

The Gate City Journal

TED M. BRAMMER, Editor and Publisher



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Price Of Lawlessness

Tolerance of violence and property destruction may diminish when the price of our "permissive anarchy" hits home. An inkling of that price has been given by a spokesman for the insurance industry. He says, "No business... can continue to operate in a society where order, reason and confidence do not prevail. The insurance business alone cannot continue to offer security to property owners when these spasms of lawlessness which at times seem to approach insurrection become so widespread and frequent."

No business or industry can turn a wheel without insurance. Legislation is now pending in Congress for the federal government -- the taxpayers -- to provide reinsurance. However much one may deplore further involvement of government in the financial and economic life of the nation, the alternatives in this instance are even more grim. Excessive riot losses could bring about a total collapse of insurance coverage in metropolitan centers. Whether the taxpayers could then be expected to assume the awesome cost of rebuilding and insuring our cities is doubtful.

Reestablishment of law and order in the land is the only permanent solution. On this depends our survival as a nation. We should not lose sight of the fact that a subsidy for anarchy in the form of taxpayer guaranteed insurance coverage for the uninsurable risk of urban warfare is a stopgap measure. It will ease for the time being the pain of the disease, but it most surely will not cure the malady that afflicts this nation. (Industrial News)

197 YEARS OVERDUE

According to a ledger in the National Archives in Washington, D. C., the US Treasury owes a man named John Ross the sum of 19,445 pounds, 11 shillings and 11 pence sterling, at 6 percent interest, until paid. That's the sum he loaned the Continental Congress to finance the war against Mother England. The descendants of Ross have been waiting since 1781.

In San Juan Capistrano, California, a great-grandmother and the oldest living heir of John Ross lives modestly and providently in a trailer park. Mrs. William Horner is her name, and she could really use the money. Her Congressman is trying to get it for her. That would be Rep. James B. Utt, Republican, who introduced a special bill in the 90th Congress which would have enabled the United States to pay up. But, the bill died because of the serious balance of payments deficit, or at least that was the best reason he could elicit from spokesmen for the House Judiciary Committee on Claims. So, Congressman Utt will resubmit the bill next January to the 91st Congress.

The family is not asking for payment of the 6 percent interest which has been accumulating since 1775. Utt's bill will call for an \$86,000 settlement of the claim, based on the then existing value of the pound -- \$4.44.

The House Committee has never disputed the validity of the claim. It might be noted at this point that patriot John Ross, a native of Scotland who came to Philadelphia in 1763, was a personal friend of George Washington, and the he made personal contributions of more than 20,000 pounds to the revolutionary cause. His will, dated December 31, 1800, reflects the unpaid debt, and some of his papers reveal efforts to collect the \$86,000 because his "credit and poverty still suffer."

But there are clearly priorities in Washington. For example: according to the Agency for International Development, the United States has distributed more than \$122,358,500,000 in foreign aid since the end of World War II. To how many countries? At least 87. Mother England got more than \$9 billion of that "aid" money. De Gaulle received even more, \$9.4 billion.

But Mrs. William Horner in her trailer? Sorry. The budget is already in the red, and \$86,000 is out of the question right now. Among other things there are 280 place settings of new china for the White House being delivered this month. Really, Mrs. Horner, you'll just have to wait. - U. S. Press Association.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clifford T. Howlett
Public Accountant
Franklin Building
Portland, Oregon 97204
Phone 223-3384

June 3, 1968

To the Editor:

Dear Sir:

It is extremely important, I feel, that the differences between the two "save the beaches" petitions now being circulated in Oregon be examined by the public. One is being sponsored by the "Beaches Forever" organization (commonly known as the Straub group). The other by "Citizens to save Oregon Beaches" headed by Dr. Robert L. Bacon and Representative Norman Howard.

Those of us who have long supported the Os West concept that the beaches of Oregon belong to the people of Oregon are appalled at the surrender of the public interest by Straub and his supporters. This surrender is a fact that should be made clear to everyone now circulating or being asked to sign Straub petitions. What the Straub petition does is to establish what is termed a "compact vegetation line" far removed from the safeguards of legal precedent and then propose that the state be obliged to buy up land within the prescribed limits. The underlying philosophy of the measure, of course, is that the public doesn't really own any area beyond the wet sand portion of the beach. This philosophy has been clarified by Straub in public utterance. Over a Portland television station on April 20, he said: "... developers have discovered that the public ownership by the State of Oregon now only goes to the mean high tide"; and again, "... we are going to have to move soon to buy the dry sand portion". The area up to "mean high tide", by the way, is covered with water 50 percent of the time.

The Straub position, in other words, is identical to that of the developers and real estate people at the last session of the state legislature. They say the public doesn't own the dry sand areas. Citizens to Save Oregon Beaches maintains that the public does, in fact, own the bulk of all beach property seaward of the vegetation line. They claim that this position is supported by legal and historical precedent and that it is bolstered by the weight of prescriptive rights. One of the top constitutional law firms in Oregon has drawn their amendment and contends that it can be supported through the Supreme Court of the United States. It is interesting to note, too, that the two men mainly responsible for beating back the developers and real estate interests with the enactment of HB 1601 at the last session of the state legislature are solidly behind Citizens to Save Oregon Beaches. These men are Representative Sid Bazett (Grants Pass), Chairman of the House Highway Committee, and Representative Norman Howard (Portland), Vice-Chairman of the House Committee.

There are many things wrong with the Straub amendment, aside from the fact that it was hurriedly and poorly drawn. It calls for a thirty million dollar bond issue (and another and another, if deemed necessary) to buy back an undetermined amount of beach land. It would finance this bond issue by gasoline tax, which by the way, is imposed on passenger cars only, leaving trucks and other carriers untaxed. Its implication that the public has ownership to the mean high tide is an admission that the public beach concept held by Oregonians for more than half a century is wrong and it sets up one of the biggest real estate speculations in Oregon history.

