

Today's Roundup

By MALCOLM EPLEY

AFTER long labor, the Oregon house assessment and a taxation committee brought forth the sales tax bill which was passed yesterday by a 38-22 vote.

But that was only the house. Now the measure goes to the senate, where it is due for a working over by the parallel senate committee. In spite of the fact the legislature is already working long past its allotted time, this is the first opportunity the senate committee has had to work on the tough sales tax issue, and a lot of time and argumentative heat will be used up in the senate before the measure assumes its final form.

It seems likely the senate committee will make some drastic changes. As it was adopted by the house, the bill calls for a 3 per cent sales tax, with exemption on food, and the revenue to be split between the counties, cities and school districts, on one hand, and the state on the other.

It may not look much like that when the senate gets through with it. There is talk of cutting the rate to 2 per cent, removing the food exemption, and changing the distribution arrangement. Until the senate gets through with it, we can only consider general principles, without details, in discussing the advisability of a sales tax for the state. We don't know what kind of a bill, if any, is going to be submitted.

If one needed proof, however, of the stringency of the state's financial situation, it came when Governor Earl Snell declared for a sales tax. The governor himself admitted he was reluctant to take the step, and before he came to the point, made mention of the separate powers of the legislative, executive and judicial departments, indicating that he was not trying to tell the legislature what to do. But he said he would support the legislature in the adoption of a sales tax as offering the best and most logical means of meeting the situation.

When Governor Snell, thus reluctant, nevertheless came through with a declaration for a type of tax that has hitherto been unpopular with Oregon voters, it is quite clear that the state's financial condition is most critical.

A Good Job

MRS. ALTHA UROUHART, who will take leave of absence from the office of public welfare administrator beginning April 1, has established a record of intelligent, efficient work in a public office whose duties are different and difficult.

Because of its state and federal financial relationships, the welfare department labors under a rather rigid set of regulations that are handed down from above. It has been part of Mrs. Urouhart's job to apply these regulations with human understanding and sympathy to the problems of those people who have looked to her department for assistance. This she has done admirably, giving Klamath county's welfare program a sound but sympathetic administration. She is recognized as one of the most able social workers in the Oregon welfare organization.

Mrs. Urouhart has asked for a six months' leave. It is to be hoped that the welfare commission can induce her to stick to the implied intention to return at the end of that period.

News Behind The News

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, March 21 — The American news dispatches from the Moscow conference said our delegation was "embarrassed" and "the Americans shifted uneasily in their seats" when Molotov pulled from the secret files of the past, the Yalta agreement, promising Russia half of \$20,000,000 reparations from Germany. There was no valid reason for any reasonable person to be embarrassed or uneasy.

The truth is Russia has probably already taken more than her allotted half—more than \$10,000,000,000 of the dollar value at the time of the Yalta agreement. You, who have read these dispatches, know she took the paper off the German walls, machinery which we had to

recapture to run the Berlin subway, everything she could lay her hands on. German machinery is today strewn out all over Russian railroad sidings. The inept Russians have merely made it lose its value by putting it to little or no use, because it can be no more valuable to anyone than the sum total of what it produces. Of course no one outside Russia knows the itemized list of it, items taken secretly as they were, behind the iron curtain of censorship. But certainly any baby knows enough was taken to keep anyone from being embarrassed about reparations, unless Russia wishes to be embarrassed and open East Germany to make some accounting.

The astonishing phase is our "uneasy" and "embarrassed" delegation made no mention of this matter, did not demand opening of East Germany to find out how much has been taken or make any accusations. (Our military has some of the facts.)

Vagueness About Yalta

THE inside reason for this strange omission of the plain facts of reparations looting to date is possibly due to a quite secret story, current in our official quarters, as to the nature of the Yalta conference. Mr. Roosevelt is supposed to have been somewhat ill, as was also Mr. Churchill. It was once said Mr. Roosevelt forgot to have a copy made of the Yalta agreements, and a government official once told me, the agreement at Yalta was recorded in American files only by certain personal notes of James Byrnes (then an unofficial adviser) which he made for his own use and placed in the safe at his home. Once Byrnes is supposed to have been sent to his South Carolina residence hurriedly by Mr. Roosevelt to find out what Mr. Roosevelt did agree to at Yalta. The American delegation at Moscow may have known this inside story and felt some embarrassment about the entire subject for this reason.

