

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
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Political Nit-Picking

It is, of course, necessary that the state legislature meet periodically, to overhaul our laws, pass needed new ones, raise taxes to pay for state services, and so on. But if some fair and effective method of doing the same thing otherwise could be devised, we'd be just as happy.

For the biennial sessions make for a lot of useless noise and irritation; a lot of thoughtless shooting-from-the-hip; a lot of silly talk and recriminations; and an unexampled opportunity to play politics and get one's name in the paper. THE most recent example of what we have in mind was recounted on Page 1 of Monday's Mail Tribune, in a story headlined "Senate Explodes in Outburst Against Gov. Hatfield, Budget."

JUST how valuable to the state of Oregon the Boardman project will ultimately be remains to be seen. Yet the fact that Governor Hatfield and Senator Morse—who have never felt any particular loss of love between them, either politically or personally—can set aside their personal and political feelings and sit down to do a job for the state which they believe will be beneficial, bodes well for the state.

Rather than politically-motivated nit-picking, partisans on both sides would be better advised to follow the example set by the governor and senior senator, and get on with the job of serving the state.—E.A.

Shifting the Tax Burden

There is some merit to the thought expressed by State Rep. Cornelius Bateson of Salem, to the effect that property taxes should be limited to bearing only costs "primarily related to protection, preservation and improvement of property." As is widely acknowledged, the ownership of real property no longer is any valid indication of wealth, as it once was. Today property taxation hits hardest at the two groups least able to afford them—the elderly, attempting to get by on a limited income or pension or social security, and the young family just getting established in life, who are attempting to buy a house at the same time that most of their other costs are high.

CERTAINLY, property should be taxed to provide services directly related to the utility and value of the property. But the time has long since passed when it should be taxed for the major support of the school system. As a practical matter, it is doubtful that any such major shift in Oregon's taxation pattern will occur within the next few years. But there are indications that the trend is in that direction, and we believe the trend is a healthy one. For one thing, if property was relieved of the burden of the ever-growing needs of the schools, property taxes could be reduced sharply, and at the same time the "take" of the cities—starved for funds for years—could be increased. It is city services, such as police and fire protection, street paving and maintenance, lighting, and so on, which are directly related to property valuations, and for which property should be taxed to maintain and extend.

TOO, WITH the burden of supporting the schools shifted to the income tax structure, which is based on the ability to pay, the elderly and the young families would be doubly relieved, while the major burden of school and other governmental costs would be imposed on those in their prime earning years, which usually coincide with the period the family uses the schools and other state services the most. No one likes additional taxes. Yet the undoubted need for them exists in Oregon. The problem is to realign them as fairly as possible. Only through the income tax structure—or, possibly, by an "earmarked" sales tax—can this be accomplished. One hopes the current session of the legislature has the wisdom and the courage to tackle this chore, or at least get started in this direction.—E.A.

Fatigue Duty

I've never hiked for fifty miles, I do not plan to do so, The only time I ever tried My sergeant told us to go. I only got just half that far, And got there very tired; Except that Army rules are strict, I'd just as soon been fired. I do not think my health would gain By tramping down the road, I'd much prefer to stay at home. I know! Let's start a mode! — E.A.



"The way this rookie does a commercial—poise, sincerity, genuineness—he's got a brilliant major league career in front of him!"

... 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. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

Civil Defense Questions

To the Editor: The proposed curtailment of the Oregon State Civil Defense Agency could affect the local accomplishment of the National Community Fallout Shelter program. Although there have been many conflicting opinions regarding the usefulness of fallout shelters, the national administration still stoutly maintains that fallout shelters are effective in a nuclear attack. The Feb. 8 issue of Time has this to say about the Secretary of Defense, Mr. McNamara, when he was recently defending the Civil Defense budget before Congress: "He asked to spend \$300 million for civil defense—more than half of it to give private builders up to \$25 for each shelter space they provide in new or existing public buildings. This would save far more lives, he said, than any defensive missile system and should be given priority over any major additions to the active defenses of the U.S."

