

Letters to the Editor

Wage actions

Dear Editor:

According to an unpublished report by the Council on Wage and Price Stability, auto worker contracts signed last fall will cost car companies about four (4) times as much in wages and fringes as first reported and could set a pattern for inflationary labor settlements later this year. A similar study critical of the Teamsters Union settlement last spring was held up for months and substantially toned down, mainly because of pressure from Labor Secretary Usery. The Council had similar difficulty analyzing for public consumption wage pacts in the electrical and rubber industries.

Wage settlements in the auto industry cover about 725,000 workers (nearly all in the big three motor companies) AND ALSO set the pattern for another 95,000 workers in the agricultural equipment industry. That the union membership would allow their leaders to demand so much that they slit the worker's own throats strikes me as tragically odd. At this rate we soon will view the 2-car family as a relic of the past.

Farmers cannot afford to replace old equipment now. In fact, it is a financial strain to merely patch it up. Cattle ranchers and wheat farmers can no longer absorb staggering losses caused by low wheat and cattle prices to the farmer, while costs remain high, and going higher. Some are going under now. I very much resent the role played by the Longshoremans in depressing wheat prices by refusing to load wheat to Russia.

George Meany is counting on Jimmy Carter's promise to not veto legislation passed by Congress calling for compulsory unionism (repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act Section 14b), and common site picketing legislation. This last would allow a single union to close a major construction job employing other unions or non-union workers not involved in

a strike. Construction costs are pretty phenomenal now. Just think what could be accomplished with this bit of biased legislation. Just about everything could be shut down.

Labor-Secretary designate Marshall was quick to announce that he favored repeal of Section 14(b), the provision in federal law which allows states to prohibit the union shop and other forms of compulsory unionism. Twenty states have right-to-work laws. In his Dec. 21st press conference Marshall also said he would support a common site picketing bill. This bill was passed by Congress recently and vetoed by Ford.

The record shows that Senator Hatfield was the ONLY member of Congress from Oregon to vote no on this bid for more power by union leaders. It is difficult to imagine a democratic United States with laws forbidding men and women from working unless they become members of a union or pay equivalent of dues to a union. Such laws give excessive power to an organized minority of workers, or their leaders. Said leaders often forcing bankrupting decisions on management to the detriment of everyone.

Approximately 80 million American workers (or seventy-five per cent) are not members of unions and many who are did not join by choice. All I can hope is that the 80 million that are choking along trying to pay the price for goods established by union demands will become vocal but quick.

Congress sent the public interest down the drain last year when it passed the common site picketing bill, but we were saved temporarily by President Ford's veto. Unless we WRITE to our Congressmen rejecting such actions by them, they will do it again. And with the blessings of the incoming administration. Are YOU one who wants your freedoms reduced some more? And your prices raised some more? Send a letter to your Congressman TODAY. If for one will not vote ever again for any Congressman that votes "Aye" to these measures. A blitz of letters from home does convey the message. They do try to represent the people that have the power to vote them in or out of office.

And while you have pen in hand, do protest strongly the automatic escalation of the minimum wage that is pending now in Congress. Labor leaders have been promised by the Democrats seeking office to deliver a \$3.00 minimum wage. The labor leaders want this to provide an upward leverage on the union wages that they themselves control. This ultimately works against lower-paid workers, the very ones

the pay requirements are supposed to help.

As the law reads now, only Congress has the power to change the minimum wage and it has to be signed by the President also. Now labor leaders are calling for automatic increases called indexing, requiring only approval of this pending legislation to permanently lock us into an upward escalation.

The last time the minimum wage was changed, the legislators decreed that all persons (youngsters included) had to be paid the same minimum wage. This resulted in large groups of youth not being able to find work. The consequences of this have not been realized yet.

Marginally employable adults were excluded from employment because of the increased costs, resulting in more welfare.

To lock constantly escalating raises into our system will impoverish older people already put in an impossible financial position.

It will also mean the end of the small businesses in rural America, who have been responsible in the past for approximately 60 per cent of employment.

I cannot conceive of this tyranny being turned loose on our land. WRITE your Congressman. It's later than you think and it is our only hope.

Yours truly,
Margaret G. Murray
Heppner, Oregon 97836

Support appreciated

Dear Sirs:

The BMCC Rodeo Club wishes to thank you for supporting our rodeo program last year. We feel your support helped us produce the most successful college rodeo ever to be witnessed by Pendleton rodeo fans.

We hope you will support us again this year. Again, we thank you.

Sincerely,
Dawn Yeager
BMCC Rodeo Club Member

Group seeks input

To the Editor:

The Oregon Legislature is off to a fast start, and our agenda is long. Special interests have already made their desires known to us—but what does the public want?

As Chairman of the Senate Environment and Energy Committee, I want to hear from Oregon citizens. What do you want us to do? Or not do?

Energy conservation, land use planning and pollution abatement are three major topics under consideration. Should the Oregon Legislature adopt mandatory energy conservation standards? Should we amend Senate Bill 100 and, if so, how? Should we take new initiatives to control noise pollution?

