

Editorial Page

Proceed With Caution

While much preliminary work has been accomplished through the Stanford research Institute and other studies on the need for a hospital in the Klamath area, there is much more spadework to be done before the community can initiate actions on the project.

We are hopeful that the Chamber of Commerce committee which is charged with the responsibility of making a final report on the project will take ample time to form conclusions that are applicable on the local level. To be sure, the reports they have at hand are based on the practicability and desirability of having a hospital. But, in the final analysis, it is the resources of the community that will provide the bulk (and possibly the entire) of the funds necessary. As always, this is the yardstick that will be most frequently applied in determining how far we can go on the hospital project.

We have a unique situation with two pri-

vately-owned hospitals already in existence, plus a medical service plan — all owned and operated through groups of doctors in the community. It is encouraging that the medical profession has enthusiastically supported the proposed hospital project. Nevertheless, the existing facilities and services pose some challenging problems regardless of the direction they take in the future. There is a great deal to consider in their continuation or liquidation if the new hospital project becomes a reality.

The community has handed the Chamber committee a tremendous responsibility. We are hopeful that there will be no undue pressure for speed or "fast action" on the part of the committee from civic organizations and individuals in the community. While there is no room for procrastination or dallying, the immensity of the project calls for deliberation and more than careful consideration of every element.

Timber Tax Hearings Coming

As we understand the situation, hearings on several types of bills in the Oregon legislature regarding timber taxation will be conducted early in March.

There is one piece of legislation — House Bill 1114 — that has been put in the hopper that deserves some comment at this time. The bill would establish a severance tax in lieu of ad valorem real property taxation for eastern Oregon timber.

The timber taxation problem evidently is one of the most distressing situations to be tackled by the legislature. As we recall, the Legislative Interim Committee on Taxation couldn't (or wouldn't) come up with a recommendation prior to the session.

The trouble, as we understand it, is the difference between logging methods of eastern Oregon and those of western Oregon. Other factors are the types of timber and the harvesting cycles.

It seems to be generally agreed that HB 1114 is a good bill for eastern Oregon, and that it probably deserves passage. Perhaps those in the industry have some changes in detail that they would like to see, but none seems to question the apparently desirable objectives of the bill. They are:

1. Elimination of "fast cutting."
2. Encouragement of sustained yield practices in cutting.

3. Treatment of our forests as a "crop" to be harvested at times best suited to preservation of all forest resources (recreation, watershed, perpetuation, etc.).

Some people might wonder if the new taxation schedules will mean passing additional tax burdens on the other property owners. It is our understanding that it will not. The severance tax is set up on the total quantities harvested, and the schedules range from \$1.50 per thousand board feet for Ponderosa and Western White Pine, down to cordwood at ten cents per cord. Sugar Pine is set at \$1; Douglas Fir, Western Larch and Englemann Spruce, 50 cents; White Fir, 30 cents; Lodgepole Pine, 25 cents; Incense Cedar and other minor species, 15 cents, and dead merchantable timber at five cents.

Christmas trees would be assessed at five cents each, and poles and piling at one cent per lineal foot. Reforestation land is not subject to the provisions of the Act.

The Act goes on to spell out methods of assessment, payment to the state and counties, and related changes. Additional study will be required to determine if these provisions are acceptable to and to the best interest of Klamath and other counties concerned.

But, based on present knowledge and information, it would appear that the principles outlined in HB 1114 merit favorable consideration in this session of the legislature.

Other Editors' Opinions

Not Farmers' Fault

(Kansas City, Mo., Star)

The cost of living reached a new peak in November. Statistically food prices get a major part of the blame. Food comes from the farm—so it is easy to conclude that the high cost of living results from high farm prices. The conclusion is in error. Also, it illustrates the farmer's public relations problem.

It is tough to be accused of causing living costs to rise when the opposite is true. The fact is, if prices at the farm had not held at a relatively low level over the last 10 years, the cost of living would be much higher.

The index figures used by the government are the evidence. For November, the

Bureau of Labor Statistics reported a rise in the consumer price index from 127.3 to 127.4. In the index, 100 represents average prices for the 1947-49 period.

Many items in addition to food are covered by the index, but it was food that received prominent mention in the latest report. In the 1947-49 period (100 on the cost of living index), farm prices were at 100 per cent of parity or better. Currently they stand at about 81 per cent of parity.

The index, which represents all prices, has risen more than 27 points since the 1947-49 period. But the index on farm prices—at the farm — has dropped almost the same amount. It is plain that the increase in the cost of living cannot be blamed on the prices farmers receive.

BARBS

Just look at a TV fight and you can see how many boxers quit fighting before they retire.

A bank account doesn't do much good when you're too quick on the draw.

Few married women seldom look the way they think they do, which is a break for friend hubby.

