

THE OMAHA GUIDE

Entered as Second Class Matter March 15, 1927, at the Post Office at Omaha, Nebraska, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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WASTEFUL FUEL

A fuel which has some 20,000 uses, and which is capable of substantially relieving the strain on our fuel oil facilities, is largely going to waste. That little-known fact is the subject of a recent article by James E. Pew of the Sun Oil Company.

The fuel is natural gas. Due to economic and political factors which are beyond the control of producers, Mr. Pew states, about 41 per cent of all the gas that is produced with crude oil in this country is now wasted.

The reasons for this are various. Most important has been the attitude of the Federal Power Commission. It has followed a policy of such rigid control that time after time there have been interminable and costly delays in approving agreements for the sale of the gas, even though both buyer and seller were willing. Further, the FPC has insisted on such low prices for gas at the well-head that in many instances it has discouraged the production of gas for market, and has made it economically impossible for drillers to search for new sources.

save in time of war, would any government agency have the authority to block the transportation and use of natural gas for any legitimate purpose? And why should not the owners of natural gas reserves be permitted to have their gas transported to market where it may compete on a fair basis with other fuels? A wider use of natural gas in industry, according to Mr. Pew, would save hundreds of millions of barrels of fuel oil for conversion into other products. In this day, when there is a ready and expanding market for every form of energy, all should be utilized to the limit.

MOST FOR YOUR MONEY

In periods of high business activity, such as the present, the profit statements of large industries often create a misleading impression. The casual observer sees only that this or that company has made millions. What he doesn't understand in many instances is that profit is almost always a very small part of the money taken in by any industry—and that the majority of our industries provide us with goods and services at an almost unbelievably low "profit" cost to the individual consumer.

The meat packing industry is a good example. Cattle hogs and sheep originate on the farms and ranges of the country. But it's a far cry from meat on the hoof to steaks and chops for the dinner table. The animals must be transported, processed and redistributed before they are ready for local retailers. It is the responsibility of the packing industry to see that this complex and vital service functions smoothly for American consumers.

In 1947, 67 leading meat packing companies, which do more than 70 per cent of the country's commercial meat business, made an average profit of about an average profit of about 1 1/2 cents on each dollar of sales. That was around 3/5ths of a cent less than they made in 1946. The figure covers the sale not only of meat, but also a long list of by-products such as hides, soaps, oils, glands for medicine, etc. Translated into profit per pound of meat, the packer's profit averaged but a fraction of a cent on all meat sold.

Thus does free enterprise combine peak economy with peak efficiency and service. Its objective is to give us the most value for the least cost, in order to do the greatest volume of business. This is the secret of the great growth of American industry and our high standard of living. What we consider necessities a large part of the world looks on as luxuries.

ARMING THE ARABS

America is discovering that giving away or lending money is a very complicated business. An example of this complication was presented last week when Senator Bridges, New Hampshire Republican and Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, questioned whether ERP aid earmarked for Britain, is enabling the British to carry out their military commitments to the Arab States.

These commitments, Bridges pointed out, include an 8 million dollar annual payment to King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan for his Arab Legion—a Legion which has been in the forefront of the sanguinary fighting against the new Jewish State of Israel for possession of Jerusalem.

ERP Administrator Paul G. Hoffman quickly agreed to investigate and submit a report to Congress. Both the investigation and the report will be welcomed by the American people.

Obviously, it would be the height of irony for America, which is pumping billions of dollars into Europe to maintain peace, to discover that part of that money may be going into Arab pockets to support a fledgeling war against the newest member of the family of Nations.

The immediate question raised by Bridges, of course, is part of the larger question whether the United States should use recovery funds to force political concessions from receiving countries. Congressional opinion apparently is strongly divided on this point.

But on another point—whether American dollars should be used by any receiving Nation, either directly or indirectly, to aid the military fortunes of another—Washington's answer will certainly be an unadorned negative. ERP aid is intended to bolster world peace, not undermine it.

Friendship Banquet Introduces Interracial Work

Bethlehem, Pa., June 30—More than 300 guests attended the "Friendship Banquet" at Bethlehem Catholic high school here last Sunday which marked the beginning of a new interracial movement in the Lehigh Valley. Conducted under Catholic auspices, the work will promote educational, charitable and recreational facilities for all persons in this vicinity.

Fr. Aloyola B. Conway, former pastor, Holy Infancy church here, was the principal speaker. Other speakers were: Mr. Martin Fields, of the Catholic Interracial Council of Philadelphia; Mrs. Estelle Williams, Catholic laywoman; Miss Mabel Knight, director of Friendship House, New York City; and Fr. Paul van Mald-

Congress Vetoes Housing

Over 3,800,000 families are living doubled up. More than 13,000,000 dwellings have either no running water or no private flush toilet. All in all it is estimated that over 13,500,000 new housing units are needed to house the people adequately. Less than 13 per cent of the new housing needs have been started by private builders. The prices of these new houses have risen approximately 130 per cent since 1939 and only 9 per cent of veterans could afford to buy them. Rents in new houses are far above the average worker's means.

In order to keep the prices of existing houses and rentals as high as possible the real estate lobby has fought against new low-cost housing. And the 80th Congress—the good friend of big property interests—has cooperated by killing a housing legislation which would provide Federal subsidies for low-cost housing.

Sources: Housing figures except prices from Congressional Joint Committee on Housing, "Statistics on Housing," Part 2, 1948; prices of houses from United Industrial Associates.

VFW Petition

With a total of over 34,000 Nebraska signers, the Veterans of Foreign Wars on Thursday 1st, formally filed with Secretary of State Frank Marshall, in initiative petition to place a World War II state bonus bill before the voters on the November 2nd ballot.

