

**CHURCHES**

**ALL SAINTS MEMORIAL**

Choir practices: Girls choir, Wednesday at 4 p. m. Adult choir, Thursday at 8 p. m.  
 Boy Scouts, Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9.  
 Archery classes on Saturday. Boy Scouts, 9; Girl Scouts, 10; Cub Scouts, 11.

**METHODIST CHURCH**

J. Palmer Sorlien, Minister  
 Morning worship and sermon

at 11. Special music by the choir, Paul McCoy, director.  
 Sunday church school at 9:45. Oliver Creswick, superintendent. Youth Fellowship class, Adult Bible class and a class for every age.  
 The young people of the church will attend a youth rally at the First Methodist church at Pendleton Sunday afternoon. We will leave the church here at 1:30 p. m.

Wednesday, mid-week prayer service at 7:30 p. m.  
 Thursday, choir practice at 7:30 p. m.  
 The Woman's Society of Christian Service meets first Wednesday of each month. Suzanna Wesley circle of the W.S.C.S. meets third Wednesday of each month.  
**LEXINGTON LUTHERAN**  
 There will be no Lutheran service in Lexington Sunday, Dec.

11. Next Lutheran service will be at 3 p. m. Sunday, Dec. 18.  
 Rev. A. Rietz.  
**LEXINGTON CHURCH—Your Community Church**  
 Z. Franklin Cantrell, Minister  
 Christians are photographs of Christ, and in the dark room of sorrow and affliction, God is developing some of His loveliest characters.

Church school 10 a. m. Worship and preaching 11 a. m. Singing and preaching 7:30 p. m.  
**HEPPNER CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
 Glenn Warner, Minister  
 9:45 a. m. Bible school. C. W. Barlow, superintendent.  
 11 a. m. Morning worship and communion service. Special music by the choir. Sermon theme, "The

**Rep, French Outlines Plan For Reapportioning Membership of State Senate in Speech Before Oregon Wheat League Convention in Heppner**

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Rep. Giles L. French delivered the following address before the state convention of Oregon Association of Counties, and was published in The Oregon Voter. He addressed the Oregon Wheat League convention in Heppner Saturday morning, using substantially the same language throughout. We publish the text by courtesy of Mr. French.

I am here to talk about reapportionment of the Oregon legislature. In this discussion there are three methods to keep in mind. The first is the present method of apportionment established by the Oregon constitution back in 1857. We now elect 30 senators from 24 districts and 60 representatives from 33 districts. These districts are not equal in either area or population. No general apportionment has been made since 1911 except a partial reapportionment in 1931 and according to the constitution this must be done after each decennial census which means in 1951 in the next session of the legislature if not done previously by initiative petition.

Second method to keep in mind is the one proposed by the Oregon American Federation of Labor at its June convention in Eugene. The AFofL has been joined by the CIO and some young Republicans and some young Democrats. The Farmers Union and the Grange are expected to follow because of the strange alignment that has made them bedfellows with labor. This proposal would redistrict the state by strict apportionment by population and would give not more than a third of senators and representatives to one county. This is a restriction of little value for I doubt if Portland is now, or will be, a third of Oregon. This proposal gives more power to the city and less to rural Oregon, the producing area.

I hereby propose another plan. A bill is now in process of being written that will give to each county a senator and apportion the representatives on a population basis. This plan follows closely that followed by the makers of the American constitution and is the American plan.

**Benjamin Franklin's Wording**  
 Back in 1789 when the constitutional convention met in Philadelphia to draw up the document we know as our American constitution there was a great struggle over this very problem. They met in May and it was late in that month before all the delegates had arrived. They argued all through the month of June over the problem of how the delegates to the congress were to be apportioned. First proposal made was the Virginia plan, brought to the convention by the delegates from that state, then the largest in America.

The Virginia plan would have apportioned the congress according to population and given to the large states much more power than they now have. It would have kept the power among the planters of the south and prevented smaller states and rural areas from achieving the development they later made.  
 This plan was opposed by the smaller states, particularly by New Jersey which had the support of Delaware and Connecticut, then a sizeable state itself. It was not until July 8 that a compromise was reached. It was suggested by Roger Sherman of Connecticut, a man of humble birth who had attained his position by working up from the ranks. Benjamin Franklin, himself, wrote the amendment which is incorporated in our constitution. It gives to each state two senators and apportion representatives according to population. George Washington presided at those meetings, meetings of perhaps the wisest group of men ever brought together in this country.  
**Mort Than One Basis**  
 By that compromise these men decided that in representative government it was necessary to elect delegates upon more than one basis; that other things must be taken into consideration than mere population. That system of electing delegates in democratic nations has been used in nearly every nation with a democratic government since that time. It has never been challenged. Those nations that deviate from it are those that have seen their democracy slip into some other form, and a review of recent history will prove that statement.