Back-seat drivers actually do a lot less to cause trouble than front seat drivers.

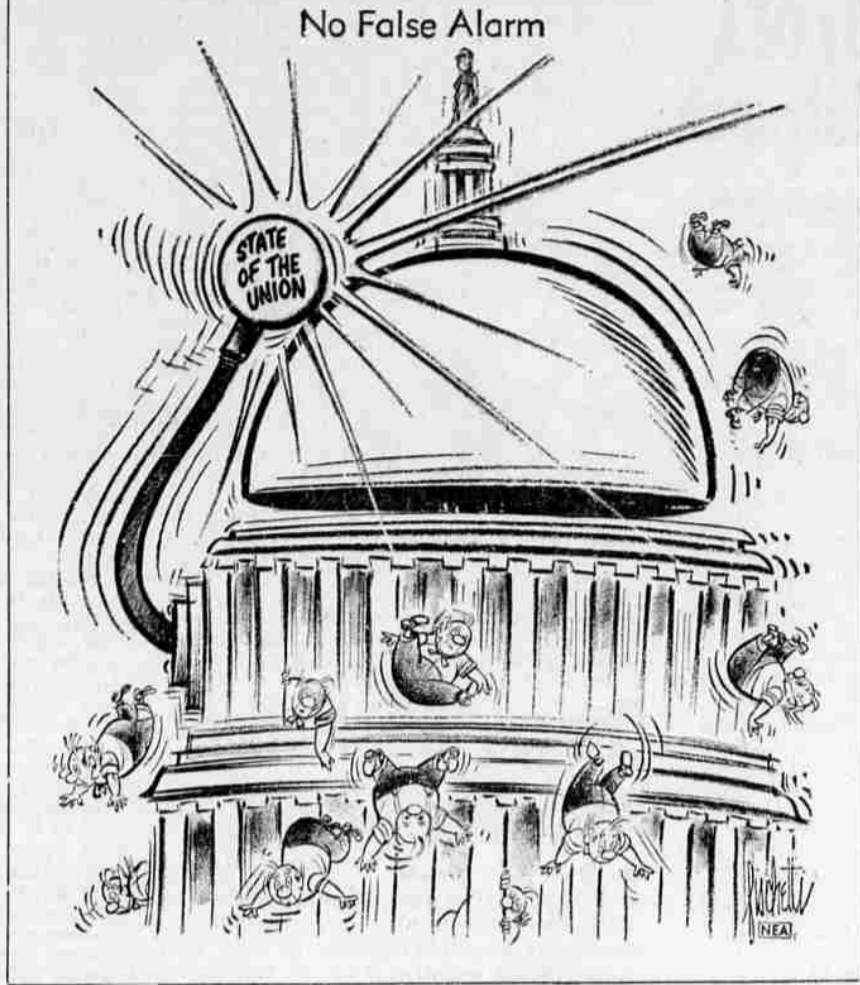
A lot of new hands are going to wind up in the dishpan. New Year brides.

It's not too bad to run out of gas when you're driving, but don't run out of common sense.

A doctor says little children are likely to catch most anything. The way some of them act, they should.

Canadian Province

ACROSS	DOWN
1 In the capital of Ontario	1 Rigid
2 This province has a area of 412,382 square miles	2 Oxidizing enzyme
3 Click beetles	3 Unweeled
4 Papal cape	4 Overtime (ab.)
5 Seine	5 Fiber knots
6 Green vegetable	6 Large plant
7 Feminine appellation	7 Siouan Indians
8 Go by liner	8 Samman warrior
9 Self esteem	9 Trieste wine measure
10 Drinks made with malt	10 Clothing maker
11 Coleward resort, Park	11 Changes
12 Ontario produces much	12 Rent
13 Slippery	13 Mississippi city
14 Western cattle	14 Mammal
15 Social insect	15 Ecclesiastical council
16 Age	16 Aerify
17 Correlative of neither	
18 Short-napped (fabric)	
19 Rudder	
20 Rip	
21 Gopher's term	
22 Capucha monkey	
23 Senior	
24 Javanese tree	
25 Powerful explosive	
26 Song for one	
27 Gets up	
28 Slight draught	
29 River (Sp.)	
30 Sooty-haw	
31 Water, for instance	
32 Was wrong	
33 Long steps	



Letters To The Editor

Voter Problem

These are the reasons I sincerely agree with your excellent article on "Entrance Shift Doesn't Make Sense"—

1. Immense harm could result to an average or above average child to suffer boredom prior to and during the first school year.

2. A "slow" child would benefit more from retaking a grade than starting late.

3. Children enrolling in Oregon schools with the July 1 birthdate ruling entrance standard would be retarded in comparison with children of other states maintaining sensible school age entrance standards.

