

of this community, are already receiving information from state institutions that they cannot be assured of educational opportunities there next year.

The Barracks plan has been proposed as one means of meeting this critical problem facing the state. Those who are trying to do something about it deserve public appreciation instead of sly innuendoes about "political implications" that do not exist.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 — The announcements said it was a "bold" program which Mr. Truman proposed for the building of 2,700,000 new houses this year and next.

It was bold enough in a way, but those who know the inner workings—or non-workings, at present—of the building trades, recognized it, with their more practiced eye, as a familiar, typical program of the Roosevelt type.

It is sure-fire politically; otherwise a blunderbuss (note: a blunderbuss is a noisy gun which does not shoot straight.)

The troubles of the great lagging construction industry are twofold: (A) Prices, and (B) Labor. The report of Mr. Truman's housing administrator Wilson Wyatt considered the trouble as onefold: A shortage of materials. But material scarcity is the visible reaction from the two greater, deeper causes. Prices of materials, in general, have been held at 1941-42 levels. But building labor, in general, has had two or three raises in the war years. Producers of building materials simply could not make money, and were crushed by the pressure of increasing labor costs against a frozen price ceiling, as many another industry in this period. Not being able to make any money, these producers went out of business, curtailed unprofitable production, entered other lines, or retired to the sidelines.

Contracts Go Begging

I HAVE heard of contracts for the building of roads going begging today, not because of the shortage of materials, but because no contractor can make any money from them. Incidents of this revealing nature have occurred in New York, Minnesota and other states. The contracts offered by the states, municipalities or others are founded on the 1941-42 price level, and it is impossible for any contractor to get materials or labor at those levels.

In one locality I checked, the common day labor wage, for example, is fixed at 65 cents an hour, but no builder can get common labor short of \$1 an hour—approximately one-third more than the theoretical wage scale yet the actual wage-cost is much higher because labor has slowed down on work in the war years, and productivity per man is incalculably less.

To meet this trouble, the Truman-Wyatt plan, in basic essence, proposed to pay a "premium" (cash bounty) to producers of building materials out of the federal treasury, in order to induce them to go back to production. No set scheme of payment was offered. The opportunities for favoritism and politics are left open by the wide federal power to pay one producer one amount, others another. Indeed, three different brickyards in the very same city could be handled differently. A high-cost producer could get a government subsidy, a medium cost producer could make an average profit, and a low-cost producer could make a high profit without subsidies.

The theory, thus, is to transfer the farm subsidy plan to the building industry, and take the money of all the people from the federal treasury to pay to unprofiting operators in order to avoid a price increase which is justified by all the facts.

Laughs Up Its Sleeve

CONSEQUENTLY, the building industry is largely laughing within its sleeve at the program, inwardly calling it "just another Washington proposition," while willing to take any money Washington wants to throw around. The politicians in congress, on the other hand, are taking it up eagerly, as they do all this type of spending, and no doubt legislation setting the program in motion will be enacted without much opposition.

After all the defects, then, the only live, remaining question is whether the program will build the 2,700,000 houses which are needed. Will it do the job? It may.

Mr. Wyatt, who will be in charge, is a promoter rather than a builder. As a former Louisville mayor and new dealer, he is what the administration boys call "a live wire." He may build that many houses, as Greenbelt, Arthurdale and other places were built, but at an uneconomic cost.

What the industry would prefer is a continuance and expansion of the federal housing administration, which has worked out well by making loans to encourage homebuilding, and a realistic upward revision of the price ceilings to make the construction of building materials profitable.



EPLEY

Today's Roundup

By MALCOLM EPLEY

THE Eugene Register-Guard, opposing with mounting bitterness the plan for an emergency educational center at the Klamath Marine Barracks, says editorially that the "political implications of the Klamath project are only thinly concealed under the fine talk of 'doing something for the veterans.'"

That statement does no credit to the Eugene paper. Wholly without basis in fact, it is designed to throw unjust suspicion on the motives behind the Barracks plan, which has been remarkably free from community pressure or cheap politics.

