

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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More Gas

The publicity department of the "Oregon Natural Gas and Oil Resources committee" of Portland is nothing if not persistent.

It is still trying to convince this paper that the Gas bill vetoed by President Eisenhower was in the public interest and not in the interest of the gas companies and at the expense of the consumers.

We printed and replied to the main contention of the first protest. Here is the main contention of the second, quote:

In the year 1955 there were 374 less gas wells completed than in the preceding year. It seems reasonable to anticipate that this decline will continue because of the failure to enact the natural gas bill. Naturally, few producers or investment firms financing producers are willing to invest large sums in the risk involved in the production of such a competitive commodity if it must be sold on a long term contract at an unknown price subject to the day to day whims of a federal bureau. The effect on the stock market of such a threat to industrial activity seems quite normal.

We hope we shall never cease to fight for the preservation of our American system of competitive free enterprise. We sincerely believe that system serves the American people better than an expanding system of federal controls in non-utility fields.

Well there is the gas bill issue in a nut-shell.

Any price regulation of some 8000 "independent" natural gas companies would be "un-American," it is claimed, and investment firms would refuse to finance them if subject to the day-to-day "whims" of some federal bureau, etc., etc.

THAT is basically the same argument used against regulation of public utilities since the battle of San Juan, but the people of the country as a whole decided many years ago—particularly since the days of the Insull regime—that public regulation of "natural monopolies" was imperative to prevent exorbitant charges to the consumers on one hand, and assure the companies a REASONABLE profit on the other.

If such regulation is so UN-American and contrary to the rules and regulations of American finance, how do the private power companies that produce 80% of this country's light and power, get away with it? They have been regulated for decades. So have the railroads. If either of these industries are having a hard time to finance themselves and increase their dividends as their stock prices rise Wall Street seems to be unaware of it!

BUT IT IS claimed in this second offering, that under this bill the F.P.C. would have still regulated the rates of the "relatively few pipe lines that can be classified as public utilities" but would have no jurisdiction, only over some 8000 independents who, we are told, are busily engaged in that 100% American pastime known as "free and untrammelled competition."

WELL, we can't dispute the oil committee's figures, but we are from Missouri when it comes to that "free and open competition." How "free and open" is it?

With 8000 independent companies fighting for business, and no controls over them either from the oil and gas combine or the government, where would the price of gas go?

Under such conditions, instead of opposing controls, we should think the natural gas companies would want regulation to keep the bottom of the market from falling out entirely.

We wonder if Wall Street knows this keen and killing competition is going on? If so, it is hard to understand why with all regulations and agreements taken off, the independents' oil and gas stocks went up, and when FPC controls guaranteeing a fair profit were retained they went down!

AS A MATTER OF FACT, whatever the actual number of the so-called independent gas companies, had this measure passed there would have been no real competition between them as far as prices are concerned. There would have been a sort of "cartel" arrangement and with all public controls removed it is a fair assumption that prices would have well justified the upward burst on the stock exchange that followed the passage of the bill in the congress.

As to the "day-to-day whims" of the Federal Power Commission so greatly feared by the gas companies, the FPC as at present constituted, is about as whimsical and capricious where Big Business is concerned as the Manufacturers Association, or the U. S. Chamber of Commerce—R. W. R.

The "Greedy Minority"

This is a great country. And also the richest and most powerful. But when our national pride gets so far up in the stratosphere it hurts it might be well to look over the history of our relations with the real "100% Americans"—that is, the American Indians.

That record is not a very good one. An article in the March issue of Harpers calls it "shameful."

Well it is, and in general, has been. And the shame is the direct product of one of our seldom recognized but serious national weaknesses—"GREED."

HERE is a resume of the article in question, quote:

The final chapter is about to be written in the most shameful story in American history: the story of the white man's treatment of the American Indian.

The last bit of land on which the proud Indians were herded is being taken from them by the land-grabbers—an old and dishonorable game. The Indian is being separated from his land by various acts of Congress and by administrative directives of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the Interior Department.

OF COURSE, the white man had to get the Indian's land some way. In recent years he tried neglect, poverty, disease, poor education and economic stagnation. The Indian barely survived, but only because he is from hardy stock. So the white man's only recourse was to wash his hands of all responsibility for the Indian—and then, having kept him uneducated and unable to cope with the ways of the outside world, get his lands at ridiculous prices.

It is modern economic man's way of handling the dirty

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer, although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initial for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Three Factions

To the Editor: There seems to be three distinct factions in our county concerning fluoridation.

1. Those favoring fluoridation.
2. The food faddist group.
3. Those opposed due to a misunderstanding or lack of true information concerning the subject.

For the benefit of this third group, a number of dentists and physicians here in Medford have gladly volunteered to write short letters strictly as an educational project. Each statement will be backed by sound facts and may be questioned at any time.

To make this program possible we can not begin to disprove all the false claims and accusations of the food faddist group, in a newspaper column of this type. We will cover each main aspect of the subject, and this in turn will answer many of the questions that we are asked in our offices each day.