General Marshall, at any rate, made an adequate legal and diplomatic answer to Molotov by pointing out that Potsdam superceded and nullified Yalta (this is plainly true). However his was a sort of defensive answer, and if he had raised the question of how much the Russians have already looted out of Germany he would have put them on the defensive. Personally I would have raised that question and required the Russians at least to come forward with public acknowledgement of what they have done.

The Russians are getting away similarly with many delusions on the American public—and this may further explain our embarrassment in Moscow. The key delusion behind all this may be the fact that most of the American people believe Russia has lifted one port-hole in the iron curtain to let the world see freely without censorship of its own conference. In a way it has. Yet the whole (unproclaimed) truth is the American newsman must use Russian facilities to get out their news, Russian telephones, telegraph instruments, radio—all manned by Russians. The Russian government which controls all these instruments knows instantly every word sent out by the conference if not before. No words have been deleted the last check I made (this week). Indeed one reporter asked Russians on the street for a story of what they thought about the conference, which seemed to be a slight transgression on Russian generosity in letting the world know what its representatives were doing in Russia. But the overall truth of the matter is that in Moscow a reporter might have ideas he would regret having had once he gets home.

Might Change Location

HEARD a great leader once say he used to go out to California annually and make great decisions swiftly in the balmy air there. But when he came back to New York and started thinking his decisions over, he changed every one of them back to his original idea. Travel may broaden one too much and travel to Moscow might even broaden a logical man into embarrassment and uneasiness.

For this reason you may see a surprising bit of news develop shortly. It is possible the delegation may find it necessary to move the conference to some other place, say, for instance Switzerland, where it is really beautiful in the spring. It is possible this may be done long before the allotted time of the conference. Marshall is known to have intended to remain six weeks at the start. (Senator Vandenberg wanted to bet him he would be in Moscow three months, but Marshall declined to take republican money that easily, at that time foreseeing the possibility the conference might adjourn to some other place in three weeks.) The delegates might be able to think with less embarrassment, more ease—and above all with greater clarity in Switzerland—or even in a telephone booth at the South Pole.

STATIC

By KELLY ROBERTS

Spring is here at last. It's been looking like spring for the last several days, but we didn't particularly notice it until we walked into a drug store yesterday afternoon with our favorite brunette. Sitting at a booth we ordered a "double thick, extra stop, chocolate milk shake" (believe it or not). The girl served us, then sweetly asked, "You're high school students, aren't you?" Flattered, we nodded our heads. "Then you'll have to pay for your shakes now." Still in a daze

of youthfulness, we dropped our four-bits into her palm. Ah, it's wonderful having spring with us again.

A kid from Portland popped up as one of the junior speakers on last night's Town Meeting of the Air on a discussion of whether marital relations should be taught in the schools. In one of the replies to a statement he had made, it was brought out that there were four divorces for every three marriages in Portland during 1945-46.

Of course one of the things that may have contributed to our youthful appearance (besides the clean life we lead) is the fact

SIDE GLANCES



"See, darling? Mother just ate some, too!"

The World Today

By DeWITT MacKENZIE AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

Moscow's official reaction to President Truman's Greco-Turkish proposals is said by authoritative sources in the Russian capital to be tending toward the view that the U. S. A. is developing an out-and-out anti-Soviet policy.

It would be unfortunate if such an idea came to prevail in Russia, because there's no foundation for it. To be sure, human nature being what it is, Americans can develop violent antipathies if pushed about. But at this writing the citizens of the United States not only aren't anti-Soviet but would prefer that relations between the two countries be on a friendly basis.

Having said this, however, it's well to make it plain that we do have some entries in our black book. We are, as Washington has made clear, thumbs down on communist aggression which wages a world revolution to destroy other forms of government and bring their countries within the Russian fold.