Civil Defense

To the Editor: Anyone seriously interested in public affairs couldn't help being concerned with the current problem facing Civil Defense. Jackson county has one of the best systems in the state and it is of very little worth with the exception of a well coordinated radio system. Some of this problem is the result of shortcomings in the agency itself. Many of these shortcomings are not of their making. The biggest problem facing Civil Defense stems from the complete apathy on the part of the American people. They want to live in a Never-Never Land, hoping by ignoring the danger it will vanish like an unwanted spectre. The only way to treat this problem is to face it squarely and do what is necessary on a completely local level. The first impact of a nuclear war upon this country will find us all living strictly on an individual and local level with no outside help. Knowing this, we should prepare for it on that basis and not leave the fate of ourselves and our neighbors in the hands of someone in Washington or Salem. They will be too busy saving their own hides just like we all will. Live we can and live we will, if the community as a whole will make some effort to find out what we are up against and how to meet it. I doubt very much if you can find one hundred people in the town of Ashland who have availed themselves of the information that Civil Defense has offered to them. This is a credit to a city of close to 9,000! Many people say they can't live following a nuclear attack anyway so why prepare? These same people won't be found killing their children and themselves if we are attacked, but by this attitude they are condemning them to a lot worse death than could well be avoided. There is no doubt about it. We are getting exactly the kind of Civil Defense we are earning! The rest of the world does not possess enough nuclear devices to make this country uninhabitable. The truth of the matter is that we have sold ourselves so much upon the complete finality of nuclear war and how powerful we are with these weapons that we have convinced ourselves we are all doomed if they are used. I don't know when we are going to wake up. Those who would junk Civil Defense and spend the money trying for peace should stop their wishful thinking. Why not junk our entire military system and have billions to spend? Remember this: No plant, animal nor country has ever survived in this world by being weak! We can't buy peace by buying friends. We have fed and clothed much of

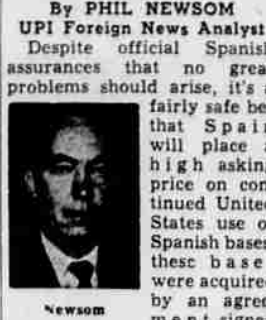
shown an approximate 70 per cent public support of the National Community Shelter program. This brings up these questions: Is the action now being taken by the Ways and Means Committee to curtail the Oregon State Civil Defense Agency approved by the majority of Oregon voters? Should further participation in the National Shelter program be discontinued as recommended by the Ways and Means Committee of the State Legislature? Joseph Hicks, Maj. Gen., U.S.A.F. (Ret.), Director, County Civil Defense Agency Courthouse Medford.

Face the Truth To the Editor: I've seen two thousand high school boys and girls march into plenum chambers with live steam pipes overhead, with no auxiliary lighting save flashlights, no toilet facilities and with a single exit up steep steps all in the name of "civil" defense. I've followed highway signs which read "Evacuation Route" which petered out in swamps and forests. I later learned that states which designated roads as evacuation routes received federal matching dollars for the construction. Such hypocrisy is acceptable by those of moral decadence. The federally financed shelter projects, currently proposed, outstrip such idiotic asininity. The shelters, if built, will be the tombs of those who are afraid to face the truths behind the real causes of war. George Reed, 2743 Orchard Home dr. Medford.

A True Home

To the Editor: I felt the following was worth sharing with Medford Mail Tribune readers, concerning the tremendous importance of home influences upon our lives. "More powerful than any other earthly influence is that of a true home upon human heart and lives. The home should be to the children the most attractive place in the world, and the mother's presence should be its greatest attraction. Children have sensitive hearts by treating with indifference matters that, though trifling to her, are of great importance to them. Her sympathy and approval are precious. An approving glance, a word of encouragement or commendation, will be like sunshine in their hearts, often making the whole day happy. "Instead of sending her children from her, that she may not be annoyed by their noise or troubled by their little wants, let the mother plan amusement or light work to employ the active hands and minds. "Fathers and mothers, however pressing your business, do not fail to gather your family around God's altar. Ask for the guardianship of holy angels in your home. Remember that your dear ones are exposed to temptations. Daily annoyances beset the path of young and old. Those who would live patient, loving, cheerful lives must pray. Only by receiving constant help from God can we gain the victory over self. Home should be a place where cheerfulness, courtesy, and love abide, and where these graces dwell, there will abide happiness and peace." These few thoughts were taken from the wonderful book, "Mastery Of Healing," written by Ellen G. White. Mrs. Bob Jolliffe, 1348 Jasmine ave. Medford

Spain May Ask Increased Compensation For Air Force and Navy Base Locations



By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst Despite official Spanish assurances that no great problems should arise, it's a fairly safe bet that Spain will place a high asking price on continued United States use of Spanish bases, these bases were acquired by an agreement signed Sept. 26, 1953, for a period of 10 years in return for U.S. military and economic assistance. The renewal date comes up this year and preliminary talks on terms already have been held. The bases involved include three for the Strategic Air Command from which nuclear attack against the Soviet Union could be launched, and an important supply base at Rota, near Cadiz, for the Mediterranean 6th Fleet.

