

# The Herald and News

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Entered as second class matter at the post office at Klamath Falls, Ore., on August 20, 1906, under act of Congress, March 3, 1879.

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## School Budgets

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

The elementary school budget will be voted on Friday, June 27, and the high school budget on Monday, July 7.

I am going to vote for the budget, but for only one reason—that reason is that if it is not passed this time standardized school will not start as scheduled in September.

Certainly, this is a weak argument for voting for the budget, but the budget boards have given the voters very little choice.

Both budget boards appear determined to pass virtually the same budgets, not by cutting the ones that were turned down by the voters, but by appealing to parents and others to pass the budget or face the prospect of a delay in starting school in the fall.

But, while recommending approval of the budgets, let me also pass on some observations for the future.

In the first place, the budget boards are open to sharp criticism.

When they declined to even consider the possibility of eliminating the pay raises for teachers, they automatically put 66 per cent of their budgets beyond reach of any cut.

The cuts that they did make were strictly inconsequential. Beyond the two and one-half per cent cutback on the pay raises for janitors and bus drivers about all they did was delay some projects until another year.

For instance, they still left two \$14,000 items in the budgets for the purchase of two new school buses, despite the fact that some of the budget members openly expressed the opinion that a single bus would be sufficient.

Comment since the election has led me to believe that the negative vote on the budget was a protest vote against the elaborate educational structure which we now have in Klamath Falls.

Certainly it is an excellent structure. As a matter of fact, that I think, is what the people were protesting. It is too elaborate.

It's much like a man with a \$5,000 yearly income who still wants to drive a high priced car and live in a \$50,000 home. It's wonderful if he can do it, but it's a miracle if he can.

The negative voters were protesting against a heavy outlay of their tax monies for items they considered extracurricular, such as music, athletics, driver training and the like. They also were protesting the structure of supervisors, and wanted them either eliminated or at least sharply curtailed, certainly not sharply increased.

The negative vote was also a protest against the construction of elaborate school buildings. Again, the public has become fed up with fancy structures. They want functional buildings. If classroom space is needed, fine, the people will put up the money for it. But when the money in turn is used to provide music rooms, and auditoriums they rebel.

Nothing has been done by either budget board to change the character of their budgets. If they were bad budgets before the election, they remain bad budgets today. If they were good budgets before, they remain good budgets today.

I have not heard the argument that this is a better budget than the one the voters turned down.

I note with regret that budget board meetings were packed overwhelmingly by teachers and their supporters. Their comments were well presented, representative of the teachers viewpoint. Certainly they are to be commended for wanting to keep the standards of our schools as high as possible.

However, they are not only doing the schools but themselves a disservice when they insist on trying to run not only the curriculum but the budget boards as well.

It is up to the tax paying public, as a whole, to decide how much money they want to invest in their schools.

People don't mind paying what taxes are necessary to provide adequate schools and adequate government, but they are not in a financial mood to support a structure or a government that has become too elaborate and too costly.

A tax rebellion is a road in the country today.

For instance during May in Oregon alone, in addition to the turn-down of the Klamath Falls school budgets, voters in Hillsboro turned down the school budgets. Bend voters defeated not only a special levy for the Central Oregon college, but also a levy in excess of the six per cent limitation by the city. Hermiston voters turned down the school budget, and a school district in at Clark

was defeated, as was the operational budget.

Washington County voters turned back for a second time a request to increase the county tax base by \$400,000. A proposal for a \$600,000 tax base for school district 12 at The Dalles was also defeated.

An effort to establish a tax base was beaten at Albany as well as in Jackson County.

All these turn-downs came during the month of May alone.

In Klamath County, the average worker finds 20 to 25 per cent of his salary is taken by the federal and state governments even before he gets his pay check.

This is in addition to the amounts levied in property taxes for support of the county, city and the schools which he also pays, either directly as a home owner, or indirectly as a renter.

I point this out for the benefit of not only the current school budget boards, but also future ones as well.

The time of indiscriminate spending is past. The time for cutting the frills from education as well as from city and county governments is now.

By voting for the budgets as they are now does not mean that I necessarily approve them. Personally, I will vote for them to ensure the beginning of school this fall.

Neither does approval of the budgets mean that the boards should spend all the money budgeted. The taxpayers will be looking over their shoulders so to speak during the next year, and they, in turn, should carefully scrutinize every expenditure.

If they fail to do so, and if they fail to trim some of the excessive costs of education, next year will probably find not only the first budgets turned down, but successive ones as well until they do the paring job that the public wants, regardless of how much delay it may cause.

That may sound like a warning, and that's exactly what it is.

## Favor Budget

Editor's Note: The following is a statement of policy recently adopted by the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce.

