

The Herald and News

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Welfare Methods

By FLOYD L. WYNNE

The two day hearings held here by the Legislative Interim Committee on Public Welfare produced some fireworks and some very pointed charges.

The statement of Mrs. Richard Smith, chairman of the Klamath County Welfare committee deserves careful attention.

She maintained that welfare money, as it is spent now, provides more money for cash grants intended for food and clothing than it does for medical care.

But even more pointed was her statement that the trouble was that cash grants can be spent for anything, including television and liquor, and that welfare money distributed in this county is now being used to buy electric organs and television sets while they are not able to buy drugs.

THAT IS A CHARGE, coming from such a responsible source, that certainly merits more than passing note.

A complete investigation of the welfare department should be made to explore these charges.

If persons are drawing welfare money who are spending it in this manner, then they should be dropped from the welfare rolls, and some measures should be taken to tighten up the rules and regulations.

THE TROUBLE seems to stem from the procedure of giving cash grants to welfare recipients rather than making certain that they are given credits which could be used to pay rent, buy food or clothing as the case may be.

I imagine that the giving of cash is being done for two reasons. First, it's probably the easiest method and requires little follow-up by the welfare commission. They give the welfare recipient the money, and let them spend it as they see fit.

Second, there seems to be a sociological reason involved in this procedure. I have heard it expressed on a number of occasions that one of the reasons for the cash grant is to enable the individual receiving it to retain his dignity although accepting charity.

Certainly, both these points have some merit in them.

HOWEVER, it would appear that, while giving out credit slips, instead of cash, might add to the paper work of the commission, it certainly would tighten up some of the loopholes that now appear to exist in welfare money distribution.

It is entirely out of intent for welfare recipients to use those cash grants, intended for rent, food and clothing, for any other purposes such as liquor, television and the like.

Main purpose of the welfare commission is to see that the essential needs of the human being are met. The public is not interested in putting up their hard earned money just to see that someone has money to spend to satisfy their desires not their necessities.

That may seem like a harsh manner, but in this day, when welfare money represents a big chunk of the tax-supported budget, it's important to separate the needy from the greedy.

I THINK the public should study recent statements made at the Interim Committee hearing very carefully. They should also demand some action at both the local and the state level on the charges levied by Mrs. Smith.

They are charges that cannot be ignored. It is up to the public to see that they are not.

Christmas

By FLORENCE JENKINS

Researchers are always changing things we have known as facts all of our lives.

Now they are saying that the monk, Dionysius Exiguus, who began the Christian custom of reckoning time from the birth of Christ (back in the sixth century) made a mistake of four to six years. As a result of the newer calculations, scholars believe that Christ was born in 4 B.C. or 6 B.C.

The birth of Christ was not celebrated until more than 350 years after His birth, the World Book Encyclopedia says.

To the early Christians, it was unthinkable to celebrate one's birthday anniversary. Birth meant the assumption of original sin and frequently the beginning of a life of persecution and perhaps martyrdom.

Birthday festivities, moreover, were a pagan custom. The Pharaoh of Egypt and Herod celebrated their birthday anniversaries, as the Bible relates. But it was a sacrifice even to suggest that a Divine Being had a birthday.

In the year 354 A.D., however, the attitude had changed far enough that the Bishop of Rome declared December 25 to be the anniversary of the birth of Christ. But it took another pagan ritual to help establish Christmas. The ancient people of Europe had been accustomed to celebrating the winter solstice — when the sun seems to return to the Northern Hemisphere — in late December. The pagan feast commemorating the victory of light over darkness was simply replaced by the Christian festival honoring the "Light of Life."

Capitol Oddities

By JOHN H. AVERILL

WASHINGTON (AP) — Is there a snuff box under the desk used by the speaker of the House of Representatives? No. But the desk houses one of the world's smallest elevators.

And did you know the U.S. Capitol building got its first air conditioning system exactly 100 years ago? It worked, too.

Or that a bakery, equipped to provide bread for up to 3,000 soldiers, once flourished in the maze of tunnels that honeycomb the Capitol basement?

Here's what one Capitol employee had to say about the early air conditioning: "There were some great engineers back in those days. Well, they built some stone stacks. You can still see them on the Capitol grounds. They ran pipes from the stacks down under the building where steam-powered blowers sucked air in from outside and across a chamber filled with ice. From there, another blower forced the cold air into other pipes that led to various rooms in the Capitol and it came out through registers. Some still are in use."

According to this historian, that early-day air conditioning system could keep the Capitol temperature at an even 70 degrees, even during the most blistering July day.

Another gave this account of the early bread ovens: "Did you know Union troops were quartered in the Capitol rotunda during the Civil War? At one time as many as 2,500 took their meals there. Sometime during the war, from six to eight bread ovens were built down in the basement."

"Records indicate these ovens could turn out bread for 3,000 men a day."

What about that desk elevator? Very simple.

When the House chamber was remodeled in 1950, House officials decided that since speakers often have to read from heavy documents, some provision should be made for both tall and short speakers.

