EDITORIAL



The FBI'S Confidential Files

Since Senator McCarthy has raised such a stir in high political circles the question has arisen about opening the confidential files of the Federal Bureau of investigation. The idea may appeal to some of the population as being the right way to "crack" some of the cases wherein it is charged that certain men high in the government are Communist stooges. But the Bureau's director, J. Edgar Hoover, sees the matter differently. And his twofold reason for opposing opening of the files is of the highest importance, says the Industrial News Review.

"First, opening the files would gravely damage the Bureau's future efforts in obtaining confidential information, by disclosing the names of informants. Some of the witnesses whose testimony led to the conviction of the 11 Communist leaders in New York had risked their lives as undercover employes of the FBI. In Mr. Hoover's words. "A disclosure of FRI reports reveals the identity of confidential sources of information and, if it did not place the lives of such persons in actual jeopardy, it would certainly ruin their future value and effectiveness." And, moreover, criminals and subversives would be forewarned and would conduct themselves accordingly.

"Second, opening the files could do the most serious and unwarranted injustice to individuals. The files contain complaints and allegationsnot only facts-which may or may not be true. Mr. Hoover compared them to the notes of a newspaper reporter before he has culled the printable from the unprintable. Then he said, " I would not want to be a party to any action which would 'smear' innocent individuals for the rest of their lives."

"Mr. Hoover makes it plain that opening these files could very well both endanger the national security and commit profound injustices on good citizens.'

Good Rainy Day Protection

Purchasers of government bonds may sometimes feel they are providing the government spenders with more money with which to finance political experiments, and they may be justified to a certain extent for feeling that way about it, but there is another side they should not overlook. It is the side that may directly affect them should a recession set in, or if there should be an over-long period of unemployment for them. The bonds are worth the amount paid for them in the first place plus the interest accrued since the time of purchase. The banks are authorized to redeem the bonds if the original purchaser offers them for sale.

The real value of the bonds has been demon strated more than once right here in Oregon since wartime industries shut down. Business con. cerns "viewed with alarm" the pending closure of large shipyards and other operations employing thousand of workers, yet when the shutdown came there was no recession. People went right on living, perhaps a little less extravagantly, and the adjustment period, which had every right to create apprehension in the minds of all, has not been the cause of too many gray hairs.

As recently as the past winter, shutdowns in Oregon industries placed the state at the top of unemployment in the nation. It was fortunate that many of the families affected by the shutdowns had bonds they bought during the war and since. These bonds came in handy for living expenses when the last of the wages were gone. The standard of living may have been lowered but it kept many families off of the bread line and eased the strain on the unemployment compensation to some extent.

Whether one buys bonds, postal savings, life insurance, or follows a policy of saving so much from the weekly income regularly, it is a good thing to have something tucked away that can be drawn on in times of need. Savings create a feeling of independence and develop a spirit of thrift among our people. With all of the things that are offered as lures for our money it is sometimes difficult to put away that little stipend against the proverbial rainy day, but exercising the will to carry out the plan with regularity is in itself a molder of independence, and independence on the part of the individual is greatly preferred to the type o dependence on government pap that has seized control of too great a segment of the population of America.

East Oregonian Comes of Age

This country still seems too young to have a newspaper reach the ripe old age of seventy-five years and it was with something of a surprise that we learned the East Oregonian had been enlightening the people of a large part of Eastern Oregon for three quarters of a century. This knowledge came to us Sunday morning when the

75th Anniversary edition, heavier than the Sunday Oregonian was removed from the post office box. And the poundage was not all that was heavy about the edition. It was chock full of history-history that no other source could provide so graphically, for the newspaper has in its own files the events that are worth chronicling need today is fewer religions and ences a spiritual regeneration; if and hence have invaluable historic interest.

The East Oregionian could not have picked more of the milk of human a more appropriate time to observe its seventyfifth birthday. With the great development taking place in Umatilla county there is every incentive the failure of individuals to refor a special edition and the newspaper made good use of all facilities at hand.

Trend of the Times

A short time ago the Saturday Evening Post kind can be cured by govern printed an article called "The Federal Snoops ment legislation, regulation and Are After Me," written by Robinson McIlvaine, publisher of the Downington. Pennsylvania, Archive. Mr. McIlvaine and his wife had bought an upright citizen by governmenthis little weekly paper on the proverbial shoestring, and were getting along nicely until a representation of the Wage and Hour Division Others believe that regularly of the Federal government appeared with a long attending church, or financially bill of particulars of unfair practices which the publisher had unwittingly committed. Mr. McIlvaine has since followed up the Post piece be encouraged, but, by themwith a further recital of events which he printed selves alone, will not bring in his paper. It all amounts to an interesting, kind. first-hand account of how Federal laws whose intent is perfectly good can be carried to ex- understanding, more thoughtful, tremes of interpretation which make them almost incredibly onerous to business-and especially

Newspapers of less than 4,000 circulation are consideration of our neighbors, exempt from the Wages and Hours Act, and Mr. McIlvaine assumed that his Archive, with a circulation of about 1,600, naturally fell into this so greatly annoy us. category. However, it seemed that the printing end of the paper had been set up as a separate corporation, and this legal quirk brought it within the scope of the law. Mr. McIlvaine didn't doctrine that any nation has think he was engaged in interstate commerce either. But he was wrong again-simply because fighting a cold war with the dic- last week. he printed letterheads for firms which mail letters tators of another nation whose

That was only the beginning of the troubles. It had been a common practice for years for groups of people, young and old, to drop in at fighting a losing war? An honest bage cans have been placed on the little plant each Wednesday evening and appraisal reveals that we did convenient corners of Main street. fold the papers for mailing next day. They earned a little money and they had a lot of fun. But, according to the Wages and Hours agent, each one would henceforth have to have a time card. a social security card, and all kinds of records would have to be kept. Result: Mr. McIlvaine, who was already heavily in debt, borrowed more money on his remaining assets and bought a press which mechanically folds the papers.

