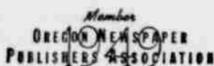


# EDITORIAL



## It's Time To Get Busy

For four some of our local citizens have not heard about it and others may have forgotten, it is pertinent to state that on June 14, 1903, the greatest flood disaster from the standpoint of lives lost ever recorded in the Northwest occurred in Heppner. The little town of some 1100 souls lost almost twenty-five per cent of its population due to an electrical storm and cloudburst that so far as is known is without parallel in this section of the United States.

There have been four or five floods of this type since the earliest settlers came to the Willow Creek valley, but only one stands out in the memory of those who lived in the town and surrounding country at the time and that is the one referred to as "the Heppner flood."

People lose sight of the fact that the same conditions prevail now that were in evidence in 1903. The contour of the country has not changed. No dependable improvement has been made to the creek channel—even a spring run-off causes an overflow, as witness what happened here February 21—and people are just as prone to locate near the creek banks as they were in those earlier days.

The Heppner flood control dam has been placed on the Columbia Basin development program. There is reason to believe that construction of the project can be moved up that is, made more definite, if the citizens of the community desire this protection to their lives and property. It must be remembered that electric power development does not enter into the picture. The government engineers saw the necessity for flood control here as a matter of protecting life and property. Supplemental irrigation may be provided to put to good use the water that will be impounded behind the dam and charges made for irrigation water will be the only refunding required, and this will depend upon inclination of ranchers along the creek to buy the additional water.

By placing the flood dam on the basin development map the engineers have expressed a desire to help us. It is a type of help that can come only through federal aid and if the citizens are not interested enough to ask for it the government will allocate the funds to some other project. It is time for action and there is no time like the present.

## Are Telephones Next?

Inasmuch as there is now a well established Federal power monopoly in the United States which plans to extend its hold in every section of the country, it is not surprising to see a Federal bureau, namely, the Rural Electrification Administration, reach out to take on another industry—rural telephone communication.

The same type of destructive propaganda that is now being used to undermine confidence in our rural telephone system has long been used by public ownership propagandists against the private electric industry in the campaign to socialize it.

The irony of the situation is that as a nation we parade our accomplishments and virtues before the rest of the world. We show that our people have been given the finest electric service. We boast that the United States has more telephones than all the rest of the world put together.

In the face of this record of private enterprise, we complacently accept plans of politicians to socialize our industries and follow in the footsteps of our international neighbors who seek money and food and support from us because their socialistic governments cannot give their people the advantages which up to the present time have been enjoyed in the United States under a free enterprise system. There is no rhyme or reason in a Federal policy favoring socialistic objectives on the one hand, while on the other hand objecting strenuously to the extension of the socialistic regime which Russia offers the world. Is it possible that socialism or communism, which are synonymous terms so far as their ultimate effect on the individual is concerned, would be sweeter under United States commissars than they would under Russian?

The drive on rural telephones is the latest attempt to put subsidized government projects into further competition with private citizens. Everyone interested in preserving our American system should write their representatives in Washington to reverse the process now in vogue of glorifying socialism and big government and undermining confidence in private enterprise and independence.

## Go To Sunday School

It has become very popular to talk about the importance of saving our American way of life. As a matter of fact, the only way we can lose it is for the American people themselves to become so negligent in exercising the rights and privileges they have under our form of government that the liberties they take for granted will go by default.

We have to work at being Americans if we wish to perpetuate the blessings left to us by our forefathers. American parents must strive to help develop character in their children, which is necessary to combat enemies both from within and without our borders.

The essential qualification for the perpetuation of our representative form of government is character, and that is developed on a foundation of religious teaching.

National Sunday School Week is sponsored by the Laymen's National Committee, a non-sectarian, non-profit organization created to bring about a better understanding of the important part religion has played in creating and maintaining our government. Helping develop character in children through some form of religious training cannot be delegated to someone else.

A good time to reawaken old-fashioned ideas is to go to Sunday School with the family, and thereby help counteract the teachings of alien, godless ideologies.