The letters will be written in terms that everyone can understand. We are not trying to fool the public with technical terminology or quotations from unknown "authorities." I am taking a personal interest in this matter because I have a child that will be benefited by fluoridation. When someone writes a letter in the paper stating that the children of Medford are not worth the price of fluoridating our water supply, I am sure that a number of mothers will also take this same personal interest.

Dr. Earl C. Carter, President, Southern Oregon District Dental Society.

Opposed to Fluoridation

To the Editor: I graduated from the University of Arkansas medical school in June 1932, and have practiced medicine in Atlanta, Texas, since 1934. I am a past president of the Tri-State Medical society and councilor of the Texas Medical association for nine years.

I am completely opposed to artificial fluoridation of public water supplies for the following reasons:

1. It is not safe—In "A Manual of Pharmacology" by Sallmann, which is a standard medical reference book, the statement is made that "Sodium fluoride is a general proto plasmic poison." He also states "that fluorides are strongly inhibitory to some of the enzyme processes."

2. In the Journal of The American Dental Association 1936, vol. 23, page 570, it is stated that fluorides even in minute doses are as poisonous as arsenic or lead. Such facts do not become "out dated" as claimed by the A.D.A.

3. It has no value. Marshall, Texas, which is only 50 miles from where I live has had artificial fluoridation for ten years. Last year the dental authorities made a survey which showed that 65% of the six year old children had dental caries. There are more dentists in Marshall today than before they started fluoridation and all of them are busy. The adult population is losing its teeth faster than before fluoridation.

4. It is a political movement designed by a group who are determined to completely socialize Americans. Some doctors have been stamped into endorsing mass medication. But there are many doctors, and the number is increasing, who are beginning to see the truth about fluoridation. Last year the house of delegates

job. It's much slicker than former methods like, for example, the handling of the Cherokees in the 1830's. They lived in the Great Smokies, where Georgia, Tennessee and North Carolina converge. They were literate, friendly, civilized. They had a written constitution, a bicameral legislature, a supreme court and a code of laws. They had their own alphabet, a newspaper and eighteen schools; some students went on to college. They maintained an active trade with adjoining states. But a little gold was discovered on their land and our forefathers decided to take it, though it was protected by treaty.

THE Great White Father sent in 7,000 troops. The Cherokee people were seized without warning and put into concentration camps. White camp followers got their livestock, household goods, and farm tools. Most of their homes were burned. In mid-winter the long trek of the Cherokees to new lands in the West began. Some 14,000 left their homeland. On the journey, they died at the rate of one hundred a day, leaving a trail of more than 4,000 graves of mothers and their children, and their menfolk. The only comparable march in our history was the Death March of American prisoners on Bataan. The criminals responsible for that swung from the gallows.

THE TREATY which the Great White Father in Washington is tearing up bit by bit today will be the last. When the deed is done there will be no one left with whom to make a treaty. The Vanishing American will have vanished forever. His tribes will be dispersed and his lands gone. Nothing will be left but the blot on the conscience of civilization. But the history books of the future are likely to fix the blame right where it belongs—on the people of the United States of America.

We are not so sure about that last sentence.

More likely, we believe, history will place the blame on that "greedy minority" that because of public apathy rather than any public sanction, decided to get theirs while the getting was good, and to heck with such impractical things as treaties and solemn agreements with "savages."

This "greedy minority" is at work today in other fields, and should provide one of the major issues of the presidential campaign, but if we judge the political climate correctly, won't be.—R.W.R.

Tickets for Annual Memorial Dinner Said in Demand

Tickets are in heavy demand for the sixth annual Roosevelt Memorial dinner Monday, April 23, at which Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt will speak, according to Attorney William Deatherage, ticket chairman.

The event will take place at Hedrick junior high school. Deatherage said, "We have never had a guest speaker that provoked so much interest on the part of the general public." He advised those desiring to attend to get tickets within the next two weeks, since the actual seating capacity is limited.

Open to Public

Although the dinner is sponsored by the Democratic party of Jackson county, the affair is open to the general public. "This year, with President Roosevelt's widow, who devotes the greatest share of her time to talking for the United Nations, the committee extends an especial warm welcome," Deatherage said.

Tickets are available from members of the committee, including Deatherage, Attorneys Robert Duncan, James Main and Tom Reeder and Mrs. Tom Higgins, Mrs. Moore Hamilton, Mrs. Edward C. Kelly, all Medford; L. Peers Wilmett, Sid Ainsworth, Dr. Arthur Kreisman and Al Miller, Ashland; Mrs. Doris Boothby, Prospect; Mrs. E. W. Seggesman and Ray Briggs, Shady Cove; Mrs. Albert Straus, Sams Valley; and Larry Sheehan, Rogue River.

They are also available at Lampert's sporting goods store and Medford stationery store.