Some time later the Wage and Hour people moved again. Mr. McIlvaine was ordered to pay \$744.25 in back wages, which he didn't have. Of this, \$156 was to go to the foreman. The foreman, incidentally had been paid a straight \$80 a week, with paid vacation, and had been away two more weeks because of sickness. So he had already received \$320 for time he had been absent. But he got the additional \$156.

Most amazing of all, \$582 of the back wages, according to the Wage and Hour division, had to be paid to himself! Apparently he'd been taking out less than the proper salary and that just wasn't legal.

Mr. McIlvaine cites more instances of this sort, and observes that the Archives' dosier at the Wage and Hour office "is now about 15 inches thick and it would be hard to estimate how many of our tax dollars were spent on this investigation." In all probability, thousands of little businesses have found themselves involved in similar predicaments. The big business, with its legal and accounting departments, can take the huge mass of laws and rulings and bureaucratic practices pretty much in stride. The small operation, on the other hand, takes the beating.

The G-T Drops a Column

It is not the desire of the management to be making changes in the makeup of the Gazette Times, but we find ourselves involved in the second change within a span of four years. Early in June, 1946, the paper was changed from a five-column page to an eight-column page. This was done largely because a change was desired and the paper stock for the five-column page is the same used for the eight columns. At that time newsprint was hard to get and having a source of supp'y for the eight-column size established we were not facing a handicap in making the change, although our preference was for the seven-column page. The situation relative to newsprint has eased somewhat and we are able to buy the size we want and with this issue we start a seven-column page and hope to "stay put" for years to come.

The American Way



FEWER RELIGIONS MORE RELIGION

By George Peck

more religion; fewer tenets, rituals, and dogmas and a heap

Most of the misfortunes of mankind are brought about by spect the rights and feelings of of the spirit of the "Golden Rule," which Rule is the fundamental tenet of all religions.

Many people have the idea that the baser qualities of manhandouts. How wrong they are! You cannot legislate decency into an individual; you do not create tal regulation; and government handouts tend to debase rather than elevate the recipients.

supporting a church, ends their obligation to society. Either or both are praiseworthy and are to about the redemption of man-

Only be being patient, more more tolerant of those with whom we mingle, can a better America and a better world be achieved. Sympathetic understanding and our friends, yes even our enemies will enable us to overlook their real or imaginary faults which

Within the last thirty-three years America has fought two great wars against cruelty and oppression - against the pagan the right to force its dictum on another people. Currently we are miles below Heppner, one day avowed goal is to subjugate all the inhabitants of the earth.

ing wars in vain; are we now paper and other rubbish, as gar-

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What America and the world and are. Unless America experiwe do not substitute the words sympathy, understanding and sacrifice" for "my rights and gimmie," it is inevitable that we will lose the cold war.

There is too much hatred, brutality and suffering running rampant throughout the world toothers, by their total disregard day. As the most prosperous and enlightened nation on earth, it behooves us to set an example for the rest of the world. We must resolve not to add to its woes by any harsh word or overt act. We must be cheerful, more kind, more self-sacrificing in our day-to-day contacts with our fellow-Americans, beginning in he bosom of our own families and fanning out to all with whom we come in touch.

Self-sacrifice is the child of love, and love is of the being of God. Yes, we need fewer religions and more religion-less hatred and more love-less cursing and more prayer-fewer "gimmies" and more giving, First, we must purge ourselves, then material and spiritual victory must ultimately be ours.

Pagan Communism can not prevail against nation united in the bonds of mutual understand ing and spiritual fellowship.

30 Years Ago

HEPPNER GAZETTE TIMES May 6, 1920

Levi Hansford, a brother of James Hansford of this city dropped dead on Main street about 6 p.m. Tuesday evening. He had been in poor health for several years.

Fire completely destroyed the farm house of Adam Blahm, four

The city dads are looking forward to the cooperation of every Heppnernite in keeping the city Did we fight these two shoot- streets clean and free from waste

its second concert Sunday afternoon at the Fair pavilion.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Young left the first of the week for their new home at Aloha, Oregon.

Due to the sudden illness of Miss Berniece Sigsbee, one of performance which was scheduled for Friday evening has been postponed.

Mrs. Mary E. Hayes died in this city Monday after a long Her husband, Joseph C. Hayes, had preceded her in death by only a few weeks.

Laxton McMurray and Manny now busy in the irrigation game, getting water on their alfalfa fields while the getting is good. was instituted in Heppner last pose

The Heppner band will give Thursday evening. The lodge will meet on the second and fourth Friday of each month.

> PRINTER LEAVES Thomas W. Allen, who has

been printer-pressman on the the star actresses in the school Gazette Times force since August play, "The Thirteenth Star," the 1948, left Sunday afternoon for southern California to visit members of his family and look around for a new position. "Tommy" is one of that fast fading number of all round printillness, at the age of 61 years, ers who doesn't have to search very far or diligently for work, but getting a little on the sunset side of life he wants to be Pettys of Jordan Siding were free to come and go as he in Heppner Wednesday. They are pleases. And besides, he thinks he will keep clear of snow hereafter, even if he has to go to the A temple of Pythian Sisters equator to accomplish his pur-

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