



LUNG POWER—As a street vendor uses his breath to blow up a balloon in Bangkok, Thailand, a tiny girl holds hers while watching the wonder of inflation. The amazed youngster is eagerly viewing this bit of "magic," but the lad in center background is less impressed. He's trying to pretend that balloons aren't really so much.

# CHAMBER COMMENTS

by GEORGE T. CALLISON

Assistant Mgr. KLAMATH COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The chamber's Action Course in Practical Politics got under way this week with a total of 62 persons now registered for the four classes. The original registration, when the objectives of the course were first explained at a chamber forum meeting in November, was 37.

There is a broad diversity of background and interests among the registrants. There are representatives from agriculture, railroads, labor, the ministry, lumbering and wood products, the newspaper, radio and television, and the medical and legal professions, and, of course, both major political parties, to name a few. There are four husband-and-wife teams in the various courses. All of which indicates the increasing interest people from all walks of life are taking in political matters which, in turn, would seem to demonstrate a rising concern over the affairs of government at all levels.

A closer liaison between city and county government and the business, industrial and professional community should come about as a result of a new chamber committee, called for this year by President Bill Graham. The Committee on City and County Affairs, with Frank Tarr the director in charge, will serve as that liaison, keeping the business, industrial and professional people informed of governmental matters of concern to them on the one hand and, on the other hand, keeping city and county governmental officials posted on the needs and the problems of the business, industrial and professional community.

The question of whether government should participate more or less in the lives of the people results in two diametrically opposed schools of thought. But no one quibbles with the idea that the people should avail themselves of every possible opportunity to keep fully informed on what their government — city, county, state or national — is doing that will affect their lives.

The desire to know what's going on is a natural one, of course, extending to nearly everyone . . . in any activity you might mention. With that in mind, Graham has set up a series of monthly luncheon meetings to be held the Wednesday noon following the regular monthly board meetings on the first Tuesday evening of each month. Labeled as "President Reports" luncheons, they will be open to members and non-members of the chamber alike. The internal discussions following the meal will give everyone attending an opportunity to find out what's going on so far as the chamber of commerce is concerned, at any rate.

One of the purposes of this column, of course, is to make available information on some of the events taking place within the chamber as well as those in the community in which the chamber is taking an active part. In an effort to reach even more people — if possible — "Chamber Comments" goes before the microphone and camera tomorrow evening at 5:45

• People Read SPOT ADS — you are

# Skeptical Demo Congress Calls On Administration To Show Budget Surplus

WASHINGTON (AP)—A skeptical Democratic Congress called on the Eisenhower administration today to demonstrate it can produce a budget surplus without weakening America's defenses. President Eisenhower's estimate in his State of the Union address Thursday that his new budget will have a \$4,200,000,000 surplus was challenged by leading Democrats and even some Republicans. Influential Democrats made it clear they remain unconvinced that the "enormous defense power" Eisenhower said the nation has is sufficient to offset growing Soviet military might. Democrats generally joined Republicans in applauding Eisenhower's forecast of prosperity at home and peace in the world—if the Soviets cooperate. But most Democrats thought this no time to stand on a 41 billion dollar defense budget when military costs are rising.

Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.), an announced candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, sounded a note echoed by many of his party colleagues. "I am alarmed at the President's proposals to reduce the budget at a time when we are moving into a deteriorating military situation," he said. Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), another avowed candidate for the party nomination, said that Eisenhower's reports on space research, rockets and missiles "do not reflect that we are closing the perilous missile gap or rebuilding our ability to deal with non-nuclear military threats and attacks."

Chairman Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.) of the Senate Armed Services Committee said Eisenhower had painted too rosy a picture of the nation's defenses. Commenting on Eisenhower's report that 14 Atlas intercontinental missiles had been fired successfully, Russell said all shots were by scientists or contractors. "I'd feel better if these missiles were in the hands of troops rather than contractors," he said. Rep. John McCormack of Massachusetts, majority leader of the House, pinpointed the general Democratic complaint when he said "a defense budget for the next fiscal year about the same as the present budget does not mean as much defense because costs have gone up."

Republicans greeted joyfully Eisenhower's announcement that he expects revenues to be \$4,200,000,000 higher than expenditures of \$79,800,000,000 in the fiscal year beginning July 1. But some doubting Democrats made it plain they regarded this as designed for election year consumption. Chairman Paul Douglas (D-Ill.) of the Senate-House Economic

Committee said Eisenhower was "extremely optimistic in forecasting the tremendous increase" in the economy that would be necessary to produce 84 billion dollars in revenues. Sen. Harry F. Byrd (D-Va.), a leading congressional advocate of economy, had some doubts about whether Eisenhower would be able to produce a four billion dollar surplus in the next fiscal year. "He certainly can't do it without making genuine reductions in expenditures," Byrd said. He added that he fears the surplus estimate is based on inflated forecasts of government revenues.

Rep. H. R. Gross (R-Iowa) shared these doubts. He said he fears Eisenhower can't achieve "all the economy in government he predicted." Sen. Clinton P. Anderson (D-NM) predicted a deficit but Sen. Homer Capehart (R-Ind) said he doesn't know why there can't be a 10 billion dollar surplus in "a year of greatest prosperity."