We don't object to communism in Russia, or in any other country that really wants it. We do object to it being thrust down the throats of helpless nations which have no use for it. And we not only don't want it in America, but we won't have it! As previously remarked, the

four heads are better than one. Plugging it in we started, it was the first electric razor we'd ever used (didn't even have to push-pull, click-click) and in just a little less than 30 minutes we were through. No blades to change, no lather needed, no whiskers left, almost no razor left, they're going to get a replacement from the factory.

Speaking of school kids, spring vacation on in several schools and will be in full swing next week. Several parties are planned and one of the bigger events will be the second showing here of Karl Smyk's new outfit. Their last engagement sounded like some of the best local work we've heard done in a long time. It's set for next Wednesday evening and Chuck Cecil is planning to air a half-hour portion over his "Stardust Melodies."

The 10-round welterweight bout between Tippey Larkin and Billy Graham will be aired on tonight's Cavalcade of Sports at 7 o'clock. Larkin was beaten by Charlie Fusari in his last bout, but that isn't expected to have any effect on this match and fans are expecting a bang-up battle between the two ring-wise boys from the east.

Add picturesque scenes: The Thursday night grapplers, after mauling, gouging, biting and generally committing mayhem on each other, peacefully sitting in a local bistro sipping suds.

American people—and the other western democracies — would like to live in amity with Russia. We recognize, of course, that there is no possibility of communism and western democracy mixing within the borders of the same country. The two doctrines are at loggerheads. Our way of life and totalitarian dictatorship have nothing in common. They are deadly poison to each other.

Vain Hope

Despite this we have clung to the hope that it might be possible for communism and democracy to live side by side, in neighboring states, without warfare—live and let live. Maybe that idea was over-optimistic in the first place. Anyway, thus far it hasn't worked, and the reason has been the communist aggression which has kept reaching here, there and everywhere to communicate other countries.

Things might look different if communism operated under different methods. But communism applies the bolshevist theories of direct action which call for the overthrow of governments, not by the ballot, but by force. The Encyclopedia Britannica epitomizes the thing like this:

"Communism is peculiar in that, basing itself on the utterances of Marx and Engels, it holds that this end is only attainable by means of a revolution. Revolution is not rejected by socialism; but modern communism regards revolution as necessary (italics) and a period of the dictatorship of the proletariat based on open terror as the only means of creating the socialist economic and social system."

At this moment the United States and Britain are protesting against alleged Soviet interference and the use of strong arm methods in Hungary's internal affairs. The Polish elections in January under auspices of the communist dominated provisional government were condemned by Washington and London. There have been numerous other instances.

Rubber Industry Sees Strike Hope

AKRON, O., March 21 (AP)—Union and company officials of the "big four" producers of the nation's rubber hinted strongly today that there was still a fair chance of averting a strike set for Sunday midnight.

Leaders of the CIO-United Rubber Works disclosed that they hadn't given up on the idea of a peaceful settlement of the wage controversy by scheduling a meeting in Cleveland tomorrow. And L. M. Buckingham, attorney representing the four giant rubber producers, said at the same time: "I am hopeful that the union and the companies will settle this."

Telling The Editor

Letters printed here must be more than 300 words in length, must be written legibly on ONE SIDE of the paper only and must be signed. Contributions following these rules are warmly welcomed.

URGES PARK PLAN

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (To the Editor)—I am writing this in the interest of a city park, that we of the suburban community adjacent to South Sixth street are hoping to develop.

We cannot give up the idea of a park in this fast growing community. We have in this suburban area approximately 3000 children, all good kids to me. At present there is no play ground out this way but we could have one if we could get a piece of ground now owned by Klamath county.

There are five acres in this piece of land, located between Ward and Hope streets, level as a floor and in the center of an addition that some day will be a city of several thousand people. I understand the county school board has a promise from the county court that the land will be held for one year if the school board wishes to buy it for another school. It will be a shame if the school board or the court holds it for that time and then it is not used.

We can have trees, shrubs and flowers started this year, all donated if we can use them this spring. Children's play ground equipment including swings, merry-go-round and scotters will be built free of charge by good mechanics living out our way.