The Register-Guard does not attempt, in its editorial, to tell what those "political implications" are; perhaps, having been active for many years in matters pertaining to higher education projects, its thinking on this question is influenced by methods with which it is familiar.

To throw that nasty crack, unsupported, into this situation, is misleading, unworthy and unjust.

One Purpose

LET'S look for a moment into the background of this proposal for a state veterans' educational center at the Marine Barracks.

The idea was first advanced in Washington by Dr. Lowell T. Coggeshall, who, we are sure, not even the Register-Guard would call a politician. Dr. Coggeshall discussed it with the federal agencies which would have to turn the Barracks over to the state if the plan were to be adopted. These were military people, not politicians.

Having reasonable assurance that it might be possible to obtain the plan for this purpose, Dr. Coggeshall informed Senator Guy Cordon about it. The senator, in turn, informed the governor of the possibilities that existed, and the governor proceeded to take it up with the proper authorities of the state of Oregon.

Where, in this situation, are the political implications that are concealed by fine talk about "doing something for veterans?"

Doing something for the veterans of Oregon who need education and can't get it under the present facilities may possibly be interpreted as a "political motive" on the part of Governor Snell and Senator Cordon, but we do not think even the Register-Guard will question the worthiness of that political motive.

If there is anything else, why doesn't the Register-Guard tell what it is? It doesn't. There isn't anything else.

Independent Effort

INCIDENTALLY, what Dr. Coggeshall did in Washington with respect to obtaining this opportunity for Oregon was not known, locally, until he returned. He did it independently, and with a worthiness of motive that deserves only gratitude from Oregon people.

It is true that the Lions club of this city had suggested the possibility the Barracks might be constructively used for training of veterans, but this had nothing to do with Dr. Coggeshall's effort in Washington. The Lion idea had been advanced along the line of a vocational training school, and there was some talk of the Klamath Union high school district sponsoring the project. Dr. Coggeshall knew nothing of this when he was in Washington.

Thus, the plan did not come about as a community enterprise of Klamath Falls, and what has been done to investigate it has not been in any way an attempt to please this section politically.

Klamath Falls, may we add, does not need to lean upon tax-supported institutions for its economic livelihood. Klamath's fundamental economic interests lie in its industry and agriculture.

Klamath people, naturally enough, would be pleased to have the Barracks used for this or some other worthy purpose, and any sensible taxpayer would feel the same way about this grand plan that would otherwise be disposed of at much less than its value.

Klamath people, naturally enough, are interested in educational prospects for Oregon veterans and other Oregon young people. Klamath war veterans, and non-service young people

Morals Case Considered

After a preliminary hearing in justice court yesterday afternoon, Justice J. A. Mahoney took the contributing to the delinquency of a minor case against James Quentin Anderson under advisement and will make a decision later whether the youth is to be bound over to the grand jury.

Anderson at present is free on \$5000 bond. He was paroled from the state penitentiary in December and arrested in January on this charge involving a 16-year-old girl.

A. C. Yaden is representing Anderson.

Training Course—The training course for Boy Scout leaders will begin March 13, it was announced by Merlin Bleak, training committee chairman, today. The classes will be held at Klamath Union high school for six nights, three hours nightly. They will be on Mondays and Wednesdays until the course is completed.

Camp Fire Girls—The committee of awards will meet Saturday, March 2, between 2 and 4 p. m. in the American Legion hall. All girls expecting to take rank or receive birthday honors at the grand council fire, March 22, must pass requirement at the committee meeting.

Stromberg-Carlson Radios, Derby's Music Co.

Lakeview Lions Lead Membership Contest

LAKEVIEW, Feb. 28—The Lakeview Lions club, with 14 new members and three resignations, led all Lions groups in southern and eastern Oregon in members secured in a contest held internationally during January.

This announcement came today from President Walter E. Sandquist, following receipt of word to such effect from District Governor Glenn H. Gregg of Bend.

Sandquist said the contest was

based on actual membership obtained, not on a per capita population basis. Lakeview, he pointed out, secured more new members than did clubs in far larger communities.

