

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune
Published Daily Except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. 27-29 North Fir St. Phone 2-5141

School Budgets Up

The next few weeks will be crucial ones in the schools of Jackson county.

On Wednesday, May 8, voters of School District 6C, which includes the large area around Central Point, Gold Hill and Sams Valley, will be asked to pass on the budget for the year 1957-58.

On Monday, May 20, patrons of the Jackson county rural school district, which covers most of the county outside of first class districts, will be asked to pass on the rural school budget.

On Tuesday, June 4, voters of the Medford district will have up for approval the budget of the expanded and consolidated Medford school district, which now includes what were the Oak Grove, West Side, Dewey and Kenwood districts.

IT SHOULD surprise no one that each of the budgets is larger than for the current year.

The schools are expanding because there are more children to educate. This costs money—for buildings, for teachers, for buses, for equipment.

Inflation has hit the schools, just as it has hit everyone else. A dollar today won't buy as much as a dollar would a few years ago. This applies to teachers' salaries, and textbooks, and erasers, and building materials for the schools, just as much as it does to the family groceries.

There is one other factor which is not inconceivable.

THE schools, by and large, ARE doing a better job of education today than they did a half-century ago. And educators who are worth their salt are doing all they can, constantly, to improve even further the kind of education our children receive. This is reflected in higher educational standards for the teachers themselves, for one thing, and in both the breadth and depth of the curricula offered the youngsters.

There is one other factor which is not inconceivable.

That is the fact that, year after year and all through the year, teachers and school administrators are under constant pressure to offer MORE to the students, rather than less. And, since the schools are a reflection of the needs and demands of the community, the curricula have grown in response to this community pressure.

THE democratic form of government is based, and is wholly dependent, on a generally high level of education.

This presupposition is implicit throughout all our great documents of liberty. An enlightened electorate is fit to govern itself. Without education—a good, basic education—the electorate cannot be enlightened, and democracy, both as a whole and in its parts, will suffer.

This is the reason we hope, and hope strongly, that the voters of the county, who are being asked to pass judgment on the schools and the job they are doing with the great majority of young people, will study the budgets presented to them.

ANYONE who complains about a "lack of information" about the schools has only one person—himself—to blame. The schools, generally speaking and with a few exceptions, have done their level best, against almost overwhelming apathy, to inform parents, voters and taxpayers about their problems.

We have seen teachers almost incredulously grateful when a parent takes the time to express a sympathetic interest in what the schools are trying to do.

The budgets, as published, cover a great deal of activity in necessarily brief form. It is a sort of "shorthand" designed to give a general idea of how the taxpayers' money is to be spent during the coming year. Anyone who is interested in finding out just why they need the sums they are asking would find answers forthcoming cheerfully if they took the trouble to ask.

ASIDE from the needs of democratic government, there is one further great need for good schools. It was voiced in a speech recently by the President of the United States, who said:

"Our schools are strong points in our national defense. Our schools are more important than our Nike batteries, more necessary than our radar warning nets, and more powerful than the energy of the atom. This is true, if for no other reason that modern weapons must be manned by highly educated personnel if they are to be effective, and the energy of the atom can only be understood and developed by the most highly trained minds in the country."

This is something we should all be able to understand. This is something we can all do something about, through adequate support for the schools.

The President also said:

"The hope of the world is that wisdom can arrest conflict between brothers. I believe that war is the deadly harvest of arrogant and unreasoning minds."

What better argument is there for strong, active, adequately-supported schools for America?—E.A.

Sun Again Shines On Battered Texas

Dallas, Tex. — (U.P.) — Floodwaters receded today from rivers in the Texas flood belt and the sun blazed again. It was the second day of relief for the state after a 19-day spell of violent weather.

Slight danger remained along the Sabine river in parts of western Louisiana, but the floods that wreaked millions of dollars of damage in nearly every part of Texas appeared gone.

Water still covered lowlands along many rivers, however. Flood crests along the Trinity and Brazos were surging toward the Gulf of Mexico, and during the two weeks it is expected to



"NAW, WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FUN! WHO WANTS TO SIT ON A PARK BENCH AN' LOOK AT GIRLS?"