The object of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce is to promote the economic interests of Klamath County, which includes agricultural, commercial, industrial, and civic developments.

In connection with the past, present, and future economic development programs in this area, it is mandatory that we provide a school program commensurate with the rapid expansion with which we are faced.

It is the responsibility of the Klamath County Chamber of Commerce to seek out and encourage new investment to Klamath County. Not only is it necessary to have an inventory of raw materials, resources, manpower, distribution facilities, and the many other items to create a product or service, but it is equally important to be able to state that our school facilities are available and of high quality. With the increased activity in our immediate area, the demands for school facilities will be ever increasing over the years to come. This is but one of the conditions we must face when new investment, new employment opportunities are placed in our midst.

Without an approved school budget, our schools cannot operate. School law is highly complex, but an attempt to simplify one phase is to merely state that to

conduct a standard school program, it is necessary that a school budget be presented to the voters and that said budget be passed by a simple majority. There is no other method.

There are a number of potential investors outside our area who are extremely interested in the manner which we discharge our responsibilities. It is not possible to keep local problems local.

In addition to the school children who live here or those who will come to seek access to an American heritage, we owe a moral and legal obligation that our schools operate.

In an area that has a vibrant and dynamic economy, we can ill afford to have a chaotic condition exist wherein public education would not be available.

The revised school budgets will be submitted to the voters on the last of June and the first of July. We strongly urge their adoption.

## Help Needed

By GEORGE CASTILLO  
In Roseburg News-Review

The Interstate Commerce Commission is probably in quite a tizzy now as the result of the current controversy over a proposed freight rate cut by the Southern Pacific.

The rate slash was designed by SP for Southern Oregon shippers to put them in a more competitive position to reach the big Southern California and Arizona markets.

This was a strange, but happy turn of events for lumber shippers in these times when rates, like other costs, keep spiraling up.

After the initial shock, the shippers greeted the announcement of the pending rate decrease with happy grins. But this was only the beginning of some more strange twists.

SP went ahead with its rate reconstruction which would have put Southern Oregon in a position where it could carry on strong competition with Northern California coastal mills and coast barge traffic.

The Oregonians continued to beam as it became evident the rate change could go into effect just before the heavy building and construction season got under way.

The ICC added to their hopes when its suspension board gave its stamp of approval to the rate decrease. But it was shortly after that that the shiny prospects began crumbling. The opposition had mobilized.

A higher division of the ICC overruled its subordinate body, the suspension board. Northern California coastal mill operators and barge and coast shipping lines had banded together to storm the ICC with demands that the rate cut be suspended. This it was on May 20, just one day before the rates were to have gone into effect. The suspension was made to allow time for an ICC investigation.

This was another bizarre aspect of the case. The suspension board is not often overruled. This was just one of the oddities.

Southern Pacific, which in recent years has grown callouses over its oft-rapped knuckles, suddenly found itself in the role of hero. Its severest critics, the shippers, who had lashed SP for everything from dirty boxcars to prohibitive rail rates, were now on the SP's side.

The SP has sent a petition to the ICC in Washington, D.C., asking an immediate vacation of the suspension order. Inland lumbermen from Oregon have rallied to the SP cause and have been joined by chambers of commerce. The Oregon Railway Association

has also started circulating petitions in favor of the rate decrease. These have been supported by chambers of commerce and lumbermen.

The case is a strange one, but more importantly, it involves a disappointing turn of events. The ICC said it would take at least 90 days to complete the investigation. It can take, if it wishes, until December 20. So, even though the report is favorable, the economy is set back just as it is climbing from a recession.

The rail rate cut has been many times described as "a shot in the arm" for the Oregon economy. It stands to reason that the ICC will make a decision in favor of the decrease in rates if the greatest public good is used as a major criterion; but meanwhile, the painfully slow process of government bureaucracy goes on.

Since the protests from truckers, barge lines, Oregon coast shippers and Northern California coastal interests came in so heavily, it is probably only right that investigation and hearings be conducted. But people of inland Oregon can do something to hurry these up. They can write the ICC in Washington and to their congressmen. Senator Morse has indicated this is already being done in his case. He has gone on record calling for immediate hearings. Morse said he had received scores of letters on the matter.

Similar letters, petitions and telegrams should be deluging Senator Neuberger, Reps. Porter and Ullman and the ICC. Action is needed now!

## Just People

By GAY PAULEY  
UPI Women's Editor

NEW YORK, (UPI)—New York City's first woman treasurer is the last to praise her sex for pioneering in the job world of men.

"Women are people," said Judge Hilda G. Schwartz. "I see no reason for its being considered unusual for us to be in some of the jobs we held."

