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Friday, February 1, 1946.

The City of Bluff

It has remained for Ore' gon's United States Senator Guy Cordon to give the people a little picure of the false front that is gradually acquired by our public servant in Washington. On a recent trip to his home in Oregon, Senator Cordon said Washington is "the city of bluff" I firmly believe . . . members of Congress . . . . should be compelled to return to their states about twice a year in order to get the hinking of the peope and renew their sense of the true American way.

"In Washington, th atmos phere is unnatural and unhealthy, and you are confron ted by so many 'experts' that you lose, if you are not very careful, the true American way of doing things. Then, when you get back to your own people you find that after all everything doesn't de pend upon you, but upon the will of about 140,000,000 peo ple who compose this great nation—and you feel better.' Senator Cordon's remarks are worth remembering, for in the last analysis it is the 140,000,000 citizens and taxpayers who will pay, from their earnings, every dime of the enormous appropriations that are asked of Congress for peacetime spending. Unless you want to pay more in future tax bills, don't demand public funds to do things which the people and industries should do for themselves.

Subsidies Run High

It is estimated that the United States Government is using about $1,700,000,000 out of its Treasury to make payments to processors and distributors. The object is to keep prices of foodstuffs down. Meat subsidies now amount to about $600,000,000 Products that are slated for help from Government subsidies are milk, butter, sugar cheese and bread. Farmers have been assured near-par ty returns for their products or reduced cost of livestock food by way of subsidies to processors or distributors.

As a matter of fact the subsidies situation is beginning to be complicated enough to cause most officials to feel that the system should be ended as soon as possible.

Stranger till, powerful po litical influences are howling their heads off in behalf of continuing Chester Bowles in charge of the OPA guessing contest. But Bowles indicates hopes that he may re sign.

Have We Learned a Lesson?

Never did the people of the United States have such good reason to appreciate the value of their basic industries to the welfare of the nation. Without American industries, the story of World War II would have been immeasurably greater.

No industry played a bigger part in our industrial production than did coal. And coal is something that the average person takes for granted pretty much as he does air and water. Yet coal production definitely depend on American ingenuity and investment.

Producers of coal in the United States have made possible the breaking of all production records per man employed, through mechanized mining methods. And as a result, our country literally moves on coal. Without coal the steel mills would be idle. Without steel, we would have horses instead of automobiles, and our rail transplanes would be something to dream about. Without steel, most of our factories and millions of jobs cease to exist. These are but a few of the basic things in Ameri can life that depend on coal.

Yes, the war taught us the importance of coal. We see Europe shivering for lack of coal. Have we learned anything from these gra phic object lesson? Have we learned that we are all inter ested in labor policies, legislation and taxation that encourage or discourage American coal production? If we haven't, we don't deserve the good things that flow from a black lump of carbon called bituminous coal.

Why Kid Ourselves

It seems almost childish for price control agencies to try to regulate the economy of the nation on one hand, while gvernment goes on borrowing and printing and spending and giving away money as it sees fit.

Hold-the-line orders for a pound of butter, a pair of sockings, or an automobile, may temporarily get public acclaim. But it isn't long before the public finds it can't get butter, stockings or automobiles when out-of-line prices block production. And it makes no difference whether the articles are rationed or sold in a free market.

What our regulators of human activities should con centrate on is encouraging production and admitting that the normal costs of war have caused some inflation which can be controlled if the costs of government can be controlled and if the peo ple will work hard and produce. Our regulators of human activity must allow sufficient return to the produc er and to the wage earner, based on our present inflation due to the national debt, so that both producers and workers will do their best to turn out goods, thus remov ing the scarcities which now aggravate inflation thereby driving prices higher and higher.

The country can still lick inflation if the people will go to work and if government will encourage rather than discourage business. We will have to make up our minds, however—we will either have to definitely express ourselves in favor of retaining our private enterprise and profit system, or we will have to accept government dictation and a falling stand ard of living as a substitute for a free economy. One-sided price controls which ignore government debt and spending and cost of produc tion, while trying to restrict the individual, drive us closer to socialism.

As a people, have we the courage to return to the risks and rewards of private enterprise, or, seeking to dodge responsibility for our own destiny, will we go farther toward the dole system and regimentation?

