

Berry Tariff Bill Offered

Congressman Wendell Wyatt (R-Ore.) has introduced a bill to increase the tariff on cheaply produced fresh and frozen strawberries imported into the United States from Mexico.

Wyatt said that Mexico's frozen strawberry industry's powerful and continuing thrust on the United States market spells doom for our domestic strawberry growers and processors unless a more realistic tariff level is established.

"Mexico with its extremely low labor costs, can now produce about 75 million pounds of frozen strawberries a year. They exported 40 million pounds in 1964 and authoritative sources predict a 20 per cent increase this year. About 80 per cent of Mexico's total strawberry crop is exported to the United States and Canada as frozen berries. This crash-head on with Oregon's strawberry industry where almost all of the strawberry production is for freezing.

"We certainly should not let Oregon's 20 million dollar strawberry industry and its employees suffer because of an unfair labor cost advantage enjoyed by the Mexican strawberry industry. My bill would give the protection needed to permit our strawberry industry to compete on a more equal basis with our Mexican friends," Wyatt said.

Traffic Toll Sets Record

Oregon's tentative official traffic death toll for 1964 set a new all-time record for the state, wiping out a record set in 1963 when deaths topped the 500 mark for the first time.


The 577 deaths reported so far from 1964 accidents represent a two percent increase over the 563 reported in 1963, according to the Traffic Safety and Education Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The figure may be revised upward or downward as delayed reports are received, or if persons injured die later as a result of the injuries.

The official state figure is slightly lower than that reported by one wire service, since the state figure includes only those deaths occurring on public streets and highways.

Officials said the death toll included 158 people who were thrown from their vehicles at the time of impact. These people, they said, might have been saved had they been wearing seat belts.

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THE PUBLIC WELFARE ?

Questions about public welfare which are of general interest are answered in this column as a public service. Help with individual problems is available at your county welfare office.

If I offer a job to a welfare recipient and he refuses, will welfare stop his grant?

That depends on the type of assistance he receives. There is no provision requiring an Old Age Assistance recipient to accept employment; an Aid to the Disabled recipient might not be physically able to accept the job you offer him and might still be eligible for assistance. In the Aid to Dependent Children program, an unemployed parent who refuses work without good cause becomes ineligible for assistance.

My cousin thinks she can get aid to the blind even though she can still see a little. Is she right?

If an examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist reveals vision which does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye even with correcting lenses, or vision in the better eye is restricted to a field not greater than 20 degrees, or there is any equivalent impairment, a person who is in need may receive Aid to the Blind even though there is some small amount of vision remaining.

Can a creditor attach a person's welfare grant?

No. Under the law, public welfare grants are exempt from garnishment, levy, or execution and cannot be assigned or transferred.

Why isn't the assistance grant reduced if a person gets food stamps?

The recipient must pay a certain amount for his food stamps out of his grant. However, the "bonus" stamps he receives do not reduce his grant since the purpose of the Food Stamp Program is to provide better nutrition for low-income families.

Isn't it true that most people on welfare don't want to work?

The majority of people on welfare are those who are unable to work because of age, disability or other factors. In the Aid to Dependent Children program, which does include employable people with children, one-half of all cases are closed within a year from the date of application. The majority of these people leave welfare for employment. However, many recipients have no skills and little education and require some sort of job training before they can hope to find employment. Most recipients have welcomed opportunities to get training or on-the-job experience that will enable them to become self-supporting.

If my mother goes with me when I move out of the state can her welfare grant continue?

No. Assistance can be provided to persons living out of state for only a temporary period of not more than two months. After that time, the recipient must return to Oregon unless there is medical evidence of inability to do so. Otherwise the grant is discontinued.

Why is the old age assistance program declining when we have a larger aged population than ever?

More and more people are covered by social security. Many people need assistance only when their physical condition reaches a point where they are no longer able to care for themselves and nursing home care is now provided under the Medical Assistance for the Aged program rather than Old Age Assistance program.

Do welfare recipients go to "luxury" nursing homes?

Public welfare nursing home rates are determined by the patient's physical condition and the type of care required. A welfare recipient can go to any nursing home that is willing to accept him as a patient at the rate that welfare can pay for his type of care. Welfare recipients occupy more than one-half of the nursing home beds in Oregon and many of the newer homes are willing to accept assistance recipients.

Four Sisters At Observance

RIVERVIEW — Mrs. Maude Wells, her daughter, Mrs. Grover Botkin and children spent Sunday at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Wm. N. Shearer in Portland. They celebrated the birthday of Mrs. Kathleen Akins of Estacada. Four sisters were present, Mrs. Shearer, Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Akin and Mr. Everett Shibley who also lives at Estacada.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Snook and Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Snook of Salem visited their cousin and family, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Snook Sunday.

Mrs. Nellie Bateman of Forest Grove and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heisler of Gales Creek visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bateman Thursday.

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COAST-TO-COAST STORES IT'S A PRIVILEGE AND A PLEASURE TO LIVE IN VERNONIA

County Dental Society Starts Series on Health

My 14-year-old son has been told by his dentist that he has 12 cavities, which the dentist plans to fill. Is there anything my children can do to keep from having so much tooth decay?

There are simple rules which, if followed faithfully, can help to reduce decay. These are:

1. Cut down on sweets, especially between meals.
2. Brush teeth immediately after eating (snacks as well as regular meals.) When this is not possible, rinse your mouth thoroughly with water.
3. Have regular dental checkups. This enables the dentist to discover decay and other problems at an early stage. Just as with other diseases, early treatment of dental disease is easier and more likely to be effective.
4. Fluoridation of community water supplies greatly reduces decay. Where water supplies are not fluoridated, dentists may suggest applying fluoride directly to children's teeth.

My pediatrician says I should take my 3-year old son to the dentist. However, he doesn't seem to have any cavities, so I wonder if this is necessary?

Dental authorities agree that the child should make his first visit to the dentist at about age 2½ or 3. At this time, he has all of his deciduous ("baby") teeth, and the dentist can

check early for any minute sign of decay or any malformation which might lead to orthodontic problems when the child is older.

The fact that your child does not "seem to have any cavities" does not mean that some decay may not be present. In fact, the American Dental Association has found that dental patients under 4 years of age have an average of three teeth needing fillings.

When a child is exposed to routine treatment at an early age, he rarely develops the fear which many adults have so long associated with dental treatment.

The importance of good care for the primary or "baby" teeth cannot be overemphasized. A child needs his primary teeth, as he does his permanent ones, for chewing, for speaking and for appearance. Also, these first teeth hold the space for the permanent teeth to come.

February 7 through 13 is the 17th annual National Children's Dental Health Week. As part of the observance, the Scappoose Spotlight, in

cooperation with the Columbia County Component Dental Society today begins a series, of four articles of information which should be known concerning dental health.

There is one period when a man is undisputed master of his household—from the day of his birth to about his third birthday.

Middle age is not a precise age. It's only an average between the 18 you feel tonight and the 118 you'll feel tomorrow morning.

FARM CALENDAR

- JANUARY 20, 21, 22 Annual 4-H Leaders Conference - OSU, Corvallis.
- JANUARY 27 4-H Know Your County Government Conference, Columbia county courthouse
- JANUARY 26-28 American National Cattlemen's Association Meeting - Hilton hotel, Portland

There is always something to be thankful for. If you can't pay your bills, be thankful you are not one of your creditors.

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