

Medford Fortunate Among Other Cities, Councilman Tells Methodist Gathering

Declaring that Medford is recognized as "the fairhaired boy" by upstate communities because of its sound financial condition, City Councilman Dwight Houghton last night outlined the city's financial problems and water and fire department needs in a talk to Methodist men and women at the First Methodist church.

Medford's monetary problems arise from the city's growth and increase in costs, and the six per cent tax levy limitation, Houghton brought out. He pointed to Medford's growth from a city of 10,000 people to one of 18,000 or 20,000. At the same time costs have more than doubled, he said. Been "peanutting" along, he remarked, Medford has been taking advantage of

the six per cent limit every year, he said, but Portland has not and is in trouble.

Houghton told of the need to look to outside sources such as business taxes, fines, parking meters, rentals, franchises and inspections, to obtain enough money to meet payrolls. Other sources of revenue include bond issues and extra levies which can be voted, he added. He reported that Medford's present bonded indebtedness is \$1,200,000. The city of Medford borrows money cheaper than the United States government, Houghton stated.

Pipe Plans Told

Plans for constructing a second water pipeline from Big Butte springs to Medford were outlined by the councilman. He said that there is no increase in taxes or water bills contemplated for the improvement. Houghton brought out that the old water bonds are scheduled for retirement in two years, four years ahead of schedule.

Money paid in by outside users has helped much in paying for the old water line, Houghton indicated. As a health measure, it is only good sense to take water to outside users, he maintained.

Medford's water supply problem, Houghton reported, is acute to the point of danger. Citizens for the most part use all the water they want, and Medford consumes three times as much water as any city its size.

Discusses Fire Needs

In telling of the need to expand the fire department, the speaker explained that the matter ties into the water problem. Medford has a fine fire department—for 10,000 people—he said.

As the city has grown, the mistake has been made of "starving" the fire department to save finances. No one man is to blame for the shortcomings; "we are the ones to blame," Houghton told his audience. He warned of increased fire insurance rates if the situation is not corrected.

Houghton praised his fellow councilmen, the board of water commissioners and the police department. He said he was sure every member of the council is a Christian man who wishes to see the city progress in a clean orderly way. He expressed the opinion that the water commission could not be operated any better than it is. Police are doing a good job, Houghton asserted, and Chief Clatous McCredie has an outstanding reputation in Oregon. He told of the handicap of a big turnover in police personnel.

JOIN DAYLIGHT SAVERS

Delake, Ore., Apr. 18—(U.P.)—Two Lincoln county towns, Delake and Taft, today joined the northwest cities adopting daylight saving time April 30.

Medford Physician Scores Socialized Medical Planning

Ashland, Apr. 18—Speaking before the Ashland Kiwanis club at their noon luncheon Monday, Dr. Russell Barnes, Medford, described socialized medicine as an impractical, costly program which has never provided better or cheaper medical service for any individual in any country.

The Medford physician told assembled Kiwanians that the compulsory health insurance bill drawn up by Oscar Ewing would be financed and apply only to employed persons who come under the social security act. The cost has been estimated at a six per cent payroll tax on employees' wages and an equal six per cent tax on employers. Recently, this has been changed to a three per cent tax for both parties, with the remaining six per cent to be raised from taxes, Barnes said. One of the weakest points in the proposed bill is that it doesn't cover the people who are said to be receiving substandard medical treatment, he added. The program would be administered by a government bureau, run by the federal social security agency, and the huge number of offices required would naturally add to the administrative cost, the speaker noted.

Cost Said High

Dr. Barnes stated that socialized medicine has cost more in every country where it has been tried.

The average doctor in England today must see one patient every four minutes, he said, while in this country, under the present system, the average doctor can devote at least 17 minutes to every patient. A doctor cannot practice adequate medicine under a system of socialized medicine, the speaker emphasized.

In England, where medical care is supposedly free, more people demand medical treatment, he said, and many of these persons can be classified as neurotics and hypochondriacs, who have filled English hospitals to overflowing. The result is that a person in England must wait eight months to gain admittance to a hospital, while because of the low salaries paid to hospital employees under the socialized set-up, many hospitals have been closed, Barnes said.

Research Lack

The speaker noted that because of high administration costs, the English do not have adequate money to spend on medical research.

While socialized medicine offers a person the security of knowing that he will receive some medical care, Dr. Barnes said, that same person can receive better care for less in this country today, for the price of a package of cigarettes each day, which cost far less than 12 per cent of the nation's payroll, and which are truly American, because they are competitive.

Outbreak of Cholera in Calcutta Leaves Hundreds Dead and Dying

By Robert C. Miller
United Press Correspondent

Calcutta, India, Apr. 18—(U.P.)—Calcutta's cholera outbreak reached epidemic proportions today and hospitals were unable to remove victims as fast as they died.

One hundred fifty-eight new cases were reported by noon today. More than 100 have been hospitalized daily for the past week and authorities said these were "only a small fraction" of the stricken.

Smallpox Reported

Unusually large numbers of smallpox and meningitis cases have further loaded the wards of Calcutta hospitals and overtaxed the inadequate staffs.

One hospital designed to accommodate 230 patients has checked in more than 800 dying of cholera. Victims are dumped unceremoniously on the floor of

the receiving room by harassed ambulance attendants who speed from hospitals to homes and back without letup.

Every hospital bed is occupied and mattresses have been thrown on floors to accommodate other seriously ill. As soon as a dead body is removed, the bedding is changed and a new patient is placed on the cot.

Caused by Refugees

The arrival of thousands of refugees fleeing communal disorders in East Bengal was believed to have caused the outbreak.