Rep. Charles A. Halleck of Indiana, the House Minority leader, said he hopes "responsible elements in the Congress will prevail over the budget busters so that our people will enjoy the benefits of the President's balanced budget and will be spared damages of further inflation."

Rexall's Giant JANUARY SALE Starts Monday SEE OUR AD IN TODAY'S FAMILY WEEKLY Wood's Drug 9th and Main

# Bigger Voice In Strategy Seen By North, West Demos

WASHINGTON (AP)—A group of northern and western Democratic senators said today it expects to have a bigger voice in party strategy and legislation this session. But Democratic Leader Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Tex.) said he does not consider as a challenge to his leadership the demands made by the liberal group at a meeting of Democratic senators Thursday. "I don't think it has anything to do with it one way or another," he told newsmen after the two-hour meeting.

Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.), spokesman for the protesting group, said Johnson had agreed to call more meetings of all Democratic senators—a point on which he was challenged last year. A motion to require more meetings was not put to a vote. Action was delayed on another motion—to require election by the senators rather than appointment by Johnson of new members of the potent Democratic Policy Committee.

The nine-member policy group, now headed by Johnson, holds a stop and go control over business that comes before the Senate. Johnson, Assistant Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Sen. Thomas C. Hennings (D-Mo.), Secretary of the Democratic conference, are ex-officio members. Of the six other members, Johnson said he has named two while the other four are holdovers on the continuing body.

Thursday's closed-door meeting recalled complaints last year by Sens. William Proxmire (D-Wis.), Joseph S. Clark (D-Pa.), Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) and a few others that Johnson was doing too much leading without consulting them and other Democrats. Renewal of the complaints could affect Johnson's leadership in a year when he is considered an aspirant for the Democratic presidential nomination.

They also could have bearing on his continued cooperation on some matters with the Republican administration—another subject of criticism by the group last year.

# Democratess Gives Talk

WASHINGTON (AP)—Women are people, they're just underdeveloped in politics, says a woman who should know. "It's time to talk about equality that can't be legislated," said Katie Louchheim, vice chairman of the Democratic National Committee. She was addressing the National Woman's party, a group dedicated to passage of a constitutional amendment to guarantee women equal rights with men.

Mrs. Louchheim just couldn't resist issuing a call Tuesday night to these women, many of whom pioneered in women's suffrage. "To win for ourselves the acceptance of the fact that women are people."

"We are not a special interest group with a wagonload of special axes to grind."

Just like men, she said, women have varying interests: "Western women think like Western men. Businesswomen think like businessmen. Women with a social conscience think like men with a social conscience. Some women do more thinking and some women do less thinking. It all depends on what nature gave them to think with."

Too many women consider politics "a spectator sport," Mrs. Louchheim said. They want good people to run for office but will neither seek it themselves nor encourage their husbands to run. "Our worst problem," she said, speaking as a political organizer, "is dealing with the many women who are over-domesticated in their thinking about public affairs."

# NBC Denies Walkout

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The National Broadcasting Co. denies participation in a radio-TV walkout at Gov. Edmund G. Brown's news conference Wednesday. NBC says its representative was there — with pencil and paper. John Thompson, manager of NBC News' Pacific Division, disputed published accounts that all TV and radio crews except that of KCOP walked out on Brown after he refused to be filmed while newspaper reporters interviewed him.

"A full account of the Governor's remarks was carried on both our newscasts last night," Thompson said Thursday. YES, WOMEN SHAVE TOKYO (UPI)—Tokyo television viewers did a fast double take Thursday when they saw a winsome young woman smilingly stroking her cheeks with the sponsor's product in an electric razor commercial.

Mack Sennett In Hospital HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Mack Sennett, who brought comedies and bathing beauties to Hollywood, was hospitalized Thursday night with a lung infection. The pioneer movie producer was admitted to the Motion Picture Country House and Hospital. His agent, Reese Halsey, said Sennett walked in. The action was described as precautionary. Halsey said Sennett will be 80 on Jan. 17.

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# Polio Hikes In Oregon

PORTLAND (AP)—There was a 465 per cent increase in paralytic polio in 1959 over the total for 1958. The state Health Board said Tuesday the 1959 total for paralytic polio was 147, which compared to 26 in 1958.

The year was the worst since 1955, when Salk vaccine was released for general distribution. Last year was the fourth worst for infectious hepatitis. There were 897 cases. Douglas County was high with 179.

An all-time high number of influenza cases, 57,158 for the year, also plagued Oregon. Dr. Richard H. Wilcox, state health officer, said many cases recorded probably were not true influenza. This, he said, left 1957 as the worst year in Oregon flu history.

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# Official To Get Bomb Shelter

BALTIMORE, Md. (AP)—Housing court Magistrate Robert F. Sweeney will get the city's first home shelter against nuclear fallout.

The 8 by 10 foot shelter is to be built in Sweeney's basement. Funds for the project, \$1,400 will be provided by the federal government.