Field Trip Slated For Area Foresters

A field trip to a hardwood sawmill and furniture manufacturing plants in Grants Pass will be made Friday, March 9, by the Siskiyou chapter, Society of American Foresters.

The group will start at the south end of the Grants Pass high school football field on Eighth st. at 2 p.m. A dinner meeting will follow at the Grants Pass Country club, with a children's hour at 6:30 p.m. and the dinner at 7:30 p.m.

Jack Pfeiffer, hardwood research forester from the Oregon Forest Products laboratory, will discuss research in Oregon hardwoods and trends in local hardwood usage.

February meeting of the chapter was held Feb. 10 in Medford. Muri Storms, assistant district forester for the bureau of land management, Medford, spoke of his experience during a technical assignment to Jordan.

The April meeting is to hear Prof. Richard Dilworth, Oregon State college. In May the chapter will inspect bug damage in partial cuttings near Prospect, followed by dinner, and in June take a field trip to California followed by dinner.

last by the month or years is not done over by the day and every day. So why should this stuff that accumulates in the system be taken every day? Our bodies are three-fourths water, and as fluoride is a drying element, it is bound to harden our bodies elsewhere. It is said that it takes the air out of water also.

New York State Dept. of Health and University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, and the division of dental research of the Passaic, N.J. General Hospital, found that pregnant women had fluoride settled in the placenta, drying the water therein.

Other researchers found it settled inside the bones, and in the kidneys, liver and even destroys the teeth over a period of years.

Many, many doctors and scientists are working hard in research for our health's sake. I would rather believe them than anything I read in the newspapers. They are not looking for your taxes.

Mrs. Ingle very cleverly called us "bird-brain" if we didn't believe in this project. Any one can go to the library and read the facts.

If they are too disinterested and careless to do so, then only would they be a "bird-brain."

Mary E. Atkins
1634 Orchard Home dr.
Medford, Ore.

He Likes Tomatoes

To the Editor: This is to express my appreciation for the Mail Tribune's efforts in presenting the facts on the fluoridation of municipal water supplies.

The attempts to create fear of this thoroughly-proven public health measure are unfortunate, and I know how difficult it is to cut through the many misstatements to the truth.

Maybe we are making some progress, though. It wasn't long ago that a majority of the citizens thought tomatoes were poisonous.

Carl Landis,
Landis-Shangle Studio,
West Main and Grape sts.,
Medford, Ore.

POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

In the environs of Medford, there are both a Sticky lane and a Cherry lane.

Well, Cherry lane was sticky the other night when a five-gaited show mare by the name of Rosa de Marca got bogged down.

It took her owners, Charlene and Thayer Tarvin, a good 3½ hours to get the mare out of the mud, and it could be accomplished only with the aid of ropes and a jeep.

The mare had been sick and they thought at first that she was so weak that she couldn't fight her own way out of the mud. But, after a night spent in the yard, she was up and about, chipped as anything, nibbling at the flowers just like Ferdinand.

But Tarvin missed out on a rehearsal of a school play he was directing.

The newsroom barometer which measures the temperature of staff members dipped low last week when a member came to work suffering from remorse because she'd lost her temper while cooking breakfast, slammed down a hotcake turner, and broke a favorite vase.

Potluck's bar and grill specialist turned in this one as his favorite "perfect squelch."

A young logger, fresh from the tall timber, was enjoying the peace and quiet of a local hospice when a man and his wife entered, ignored a long line of empty stools, and sat down be-

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Flash over the radio:

President Eisenhower announces that he will be a candidate for renomination and reelection. He adds that if he didn't feel reasonably confident that he will live for at least five years he would not become a candidate for a second term.

So it is to be presumed that the doctors have given him a reasonably clean bill of health. For this, all Americans will be grateful. None of us, I think, would want our President to accept a responsibility that would result in his untimely death.

Our respect for him and our affection for him are too deep for that.

PERSONALLY, I feel that his decision has been influenced by his sense of responsibility. President Eisenhower is a trained soldier. All his life, he has accepted responsibilities that have come to him, regardless of personal risks that may be involved. That is a soldier's duty.

His administration has been a different kind of administration. There has been, so far as he is personally concerned, little of pure politics. There has been MUCH in the way of sincere desire to set our nation's feet upon the paths that he feels we must tread. There has been a great deal in the way of achievement, but there is much that remains to be done.

President Eisenhower would be only human if he feels that, having started it, he can finish it more successfully than any body else.

BUT—and again this is only a personal opinion—I have the feeling that something else entered into it. It is pure egoism. He likes people. He likes to be among people. He likes to be a part of what is going on.

For nearly a decade and a half, he has been the center of the world. EVERYTHING has revolved around him. In all matters of high importance, his has been the deciding voice. His has been the responsibility to make the decisions that have had to be made.

How could a man of his type face the thought of having to withdraw from it all? Especially when he has seen the policies he has initiated move forward toward what appears to be great success.

It has long seemed to me that he simply couldn't do it