R. A. Lowe department adjutant of the VFW, signed the affidavit accompanying the signed petitions. "We feel that an issue of this much importance can be most democratically decided by the people themselves in the election November. That is our purpose in placing the issue on the ballot through the petition."

Meanwhile, Larry J. Gaughen, 35 year old newly elected department VFW commander at North Bend, stated this morning that "In placing this issue on the ballot for the Nebraska voters, the Veterans of Foreign Wars is carrying out a mandate of its Encampment held June 4 of 1947 at Hastings. At that time, the veterans voted to get issue before the public. That job is done and now the people all by themselves must decide the question."

William T. Gleason, deputy to the Secretary of State, disclosed that the VFW affidavit reported a total expenditure of \$324 in obtaining the 34,000 signatures.

Lowe reported that "No paid petition circulators were employed. The entire job was done by volunteer workers in our 160 VFW posts throughout the state."

27,000 signers were required according to Gleason. He said that the law requires 7 per cent of the qualified voters in the state who voted at the last general election. Lowe explained that in Dec. and January of this year, the VFW conducted polls among World War II ex-servicemen in VFW posts throughout Nebraska, "and the record indicated that these veterans favor the adjusted pay by a 96 per cent majority."

Deadline for filing the petitions was fixed at 5:00 p. m., July 1st, four months before the election date, November 2. It was estimated that five or six hundred more signers would be delivered before that time.

The VFW bonus bill proposed that the State of Nebraska give adjusted pay to veterans based on \$10.00 per month for domestic service and \$15.00 per month for foreign service during World War II. However, Lowe pointed out, "a maximum of \$150.00 per veteran for stateside service and \$350.00 per veteran for foreign service, has been written into our proposed bill."

To finance the program, a five year period from 1949 to 1953 is proposed. During this time to raise the funds for the payment to the 130,000 Nebr. World War II veterans, a 3 and a half mill tax on real property would be levied. Veterans would receive their adjusted service pay in 1953.

A Veteran's Compensation Fund to be created by the bill would be administered by the existing Department of Veterans' Affairs, and this office would be in charge of the program, he explained.

Vocal selections were presented by the Colored Chorus of Bethlehem and the Bethlehem Catholic high school glee club.

KENTUCKY MUSEUM HOLDS ONE-MAN SHOW

A group of paintings by Ellis Wilson, gifted colored American artist, will be exhibited in a one-man show at the J. B. Speed Museum in Louisville, Friday, July 2 for the period of a month.

Many of these paintings come straight from a highly successful exhibit given Mr. Wilson at a 57 th Street art gallery, center of New York City's art activity, last month.

Wilson a graduate of the Art Institute in Chicago, is a two time Guggenheim award winner, having received the award in 1944 and, again in 1946, for his powerful and his understanding portrayal of the Negro people. His work are in oil and combine a dynamic use of color with a simplicity of line. The New York Times wrote of his work: "His inclines invest his figures with almost heroic proportions and great simple dignity."

Said Carlyle Burrows of the New York Herald Tribune: "His coloring combines sensuousness with taste and it attains a high ointin the foreground of his Dying Nets' . . . The elemental strength in his bold and simple forms is readily felt."

This artist had held several one-man shows—at the Barnet-Aden Galley in Washington, D. C., at the South Side Community Art Center in Chicago and in other cities throughout the country. But this is not his first show in the State of Kentucky. An earlier exhibition ever held in Mayfield, Kentucky.

Southern Catholic Weekly

Praises Court Decision
Raleigh, N.C., June 30—Commenting on the Supreme Court's recent decision regarding restrictive covenants, The North Carolina Catholic, published here, asserts editorially: "We Thank God". The North Carolina Catholic is the official publication of the North Carolina Catholic laymen's association.

"Restrictive covenants in our land have had a long inglorious history," the editorial states. "They have protected the covetousness of a privileged few, and they have restricted millions who happened to have the wrong religion, or national background or color. Our great land offers all of us the opportunity to improve, for these United States are dedicated to improvement under a Christian democracy. Further these United States are great because of the contributions made to their culture by

USE COMMON SENSE ON THE WATER

DON'T BE A "LEM" LUBBER

He's the fellow who spoils everybody's fun (his own included) because he doesn't use plain common sense around boats. "Lem" Lubber, for instance, is often so thoughtless he's guilty of **OVERLOADING**.

For some reason, he thinks there isn't a fish to be caught in the lake unless the fisherman is **STANDING UP**.

Or he thinks he's not having fun unless he's "buzzing" the swimming float. His favorite sport is **SHOWING OFF**.

You can have more fun this season if you use **COMMON SENSE AFLOAT**. Enjoy yourself safely.

Don't be a 'Lem' Lubber

Our posters or folders, or other information to help promote common sense afloat, write, **OUTBOARD BOATING CLUB OF AMERICA, 307 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago 1, Illinois.**

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LINCOLN U. (MO) STUDENT TO SING IN CHICAGO AT TAN. MUSIC FESTIVAL

Barbara Griegs, graduating senior of Lincoln University (Mo.) of St. Louis, who placed first in the recent annual Search for Talent contest at the University is being congratulated by Dr. O. Anderson

Fuller, head of the department and professor of music. Miss Griegs will sing in the national finals in Chicago, July 11. The event is sponsored by the American Musical Festival, Inc. of Chicago. The second place winner (who reversed positions with Miss Griegs as of last year), Mai Olive Prather, looks on.

"The United States, being what it is, the Supreme Court could have given but one decision. Legalized restriction of improvement had to go. An undemocratic and unholy practice has met its end. We thank God."

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In other words, if you were a Cook, First Class, for 6 months or more in the Navy or Coast Guard—chances are you can qualify now as a Sergeant in the Army! Your nearest Army and Air Force Recruiting Officer can let you know for sure.

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