Civil Defense authorities will test living conditions in the shelter for a year. After that, Sweeney will have full ownership. Sweeney was picked because he happened to inquire at the civil defense office about home fallout shelters.

# Featherbedding Bugaboo...

In recent months the railroads of this country have seen fit to make full use of the media of public communications to propagandize the American People into lending public support to their vicious campaign to discredit the usefulness of tens of thousands of railroad employees.

We own our homes—or happen to be in the process of buying them. As consumers, we buy groceries, clothing, drugs, furniture, cars and a multitude of other goods and services supplied by you who are not directly connected with the railroad. Many of us take an active part in community affairs. Being wage earners, we pay our share of the taxes, and thereby contribute in no small measure to maintaining the strength of the nation in these crucial times. We advocate better schools, honesty in government, and the development of those institutions and facilities which serve to render our community a better place in which to live.

## MISGUIDED LOYALTY

American railroads have a greater loyalty to the vested interests than they have to the American People. Despite increasing profits the railroads are realizing as a result of technological advances and the greater productivity of employees, the railroads are agitating to have the rules and laws eliminated or modified to enable them to have a free hand in dictating working conditions for what few employees they deem necessary to retain in service. If their efforts are fruitful, the result will be anything but beneficial to the economic stability of the nation.

Railway management would willingly place the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans into a position of economic hardship for the sake of greater profit. This same faction would pass onto the government the task of creating employment for the hundreds of thousands of displaced workers—and this could be made possible only by increasing taxes on those who are still gainfully employed. One need not be a master economist to realize this.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

It is a fundamental human right that workers receive a fair share of the wealth which they are instrumental in creating. If the industrial society in which we live replaces human beings with machines; then provisions must be made to share with this unemployed worker a share of the wealth created by the machines, because another basic human right is the right to security.

## LOW PAY

Train and engine service employees, according to the Interstate Commerce Commission get paid an average of only \$2.30 an hour, certainly a low rate of pay for skilled workers in this day and age. Every class of railroad employee needs a substantial raise in wages in order to make them comparable to wages in other industries.

- Consider these outmoded work rules and conditions: 1. Railroad employees, generally, do not receive a differential in pay between day and night work. 2. Railroad employees are not granted sick leaves. 3. Train service employees many times work as long as 14 hours without overtime pay. 4. Many railway employees receive no expenses while away from home. 5. Operating employees work Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays for straight wages. 6. Railway employees do not enjoy "share the profit" plans, coffee breaks, etc., and generally are not permitted the luxury of regular hours for sleeping or eating. 7. Railway workers are exposed to above-average hazards resulting in death or injury. 8. Off duty hours are often plagued by the knowledge that the railroad operating employee may be called.

## ARE FIREMEN NECESSARY?

Much propaganda reference has been made about the fireman. The fireman's assignment is now and always has been, a combination of several duties, he is responsible for maintaining the efficiency of the power plant; he has never been just a "fire-tender." Coal shoveling had largely gone out with the introduction of oil-burning locomotives, and with the automatic stoker, so far as the physical labor was concerned. But the fireman then, as now, had to keep a locomotive operating at maximum efficiency.

A second responsibility of the fireman is that he must be a relief engineer. The fireman is, and must be, capable of substituting for the engineer for brief periods, or in serious emergencies.

A third major responsibility of the fireman is to maintain a constant watch on his side of the train, upon traffic on intersecting highways, and upon the condition of the track, roadbed, and signals ahead. Certainly the advisability from the standpoint of operating efficiency of having a man capable of relieving the engineer on these high speed, heavy, multiple-powered trains would need little proof.

Are we justified, by the record, in lopping off a fireman . . . or the fireman and the brakeman the railroads want to eliminate . . . from that standard train crew of five? Let's look at the record.

The average train-miles per year was almost the same in the pre-diesel decade as in the latest period after the advent of diesel power, but there was an increase in the train accident rate of 24.5 percent. These accident figures prove the rising hazard of train operations and the need for maintaining at least the present train crews.

## SMALL PERCENTAGE

The railroads delight in citing a number of cases of high-speed passenger runs in which a unit of pay is earned in a relatively few hours of running time. For every one of these there are a score of passenger and freight runs which take many hours to complete.

If the amazing railroad record of increased output per man hour is what the carriers mean by "featherbedding," then other industries should be trying to borrow that railroad bed, feathers, frame, and furnishings. Over a period of 18 years, from 1939 to 1957, railway productivity has increased more than twice as much as the average in all American industry.

The Association of American Railroads has said the curtailment of the railroads' labor force by about another hundred thousand employees would result in the saving of half a billion dollars—which in turn would be passed onto the shipper and the American public in general. Five times as many employees have been laid off in the past ten years. What did they do with the savings realized from this wholesale destruction of jobs? How much have your freight rates been reduced during that time, Mr. Shipper? How much has been passed on to you, Mr. and Mrs. America?

We believe our friends and neighbors are too smart to be hoodwinked into believing the propaganda being splashed across the daily papers by the railroad magnates of our nation. Ask a railroad employee for the facts. He is probably your next door neighbor.

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