Confers—J. M. Clifford, executive secretary for extension service, OSC, was in Klamath Falls Monday and Tuesday conferring with C. A. Henderson, Klamath county agent, Mrs. Winnifred K. Gillen, home demonstration agent, and Francis Skinner, 4-H club agent.

Stromberg-Carlson Radios, Derby's Music Co.



From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Ollie Mapes and The Streamlined House

The other day a construction firm set up an exhibit in the courthouse square. They built a new "house of the future"—and invited folks to see it.

Drew quite a crowd—with the women sighing over the shiny kitchen, and the men admiring the heating units and insulation.

All except Ollie Mapes. He looks around a spell and goes home. When I get there, he's sitting before his old duff fireplace, with his feet on the screen, and a melon glass of beer in hand.

"You know," quotes Ollie, "it takes a heap of living to make a home."

Looking around, I see what Ollie means. A room crowded with memories of a life well spent—and the friendly habits of a happy home, from a blazing old-fashioned fire, to a mellow glass of beer with friends. From where I sit, those things do more to make a home than modern streamlined gadgets.

Joe Marsh

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SIDE GLANCES



"Gee, I'm sorry, Pop! For a minute I thought I was still driving a tank!"

The World Today

By DeWITT MacKENZIE AP World Traveler

FRANKFURT, Germany, Feb. 28—It would be easy for the traveler in Germany to lose his perspective of the reich's true position, because the terrific devastation wrought in cities across the whole face of the land by allied bombing tends to obscure everything else.



MacKENZIE

Berlin, Essen, Cologne, Nurnberg, Munich and Frankfurt and scores of other cities—they're all the same—just ghastrly, empty shells which once housed millions—ghosts of places which not long ago were among the world's great centers.

It's hard to believe that this unprecedented devastation isn't a mortal blow. You almost distrust your eyes when they tell you that thousands of people are scurrying about and making their homes among the ruins.

Not Mortal Blow

But this destruction isn't a mortal blow, although it may be called the knockout blow. It isn't even the paramount problem of rehabilitation, as I see the picture.

Didn't you ever get back into the wilds with a gun or fishing rod and sleep in your blanket on a pile of fir twigs beside the

campfire? No? Well, you've missed something worthwhile. Houses aren't everything. In the last war, when there were long periods of trench duty, millions of men lived in dugouts and did all right. More important than plush chairs and bay windows is food. And that is the number one problem in Germany at the moment.

Interlocked with the food, of course, are transport and fuel. It takes transport to distribute the food, and coal to run the transport, as well as to provide fuel for the use of the campers-out.

Reconstruction Must Wait

The American military government in this zone, and the other three allied occupation authorities, are having to proceed with rehabilitation on the basis of top priorities. These things which are of the greatest importance must come first, and the others have to wait. Reconstruction of Germany's ruined cities is not the top priority. And it must wait.

Even when reconstruction becomes possible, it will take many years to rebuild any of the destroyed cities. This column already has reported that experts estimate it will require as long as 30 years even to clear out the rubble in places like Berlin and Essen, to say nothing of rebuilding. Thus for a long time to come thousands upon thousands of city folk will be cave dwellers. Can the Germans take it?

WEATHER

Table with columns: Location, Max, Min, Precip. Locations include Eugene, Klamath Falls, Sacramento, Portland, Reno, San Francisco, Seattle, Medford, Red Bluff.

OREGON AND WASHINGTON—Partly cloudy today, tonight and Friday with light rain in west portion Friday. Cooler today cooler in east portion tonight. Moderate southwest to west winds off coast.

Jury Favors Road Probe

The Jackson county grand jury, in session this week in Medford, recommended in part that an investigation be made as to conditions on the Greensprings highway between Ashland and Klamath Falls, scene of numerous winter accidents.

The grand jury recommended that when these roads are a menace to motorists by reason of ice and snow, that autoists be stopped or provided with an escort patrol. The same recommendation applied to the Pacific highway in the Siskiyou mountains. The Jackson county grand jury inspected their jail and returned a favorable report on the institution.