So, a 22 by 36 inch section of the speaker's desk was put on an elevator mechanism. By a touch of a button he can raise that section as high as 18 inches above the rest of the desk. Another flick returns it flush with the desk.

However, since both Democrat Sam Rayburn of Texas and Republican Joseph W. Martin Jr. of Massachusetts—the only men to serve as speaker since 1950—are both short, as far as is known the elevator has never been used.

Mail Call

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — Things a columnist might never know if he didn't open his mail:

You are more likely to get wiser than richer as you age. Three-fifths of U.S. citizens over 65 had an income last year of less than \$1,000. Only one in five got more than \$2,000.

Everyone has seen the painting of Whistler's "Mother," but few know that Whistler's father, George Washington Whistler, has a claim to fame, too. He built the first American locomotive

equipped with a steam whistle. Wives, if your husband gets tired of the salads you serve, why not pep up your next one with a Lilly? Lillys are grown for food in both China and Japan.

Our quotable notables: "The greatest freedom man has," says Bernard Baruch, "is his freedom to discipline himself."

Christmas warning: Be careful about giving your children sharp-pointed toys. America's school children suffer more than 100,000 eye injuries a year.

The pencil is still our most popular writing instrument. We use more than 1½ billion a year, or about eight for every person in the land.

A ton of wheat drinks 496 tons of water during its growth period. A ton of alfalfa requires nearly 634 tons of water, and a ton of cotton about 657 tons.

Science has found that monkeys, when confronted with executive-type decisions, develop ulcers just like human executives. The moral is, don't monkey around with big problems, or try to ape another fellow's worries.

Sixty-three per cent of Americans now belong to a church, and the nation spent \$63 million dollars on church buildings last year. Each member contributed an average of \$63.17 to his church during 1958.

Many a man rents his tux or "tails" for a special occasion, but a Manhattan furrier now has extended a similar service for the ladies. He rents mink or sable fur coats to bachelor playboys who want to give their dates a "real Cinderella evening."

Our broken homes: According to Harvard sociologist Pitirim Sorokin, about 12 million of 45 million U.S. children don't live with both parents, as a result of divorces, separations and desertions.

Visitors to New York City often complain about the difficulty of finding a parking space. The city has only 50,000 parking meters, but 89,981 fire hydrants.

Big Figures

By LYLE C. WILSON

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The little affairs of the voter — taxpayer's business do not prepare him to understand the big affairs of government business. The numbers behind the dollar signs of government business are too big for the voter-taxpayer to comprehend.

This essay will be devoted to cutting down to size the numbers behind government's dollar signs. For example, in five months plus four days of the current fiscal year, the Treasury had reported withdrawals of \$41,067,901,596.79. These, friends, are billions.

"Withdrawals" is a Treasury gobbledygook word which may be translated as being a reliable indicator of how much government has spent, so far. To cut these billion dollar figures down to size, the thousands, hundreds and cents digits will be dropped in this essay. Withdrawals become, in this matter \$41,067.

Minus the thousands, hundreds and cents, the daily Treasury statement for this fiscal year through Dec. 4 compared to the same period last year would read like this:

Withdrawals (spent) this year, \$41,067; last year \$40,368.

Deposits (revenue) this year, \$33,091; last year \$28,660.

Cash balance (in bank) this year, \$6,231; last year, \$5,332.

Debt, this year, \$292,140; last year \$282,513.

The stockholders of a little business which came up with a report like that would be looking around for new management to conserve their investments. If members of the House and Senate comprised the board of direc-

tors of this little business, the stockholders would be seeking better men to obtain either great economies or more revenue.

The stockholders would be looking at an \$8,000 loss in five months despite sizeable and increasing revenue.

They would note that this little business had improved its bank (cash) balance by about \$1,000 over the balance for the same date the previous year.

That part would please the stockholders. It would not please them enough, however, to lift them past the fourth item in the accounting. Item 4 contains the bad news. This little business was badly in the hole a year ago, its debt amounting to \$282,140. Now it is another \$10,000 in the red for a total debt of \$292,140. And the stockholders know this has been the trend for many years.

The bankers are beginning to press this little company. It must pay high interest rates for short-term borrowing. Long-term loans cannot be obtained. Wholesale suppliers of this little business are beginning to demand cash before shipment of a keg of pickles.

In fact, this little business is heading toward bankruptcy and, if it were not downright patriotic to suggest it, so is the government of the United States. The little business and the big government have been living beyond their incomes for so many years that the managers, even the dopey stockholders, have adjusted to it, as humans so easily do to any comfortable vice.

Bankrupt governments do not close shop. Can't do that. What bankrupt governments finally do is to slide out from under their obligations. First their money is sapped by inflation. At the worst the money loses all value, and government repudiates its bonds.

That is when new, tough management must come in—and does.

The Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Monday, Dec. 14, the 348th day of the year, with 17 more days in 1959.

The moon is full.

The morning stars are Mercury and Venus.

On this day in history:

In 1799, George Washington, first president of the United States, died in Mount Vernon.