From every approach, the Straub proposal is a "give-away" maneuver. People being asked to sign petitions should be aware of this.

In view of these facts, it is unbelievable that so-called conservation group leaders should be found supporting the Straub measure. Real conservationists should be asking their leadership some questions.

The most unsavory aspect of the controversy between the two groups, however, was the challenge thrown in at the last minute to keep the "Citizens" petition off the street. This use of the highest court in the state for pure political maneuvering is distasteful to say the least. It is interesting to note that the Supreme Court found the challenge completely baseless, except for the fact that the title contained 76 words instead of the 75 required by law. The title, by the way, was not drawn by the "Citizens" legal staff. It was drawn by the State Attorney General. The resultant delay was devastating to the "Citizens" group.

In view of the tactics used by the opposition, and because of the vast difference between the two measures, the people of Oregon should rally emphatically behind Citizens to Save Oregon Beaches and help them get the signatures they must obtain in the next few weeks. Let's prove that fair play is not dead in Oregon... and let's see that our beaches are not taken from the people as they were in California and in most of the rest of the country.

Citizens to Save Oregon Beaches are headquartered at 408 Postal Bldg., Portland, Oregon 97204. Let's give them a hand. - Cordially Clifford T. Howlett.

June 26, 1968

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

A word of thanks is in order for the many people who contributed hours of their time in an effort to place on the November ballot the Irvin Mann-OEA sponsored initiative allowing the legislature to implement a trial tax plan in the state.

Even though the campaign fell some 17,000 signatures short of the required number, the acquisition of 31,000 signatures in less than a three-month period was a clear indication of interest in the proposal, and those individuals who contributed much of their time to the program should be assured that continued efforts will be made to have the measure placed on the ballot at some future date.

Oregon Education Association, John D. Danielson, Government Relations Director.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Doyle Hardy Jr. will be guest speaker during the morning worship service on Sunday, July 7 at the Nyssa Christian church.

He is a student at Northwest Christian college at Eugene and is spending the summer months with his parents in Nampa.

IN APPRECIATION

We take this opportunity to thank our friends for their many acts of kindness expressed in thought and deed following the untimely death of our beloved son and brother, Butch Conklin. - Mr. and Mrs. Oscar E. Conklin and family.

OBITUARIES

Oscar W. Conklin

Funeral services for Oscar William (Butch) Conklin were conducted Saturday morning, June 29, 1968 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Owyhee ward, with Bishop Wayne L. Berrett officiating.

Mr. Conklin died on the previous Wednesday in an accident at the Zerbel Flying Service firm near Adrian.

He was born June 6, 1941 in Alturas, Calif., and had been a resident of the Big Bend community for the past ten years.

He is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar E. Conklin of route 3, Parma; a paternal grandfather, Albert Conklin of Napa, Calif.; his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Goodwin of Burlington, Wash.; two brothers, Albert Conklin of Seattle and Benjamin Conklin of Parma; two sisters, Dorothy and Mary Conklin, also of Parma.

Burial was made in Owyhee cemetery under direction of Lienkaemper chapel.

SENIOR CITIZEN ACTIVITIES

Senior Citizens of the area met June 27 for a potluck dinner on the lawn at the home of Dr. and Mrs. John E. Long.

Members whose birthdays come in April, May or June, were honored with a birthday cake.

Next meeting of the organization will be July 11 on the lawn at the Long home. Those attending should take a sack lunch. It is also announced that some of the members need rides to and from the meetings, and it will be appreciated if those having vehicles will furnish transportation to those who do not. - Lois Council, reporter.

Admitting Mistakes

How often when we blunder, and are filled with guilty shame, Do we invent excuses, and attempt to shift the blame!

But when we make mistakes, I find it's sensible and wise To honestly admit them, and omit the alibis. - Mary Hamlett Goodman, Sunshine magazine.

Knowledge is power only when properly applied.

Just as there is no limit to opportunity, so there is no limit to strength to grasp it.

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A Prayer For The Middle Aged

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody, helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details, give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask grace enough to enjoy the tales of other's pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and less cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. Give me the grace to tell them so. AMEN



AT MALHEUR MEMORIAL

JUNE 27 - To Mr. and Mrs. John Ward of Nyssa, a seven-pound, nine-ounce girl, Wendy Sue.

JUNE 29 - To Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Ochoa of Nyssa, a seven-pound, nine-ounce boy, Cesar.

JUNE 30 - To Mr. and Mrs. Robert Castellano, Jr. of Vale, a seven-pound, one-ounce girl, Sylvia.

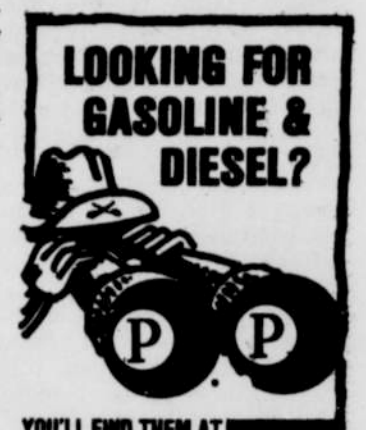
JULY 1 - To Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Horn of Ontario, a seven-pound, eight-ounce girl.

AT HOLY ROSARY

JUNE 28 - To Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Atagi of Nyssa, a girl.
JULY 1 - To Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rodriguez of Nyssa, a boy.

Democracy means not "I am equal to you," but "you are equal to me." - James Russell Lowell.

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