# The American Way

## FEDERAL AID

By George Peck

In a recent radio address, the Honorable Arch W. McFarlane, former Lieut.-Governor of Iowa, quoted from a report made by the Appropriations Committee of the Iowa House of Representatives regarding that State's Social Welfare and Aid to Dependent Children setup. Here follows part of the quote:

"... regardless of our opinion in reference to Federal domination of this program, it is necessary for the State of Iowa to adjust its program to the Federal pattern else Federal Administration will refuse to Iowa federal aid in the financing of this relief agency. It should be understood that the federal pattern in this instance is not unlike the federal aid system generally. It's an ingenious device. It amounts to this:

"1.—The Federal Government by divers special and extraordinary taxes obtains this money in the first instance, from the Iowa taxpayer, to create the Iowa portion of the federal fund.

"2.—Then the Federal Government says, in effect, to Iowa, 'It is now necessary for Iowa to use, in addition, its own money to set up a state fund so that the state fund can be used to match the money that the Iowa taxpayer has already paid to the Federal government.

"In effect it says 'If Iowa doesn't comply; if it doesn't match its own money and then allow the federal agency to dominate the operation of the program, then the so-called federal aid is denied to Iowa.' In such event Iowa money paid in the first instance to the Federal Government would be lost to our state and would be diverted to some other state or states that had subscribed to the federal pattern and program."

Then the Honorable McFarlane added his own caustic comment as follows: "In other words, we raise our taxes to send to Washington, and then we raise some more taxes to match the amount we have already sent to Washington in order to get back the amount we originally sent. That is what is known as 'Federal Aid.'"

Mr. McFarlane, in this particular address, omitted one most important factor. He could have pointed out that a very considerable proportion of the Iowa money collected by the Federal Government does not return to Iowa—that is the portion that is lopped off to feed a retinue of federal employees in a manner to which they were not formerly accustomed. And what is even worse, the greatly reduced portion that does actually return is freighted with political power.

What transpires in Iowa is taking place in all forty-eight of the states. It is so obvious that any state or local government is fooling itself in believing it is getting "something for nothing" when it asks for and receives federal aid. It borders on the absurd that state and local governments not only condone this chicanery but eagerly participate.

"This Nation made great progress long before the brilliant (?) long-haired politicians thought effective. In some cases the district is unable to issue bonds but is doing everything possible to meet requirements.

Though parsimoniously and belatedly provided for, when compared with the economic necessity, the war-delayed construction of state government, departmental and educational structures are in a heavy building period, one that has for the past two years and will for another year top all other building in Oregon.

Major projects for the immediate future will be in Portland, Salem and educational centers throughout the state. The planning and contracting of institutional and state buildings is up to the state board of control, with the exception of the 1949 appropriation measures that must have the OK of the emergency board. The educational projects will be planned by the state board of higher education but must have the sanction of the board of control and the emergency board in joint session.

The original state building program as referred to the people by the 1945 legislature, and approved by them, provided for \$5,000,000 for state institutions and \$4,000,000 for higher educational buildings. The 1947 session appropriated \$2,800,000 for additional state institutional building. For construction of the new state office building in Salem \$2,000,000 was borrowed from the state irreducible school fund and will be repaid with rentals from state departments. This building is nearing completion.

The board of control is considering 20 sites for the new state office building in Portland expected to cost \$2,500,000.

The state highway commission is planning to erect its own building on ground adjoining the capitol grounds. Estimated cost of this building is \$1,500,000.

Other projects proposed by the state board of control during the next year include a second new cell block at the state penitentiary, remodeling the administration building and new dormitories at the state hospital

responsibility and power, as well as income in taxes, from local to central government, and warn us of the ever-growing menace of centralized control of our national life.

They reflect the decreasing efficiency in expenditure of public funds, for the further a tax dollar travels from home, the less it does for the taxpayer when it reaches its destination.

Reduced taxes would be a partial remedy, but even more important, there must be a reapportionment of tax monies, so that a larger portion of them stay at home and many, many fewer go to Washington.

With such a shift we would increase the efficiency of our tax dollars and be able to give the people more and better service at home, without collecting more dollars for those purposes.

There is some significance even today, in the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1932, when he was running for President against Mr. Hoover. Mr. Roosevelt said:

"Taxes are paid in the sweat of every man who labors. If those taxes are excessive, they are reflected in idle factories, in tax-sold farms, and in hordes of hungry people, tramping the streets and seeking jobs in vain. Our workers may never see a tax bill, but they pay. They pay in deductions from wages, in increased cost of what they buy, or in unemployment throughout the land."

Mr. Roosevelt spoke for political purposes, but even more truly than he knew. And it may be that his words were prophetic of what would grow out of policies which he, himself, was to inaugurate during his years in the presidency.