All Praise for the Grocers

Little praise for a job well done has gone the grocer's way. Yet during the war his was a task of vital importance to our fighting men. For how can an Army win a war without capacity production at home? And how can a people produce at capacity without assurance of a fair share of proper foods

However, thanks are few for the corner grocer's head aches in the role of a home front warrior. One quick glance on the eve of any day would find him weary from answering questions about merchandise shortages and such. Help through advertising and other media, explaining the reasons behind these shortages, from large food companies, such as, The Best Foods, Inc., manufacturers of Nucoa vegetable margarine, did not stop the constant flow of inquiries, "Why, can't I buy my favor ite brand of this or that?"

Then there were other difficulties. Clerks and delivery boys were joining the ranks daily. Price ceilings, ration points and tokens created multiple bookkeeping problems—and where could he get help with his bookkeeping?

Margarine and other fats and oils are still on the critical list. Sugar, too. However, many of our grocer's big problems have dissolved as most rationing ended. The grocer's chin is up—skies are getting sunnier all the time and gradually everything will be right on Main Street, United States.

NOT TOO HOT NOT TOO COLD

Prevent Tragedy

It may appear dull reading for a person to study information on how to prevent fire in the home or in industry, because the home or place of work seems secure from the ravages of fire. But few things can pay bigger dividends to a family or to workers in an industry, than the study and practice of fire prevention. We are prone to feel that fire will never strike us individually. It seems impossible that a small home could become a death trap strike us individually. It seems impossible that a small home could become a death trap due to fire, or that fire could move so rapidly in a factory that many occupants could not escape, and yet every day we read where whole families have been wiped out or where number of persons have been burned in buildings where they were employed.

A recent example was in the city of Portland, Oregon, where fire trap ped three boys in the second story of their home. Two of the brothers were burned to death.

Another tragedy on the opposite side of the continent was the hospital fire in Hartford, Connecticut, where supposedly defective wiring on a Christmas tree is believed to have started the fire. Sixteen lives were taken, 12 remen were overcome by smok and many patients injured.

These are but two instances of over 10,000 deaths that occur annually in the United States from fire. Most of these lives could be saved by a determination on the part of individuals to study fire pre vention methods and do their best to eliminate hazards in their homes and places of work. Try to control fire before it brings tragedy to you.

New Kind of Freedom

The United States supposedly fought a second world war to bring freedom to the world. But what has happened at home while men were killed abroad? A worker cannot get a job in a basic industry without first paying labor organizations for his constitutional right to work.

A returned veteran of four years' standing—three years and two months overseas—writes a frank and interesting letter. His home is in Detroit.He is anxious to work and jobs could be had by the thousand if strike orders did not prevail. At such a time, while politicians wran gle about the passage of fantastic full employment bills, and the nation is begging for men to work, he writes:

"Never drew unemployment compensation before, but decided to now. I got my union card. Boy, what a racket that's turned into! One guy can't do a thing about it. The other dopes just sit around and let the officers pass anything they like. It's one big mess. To put it in a nut shell, it's the union that runs the men—not the men, the unions."

And this man fought for freedom for foreigners. Now he draws unem ployment compensation in Detroit while he is forced to remain idle regardless of his desire to work.

There's No Place Like Home

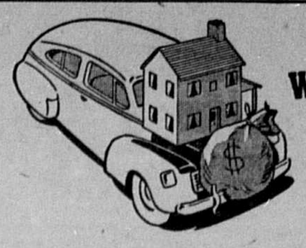
There is no question before the Government that is more troublesome than the demands of the GI's on semi-strikes against being held in service. They have fought and won the World wars and they want to come home. The President and heads of the military establishment insist that the veterans are being brought back just as fast as ships can carry them. Our boys agree that it is necessary to keep large forces of soldiers in the areas and countries that were whipped. But their answer is: Send someone to take our place; we have finished the job we went overseas to do.

veterans have so much justice on their side that every effort to get them home will be speeded up. No one wants to keep those heroes away from home any longer than is absolutely necessary.

The Low Down From Hickory Grove

Yon know, geting' a compliment from a banker is some shakes. I just got one—so I gotta tell you. I may be some spell before I get another, if ever. Well, this banker gent, he says to me, Josephus, you get around some, tell me, he says, what there is to this "take-home-pay" I been reading about—I would like to try takin' some home, he says.

Ed, I says—everybody calls him Ed—I didn't know that bankers animal, I says, as "take-home-pay" read fairy stories. There is no such —I mean where you take it home and keep much of it, if that is what you got in mind. "Take-home-Temple" is a slogan. It sounds skookum And if you are head-man down at the labor Temple, it helps you keep your job. Or if you are a senator you can make speeches on same and it has been helping on votes, or anyway they been thinking so up to recent-like. But with new elec tions in the offing, it is looking different as more people get hep—and registered.



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