Overworked doctors admit they were unable to cope with the situation because, one said, "Most cases are too far gone by the time they are hospitalized and we haven't the facilities to give them adequate care."

Wards reek with the nauseating odor of stale vomit, and unwashed bodies as patients lie on bare, dirty mattresses, some rigid in death, others twisting and moaning in pain.

Attendants are too busy trying to relieve pain to answer pleas for water to clean up patients, most of whom are too weak to move.

Agonies Worse in Day

Few are able to accept the pain, and the moans of the dying tear at the heartstrings of the well. Sometimes it is hours before a dead body is removed to make way for one of the dying.

The victims range from young children to furrowed aged. During the day, with temperatures near 100 degrees, their agonies are worse. Doctors expect the situation to remain at least as bad as now until the monsoon rains later this year.

Health authorities have appealed to all persons to get vaccinated. Large advertisements for inoculations appeared in all papers during the past few days. But the number of new cases appears to be growing larger daily.

Truck Driver Held In Woman's Death

San Jose, Cal., Apr. 18—(U.P.)—A murder charge will be filed today against Truck Driver Henry A. Wilson, 29-year-old ex-convict who confessed slaying a red-haired waitress with a tire hammer.

Wilson said he killed Mrs. Helen Mae Piper, 27, mother of three children in a quarrel over driving his car last Wednesday night at the Highway bar where she worked.

Wilson said the quarrel started when he refused to let her drive his car. He said she was too drunk.

Wilson said he hit her with fists, knocking her out. He helped her come to, he said, but she again insisted on driving.

Wilson said he knocked her out again, put her in the back seat of his car and began driving.

"She came to and started yelling, so I hit her on the head with my truck tire hammer," he said.

He said he took her to a lonely ravine and tossed her body down a 25-foot bluff. The body was found that morning in the branches of a prune tree.

Russia Zone Germans Dislike Soviet Rule

Milwaukee, Wis., Apr. 18—Germans in the Russian zone admit frankly that they dislike Soviet rule, says Lyle C. Wilson, general manager of the Washington bureau of United Press.

Wilson said that when he visited the Russian zone during his recent two-month trip to Europe, some Germans "asked to return with me to the western zone."

Wilson was the principal speaker last night at a founder's day dinner of the Milwaukee professional and Marquette university chapters of Sigma Delta Chi, national journalism fraternity. The dinner observed the founding of the fraternity in 1899.

Economic recovery in western Europe appears "well advanced," Wilson said, but the sale of German goods to other countries has been hurt because the German mark is valued so high.

Wilson said he observed, while attending the Leipzig trade fair in Germany's Russian zone, that factory products were of high quality but that there were few sales.

Benson Radio Station Gets Power Increase

Washington, Apr. 18—(U.P.)—Benson Polytechnic high school of Portland, Ore., was today authorized to increase the broadcasting hours and power of its station KBPS by the federal communications commission.

Involved in the FCC decision was the denial of an application by Hugh Francis McKee for a new Portland station.

KBPS was authorized to raise its power from 100 to 250 watts and increase its hours from 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. to 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Fridays.

The commission said Benson had demonstrated that its programs would be "distinctly superior" to McKee's.

U. P. Stage Employees Set Strike Thursday

Portland, Ore., Apr. 18—(U.P.)—The Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees (AFL), notified Union Pacific Stages, Inc., Monday that its members will strike at midnight Thursday.

Union Pacific is a division of the Overland Greyhound lines. General Manager G. E. Motz said here that a strike would discontinue service in Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Utah.

Motz contended the company has offered the highest industry wage to its employees plus a \$50 monthly, company-paid pension. Union demands are for conditions equal to those on other Greyhound lines in the northwest. They involve wages, a revised pension system and improved working conditions.

Service of other Greyhound lines serving Portland and Spokane would not be affected by a walkout.

Buddhists Give Thanks For Saving Valuables

Portland, Ore., Apr. 18—(U.P.)—Japanese Buddhists here offered prayers of thanks today for saving valuable statues, vases and other furnishings when fire swept their temple's upper story Monday.

About \$4000 damage was done to the Henjyoji temple but the loss was covered by insurance. Firemen protected valuables by covering them with canvas before turning their hoses on the blaze.

Rev. G. Y. Kimura, bishop of the temple, was away at the time. His wife and six children got out of the temple unscathed.

Lovers' Lane Romeo Turns Out To Be Cop

Vancouver, B.C., Apr. 18—(U.P.)—James Windrim tried to frighten a lover's lane couple last night by rapping on their car window and announcing, "I'm a policeman."

Constable E. H. West, getting some off-duty romance, stepped out of the car and arrested the youth for impersonating an officer.

Youngest Composer Plays Concerto Solo

Beverly Hills, Cal., Apr. 18—(U.P.)—Chubby Fred Myrow laid aside his baseball bat last night to play a piano solo in the first orchestra performance of a concerto he composed.

Fred is 11. He is believed to be the youngest composer ever to draw royalties from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

"He takes it in his stride," his father, Joseph Myrow, reported. "When I showed him a story about the concert, he turned to the funnies."

Fred, who belongs to both a Cub scout pack and a neighborhood ball team, started pecking out tunes on the piano when he was three. He was "inspired" to write the five-minute long "Palm Canyon" miniature concerto after a vacation in the movie mecca of Palm Springs.

Grants Pass Man Oregon Chamber Head

Portland, Ore., Apr. 18—(U.P.)—L. C. Hansen, manager of the Grants Pass Chamber of Commerce, has been elected president of the Oregon chamber executives. Portland chamber officials announced today.

Hansen succeeds Walter Underwood, who recently resigned. Underwood formerly resided in Albany but has moved to Portland.

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