

French Reviews the Legislature

It doesn't look as if it were going to end very soon. Ways and means has not been able to cut down the budget. In fact accurate reports are that the budget has grown from its original \$115,000,000 to a figure between \$125,000,000 and \$130,000,000. That is not unaccounted for often the "hard-tough" men of ways and means prove themselves to be comparatively easy marks for the spenders.

Neither is it settled how either the original budget nor the additional sums are going to be paid. It must be realized that the \$12,000,000 increase for the basic school fund, the building funds for higher education and state departments, and the possible veteran's bonus have not been met. That will be more.

Whether the legislators will have the fortitude to send the levies to the people over the six percent limitation or perpetrate some hocus-pocus with the income tax is not known either. Probably the present tendency is to do some sleight of law and use the funds in a moment of both illegality and immorality. It is the easy way.

In any event the taxpayers can reconcile themselves to spending more money for the state. Big money. They can either resolve to form a real taxpayers group and hire some able and experienced lobbyists and thus spend dimes, or they can continue to let the minority groups do all the talking and pushing. The latter way causes big budgets and big taxes.

Towns, especially in the valley, and particularly Salem, are opposing the senate bill that would stop highway work in cities until the state's major highways are completed. It isn't such a crazy proposal. The present plan of the highway commission is to spend \$7,500,000 right in Salem in a big, wide by-pass arrangement that would speed traffic through the town.

That is more money than the commission would receive in one year from the new taxes on gasoline and licenses. Sixteen senators think that is poor business and they will undoubtedly be joined by a like proportion in the house unless the commission changes its plans. Intent of the bill, of course, is to obtain a hearing and a resultant change of plans.

The FEPC bill has finally passed without fanfare or gallery crowds. It is the best of such bills that have been proposed over a long period. It works in New York, New Jersey and other states where, oddly, there are few appeals to the board. Up-state leg-

4-H Club Awards Stress Farm Woodlot Management



Young people everywhere are taking increased interest in forest management. These two youths are receiving a lesson in the use of the increment wedge, an instrument used to determine growth rate of trees. Professional forester, right, instructs.

For the second straight year local farm boys and girls have a chance to compete for state and national awards in a 4-H club forestry project. Three hundred dollar college scholarships plus all-expense paid trips to the 1949 4-H Club Congress in Chicago will go to four national winners in the forestry contest.

Four-H Club members interested in forestry are eligible to compete. In addition to the four top awards, to be distributed on a regional basis, each of the state winners will receive a gold medal.

The 4-H forestry project emphasizes youth's stake in the woodlands of this state. Farmer owned woodlands today constitute a major portion of the Nation's commercial forest area. They represent also a steady source of wealth to their owners that in many cases is virtually untapped.

American Forest Products Industries, a national, non-profit association of wood-dependent industries, is sponsor of the 4-H forestry awards. Last year 18 states participated in the national forestry competition. College scholarships went to club members representing Idaho, Georgia, New York and Wisconsin.

"Opportunities for farmers, who manage their woodlands for continuing forest crops, are greater today than ever before," Charles A. Gillett, managing director of American Forest Products Industries, declared in announcing his organization's sponsorship of the 1949 award. "The importance of good forest management practices on the Nation's farms cannot be over emphasized."

Detailed information about the 4-H forestry project may be obtained from the county extension agent.

IONE NEWS . . .
Miss June Griffith and Dwight Haugen of Portland spent the week end at the home of her mother, Mrs. Elmer Griffith, of Morgan.
Funeral services were conducted for John S. Johnson, 75, Friday, March 18, at 1:30 p.m. at the lone Cooperative church with Rev. Alfred Shirley officiating. Mrs. W. G. Roberts and Mrs. Paul Pettyjohn sang "In the Garden." "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere." They were accompanied by Mrs. Cleo Drake. Pallbearers were G.

The American Way

LET'S QUIT FOOLING!

By Dr. Alfred P. Haake

(Editor's Note: Alfred P. Haake, Ph.D., Mayor of Park Ridge, Illinois, is a noted Economist, Business Consultant, Lecturer and Author.)

President Truman has asked Congress to underwrite a program of a million Government-financed low-rent housing units to be built in seven years. He accuses the building industry of putting up too many high-priced houses. And he urges everybody to lower costs; that is, everybody except the people who CAN lower costs if they will. The president does not dare point his finger at them.

Politicians are notorious cowards when it comes to telling the public the truth, especially to those segments of the public which control large blocks of votes.

In Egypt they used to worship cats. In India it was cows. But in the United States we have developed a yen for curtailed production per man per hour. We talk about the "abundant life" and then see to it that it is kept from being abundant. We damn the old-fashioned monopolies that used to add a nickel or two here or there, and we stand in fearful awe of the modern monopoly that can treble cost of building through its control of workers and the amount of work they do.

The plain reason many people cannot buy houses is that, particularly in the larger cities, the workers who make the materials and who build those houses get about 76 percent more wages, have curtailed their output about 38 percent since 1940, and so have

lifted the costs about 180 percent.

Deliberate slowing down, insistence on antiquated methods, restraints on wholesaling of building materials, and building codes that hold open the buyers' pockets while sellers dig out extortionate rates, all contribute to the high prices of buildings.

No one begrudges men higher incomes to meet the increased cost of living and to raise that standard of living for his family. But when we raise the wages without increasing the output we simply make other workers pay more for that product in terms of their own work.

It is reported that in 1941 a bricklayer received \$13.68 for an eight hour day and laid 1,000 bricks to earn that money. When I was a boy he received less money and laid 2,000 bricks a day. But, today, he gets \$18.95 a day and lays only 540 bricks.

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