Jernstedt views torrent of senate bills

The second week of the 1977 Session has come and gone. Several hundred measures have now been assigned to committees for study and action, and the first trickle of bills to the Senate floor has begun. By the end of the Session, some months from now, it will have become a raging torrent.

I have been named to four committees, which are combinations of what were seven in other sessions, and am vice-chairman of one of them, Labor, and Consumer and Business Affairs.

I am serving on the committee on Energy and Environment and we will be looking at several measures being proposed by D.E.Q.

Very shortly, I will be introducing a bill which would change the State Board of Agriculture into a policy setting board instead of an advisory one. I also would like to see the Commodity Commissions put under the direction of the Department of Agriculture so that a better job of promoting the state's produce could be done by having the numerous commodity commissions working together and in one office location.

I recently testified during the hearings held by the Energy Siting Council, which is proposing to ban the future construction of nuclear plants for an indefinite period of time. I am opposed. Furthermore, such postponement was defeated in November when the people voted down Ballot Measure No. 9.

I strongly urged the council to consider the impact its proposal would have on future energy needs of our state and on the orderly planning required by local government units which would be involved. This is also a matter of great economic implication, especially in Gilliam County, where plants are proposed at Pebble Springs.

Senate Joint Resolution 1 has been introduced and is of interest to the agricultural sections of my district. It would allow for bonds to construct, operate and maintain irrigation and water development projects and would amend the Constitution, upon voter approval at the next primary election, to authorize indebtedness not to exceed 1.5 per cent (\$50,000-\$60,000) of the true cash value of property in the state.

Such a ballot measure has been defeated in the past.

TO MORROW AND TOO TOMORROW

By Tom Franks

The column this week is the outgrowth of many events and two discussions with special people in Heppner. This is a personal thank you, but I would like to share the bottom line with everybody.

I could write a light, breezy column, but I would rather leave you with the following thoughts while I go to Baker to pick up my personal gear. If I don't make this trip, I will be identified as the only newspaper editor in Oregon who has nothing to wear but combat boots, flair leg corduroys, plaid shirt and a nylon wind breaker. The only change of clothing I would have left by next week is my heart on my sleeve.

The bottom line

If I could have any gift in this world, I would choose to have the right word. I reached this conclusion because the discussions mentioned a knowledge of compassion. I consider compassion to be both a beautiful and a very neglected word. The word has been used so religiously that many who understand it are afraid to claim it.

Compassion combines two overworked words—patience and togetherness. "Oh, I know I need more patience." "If we could just get it together." Sound familiar?

The key to compassion is passion. Not the natural feelings common to all, but the first definition of the word—enduring inflicted pain. Compassion then becomes the practice of enduring, working out, or waiting out self-inflicted pain together. I say self-inflicted because most of us can bear together those common pains which seem to come from without. We call that tragedy.

The real tragedy is that we have little tolerance for the pain which we see and judge to come from within.

Some other words

Journalist Ambrose Bierce once noted that the categories of first, second and third degree murder, manslaughter and negligent homicide are for the benefit of lawyers and mean nothing to the deceased. In like manner, empathy or sympathy often mean nothing to those who suffer.

Empathy is defined as the imaginative projection of one's own consciousness into another being. We sometimes praise empathy as a virtue, seldom realizing its selfish roots.

If empathy is natural to a person, it is no big effort. If one must gear up for empathy, it is certainly one sided.

Sympathy is a notch better. One who has sympathy gives evidence of a relationship where whatever effects one similarly affects the other. Like empathy, sympathy is still a degree of response.

Empathy and sympathy fall short of enduring pain together. Compassion involves both the practice of patience and the willingness to endure together.

Compassion requires life. We may look alive, but when we cannot take compassion we are dead on our feet. We HAVE empathy. We HAVE sympathy. But the grand truth of compassion is that WE TAKE IT!

Unlike empathy and sympathy, compassion can free the suffering of another human spirit. With empathy and sympathy, we are often frustrated. The frustration comes from trying to give in situations where we should be taking.

It is a sad situation when, in the face of pain, all we can do is hold up our own personal response and say, "See! I can feel the same way, too."

To miss the grand truth that we are capable of literally taking part and sometimes all of another's pain upon ourselves is to remain outside the boundaries of life itself.

Certainly empathy and sympathy are of little help to someone who is loaded down with 100 pounds of cement. Compassion takes part or all of the burden. The transfer or lifting of emotional burdens from the human spirit is no less real.

We group ourselves together by empathy. We observe many forms to express both empathy and sympathy. Compassion is simply taken without even the need to ask for permission.

It seems there are only two reasons why we do not take compassion. To take 100 pounds of cement, our hands must be free. To take compassion, our own spirit must be free. The second reason is that we may not believe that anything really happens when we take compassion.

The illustrations

We all know the great illustration of compassion by heart. Another that I cherish is the story of a Chinese administrator sent to govern natives on the island of Formosa hundreds of years ago. He set up schools, established laws and gave himself in the service of the populace.

