in the history of the state and the earliest in the West this year. The returns from this election will be the first definite indication of political trends. All the country will be watching Oregon. The Wallace vote will have particular interest to both republican and democrat observers as it will register the extent the former vice-president's candidacy will have in cutting down the Truman vote.

There will be at least three leading republican presidential candidates on Oregon's primary ballot. Eisenhower and Stassen forces have not completed petitions now being circulated. As sure as taxes the signal name of the democratic ticket will be that of President Truman. Friends of Henry Wallace will not neglect the opportunity to put his name before the voters.

Senator Douglas McKay of Salem has long since announced his candidacy for governor of Oregon. As yet there are no "yes men" among the other prominent potential republican candidates—Governor John Hall, of Portland, State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott, of Portland, and Senator Dean Walker, of Independence.

Secretary of State Earl T. Newberry is an announced candidate to succeed himself, which does not make competition overanxious to throw a hat in the ring.

There are two avowed candidates to succeed State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott, who is inhibited by the constitution from serving more than two terms in this office. Both are from Portland and both were appointed to public office by Charles A. Sprague when he was governor. Ormand R. Bean as public utilities commissioner and Sigfrid B. Unander as an executive aide. Former Senate President Howard Belmont of Canby is being encouraged to enter this race. Reports prevail that George Flagg, public utilities commissioner, may file for secretary of state or for state treasurer.

Oregon democrat generalissimos are making a spastic search for a gubernatorial candidate with a state-wide prestige. Only Marshall Dana, editor of the Oregon Journal editorial page and Senator Lew Wallace, party martyr, are "amply available."

Political "fixers" and pressure blocks who have been getting the breaks at recent sessions of the legislature are apprehensive of the many changes taking place in the personnel of state offices. Their political bird-dogs are scurrying around the state just now lining up candidates, for the primary election who will perform without a leash. Pot phobias of potential candidates are listed and smoke screen bills brewed to meet personal fixations. Bills that were near-hits at recent sessions of the legislature and those that were traded off are now being given artificial respiration—with political hot air. Bills of promising merit also are put to use by these architects. The groundwork of the 1949 session of the Oregon legislature is under way.

Don't envy Senator Guy Cordon who is in Hawaii. They're having "unusual" weather there too. . . . State Senator Rex Ellis, Pendleton mining and insurance man, has announced he will run for president of the 1949 senate. Senator Angus Gibson, Junction City, chairman of heavy committees at several sessions and Senator William Walsh, Coos Bay attorney, are also running. Gibson and

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30 YEARS AGO

From Heppner Gazette Times
January 24, 1918

The Morrow Count Red Cross chapter is moving into its new quarters in the Natter building on upper Main street. The workers have outgrown the former quarters in the South Methodist church and this has necessitated the move.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sibley of South Springs died Tuesday at the home of his parents. He had been sick for about five months and his death was caused by an abscess at the base of the brain.

During the week the McCullough Brothers wool clip of 15,000 pounds was sold. The price was around 55 cents.

William Moreland died January 22 at the home of his son, Frank Moreland, in this city at the age of 72 years.

Is there any better sign of spring? Children have been out picking buttercups.

Mrs. W. E. Brock and Mrs.

George Fell, prominent Pendleton woman, were guests at the S. W. Spencer home the first of the week.

The street committee of the council is making a number of repairs to wooden crosswalks this week.

L. D. Neill and family were in the city last week from their Butter creek home. Mr. Neill came in to receive surgical attention to his left arm which had fallen victim to "Forditis," a malady which is found in its worst form in a Ford car on a cold morning.

Walter Holloway of La Grande arrived in Heppner last week to accept a position as trap drummer at the Star theater.

The Heppner high school athletic association has leased the exhibit pavilion from the fair board and is putting the building in shape for the basketball season.

Mrs. Willis McCarty of Portland arrived in the city the last of the week to make a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Campbell and her sister, Mrs. P. A. Anderson.

Misses Ellen, Hannah and Emma Bergstrom were in the city Monday from their home in Eight Mile.

PORTLAND BUILDING SANS FIRES AND CHIMNEYS
One of the features that makes Portland's newly opened glass-walled Equitable building, perhaps the most talked about structure in the nation is that it has no fires and no chimney, for it is heated and cooled by a reverse cycle system which draws heat or cold from three wells drilled to various depths. The refrigeration school of Multnomah college, now removed to larger quarters at Swan Island, will add, on February 2, a course for advanced students which will cover cycle heating and cooling, soil-heat, air-heat and water-heat pickup; erection and operation of heavy equipment is included.

WOODBURN GIRL WINS GREEN GUARD ESSAY CONTEST; MORGAN GIRL PLACES

Salem, Jan. 22 (Special)—Mary Jo Bean, 15, Woodburn farm girl, competing against boys and girls from every Oregon county, won the \$50 first prize in the annual Green Guard essay, poster and achievement contest sponsored by the Keep Oregon Green association.

Green Guards from thirteen counties won cash awards for essays and posters written on the theme: "A Page From Nature's Notebook." Quality of essays was excellent, according to Charles Ogle, executive secretary of the fire prevention association, who said that more Green Guards and other students participated this year than at any time since the start of the state-wide event five years ago.

Second prizes of \$25 went to Fred Cummings, 14, Waadburn, and George Elder, 13, Joseph.

Among the achievements of Mary Jo Bean, who was first place winner in the intermediate division last year, was her enlistment of 210 boys and girls during 1947 in her Green Guard squad. George Elder was one of the authors of a special Keep Oregon Green play which was presented to the Hurricane Creek range of Willamette county.

Two sisters, Freda and Hilda Swanson, of Swisshome, and Frank Wiley, 5950 S.E. Maple, Portland, won \$10 third place prizes.

Twenty Green Guards were awarded \$5 prizes for fourth place, among whom was Lorraine Carter of Irrigon.

Judges for the contest, who selected the 26 winners from the many outstanding entries were Dean Paul M. Dunn, Corvallis; State Forester N. S. Rogers, Salem, and Arthur W. Prieaux, Portland.

Midnight Ceremony Unites Spray Couple

Willie Ethel Flisk of Morrow county and Theodore Ruben Murdock of Spray were united in marriage at a midnight ceremony held in the Methodist church Tuesday night, with Rev. J. C. Dunham officiating. Mrs. C. C. Dunham presided at the piano and sang "Because." Witnesses were Mrs. Velma Huebner, Mrs. H. A. Sanders, H. A. Sanders and Roy Burkenbine.

The couple will reside on Mr. Murdock's stock ranch near Spray. Mrs. Murdock is a newcomer to this section, but her husband is well known here and in the John Day country where he has resided all his life.

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