4. Increased outside influence on the "one year older" high school junior or senior could create more drop-outs, thus deterring the completion of a high school education.

5. The "one year older" high school graduate could easily feel college entrance less appealing.

6. Every child entering Oregon schools at the unusual age entrance level would be deprived of one year of wage earning (after high school or college graduation).

Against Shift

You said that you wanted to hear from people on the matter of shifting the school age. Well, most of my opinions are the same as yours. I cannot understand the motive behind the proposal. I would like to know what can be done about it.

I have two sons it will affect. One should go next year, and his birthday is in October. The other boy's birthday is in September. I'm sure the older will be ready for school this September. He has

been looking forward to it.

I think a decision like this should be put to the public to vote on. Some children I know of have gone to kindergarten this year and still won't be able to attend school next year.

If this proposal is the result of over crowding, what will they do next year? These children will all have to go to school some day.

Mrs. J. F. Hall

Oppose Change

We are among those people who object to the bill proposing the change of age for entrance into the first grade. While there are undoubtedly children who are emotionally unready for school at age five years nine months, we believe they are in the minority and, at any rate, they may be held back one year at the parents' discretion. With television and today's educational toys, children are more acquainted with many of the subjects stressed in first grade education than many children were 10 to 15 years ago.

Another point to make, in this period of emphasis on education, is the fact that some of these children held back one year will undoubtedly go into science, law, or medicine. These subjects generally cover more than a four-year period, and the extra year that seems unimportant at 6 or 7 is a very valuable year in one's 20s. In this technical age, it is no time to hold back any of our children if they have it in them to forge ahead.

One other point to make is that while compulsory education extends till age 18, it makes many children finish high school whether they want to or not. They will appreciate this education when they reach adulthood and want job advancement or a business of their own. Under the proposed bill, however, those wanting to could drop out in their junior year.

In conclusion, if there are others who feel as we do, we might suggest that they write Representatives George Flitcraft, Carol Howe, or Senator Harry Boivin in care of the State Capitol, Salem, Ore.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Wirth



THE DOCTOR SAYS . . .

Burp Not Favored Social Standard

By HAROLD T. HYMAN, M.D.
Written for
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

"What causes air swallowing," asks a correspondent, "and what can be done about it?"

Everybody swallows air whether it's with food or saliva. Babies have to be burped after a bottle. There's no medical harm in air swallowing. So what's to be done about it comes down to a question of what's supposed to be good manners. For example, the Turks regard burping as a tribute to the host and his chef. Most of our social arbiters either frown on the burp or look the other way and pretend they've never heard it.

Me, I'm a burper way down to my shoe tops. I know that accomplishment won't win me the approval of those who write books of etiquette. But how come they don't object to the cough and the sneeze, that blow pathogenic microbes all over the place?

"Please explain diverticulitis," requests a lady. "Should I have X-rays? Would surgery correct it? Could nervous tensions be the cause of it? Is it true that older persons usually have it, as I was recently told?"

Dear lady, you have surely collected a rare collection of misinformation if I'm to judge by your questions.

Actually diverticulitis is an inflammation located in little pockets or diverticula scattered throughout the large intestine. These pockets are congenital. That is to say they're present at birth. Usually they're detected as a chance finding during an X-ray examination of the intestine. They may be few in number but more often, there are scores of them.

If they're uninfected and unrelated to the symptoms under investigation, the radiologist reports the presence of diverticulosis.

That means he's observed them and cleared them of any involvement of present importance.

If a diverticulum becomes infected, it behaves like an infected appendix and may require surgical treatment. On occasions, too, a diverticulum is associated with a malignant growth.

Some surgeons believe there's a causal relationship and advocate removal of all portions of the large bowel that contain diverticula. I do not hold to this view. The operation is a very formidable one and I would not recommend it unless I were certain that the relationship truly existed.

In my opinion, the association of the two conditions is coincidental. Hence, I favor a policy of strict conservatism.

As you see, dear lady, there's no mention of nervous tension. There's no need to go to the trouble and expense of having X-rays. Surgery won't correct it unless you're willing to undergo a major operation on the basis of an unproven theory. And the condition has nothing to do with the process of growing old.

About all that really worth doing is to take nightly doses of mineral oil to prevent intestinal content from getting caked in the little pockets.

Dear Reader: Dr. Hyman appreciates your comments and questions but regrets that the heavy volume of his mail doesn't permit him to answer each individual letter or post card. However, he will comment in columns like the above upon matters of general or unusual interest.

For a copy of Dr. Hyman's leaflet "What About Cancer?" send 10 cents to Dr. Hyman, care of Herald and News, Box 409, Dept. B, Radio City Station, New York 19, N.Y.

It's not what they take in that burns me up so much —

You're right — I don't either.

NOTHING SPECIAL
(W. B. S.)