Stolen Auto Found Here

No trace of two men who forced William Young of the Keno highway from his car and made off with his Buick Tuesday night, had been reported by state police but Young found the machine yesterday parked near the post office, he advised officers.

Although police throughout southern Oregon were asked to be on the lookout for the pair, it is thought that they might have turned around and driven back to Klamath Falls where they abandoned the car which they realized would be "hot."

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PROPOSED VACATION OF PORTION OF ALLEY IN BLOCK 3, SECOND HOT SPRINGS ADDITION TO KLAMATH FALLS, OREGON. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Monday, the 1st day of April, 1946, in the Council Chambers of the City of Klamath Falls, Oregon, at the hour of 8 o'clock p. m., at a regular meeting of the council of said city there will be presented to the Honorable Mayor and Common Council of Klamath Falls, Oregon, a petition praying for the vacation of a portion of the alley in Block 3, Second Hot Springs Addition to the City of Klamath Falls, Oregon, the boundaries of said proposed vacated area being described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the southeasterly line of the alley in Block 3, Second Hot Springs Addition to Klamath Falls, Oregon, with the southeasterly line of Spring Street in said addition; thence S. 29 degrees 34 minutes W., along the southeasterly line of said alley, a distance of 85.78 feet; thence S. 56 degrees 36 minutes W., 43.51 feet to a point on the northeasterly line of said alley; thence N. 23 degrees 34 minutes E., along the northeasterly line of said alley a distance of 134.77 feet to the southeasterly line of said street, a distance of 22.52 feet to the point of beginning. In order that said alley may remain open across said Block 3 an easement in writing will be tendered to the City of Klamath Falls, twenty feet in width, across Lots 21 and 22 of said Block 3. Dated this 27th day of February, 1946. UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 OF KLAMATH COUNTY, STATE OF OREGON. By Nelson Reed, Chairman, Board of Directors. F. 28; M. 7-14-21—No. 307. Stromberg-Carlson Radios, Derby's Music Co.

Radio Programs KFJI Mutual-Don Lee 1240 kc.

Thursday Eve., February 28

- 8:00 p. m. Gabriel Heatter, News
8:15 Around Town
8:30 Treasure Hour of Song
7:00 Sunny Days
1:15 Calendar of Music
7:30 Red Ryder
8:00 Klamath County Kapors
8:30 Rogue's Gallery
9:00 Glenn Hardy, News
9:15 James Crawford, News
9:30 to concl. Wrestling Matches
10:30 Music As You Like It

Friday, March 1

- 8:30 a. m. Wake-Up Tunes and Victrolas Living
7:00 Frank Hemingway, News
7:15 Blue and Shino
7:30 Headline News
7:45 Best Buzz
8:00 Island Melodies
8:15 Fashion Fashion
8:30 Take It Easy Time

- 8:45 Victor H. Liedlabb, Music
9:00 Lyle Van, News
9:15 Marion Dawsey
9:30 Starling Maline
9:45 Mitch Ayres Orchestra
10:00 Glenn Hardy, News
10:15 Latin-American Music
10:30 Starling Maline
10:45 John J. Anthony
11:00 John Henderson Stage
11:15 Calendar of Music
11:30 Queen for a Day
12:00 Melodious Melodice
12:15 Headline News
12:30 Your Dance Tunes
12:45 Farm Front and Market News
1:00 p. m. Gerald Allaire Spectacular
1:15 Johnson Family
1:30 Musical Light Opera
1:45 Variety Revue
2:00 Zerk Manners
2:15 Blakes Request
2:30 Local News and Toss Up
2:45 Tea Dance
3:00 Mrs. L. T. Talbot
3:15 Mrs. Maxwell
4:00 Fulton Lewis Jr., News
4:15 Rex Miller, News
4:30 Local News and Toss Up
4:45 Klamath Theatre Time
5:00 Hand Concert
5:15 Apperann
5:30 Capt. Midnight
5:45 Tom Mix

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