"I suppose I should say I'm scared in this position, but I'm not. And I don't think a woman is better equipped for it than a man. Men are pretty good at handling purse strings too, I've found."

Mrs. Schwartz, an attractive woman with blue eyes and auburn hair, is one of three women holding top jobs in government in the nation's largest city. The others are Leona Baumgartner, health commissioner, and Anna Kross, corrections commissioner.

As treasurer, she signs her name annually to some \$3 billion in checks—an amount which she said tops that spent by any other city, any state including New York, and trailing only the federal government's disbursements.

"But our budget is balanced," she laughed.

A native New Yorker and one of five children, Hilda Schwartz was educated in the city's public schools, graduated from Washington College of New York University in 1929, and was admitted to the bar in 1930 after studying at NYU's law school.

"I was in high school when I decided I'd be a lawyer," she said in an interview. "One of my economics teachers, also a lawyer, got me interested. And I learned from knowing her that going into what was then considered a man's profession didn't mean losing womanliness."

"Maybe some of our early career women thought a brusque manner and tailored clothes were necessary—a defense mechanism. Today's career woman doesn't need to wear a badge."

"I'm reluctant to make any generalization about either sex. But I do believe that women are especially well-fitted for jobs of dealing with the public...they have a collective similarity of showing concern for others. Maybe it is because biologically women are fitted with a special reverence for life..."

Mrs. Schwartz was a partner with her husband, Herman, in a law firm until 1946, when she was appointed secretary of the New York Board of Estimate. In May 1951, she was named to the city magistrate's court, where she remained until this spring when Mayor Robert Wagner named her to the \$20,000 a year treasurer's job.

The couple has one son, John, a student at Princeton, who also plans to study law.

Mrs. Schwartz is a stylishly dressed woman, who prefers basic black dress or suit lined with a bold colored hat or scarf. She finds time, even after a long day of worrying over the city's finances, to cook for her family.

"I'm expert at everything from Swedish meat balls to Italian spaghetti," she said. "My son says Mom cooks in all languages."

## They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



## Freedom Of Information Fight Like 'Stepping On A Balloon' Says Solon

PALO ALTO, Calif. (AP)— Fighting for freedom of information was described today as being "like stepping on a balloon."

"You stamp out excessive secrecy in one place, and it pops up somewhere else," said Rep. John E. Moss (D-Calif.), head of the House government information subcommittee.

A federal attitude of excessive secrecy is most apparent in the Defense and State departments, Moss said in a speech prepared for a meeting of the California Newspaper Publishers Assn. meeting at Stanford University.

Moss said his subcommittee is going further into a recent State

Department order on its officials' contacts with reporters.

In a recent reply to subcommittee letters, he said, the State Department disclosed that its officials must write memos of any talks with newsmen "even if they meet them at a cocktail party."

"Restrictions on information from the Defense Department have gone even further," Moss said.

"The President has ordered a reorganization of the department's information activities so that all information from the three military services will funnel through the politically-appointed

assistant secretary of defense for public affairs—a job now held by Mr. Murray Snyder, who learned his public relations trade as assistant press secretary at the White House."

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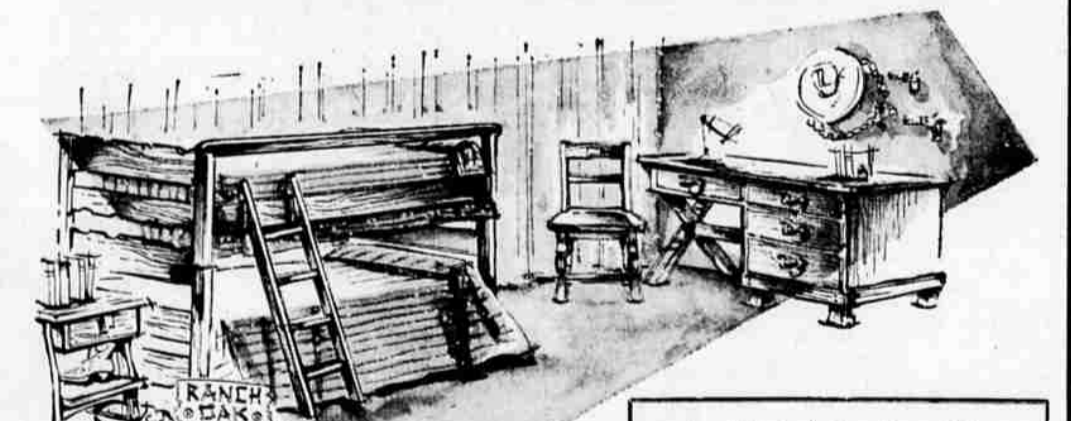
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