THE KLAMATH NEWS

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The Danger Heightens

ONLY four days old, the battle of the Balkans at this writing is rapidly assuming the aspects of an Allied debacle. The most casual reading of the news shows the graveness of the situation not only for Yugoslavia and Greece, but for Britain. Need it be added that in view of the problem to which this country has been committed, it is indeed also grave for the United States?

The effect of axis triumphs in the Balkans will be quickly felt in the United States. It will drive this country closer to actual conflict, if it is to stay with its announced intention of giving Britain full support and assisting in breaking Hitler's power. It is certain to heighten the importance of the Battle of the Atlantic, in which we are becoming hourly more directly involved.

An Allied defeat in the Balkans will add seriously to the problem of maintaining Britain's line of supplies. Ultimately, the axis powers will attempt to cut off entirely the supply line at Suez, in which case Britain, more than ever, will be forced to turn to the United States and Canada. The obvious axis aim is to weaken Britain by shipping blockade until there no longer is resistance left in the island, and the declared aim of the United States is to sustain the British not only so they can prevent invasion but eventually strike back on the continent.

This clash of intentions is clearly established. It will be brought to the front more definitely and dangerously as the Allied fortunes wane in the Balkans and Mediterranean. It does not help to gloss over a situation fraught with sinister and foreboding possibilities. We must measure the problem that is before us, and move quickly while there is time.

Swimming Pool Project

WE will watch with hopeful interest the efforts of the city recreation committee to obtain memberships in the municipal swimming pool program. It is the committee's hope that enough of these memberships will be taken to raise approximately $10,000, or the difference between money on hand for the pool and that needed to construct the improvement.

For many years there has been talk in the community of the need for a municipal pool where the young folks could swim for just enough to maintain the establishment. Once or twice the pool has seemed near realization, but obstacles arose that delayed the program. Three years ago a $10,000 measure for a swimming pool was defeated on a ballot that contained a total of 13 expenditure proposals. Opposition to the proposed location of the pool at that time, and the fact there were other more pressing proposals on the ballot, were the chief factors that caused the defeat of the pool measure. Traffic signals were also beaten at that time but since then another vote has gone overwhelmingly in favor of signals.

The swimming pool program now worked out by the recreation committee is ideal in many respects. The location on Klamath Union high school property near Modoc field is central and convenient to all parts of the city. This site has other advantages in that it costs the swimming pool program nothing, it is convenient to a going hot water well, and the pool can be useful to the high school physical education program.

An opportunity to do something really worth while for the boys and girls of the community is to be found in the swimming pool program, and it has been thought that this would appeal either to organizations wishing to do community service or to individuals.

"Please, Mister, Ain't You Gonna Dig It?"

SIDE GLANCES

"Hello, dear, I'm staying out another half hour—Sport needs plenty of exercise!"

Telling The Editor

Letters printed here must not be more than 500 words in length, must be written legibly on ONE SIDE of the paper only, and must be signed. Contributions following these rules, are warmly welcome.

LABOR'S FRIEND IN DANGER

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore. (To the Editor)—Labor should and has a right to organize, bargain collectively, and if necessary strike. But there is a proper time and place for everything. At this time I do not wish to tell labor what it should or should not do, but in passing would like to say:

"If labor would save its social gains, even to the extent of endangering Old Glory, then labor will lose its social gains, but, if labor would lose its social gains for Old Glory's sake then labor will have social gains, everlasting."

An aroused "public opinion" always has been and still is a powerful factor. Democracy is labor's best friend. Our democracy is in danger. Our congress has spoken and we must all pull together. Our "national defense" must not be slowed down. Thousands of our finest young men are now in camp, training to prepare themselves for an expected emergency, sacrificing and serving seven days a week for $21 a month. If this expected emergency becomes a fact, training alone will not be enough, they must have equipment. We must furnish this equipment, we must not fail them.

Frank Miles of Des Moines, Iowa, has well said, "Our land must not be pasture for Trojan horses.

We should not accept the word of writers and orators as final.

We must THINK and work and pray.

Yours for loyalty to the flag,
A. F. JOENS,
346 Division St.

AN APPEAL

KLAMATH FALLS, Ore., (To the Editor)—Klamath county is about to lose an industry which performs a valuable service to the community unless the people as a whole support it. This industry is the Klamath Animal Bi-Products corporation.

The Animal Bi-Products corporation uses dead and useless animals which are converted into various useful commodities. The Animal Bi-Products corporation will gladly take their truck and remove a dead animal if they are notified in time. They thus remove an unsightly object from along side the highway, and save the farmer or rancher the time and trouble of digging a hole to bury the animal. Very often the farmer does not have the time to bury it, and, as a result, it remains where it is and becomes a public health problem.