Although the growing family of U.S. intercontinental ballistic missiles tends to downgrade the importance of the Spanish air bases, the naval base at Rota is taking on increasing significance in U.S. defense plans. As the United States phases out its Jupiter and Thor mis-

siles based in Turkey, Italy and Great Britain, its offshore defenses against the Soviet Union will depend more and more upon the more efficient and mobile Polaris missile carried by the 41 Polaris submarines expected to be at sea by 1967. With access both to Atlantic and Mediterranean sea routes,

an expanded base at Rota occupies an important part in these plans. Neither Madrid nor Washington has divulged the Spanish asking price, but a suspicion that all was not going smoothly arose when U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Roswell Gilpatric abruptly canceled plans to arrive in Madrid on Feb. 15 to begin on-the-spot discussions. Early speculation has been that Spain will ask: —Increased economic aid. —More modern weapons, including those with nuclear capabilities. —Greater U.S. support for Generalissimo Franco's hopes to integrate more fully with Europe, including associate membership in Europe's Common Market. —Perhaps a whopping rental bill for the use of the bases. No such rent is paid now, although in the last year U.S. military and economic aid amounted to about \$100 million. Since the agreements were made in 1953, the United States has supplied \$1.6 billion in such funds. Spain's comeback in the family of Western nations, after existing for years under the cloud of her past association with Hitler Germany and Mussolini Italy, dates from her bases agreement with the United States.

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann (c) 1953, The Washington Post

LOGROLLING AND LEADERSHIP

The tax program has had a rough reception, and it is off to a bad start. It has virtually no enthusiastic friends. It has aroused a diverse array of opponents who, though they disagree drastically among themselves, are at one in attacking the proposals. It may be too early to say what kind of bill can be squeezed out of the two committees and the two houses. But the opponents are formidable, while the administration leaders are skeptical and hesitant. If we ask ourselves why the prospects are so poor, we must note, I think, that whatever the fiscal merits—which I think are very great—the program is politically misconceived. In an effort to please everybody a little, very few are left who are pleased very much. It is a program to cut

taxes and at the same time to raise them, and no political leader can rouse the people to follow him in two opposite directions at once. The program, in fact, is not designed for the use of a leader of the nation. It is designed for logrolling among the factions of special interests who dominate Congress.

IN CHOOSING a program which is made for logrolling and not for open public leadership, the architects of the program were hoping not to have to face the basic fact in the situation. This is that the principle of the new policy is not now understood and accepted by a large majority of our people. No one, I think, can deny the novelty of the principle of a voluntary deficit-planned to expand demand in order to stimulate the economy. A good majority of our people regard a planned deficit as contrary to sound government and to good morals. Those who support the new program are a minority, and they are likely to remain a minority until they have done a vast amount of successful demonstrating and teaching. The burden of proof is on those of us who believe that the chronic sluggishness of the American economy, which threatens many of our vital interests, can be overcome by this new fiscal policy. The President has espoused the new principle. But he has lacked confidence in his ability to persuade a majority and has therefore fallen back upon the device of the legislative logroll. My point is that so new and so experimental a principle as the planned deficit cannot be put into effect by logrolling and manipulation. The principle has to be understood by the people. A standard has to be raised which is visible and clear to all if a majority is to be rallied to it.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

The news? Let's put it this way: The San Francisco Chronicle the other day devoted the bulk of its front page—topping it with two lines of 84-point scare-head type—to an article describing how bad the RESTAURANT coffee is in San Francisco. A sub-head added: "A Great City's People FORCED to Drink SWILL."

More about the news: U.N. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson, appearing on a TV show entitled "Adlai Stevenson Reports," said: "The 17,000 Russian troops said to be in Cuba do not offer a military threat to the United States, but if we could REMOVE THEM it would remove the anxiety and the disquiet that exist in this continent about communism."