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Doolittle returned Tuesday from Portland where they spent about two weeks visiting and attending to business affairs. They were accompanied by their daughter, Mrs. E. H. Perrott, and daughter who will visit until the end of the week when Mr. Perrott will come for them.

THE POWER TO DESTROY  
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.)

"The power to tax involves the power to destroy," said Chief Justice Marshall in March of 1819. It is also the power to embarrass and to bring great shifts in the distribution of people and their income.

Taxing away the profits of industry prevents the reinvestment of those profits in new and improved machines to replace those worn out as well as to provide additional jobs. We cannot destroy business without destroying all of us who make our living in or on business.

High taxes mortgage future incomes and steer a nation toward bankruptcy. We remember the smug complacency of a Russian leader who remarked that Russia did not have to destroy capitalism in America, for this country would bleed herself white with aid to other nations and high taxes on her own people.

But taxes can shift power and lead to the destruction of local self-government.

In 1913 all local government, city and village, received 56.1% of all taxes collected in the United States. The state governments received 15.3% and the Federal Government took 28.6% of the total. The share of the local governments was more than double that of the Federal Government, and indicated a healthy share of power and responsibility still vested directly in local government.

From that time on, however, the percentage going to the Federal Government grew steadily year after year, while the share for local government went as steadily downward.

During the war years the federal government share rose as high as 92.1% of all taxes, while that for local government fell as low as 4.4%.

In 1947, two years after the close of the war, the Federal Government took 75. % of all taxes, while the local governments took only 13.7% and left 11.3% for state governments.

These figures portray dramatically the shift of governmental

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Peterson's Jewelers

# 30 YEARS AGO

Heppner Gazette Times, Thursday, May 8, 1919

Doric lodge Knights of Pythias had a pleasant social evening at the castle hall in the I. O. O. F. building Tuesday. A goodly number of members, their ladies and invited guests were present.

E. R. Huston returned home Thursday from a visit of several days at the home of his father, John Huston, at Albany.

The work of removing the three buildings at present occupied by the Star theater, Elkhorn restaurant and Mrs. Luper's millinery store at the southeast corner of Main and Willow streets will be commenced at once. Then excavating for the new Heppner hotel will be started.

Riley Judy, who has put in the past 17 or 18 months at the front in France, returned to his home here Friday evening, Saturday morning, in answer to an urgent call from Walla Walla announcing the serious illness of his mother, he and his brother from Lone left at once for that city. But unhappily his mother who had been suffering with influenza passed away before her sons reached her. A sad homecoming for the soldier boy.

Thomas Pettyjohn died the early part of the week following an operation for appendicitis.

Hugh C. Gilhens was suddenly taken with a very serious attack of appendicitis while at work at the Ralph Thompson place. He was operated on immediately and is now getting along nicely.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Claude Keithley of Eight Mile April 29, a son.

Capital Parade  
By Murray Wade

SYNTHETIC POLITICS

Although the 1950 primary election is 12 months away a lot of long range political planning is in progress. Everyone expects Governor McKay to run for reelection and just to keep from overlooking any bets the democrats are needing the governor about his signing or vetoing the old age pension bill. Of this former Governor Charles A. Sprague says editorially: "Plain as a pikestaff is the purpose of State Treasurer Walter E. Pearson's letter to Governor McKay urging him to veto the bill for old age assistance. It's politics, plain, old-fashioned politics—with horse-radish.

"The horse-radish is for the governor."

The old-age pension bill, as passed, is up to the governor now. He has until May 10 to select one of three courses. He may veto the bill, sign it or let it become a law by default. Those who know the governor say he will never take the default course.

INTERIMS VS. NEPOTISM

Nine Oregon legislators, some of them members of a legislative interim committee on interstate cooperation, flew to Sacramento and back last week where they attended the California legislature. What they learned about interstate affairs was valuable to the citizens of Oregon. What they learned about legislative interim committees from the Californians was valuable to them. In the state to the south members of interim committees are paid \$12 a day and here is the gimmick—every legislator is a member of from one to five committees.

SCHOOL AID SPREAD

School districts that have been apprehensive of losing their share of the state's \$17,000,000 school aid when they have not met state standards are to receive the aid if they submit reasonable plans for improvement, says Supt. of Public Instruction Rex Putnam.

No school district has been deprived of its share of basic school funds since the law became ef-

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