By law, he ended the practice of human sacrifice on the island. That law held up until the country was hit by terrific drouth. Natives on the island asked permission to hold a human sacrifice as a petition for rain and good crops.

The leaders said they intended to hold the sacrifice with or without permission. Still they would not conduct the ceremony behind the administrator's back due to their respect for the work he had done among them.

The Chinese administrator agreed to the sacrifice on the condition that he would supply the victim. The victim was to remain bound and hooded until the sacrifice was complete.

The sacrifice was held the following morning. When the hood was removed, the natives found that the Chinese administrator had supplied himself as the victim. Sacrifices are said to have ended on Formosa from that day on.

I do not know the source of this story, but it has a moral. What cannot be accomplished by education and what cannot be accomplished by legislation can only be accomplished by sacrifice.

No policy here

If I could have any gift in this world, I would choose to have the right word. I know that one of those right words at the right time is compassion. We may not be called upon to lay down our lives, but we can certainly lay down more of our own burdens in order to take compassion.

Compassion, like honesty, cannot be a policy. We are either compassionate or we are not. I would like to claim compassion as a working principal of editorial policy as we touch upon the living that we do together now.

The last thought I had as I closed this column turns out like this: "If we do not live in a sweet now and now we cannot hope for a sweet by and by."

I strongly encourage all interested citizens to write us soon. Your views really do count. We are now deciding what areas of work to take up, so write soon. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,
Senator Ed Fadeley,
Chairman
Senate Environment and Energy Committee

Hughes attends school

Terry Hughes, 23, of Heppner, is back on the job this week following completion of a four day floor covering school in Portland, according to Matt Hughes of M & R Floor Covering, 422 Linden Way.

The school is one of several industry sponsored events which the father and son business team take advantage of. The school which Hughes attended was conducted by Congoleum personnel.

M & R opened for business in Heppner in 1962. Matt Hughes has more than 25 years of experience, beginning with his early Case Furniture association in 1950. M & R deals in floor covering, formica, ceramic tile and other products and services.

The firm is expected to be involved shortly in finishing touches on remodeling underway at the Elks' Club.

Pastor's Corner

A Loving God

Leslie Weatherhead tells of a friend in India whose son had died in a cholera epidemic and of trying to comfort him. The friend faced the tragic death by saying, "Well, it is the will of God. That is all there is to it. It is the will of God that my son died of cholera."

Leslie Weatherhead responded by asking what his friend's reaction would be if tonight while everyone was sleeping, a man would creep into the house and place a cholera soaked rag over the mouth of his only remaining child, his daughter. The friend replied that he would surely kill him like a snake.

And a person who would intentionally give a child cholera, we would call insane. Yet how can we attribute the actions of an insane individual with the acts of a loving God? If one reads in Luke 13:10-13, we find Jesus healing a woman, not giving her the infirmity. This is typical of Jesus' ministry. The God revealed by Jesus Christ is a God who does not distribute disease, but one who heals, a God that does not kill, but one that raises people from the dead.

As we face life, let us face it with the realization that God is a God who loves, affirms, builds up and forgives, our Lord is one who loves each of us more than we realize and who does not intentionally inflict tragic suffering upon us.

Steve Tollefson
United Methodist Church

COMING SOON!

By popular request, West of Willow will soon be serving a **SandHollow Sandwich.**

The SandHollow will be a 1/4 pound of lean ground beef on a six inch sesame or plain bun with lettuce, tomato, onion slice and your choice of sauce.

The SandHollow will be served with french fries, soup, and salad.



West of Willow Orders To Go

12" Pizza to go Call 676-5551

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|-----------|--------|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|
| Cheese | \$3.00 | Sausage | \$4.00 | Mushroom | \$4.00 |
| Pepperoni | \$4.00 | Black olive | \$4.00 | Combination | \$5.25 |

Sandwiches to go \$2.00

Call 676-5149

WEST OF WILLOW

Tender roast beef slices in a soft french roll to dipped in Jim's sauce, with fries

SHOBE

Ham slices on old-fashioned white or rye bread, with hot mustard and fries

BUTTER CREEK \$2.25

Ham, pastrami and swiss cheese on french bread, with hot mustard and fries

HINTON

Barbeque beef on french bread, with fries

RHEA

Pastrami and swiss cheese on toasted rye bread, with french fries and hot mustard.

BALM FORK

Moist turkey on white bread, with fries

COLUMBIA \$3.00

Tender steak strips on french bread, with fries

Special Events

Jan. 29 Annual Fair and Rodeo invitational appreciation dinner, sponsored by Morrow County Fair Board—Floyd Jones, Chairman. Dinner at 6:30. All beverages paid for by individuals.

Live Music by Tim Mensinger, Fri. and Sat. Jan. 28, 29, 9-1 am.

Buffet Breakfast Saturday night, 1:30 am

West of Willow invites all parents and youngsters to come in after the basketball game for pizza and your favorite beverage.