Let's start off this corner today with a letter from a nurse who brings to our attention the generally unsung exploits of the medical profession. While she is referring to one instance, I'm sure that all of us can recall at one time or another when the skill and the knowledge of those in the medical profession were responsible for some significant episode in our lives. Her letter:

"An open letter to Charles V. Doherty Jr. at Malin: Dear Charles:

I read your letter of thanks to the people who gave from their well-stocked shelves, but none for the ones who gave of themselves — to the doctor, who worked with nerves of steel that you might breathe and once more feel the breath of spring. To the nurse, who labored covered with gore, that you might live, and know once more the joy of living.

I can hear you say 'but they work for pay.'

If you live for a million years, you can never repay with blood, sweat or tears those who fought against great odds for you. So give some thanks to Almighty God and those who gave so much of themselves that you might live to eat from well-stocked shelves. Sincerely,
Merri Noel, R.N."

It's the way they squander it. And now we have a capitol full of drum-beaters who seek more ways of throwing it away.

The Bible remains the best-selling book in America, but do you know what comes right behind it? It's The Boy Scout Handbook, with its latest printing run of 1,050,000 copies. Since the first edition in 1910 at 25 cents the handbook has sold more than 17,500,000 copies.

Which reminds me that someplace I read where that every American military plane that flies over water carries a collapsible boat which contains food rations and a copy of the Bible in a waterproof bag. "We know that spiritual equipment can be as important as food and drink in saving lives," is the claim of officers.

And as long as we're on a bookish slant, I find that if Capitol Hill were for sale, the price tag would be \$2,700,000,000 — most of which would go for books in the Library of Congress. They're worth \$2,200,000,000.

It's not possible to put a price tag on the hot air that emanates from the Halls of Congress.

The judge pounded his gavel for the court to come to order, then turned to the woman in the witness chair. "The witness will please state her age," he ordered, "after which she will be sworn in."

In a small Nevada town the parson purchased a female parakeet whose vocabulary did not fit either her gender or her new home. One day the Catholic priest dropped in for a fraternal visit, and upon hearing the parakeet's repertoire, advised: "I have two male birds, which are well trained. One sits all day saying the 'Our Father,' and the other holds a rosary in his claws and says his prayers. Why don't you bring your female over and leave her a few days? Perhaps she will learn a more ladylike language."

This sounded feasible so the pastor took his bird to the rectory and placed her cage near that of the devout males. Whereupon the first looked up from his prayers, cocked his head to one side, and said to his friend: "You can put away your beads, Mike; this is what we've been praying for."

While we have much to say these days about the importance of our children reading books, et al, it seems that it would be equally important that the parents read. In a world which grows more complex, it is almost imperative that we spend at least two hours reading if we are to keep informed even on the day's happenings. It is regrettable that some persons do not find time to keep pace with the events of the day — much less with the historical or future significance of those events.

Other Editors' Opinions

(THE OREGON STATESMAN)

Mothers will rise up en masse if the Legislature should approve a higher age for youngsters starting school. The measure now in the legislative hopper would refuse to allow those children whose sixth birthday falls after July 1 to attend school the following fall.

Most mothers are sure their Janie or Johnny is ready for school by age 5 as it is now. What's more, many of them are right. Chronological age is the commonly accepted measuring device for beginning school, but it isn't necessarily an accurate one.

Some children are ready at age 4 and others at age 7. If the legislative measure does nothing more, it should stimulate thinking about this arbitrary age qualification.

If we only knew beforehand the school aptitude of youngsters, we could do a far better job of deciding when they should enter school. In New Zealand, school districts have partially solved this problem. All children start school upon their fifth birthday, even if it falls in the middle of the year. They stay in a primary grade for two or three years learning some of the basic school skills.

They move into the next higher grade at the beginning of a school year, but only when school officials decide they are ready — not on the basis of chronological age. Thus, they tend to move up the school ladder grouped according to ability and within a general age range of about two years.

Teachers can do a more efficient job of instructing if the youngsters they teach are grouped more closely in terms of ability.

Other Editors' Opinions

The rigid chronological age requirement stands in the way of that goal.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q—Which is the oldest stage carved out of the Northwest Territory?

A—Ohio.

Q—Is there more than one kind of sardine?

A—Yes, any small fish of the herring family is a sardine.

Q—What cities are sacred to the Moslems?

A—Mecca, Medina, Fez and Alahabad.

Q—What change has been made in Connecticut's governmental system?

A—County government has been transferred to the state. The eight county boundaries remain for election, judicial and census purposes.

Q—What is the population of the island of Quemos?

A—About 43,000 civilians. The military population is a secret.

Q—How much ground is covered by the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.?

A—Some 24 acres.

Q—How fast do small birds fly?

A—Usually no faster than 15 to 20 miles an hour.