The Animal Bi-Products corporation works on a narrow margin of profit, and consequently cannot pay anything for the animal. However, the service performed for the health of the community well merits the support of all who can help.

W. B. DAVIS,
Sanitarian.

It is possible for the moon to rise 66 minutes later than it did the previous evening.

Coming — "Men of Boys Town."

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

WASHINGTON, April 9—No government authority has had the nerve to go after organized labor, except the trust-buster, Thurman Arnold. What Mr. Roosevelt's new supreme court has done to him will probably deter anyone else. The whole Arnold campaign to draw labor in under the law has now been washed up by the court, and Mr. Arnold is left, undried, with soap in his eyes.

The Roosevelt majority on the court has followed up its Hutcheson decision (legalizing jurisdictional strikes which Mr. Roosevelt and even the AFL have since denounced) by three more decisions voiding Arnold's indictments of the most flagrant union conflicts with anti-trust laws that Arnold could find. In one case the AFL unions refused to receive any materials transported by the New Orleans Trucking association because the CIO won an NLRB election as the bargaining agent for the association. Arnold claimed the union was interfering with interstate commerce, and it was.

Recently before a house subcommittee the assistant attorney general contended these tactics were halting progress, not only in defense. He claimed it cost more to build a house in Cleveland than in Detroit, solely because of labor restrictions, and consequently not as much building work was possible in Cleveland.

But the main perplexing point is this: The Wagner act was adopted by the administration to promote labor peace. The supreme court upheld it on the grounds that even a small Richmond, Virginia, pants factory so affected interstate commerce that congress could legislate to get the workers collective bargaining rights in order to avoid strikes. Now the court holds the government has no power to prevent a union from disrupting interstate commerce if the union is only angry because a rival union won a Wagner act election.

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CONVOYING

A gradual unnoticed change has taken place among Mr Roosevelt's counselors on the question of convoying. The navy has come to the view it would rather convoy than give any more destroyers to the British. Nothing is being said directly but Navy Secretary Knox is insisting on any and all occasions that no more ships be given up What he really means is he would rather convoy.

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PRICE PLAN

The administration has eased its price policy without announcement. The determination to freeze prices as far as possible at pre-defense levels has given way in one notable instance (agriculture department decision to boost pork, dairy products, poultry and eggs.) In talking with government economists you will find a corresponding breakdown in the official attitude toward prices in general. In a negative way a new policy of letting prices rise moderately has been adopted. They say these moderate increases will be allowed to continue until the point is reached when the government considers "a price situation" to have arisen. It is not true that a general further increase of 10 per cent or any special per cent will be allowed. They will just coast along meeting particular situations in specific defense commodities, continuing to apply mild publicity pressure and waiting for the situation to develop.

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8 PERCENTAGES

The cost of living had risen only 2 per cent in February since June, 1939. Cost then was the highest since the middle of 1938.

New deal economists maintain this rise was moderate

All commodities except farm and food were up 4 per cent in March over March last year. But these general figures do not tell the whole story. Lumber is up 20 per cent, woolen and worsted goods 12 per cent, cotton goods 23 per cent, meats 10 per cent, and practically everything is up a smaller amount.

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TAXES STUDIED

The government economists refuse to look at the rising wage rates (coal and steel among others) as an immediate harbinger of inflation. They know very well coal and steel prices will be increased as a result, but they expect a lag of some months, probably until fall or later before the effect develops.

Looking ahead to the time when they will have to take action, they are talking now about heavy taxes on consumption to ward off the natural inflationary results of present wage and price rising tendencies. Various methods of evading a sales tax and yet effecting the same result are being discussed, including taxes on payrolls, dividends, etc. The new dealers hate the words sales tax.

Personally it seems to me (but not to the new dealers) the new price-wage trend will first break the barrier against increased business profits. There is no way to increase union wage rates without increasing prices, and when the purely voluntary and tax barrier against increasing profits are once broken by this necessity, a whole new and higher level of national economy all along the line is bound to follow.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

DANIELS—Born at Klamath Valley hospital, Klamath Falls, Ore., April 9, 1941, to Mr. and Mrs. Norman Daniels, 502 Oak avenue, a girl. Weight: 7 pounds 10½ ounces.

KASPAR—Born at 302½ East Main street, Klamath Falls, Ore., April 9, 1941, to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kaspar, a girl. Weight: 8 pounds.

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