

THE FRONTIER

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Proposed Postal Increases

Again publishers in this country face the prospect of increased postal rates, this time a 100 percent boost in second-class rates in three years. Companion bills recently introduced in congress call for a 50 percent boost the first year, 25 percent the second year and 25 percent the third year. This legislation would double the postal expenditures of every newspaper, magazine and farm publication in the country.

The postal deficit isn't due to a favored rate schedule for second-class matter. Other factors contribute to the huge postal deficit. President Truman in his message to congress on February 27 urged second-class rate increases. He pointed out that the postoffice department has an annual deficit of \$361,000,000.

The President quoted various figures to show just where this deficit arose in the postoffice department, mentioning the so-called loss from second-class matter. Publishers believe these figures to be erroneous because the realities of proper cost accounting are ignored.

Postoffice cost accounting is determined on a weight and per piece basis without consideration of public service factors in priorities. However, these factors are basic in the operation of the postoffice because the postoffice is not a business, but is a service to all the American people, and, therefore, cost figures determined as they would be in a competitive business are of little value for setting postal rates.

For example, according to the postoffice's own records, there are some 39,000 of the present 41,000 postoffices in the United States which do not take in sufficient money to pay their own expenses. Over 94 percent of all the postoffices do not pay their way. We would venture to say that all of the postoffices in some counties are in this category. This should be a self-evident fact that the postoffice department is created primarily for service to American citizens and not as a business proposition. How many chain groceries, for example, could continue to exist if 94 percent of their stores did not take in sufficient funds to pay their expenses?

A further illustration is the postoffice rural delivery service which certainly exists as a service to the American farmers. The cost of RFD service in 1950 was \$152,800,000. Under the postoffice cost ascertainment system, this amount is allocated to the various classes of postal service. But the service is provided by the government to those who live on rural routes, as is proven by the fact that the "RFD" was for many years known as "Rural Free Delivery." It is primarily for those in the rural areas, not for the users of the mails. This is indicated by there being no higher charge for letter mail to "RFD" addresses than to city and town addresses.

These various facts should certainly be considered when the statement is made that first-class mail is profitable to the postoffice, for much of the expense now charged to other classifications is incurred, as indicated, in order to make first-class service possible.

The idea that the postoffice department should serve all the American people on a business basis is not in agreement with the handling of other government departments. For example, in 1950 several other departments have higher deficits than the postal department:

- Commerce department—\$668,000,000 deficit.
- Interior department—\$460,000,000 deficit.
- Agriculture department—\$475,000,000 deficit.

Some observers begin to suspect that Korea is getting too red for the Chinese communists.

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EDGAR STAUFFER

— Page, Nebr. —

Dangerous Waters



Prairieland Talk —

Lt.-Gov. Warner's Veto of Wheat Bill Meets Approval of Most Nebraskans

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN—Lt.-Gov. Charles Warner got in a blow while acting as governor in the absence of His Excellency, Governor Peterson, by vetoing the Carmody bill which would have set up another set of functionaries for "research work" and taxed wheat at the rate of 2 mills on each bushel.

What is there left for "research" in wheat fields? After 6,000 years growing wheat, if we don't know it now, what's the chance to learn?

Mr. Warner's veto no doubt meets the approval of most Nebraskans. Reasons for the veto were that the bill provided duplication of that which is already available, another set of officials when reduction of these is more in order and the probabilities that the small wheat growers would carry the tax load while large wheat farm operators could avoid the tax by selling out of the state.

Some of us may not be able to tell a kernel of wheat from a navy bean but we can appreciate a fellow who believes in guarding the interests of a large group of taxpayers, one who believes there is enough of officialdom turned loose on a long-suffering public.

As a means of raising funds, kidnapery is of ancient origin. Julius Caesar was the first nota-

ble of the ancients to fall a victim to kidnapers. On his way from Rome to Rhodes to get some tips on oratory from the celebrated rable-rouser of that day, Apollonius Molo, he fell into the hands of pirates who set the price of his ransom at 30 talents. This Caesar ridiculed as a low estimate of his worth, telling the highwaymen of the seas if they knew who he was they would make him 50 talents. Furthermore, he shook a capable fist at them when he was set at liberty. History records the crucifixion as a fulfilled threat. Crucifixion was followed by burning at the stake, the blow of the executioner's sword, the jaws of hungry lions, stoning, the guillotine, the hangman's noose and now the electric chair. Countless innocent victims met their doom for no other reason than radicals sought to force their way of life upon others. But in this, our day, sympathy now runs to the extreme of excusing even revolting crimes.