It is used in France to a great extent and Switzerland has a democracy almost identical with that chosen by our patriotic forefathers in that great constitutional convention. Every canton has its senator.  
**Applied in Other States**  
 There are many methods of apportioning legislatures used by the states of the United States. Twenty eight states give each county at least one representative and at least 10 give each county a senator. Large numbers of counties is the reason why it is not followed generally.

States that endeavor to apportion their legislators according to population have more inequities in them than do those that have two methods of apportionment, one for the senate and one for the house. Regardless of what the laws and the constitutions say, the people do not permit too much power to get into the hands of the cities and in this the people are wiser than those who wrote some

**What California Voters Did**

In Oregon we have a very fine example of this in the Oregon senatorial district composed of Lake, Klamath, Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook counties. It takes 72,000 persons to elect a senator from that district and only 52,000 from Portland. This came about some years ago when some fine political finagling was done resulting in Josephine county, then with some 10,000 persons, getting a senator all by itself while five counties have to share a senator. That is typical of what happens when the population method alone is used. It happens every place.

Much is being made of the example of New York which has a restriction of the number of senators so that no one county can have more than a third of the total. The rest of the story is that in New York every county but one, Hamilton, has a representative. And in New York the one third is a real restriction.

In California, the city of Los Angeles has but one state senator and the city of San Francisco has but one senator. That law rather recently passed by the California voters, too.

**Problems of Areas, Production**

In the Oregon legislature many of the problems are not about people at all, but about areas, about production, about taxes.

**Two Choices of Highways**

Recently I attended the formal opening of the Warm Springs cut-off which shortened the distance from central Oregon to Portland. It is a fine road, built at the solicitation of residents of that rapidly growing area. It may be recalled that a few years ago, when Portland had an opportunity to choose the location of a new road, it was built to the coast so that city dwellers could get to the sea. That is a fine thing, for recreation is necessary. But it is pertinent to consider that when central Oregon had its choice of a road it was built to Portland.

**Rural Oregon Interested in Portland**

It cannot be successfully converted that rural Oregon and the legislators rural Oregon has sent to Salem have done more for the city of Portland that that city has done for itself. Rural Oregon is interested in the city, too.

Another thing that this one senator from each county would do is to help strengthen local government. If each county had a senator that man could speak for a county with no divided loyalty and thus county interest and strength in state affairs would be promoted.

**Keep Government With People**

We need stronger local governments. We need to keep government close to the people. Proposals to remove county seats to far off places, if approved, would weaken our democratic government. It is true we have better roads and faster cars and that people can get from here to there more rapidly than before. That is an advantage that local government should retain and use, not throw away in an effort to keep government as far from the people as it was in grandfather's day.

**Counties Are Real Units**

Our counties are political units established by the legislature or by vote of the people. They are recognized as economic and political entities and many are geographical entities as well. The comment is made that they are not sovereign as are the states. They are not, but centralization is taking away the sovereignty of the states which now pay only about 60% of their bills, leaving the remainder to the federal government. This plan would strengthen counties — and we need something to strengthen states, too.

**Economy Close to Home**

There is cost to be considered in speaking of strong local governments. A dollar paid in county taxes is a pretty good investment. The taxpayer probably receives 90 cents of it back in services. A dollar sent to the state perhaps returns 60 to 70 cents in value, but a dollar sent to the federal government is a thin and weary dime before it returns to the taxpayer. Local government is the most economical government.

We do not have small counties in Oregon although some are smaller than others. Lavin county, Texas has 285 citizens and Alpine county, California has 323. The average population of counties in the United States is around 4500 people. We are fortunate in that we have so few counties. Not all are represented. Harney and Lake counties are each larger than either of the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Delaware and New Jersey. Yet, neither has any direct representation in Oregon's house or senate. The men who represent them are conscientious and able, but they do not live among the people of Harney or Lake. Jefferson county, the fastest growing county in Oregon, a county that is rapidly changing from range and wheat to irrigated fields, has no direct representation in either house and its problems certainly entitle Jefferson county to have some one directly represent her and speak for her problems.

Continued on page six

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