It would, indeed. Most of us are pretty certain that their presence there bodes no good for democracy in the Western Hemisphere. BUT the tax program, though it contains within it a moderate and sensible application of the new principle, is a political contraption designed not to rally the people but to offset factions and special interests against one another. What, for example, is used as the measure of the planned deficit? That it should be just a little smaller than President Eisenhower's record-breaking involuntary deficit in 1950. What was used as the mark which expenditures—in the administrative budget only—must not reach? One hundred billion dollars, as in a department store where the price is supposed to be more alluring if it is \$4.99 rather than \$5.

TO THIS statement by Stevenson, Senator Fulbright (Democrat, Arkansas) appearing on the same program, added: "Judging from statements made by Republican Governor Nelson Rockefeller and Republican Senators Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania and Barry Goldwater of Arizona, you would think these Russians in Cuba were about to INVADE America." He added: "Republicans are partisan and ridiculous when they say Soviet troops in Cuba endanger U.S. or hemispheric security."

THIS is too complicated and too involved to bring about public understanding of a new theory of public finance. It is meant to be clever and it ends by being unclear. That is why, I submit, there is so little public support and why the opposition is so varied and contradictory that it extends from the Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers to the big labor unions of the CIO-AFL. I would not presume to say that a deal cannot be wangled before the end of the calendar year. But we may be sure that the delay and the spectacle of the dealing will not be stimulating but, on the contrary, will be depressing to the economy. It would be better, I think, if the administration followed the lead given by Sen. Hubert Humphrey which is to cut its losses, postpone the tax reforms and ask for a straight-forward tax cut. Granted that this will not be easy to get from Senator Byrd. But the administration is not going to get its program from Senator Byrd. At least, a simple program of tax reduction would pose clearly the real issue, which is whether we should take means at once to stimulate our sluggish economy.

HE'S probably right. But— If the Democrats were OUT of power and the Republicans were IN POWER and were doing what the Democrats are doing now— The Democrats would then be doing exactly what the Republicans are doing now. They would be viewing Cuba with alarm. Politics is a curious trade.

QUESTION: What SHOULD we be doing about Cuba? Non-partisan answer: We'd better go back to the Monroe Doctrine.

MORE from Washington: A House of Representatives subcommittee hopes to start hearings in March on the administration's "managed news" policy. What is MANAGED NEWS? Basically it's telling the people ONLY what government thinks the people ought to know about what is going on in government. That's about the long and the short of it.

Strictly Personal

By Sydney J. Harris (c) Field Enterprises, Inc.

ON INEQUALITY A reader in North Carolina calls my attention to a recent case in which a judge, during the same week, sentenced two juvenile offenders for committing the same act. One of the boys was given a "hard" sentence, and the other was given a "soft" one. My correspondent was indignant at this act of what he called "injustice." He thinks that the two offenders should have been treated "equally" for equal offenses. And he asks me to share his indignation. Actually, I feel quite the contrary. I don't know what the facts in each were, but the principle followed by the judge is the only sound one. It is not "equality" to treat unequals equally; it is gross unfairness.

It was the portentous Mikado in the operetta who believed in "making the punishment fit the crime." But the punishment should fit the criminal; justice is blind, but it cannot be stupid also. And nothing is more stupid, in criminal jurisprudence, than failing to distinguish real differences between those who commit similar crimes. Three boys may steal separate cars: one as an ill-advised escapade; another as an act of rebellion against his parents; and the third for dark and ugly reasons. Must all three be punished in the same way?

Unless we have a philosophical grasp of what "justice" is, we cannot understand the principle of equality. For instance, parents who claim that they give their children "equal treatment" are guilty of a great fault if by this they mean that they judge all their children by the same standard. The loving and intelligent parents take into account the profound differences between their children—differences in temperament and ability, brains and bodily structure. To discipline one's children fairly means to give unequal treatment to unequals; for to treat them the same would be manifestly unfair to the weaker, the more delicate, the less intelligent ones. Justice consists in correctly proportioning the means to the ends. And this can be accomplished only by knowledge of the individual case. A judge who sentenced all auto thieves to the same term would be a superfluous official; the statute books can do that without the need of a judge. Indeed, one of the tragedies of our crowded and archaic system of jurisprudence is the lack of time, talent and resources that would enable the court to analyze cases on an individual basis, taking into account all the social and psychiatric variables in each case. It is the "mass production" aspects of American courts that create as much misery as the crimes that confront them.