Matter of Fact

By Stewart Alsop

WASHINGTON—The task which now faces President Eisenhower is easy to define but exceedingly difficult to perform.

Saving the substance of his threatened legislative program is only part of the job, and the smaller part is to re-create the public image of himself, which has faded so rapidly and mysteriously since his triumph at the polls, as the unchallenged leader of his party and the nation.

This is why the President is considering a plan to "take his program to the people." The plan which is being urged on him is not for a single broadcast, but rather a whole series of radio and television reports—a weekly "Eisenhower hour," lasting perhaps three or four weeks.

The fact is that the Eisenhower program is in such bad trouble right down the line that a single broadcast cannot possibly save it. Competent Capitol Hill observers predict flatly that it will take some sort of Presidential miracle to save the two most important items on his domestic program, the school construction and civil rights bills, both of which seemed almost certain of passage only a few weeks ago.

THE CIVIL rights bill probably received its death blow when the House Republican leaders made a deal with the Southerners to delay House consideration of the bill until after the Easter recess. The quid pro quo was enough Southern votes to kill Rep. Wright Patman's proposed investigation of the administration's fiscal policies. As a result of the delay, the Senate Southerners, brilliant parliamentarians to a man, should be able to prevent passage of anything but the most meaningless sort of civil rights legislation. And the school bill has been mortally wounded, if not killed outright, for all by the furore about the budget.

On the foreign and defense front, sharp cuts are considered dead certain in the foreign aid bill, the foreign information program, the State Department budget, and even the defense budget. On the foreign aid bill, for example, the question is not whether the President can save the bill intact, but rather whether he can hold the cut to a billion dollars or less.

Indeed, some of his advisers are dubious about the whole plan for "going to the people." They argue that he will be making a futile charge of the Light Brigade, doomed to inevitable defeat, and thus compromising his prestige rather than enhancing it. There is certainly something to be said for this view.

Under the best of circumstances, it is exceedingly difficult to stampede Congress with appeals to the voters. The elderly men who really run Congress simply bottle up legislation committees until the impact of the Presidential eloquence has worn off. And these are the worst of circumstances.

THE REPUBLICAN revolt against the President's program has passed well beyond the muttering stage, and it has spread from the extreme right-wingers to the moderates. In the Republican cloakrooms, the phrase "Modern Republicanism" is spat out with almost as much disgust as "New Dealism" used to evoke. And Senate Republican Leader William Knowland has in effect assumed leadership of the revolt, with his attacks on the budget, the foreign aid program, and the school bill.

Congress as a whole, moreover, is in no mood to be stampeded. A Democrat summed up the findings of men of both parties during the Eastern recess — "The voters want Congress to do just three things, cut the budget, cut taxes, and go home." The President has his job cut out for him, if he hopes

to change the voters' minds in time to save the substance of his program.

YET, THE proponents of the plan to go to the people contend that it's central purpose is not only to better the chances of this or that item of legislation. Another object is to undo at least some of the harm done by the President's initially weak response to his own Secretary of the Treasury's attack on his own budget — an episode which appears in retrospect a major turning point in the second Eisenhower administration. In the process, it is hoped, the notion that the President has suddenly succumbed to wild-eyed New Dealism can be dispelled, and the brewing Republican revolt damped down and controlled.

IN A larger sense, the real object of the exercise will be to re-establish the President's fading authority by moving him front and center on the national scene — "to remind people," in the words of one proponent of the plan, "that Ike is still the boss man."

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Editorial Comment

FOR A LADY D.A.

Portland's vice and corruption problem boils and boils. Rare is the reader, we dare say, who can explain from one day to the next just what it's all about. But one fact stands out. Something's got to be done.

A Portland man writes a letter to the Oregon Journal to make a suggestion that makes sense down this way. Now that Portland's looking for a new district attorney, he says, why not pick State Senator Jean Lewis? Mrs. Lewis, certainly one of the outstanding members of the last two Legislatures, is a lawyer, a public servant of excellent reputation and a hard worker. Also she's a Democrat, a requirement for the person appointed to fill District Attorney Langley's shoes.