In 1819, Alabama entered the Union as the 22nd state.

In 1861, Prince Albert, the husband of England's Queen Victoria, died at Windsor Castle.

In 1895, the man destined to become England's King George VI was born.

In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen discovered the South Pole.

In 1940, Vice Premier Pierre Laval was ousted from office after being charged with plotting to set himself up as the dictator of France.

A thought for today: American authoress Louisa May Alcott said: "Christmas won't be Christmas without presents."

Quotes

United Press International

NEW DELHI — President Eisenhower, speaking to Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru just before leaving for Iran:

"Frankly, I have learned a little more here than I have in any other country."

NEW YORK — Former President Harry S. Truman, criticizing the unification of the armed forces under the Joint Chiefs of Staff:

"It's a shotgun wedding that didn't take."

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. — Victor Mature's new wife, Adrienne, stating that she and Mature were married in Mexico because of confusion about the legality of their earlier wedding in Italy:

"If there is anything Vic hates it is confusion. So we decided to go out and do it all over again."

NEW YORK — Paul Siple, scientific adviser to the U.S. Army Research Office and a former Boy Scout who has spent six years on Antarctica, discussing the new edition of the "Boy Scout Handbook":

"In effect, it is a sort of boy's bible. It has one advantage over the Bible: It can be revised."

LOS ANGELES — Gov. John Burroughs of New Mexico, stating that he is not a potential candidate for the Democratic nomination for either president or vice president:

"I'm the only one who isn't. I guess. But you couldn't get me out of New Mexico for anything. I like living there too well."

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



Famed Palace Amazes Chief

AGRA, New Delhi (UPI) — President Eisenhower saw the Taj Mahal Sunday and declared it "more wonderful than I ever thought."

The American Chief Executive, taking time out from the worries of state to become just another tourist, found himself awed by the extravagant beauty of the three centuries old palace as had untold numbers of travelers before him.

"I have wanted to see this place since I read about it as a little boy," Eisenhower confided to Prime Minister Nehru, who accompanied him on the 25 minute jet flight from New Delhi, 125 miles to the south.

The President said he always had thought of the monument as a "palace of love" — a reference to the fact that it was built by Mogul Emperor Shah Jehan in memory of his wife.

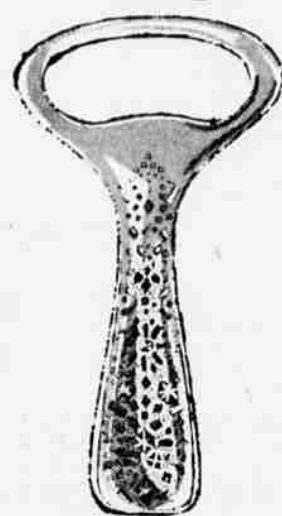
Eisenhower posed for White House photographers beside the glittering marble facade of the building.

It was a warm, sunny day and the President appeared in holiday mood as he tramped about the landscaped grounds and blue pool in front of the palace and in-

spected in detail the intricate carvings on the building itself. His arrival at Agra was marked by the same kind of wild welcome that has been typical

throughout his tour. Cheering crowds pelted him with flowers and surged around his motorcade, at several times halting it completely.

Great gift inspirations!



Perhaps you can't give everyone you know a gold and jeweled bottle opener (made to your special order for about \$3000), but you can give the world's most wanted gift

whisky—Canadian Club—"The Best In The House" in 87 lands. Beautifully foil-wrapped and ribboned in a variety of colorful holiday packages.

IMPORTED IN BOTTLE FROM CANADA BY HIRSH WALKER IMPORTERS, INC., DETROIT, MICH. BLENDED CANADIAN WHISKY, 6 YEARS OLD, 90.4 PROOF.

RE-ORGANIZATION SALE!

Here's The Biggest Sale In The History of The Appliance Business In Klamath Falls! Due to National Distributive Policies... On the Factory Level... We are Forced to Completely Re-organize Our Operation From The Ground Up. Our First Step Is To Clear Our Complete Inventory... SO...

MERIT'S LIQUIDATES!!

Involved in this Sale are Brand Names such as PHILCO, MAYTAG, AMANA and Others that we carry! Most models are affected, and included are: Automatic & Wringer Washers -- Dryers -- Washer-Dryer Combinations (Duomatic) -- Freezers -- Ranges -- Refrigerators -- TV Sets! Everything goes We're going to...

SELL TO THE BARE WALLS!

This is your Savings Opportunity of a life-time! We feel it wise not to mention the authentic original or SALE PRICES for fear some will sound grossly exaggerated! Also included in this Sale will be our complete inventory of Used Appliances with almost every make & model to choose from!

SHOP MERIT'S AND SAVE!!

Easy credit terms are available for this sale! All merchandise will carry the regular factory warranty, plus our free service policy! Make a date with Merit's... SALE CONTINUES UNTIL EVERYTHING IS GONE!

SALE AT
609 So. 6th

MERIT'S

PHONE
TU 2-3429

SHORT RIBS

By Frank O'Neal

