

Letter From Washington

By HARRIS ELLSWORTH
Member of Congress From Oregon

Not long ago I told of appearing before a committee to urge that the import tariff on plywood not be reduced. I have just learned that the administration is attacking the people who earn their livings in our plywood industry on still another front.

The ECA (European aid organization) has just announced that it is purchasing millions of feet of Douglas fir plywood logs for shipment to Korea. Our northwest plywood industry already has difficulty enough in obtaining sufficient high grade plywood logs for its own use. What this latest administration move means is loss of jobs for many people who make plywood. I and other northwest congressmen have voiced vigorous protests against the combination policy of aiding foreign plywood production—even by furnishing logs which we need—and at the same time proposing a reduction in tariff rates to allow plywood made from those logs to undersell our producers on the American market. We have so many "do-gooders" running our government policies now that I have little hope of our protests being heeded.

FOR 16 YEARS except for three years just before the war, congress has annually passed legislation postponing the deadline for the completion of required assessment work on mining claims. The practice started in the depression days of the 30's.

ment period I have supported such "moratorium" legislation. Last year the house and senate committees extended the moratorium with the explicit understanding that there would be no further extensions. It seems to me present conditions may warrant a return to the normal application of the mining laws. But the past winter has been unusually bad. The snows are deep in the mountains where hundreds of claims are located, preventing the work from being done this spring. Also many claim owners have become so accustomed to letting the work go that hundreds of claims might go by default if it was required that assessment work be brought up-to-date by the end of June this year. Accordingly, I supported a compromise proposal put through the senate by Senator Cordon—to extend the time for completing the work just 90 days—to October 1. Following a public lands committee hearing at which I spoke at some length in support of the Cordon bill, it was favorably reported. The bill carries an amendment providing that assessment work for the present and coming year may be done at the same time. I assume the house will pass it but that remains to be seen.

APPARENTLY THE administration has abandoned the idea of attempting to pass the whole package of socialized medicine legislation this year. It is still endeavoring, however, to get some portions of it passed piece-

meal. In this connection it might be interesting to note that the British minister of health recently reported that in its first full year of operation, the cost to the British treasury (U. S. money) of Britain's medical plan was \$17.65 for each man, woman and child—over and above the regular payroll contributions. Just multiply that by 150 millions and you can figure for yourself what it would cost here if we were on the lower British income basis.

SPEAKING OF population figures—40 out of every 100 persons are on the public payroll (census bureau report). In 50 years, government employment has increased more than 525 per cent. No wonder we are paying such enormous tax bills.

Sandy Youth Killed In Motorcycle Wreck

Portland, Ore., June 20—(U.P.) One youth was dead today and another seriously injured after their motorcycle ripped into a field near Sandy, Ore., Sunday.

Dead is Virgil Leroy Dahrens, 26, of Sandy, while Ronald E. Fischer, 25, also of Sandy, is in critical condition at Providence hospital here.

According to State Patrolman Mark Dezar the cycle missed a curve at a high speed and ground itself into a farm field.

Dahrens is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Dahrens, Sandy, and two brothers.

The skeleton of the oldest known horse is estimated to be 45,000,000 years old. Standing 11 inches high, the fossil was found in Wyoming.

Brutalities Denied At Lowry Air Base

Denver, June 20—(U.P.)—Brig. Gen. Charles H. Caldwell, commanding officer of Lowry air force base, said today "there has been no brutality to prisoners here."

However, the commanding general admitted four non-commissioned officers had been punished for mistreating prisoners. He described this as "merely housekeeping duties."

Gen. Caldwell's statement was made in rebuttal to charges broadcast by commentator Drew Pearson that prisoners at the base were so badly beaten that other prisoners were forced to clean up the blood.

Caldwell opened special courts martial records to inspection by newsmen. He described this mistreatment of prisoners and the resulting courts martial of four enlisted airmen at the base guard house as "merely housekeeping duties which were promptly and efficiently taken care of by the then base commander, Brig. Gen. Warren R. Carter."

Assignments Made at Methodist Conference

Portland, Ore., June 20—(U.P.) Methodist congregations in 51 Oregon communities will soon have new pastors as a result of ministerial assignments made at the closing session of the 98th annual Oregon Methodist conference here, Bishop Gerald H. Kennedy said today.

The changes were announced during the closing session of the five-day conference yesterday.

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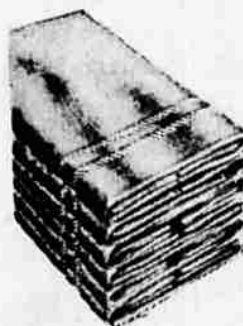
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