The last time Portland got into a mess it looked to a lady legislator to clean house. It found Dorothy McCulough Lee, an outstanding member of the Legislature, and elected her mayor. Portland was never so clean as it was during Mrs. Lee's administration.

And way back in Oregon history we find the story of the time Gov. Os West sent his secretary, Fern Hobbs, to clean up Copperfield, the wickedest town on the Snake River. — Eugene Register-Guard.

SOUND SENATE TAX VOTE

The Oregon Senate showed political courage and good sense in defeating, 22 to 8, the variable ratio property taxation bill. This measure had a pie-in-the-sky political appeal. It would have offered a \$2000 exemption on residences occupied by owners. And it would have slugged double that of other property.

But these ratios, destroying present law requiring equal assessments among various classes of property, would have thrown local taxation into chaos. One bill which should be considered, however, to relieve property taxes on the aged and needy, has been proposed to the Legislature by the State Tax Commission. This is H. B. 220, which would exempt \$7500 from the true cash value of a homestead owned by a person 65 years of age or over who derives less than \$2500 total gross income in a year. Passage of this bill would provide real relief to a large group of elderly citizens who really need it, without throwing the local property tax structure out of gear.—Portland Oregonian.

COLUMNIST'S LICENSE?

We are in receipt of an unusual communication from New York, signed only "A former resident who wishes he was back."

The letter contained a clipping from the Broadway Walker for

Democrats' View of Big Budget Different In, Out of Congress

By RAYMOND LAHR United Press Correspondent Washington — (U.P.) — Democratic leaders outside of Congress sound much less concerned with demands to cut President Eisenhower's budget than do Democrats in Congress who have the hot breaths of the voters on their necks.

This was one inference to be drawn from what was heard at the week end series of meetings and conferences attended by Democrats from throughout the country.

There was complete agreement among Democrats in and out of Congress that the administration is floundering in its maybe-it-is, maybe-it-isn't-too-big attitude toward the budget.

Truman Speaks Up

When former President Truman spoke of the 72 billion dollar Eisenhower budget, he invited the Democratic majority in Congress "to tear the thing to pieces." But he also said: "Our national economy is strong enough to support a budget of the size recommended by the President if that is what it takes to do the job, and all this talk about bringing on a depression that will curl your hair is just plain nonsense."

Gov. G. Mennen Williams of Michigan, a prospective candidate for the 1960 presidential nomination, said Democrats keeping faith with their platform will not "cooperate with Republican reactionaries to meat-axe the Eisenhower budget."

The New York Daily News. One item in the column states: "Ginger Rogers stands to make millions from her property in Oregon, where she has 600 acres, because of recent community developments."

The unidentified Courier correspondent asks, apparently with incredulity: "Is this possible?"

Frankly, we have no inside knowledge of Miss Rogers' investments in Oregon, aside from the fact that she reputedly owns considerable property along the upper Rogue river. We can't imagine her making "millions" from any development in the area of her ranch holdings, although they admittedly are valuable. She may have other holdings in Oregon of even greater potential value, of course.

If Miss Rogers is so fortunate as to cash in on real estate investments, all the more power to her. As they might say in Hollywood, "It couldn't happen to a nicer person." — Grants Pass Courier.

SOME UNSUNG HEROES

Some unsung heroes are doing some unpleasant jobs this time of year for their fellow citizens. They are preparing budgets for counties, cities and school districts.

They have a task to perform the results of which cannot please everybody. To please everybody would be impossible. They could go part way by according to all requests from administrators and department heads and pressure groups, which would please them, but the result would displease the taxpayer. They could reduce services to the point that a decrease in taxation was possible and that would make many taxpayers happy, but it would bring shouts of protest from the people responsible for providing the services and those who benefited from them.

So, you see, the man on the budget committee is darned if he does and darned if he doesn't. The responsibility of the budget committee member is identical to that of the man who serves in the legislature at Salem or in the Congress of the United States. All must carefully weigh the demand and requirement for services. In many cases the value of the service greatly outweighs its cost in taxes. In other cases it does not.