A preacher quits his post as chaplain at the University of Denver rather than comply with regulations respecting an oath of loyalty. The clergyman's conception of representative processes of government are, of course, his own business but such notions are not widespread among the men of the cloth. As a public institution, the university has the same right and the same responsibility as the state to exact in its officials unadulterated loyalty to the American way of life to the end that imported isms do not filter into places of public trust.

Folks down at Amelia were probably interested to learn that a former notable of the community, though not a voting citizen, has reached the 85th milestone and is still in rugged health. Robert W. McGinnis put on a party for some public officials and other friends at the Lincoln hotel a day last week to celebrate his birthday anniversary. The McGinnis creamery was an Amelia institution some years ago and Bob, as all knew him, was a frequent visitor. Mr. McGinnis is a retired North Western railroad official. Some 40 years ago he built a creamery in O'Neill at Third and Douglas streets, later transferring such interests to the vicinity of Amelia.

In postoffices and federal buildings hangs an array of descriptive literature of folks "Wanted," together with pictures of those in disfavor with postal authorities or the FBI, because of crimes committed against the peace and dignity of the sovereign nation. To the credit of the ladies it is noted they are conspicuous by their absence from the personnel of the hunted ones, either because they shun these evil ways or are more clever than the gents in such matters.

What is this I hear of weariness. Anger, discontent and drooping hopes? Degenerate sons and daughters, Life is too strong for you— It takes life to love life.

A poet has put these words into the mouth of a 96-year-old pioneer woman as she looks at the procession now marching down the highway of time with a vision out of the past that discerns the true from the humbug. Maybe the worldly-wise old queen has made it too sweeping. Maybe, too, some parents come under the condemnation of the "degenerate." We might as well admit it. We are all pretty much of a shoddy outfit if stood up beside the "rugged individuals" of a well-nigh vanished generation.

A senorita from Texas, visiting our fair city of Lincoln, wrote to one of the papers to tell us she would not give one acre of the Lone Star state for the whole and sum total of Nebraska. That's all right with us. No trade, I call to mind a trip from El Paso and on up through the Dalhart region and fear our fair visitor has rather overstated it. But there is nothing like loyalty to your home base. Yet as Governor Val says there isn't an acre in Texas land is nowhere in comparison to that compares with the land in eastern Nebraska and their range our sand hills. "There is not a cattle feeding area in the world," says the governor, "that can hold a candle to the sand hills of Nebraska."

From a Washington source that should know the score comes the word that the Reds can bomb the daylight out of us any time. Can — but will they, cognizant of our ability to rain bombs like a hail storm in retaliation?

Senator Williams, of Ravenna, sprinkled some red pepper over an otherwise placid if not sleepy session of the unicam the other day. It all grew out of the report for general file of a measure he

was sponsoring which had to do with presidential preferential filings in the Nebraska primaries. He swung some darts at the editor of a Lincoln paper who had something to do with bringing about the 1948 presidential primary setup and received the Pulitzer prize for "meritorious service." This service was probably more apparent to the keen-eyed Pulitzer boys than to we prairie-land clodhoppers. Whether Senator Williams had designed to deflate an editor's ego or turn up a worthwhile measure, he took the floor to denounce the 1948 scheme from start-to-finish. The bill reported to general file provides for the written consent of the individual before his name can go on the Nebraska primary ballot as a candidate for the nomination for the presidency.

If you need a house to live in and are not fixed to pay \$200 a thousand for \$40 lumber, prairie-land still has plenty of native sod.

The night is starless and intensely dark. Few venture along the concrete and highway traffic has gone to rest. Rain drips in unbroken rhythm to the porch roof outside my window. The night a solemn stillness holds save for the drumming of the rain upon the housetop. Clouds during the day drew a veil over the azure canopy above and now pour their watery treasure over fields to enrich and moisten the soil to the end that the vegetable tribes may spring forth, bloom into fragrance and yield their fruits to sustain mankind. It is a night that invites householders to stick around and enjoy the pleasure of home life. I sit alone in the quiet house. Lights cast a glow on the flowered walls. Son and daughter-in-law and children are in distant parts. Childish voices seem to be strangely missed. Three cheering letters that came today out of the tribal group, books, photographs of the living and the dead, a few lines fingered out on the typewriter — and memories! What more could be desired when left alone during the quiet hours of a rain-soaked evening?

We just can't seem to keep good gas and kerosene Servels on hand. If you have one to trade, come in and see us.—GAMBLES. 48-51c



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