We can do these things. This park can't be built over night but we can start it. There is room on the grounds for a dandy ball park, tennis courts, swimming pool, etc. Where can you find a more suitable place in Klamath Falls for some way this ground can be set aside for a park, providing the school board does not decide to build on it. We can't build roads, schools or anything that would do more good for so many people.

Friends have you a heart? Where is it? You mothers have your clubs and card parties, why not organize a park club? Maybe there wouldn't be so many juvenile delinquents if we had more playgrounds for children. It seems to me there are more juvenile delinquents here than in many other places. Why? Maybe if we can get this park we won't have so many children on the streets.

What would you do if you were so lonesome you didn't know what to do? That is what one little boy said one day as the tears came into his eyes. His mother was working. Maybe we can help these children by building up something for them.

I hope someone interested in helping us get the ground for this park this year will answer this.

Yours very truly, HARRY L. WIARD 2705 Ward St.

Times Claims Huge Red Growth

NEW YORK, March 21 (AP)—The New York Times said today that "an authentic report" received in Washington stated that communist bands in Greece had a strength of 13,000 and sought to "cut Greece in half."

The source of the report was not given. The Times' story, written from Washington by James Reston, said the immediate military objective of the armed bands was to establish a corridor from the Albanian border east to the Mount Olympus area on the Aegean sea. In such an event, Greek Macedonia would be sandwiched between the corridor and Aegean to the south, with Yugoslavia and Bulgaria to the north and Albania to the west.

Advertisement for Drew's White Manhattan Shirts, featuring a list of sizes and prices, and contact information for Roper and Roper.

Appropriation Committee Knocks Props From Under Conciliation Service

WASHINGTON, March 21 (AP)—The house appropriations committee voted today to knock the financial props from under the United States conciliation service by refusing pay for Director Edgar L. Warren and a number of top aides.

Climaxing a long feud between Warren and Rep. Keefe (R-Wis.), the action highlighted a \$1,685,586,780 bill to finance the labor department and the federal security agency for the year starting July 1.

The measure will be debated in the house next week. Keefe is chairman of the subcommittee which drafted the bill. He has accused Warren of having been affiliated in the past with "communist-inspired fronts" and of having advocated the right of government workers to strike.

The conciliation chief denied knowledge of any communist sponsorship of the groups when he joined them and told the committee he has changed his mind about the right of federal workers to strike.

In addition to its blow to the conciliation service, which provides federal mediators in labor disputes, the committee also cut by nearly 50 per cent the money President Truman asked for the national labor relations board.

In granting the NLRB only \$4,033,700 of the \$7,984,000 requested, the committee said it was split over a suggestion that the board be abolished because it "has made no real contribution to industrial peace."

The NLRB administrators the Wagner collective bargaining act. While carrying \$366,170,277 more than comparable appropriations for the current year, the total of today's bill is \$77,825,520—less than 5 per cent below Mr. Truman's budget estimates.

However, except for one large item, the funds recommended for next year generally are below those allotted for this year. Outstanding exception is an increase of \$389,170,277 in the railroad retirement board fund, an uncontrollable allotment that does not come out of general revenues.

Another exception is the \$17,328,200 granted to the National Cancer Institute, an increase of \$6,000,000 over budget estimates to allow for more aid to states and more research work. The labor department's share of the total is \$90,864,200, a cut of \$12,714,500 from budget figures and \$22,816,091 from this year's allotments. The total includes \$71,728,000 for grants to states for public employment offices.

The federal security agency received \$899,045,180, a budget cut of \$61,123,420 and a reduction of \$132,932 from current funds. Along with the NLRB fund, the bill also carries \$850,700 for the national mediation board, which handles railroad labor problems, a cut of \$37,300 below the budget, and \$690,793,000 for the railroad retirement board.

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Advertisement for Joe Marsh, featuring a portrait and text about men and women, with contact information for Joe Marsh.

Table of radio programs for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, listing stations and program titles.

Table of radio programs for Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, listing stations and program titles.

Advertisement for SUNDAY JOURNAL, featuring a large '12' and text about big pages of comics.

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