People who have served on budget committees and in legislative bodies have learned that if a governmental service contributes to the welfare of many there is likely to be very little grumbling about its cost. So, while tax millage never can be overlooked by the people who are digging into county, city and school budget figures, the need and demand for certain services must first be considered. It is that need and demand that must override all other considerations of budget makers. If the need and demand are genuine a way can be found to meet the cost.

At this budget-making time we would like to offer the thought that most citizens of the U.S.A. receive for the dollars they pay in taxes far more than they could get in any other country. They get police and fire protection, school buildings and teachers, highways and streets, military protection, institutional care for the mentally ill, funds to care for welfare cases, recreational areas and programs, protection of natural resources, search programs in many areas, domestic water supplies, and much more. The American taxpayer gets a lot for his buck.

The budget maker toils to be sure that he squeezes every possible service and economy out of the buck. For that we offer him abundant thanks. — Pendleton East-Oregonian.

Adlai E. Stevenson, 1952 and 1956 Democratic presidential nominee, included similar remarks in his prepared text for Saturday night's \$100-a-plate dinner although he did not repudiate this statement: "If the Democratic Party, which has stood so brilliantly in our time for the constructive use

of government to promote the general welfare, now tries to out-Republican the Republicans on the issue of budget-cutting, it is going to be hard to take us seriously again as the party of the people."

These comments came after House Speaker Sam Rayburn had told a breakfast for visiting Democrats that Congress would cut three to five billion dollars from the administration budget and clear the way for tax reduction.

Rayburn's was the voice of the Democrats in Congress and it differed from the emphasis given by such men as Truman, Stevenson and Williams. The difference suggested that the liberal wing of the party still wants to put achievement of its projection of New Deal policies ahead of a lower budget.

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 initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with an eye to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words.

Nice Words

To the Editor: We have lived in Medford for the past year and a half and enjoy your paper very much. It has been our observation that you give a good account of the news and events in Medford and Jackson county. We also have noted that you are not the first to jump on the wagon when someone or some group is criticized by someone.

I refer to the Coos Bay Times claim that information has been withheld from the public by the Coos County school superintendent. Having lived in Coos county for a number of years I have noticed that the Coos Bay Times is quick to cast the first stone.

Would like to add that in the year and a half we have lived here our opinion is that the Medford Police Department is very polite, conscientious and honest. They should, like the rest of us, be considered innocent of any wrongdoing until proved otherwise. We have paid our share of parking tickets too!

Rolf Holmstrom, 1005 North Central ave. Medford, Ore.

Needs Answers

To the Editor: Under "Communications" of May 1, a J. M. van der Maas writes about Satan and religion. I really think he badly needs answers.

So I may directly answer him first of all with two questions. You pretend to know better about God and religion and Jesus Christ than the millions of Catholics and Protestants alike. So answer me this silly question, what was first, the chicken or the egg? No. 2: What is it, it has a mother, grandmother and grandfather but no father? Also Christ was the only man that foretold of his death and burial and to rise again of his own accord.

You yourself in all your wisdom probably never heard of the Miracle of Lourdes in France or the Lady of Fatima in Portugal or St. Nicholas von der Flue in Switzerland, who had eaten nothing except the blessed Host for about 20 years, or the present Therese Neuman in Bavaria. She, too, is on the fast already for many years, no water, no food, except the daily communion in the local parish church.

True, Satan tries his best to get the rest of the world under his claws through irreligion. May God have mercy on you, for you did not know what you were saying or writing. Xavier Widmer, Route 3, Box 186 Medford, Ore.

Schrunk Arraigned in Circuit Court Friday

Portland—(U.P.)—Mayor Terry D. Schrunk was arraigned Friday before Circuit Judge Charles W. Redding on a charge of conspiracy to commit the felony of subornation of perjury.

At request of the mayor's attorney, Edwin Hicks, the court granted Schrunk until next Friday to plead or otherwise move against the indictment.

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