

EDITORIALS

PREJUDGING THE RAILROAD RATE CASE

Carlton A. Shively financial editor of the New York Sun, recently discussed a curious phase of the hearings on the railroads' application for increased freight rates. "At the recent rate hearing in Washington," he wrote, "no railroad shipper came forward to oppose the request for higher rates. The opposition came entirely from government bureaus and from associations and state commissions, which latter will later have to sit as judges of applications for increases within rates. The Association of State Commissions, for example, took no vote on the question, but its officers apparently instructed its attorney to oppose the rate increases, which seems to have placed the state commissions in the prejudging chair."

Some writers point out that it is extremely difficult to justify this attitude on the part of the government agencies. They also take the lack of opposition by citizens committees as a lack of interest in the proceedings and a blanket approval of the demand of the railroads for the rate adjustments.

This newspaper does not believe our citizens approve the continuing spiral of prices, either a railroad rates, food prices, or any of the other thousands of increases during the past few months. We believe it to be nothing more than an expression of futility on the part of the protesting public. Their protests in the past have been thundered against deaf ears—the little fellow has shouted loud and long, but in few instances has his voice been heard and recognized.

The failure of the little fellow's voice to be heard has been the determining factor in "getting our house on fire," as one writer puts it. No more is their consideration for the "other fellow," lost everybody has joined in the wild scramble to get their hands on everything that is loose and to hell with the wife and kids."

Our "house is on fire" but we do not believe it will burn down entirely. Some of these days government and citizens will come to their senses, workers will give an honest day's work for their wages, capital will learn that prices must be in line with the ability to pay and most of us will be up enough to have time to worry a little on our neighbor is getting along.

A severe shock will be needed to bring this out—but it is coming in one form or another.

SECOND CLASS PATIENTS!

The beauties of compulsory health insurance are recently illustrated in a large western city which has that kind of a system in effect for municipal employees.

The director of the system sent a letter to all doctors associated with it, pleading that it is in financial difficulties, and making three remarkable requests.

First, he asked that doctors restrict the use of laboratory tests, X-ray examinations and normal diagnostic procedures, and substitute "routine examinations" for careful, scientific diagnosis.

Second, he asked that they discourage patients with "minor ailments" from seeking professional medical treatment, and advise them to use home remedies.

Third, he ordered that hospitalization be denied to system members except in the most critical cases, and except on specific authorization of himself.

The executive committee of the local county medical society answered this by observing that neither your doctor nor any reputable doctor can clear conscience agree to a demand that city employes be denied adequate medical care and that they be treated as "second class patients!" The answer covers the ground completely. The real result of any other policy would be what happened under socialized medicine in England, where over-worked doctors must deal with massive numbers of patients and only the few can be given really individual attention and diagnosis.

Compulsory health insurance on a national scale would be a reflection of the condition in western cities multiplied a thousand times. When politics takes over medicine, the standards of medical care inevitably go down.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

TEN YEARS AGO

Thanksgiving was observed in Plattsmouth with dinners and family gatherings, among those entertaining were The L. O. Minn, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Wescott, Mr. and Mrs. E. Lutz, The E. A. Webb family, Mr. and Mrs. Mes Bulin, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Wiles, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Bajock, Mr. and Mrs. James Yelick, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Duxbury, Mr. and Mrs. J. Wiles, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Sundstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kraeger, Dr. and Mrs. F. L. Ammins, the Andy Robinsons.

Mr. and Mrs. George Farley, the A. R. Noble family, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Swatek, the William A.

Furse's Fresh Flashes

It beats all where one local woman's search for "truth" leads her—it leads her to the crack in the window blind every time the girl down the street comes home with her date.

One reason local cafes hire such small waitresses is that it makes their sandwiches look larger.

Grandpa took his little three-year-old granddaughter down town here the other day for an ice cream cone. Walking back home, the girl was unusually quiet, so grandpa asked her if she didn't like her ice cream. She replied, "Yeth, but ith pity d—n cold, grandpa."

Too many parents blame the bad manners of their kids on their associates and not on the way they are trained at home.

Cleanliness may not be quite on a par with godliness, but in a crowd we'd rather be next to a clean person than a godly one.

An orator swung his arms and shouted, "Let's get rid of Stalinism, facism, socialism, bolshevism, communism!" About that time one old boy in the back row stood up and shouted, "Let's throw in rheumatism!"

Foot prints on the sands of time are not made by sit-down strikers.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, says these new style low-cut dresses would just about show everything if you had anything.

We don't judge a man by what he stands for. It's what he falls for, that counts.

Robertsons, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Goos, the J. W. Crabbills. Several Plattsmouth folks spent Thanksgiving out of the city.

Among those were Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Sedlak who were guests at the Clell Gansemer home in Murray; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Vroman who went to Chicago for the week end with Mrs. Vroman's parents, the O. L. Yorks. Mr. and Mrs. Jess Warga were at the home of relatives in Omaha; Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Soennichsen and daughter, Mary, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Davis at Falls City; County Treasurer and Mrs. John E. Turner and daughter, Dorothy, were at Marquette guests of the C. B. Turners family. The Searl S. Davises spent the day with Mr. Davis' mother, Mrs. Mary M. Davis in Lincoln.

THIRTY-ONE YEARS AGO

Miss Edith Dovey entertained the Junior League of St. Luke's church at her home. Mrs. E. W. Cook was hostess to the St. Mary's Guild. James W. Burnie elected to office of exalted ruler of local B.P.O.E. lodge. Coach Stein of Indiana and Mrs. Stein visited over the week end with Mrs. Stein's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Douglas. George Schoeman celebrated his 81st birthday with a family gathering at his home. Mr. and Mrs. John Thierolf of Cedar Creek entertained a five generation group at dinner. Guests included the Henry Dasher family; the Charles Dasher family; the Byron Barr's of La Platte and Grandfather and Grandmother Farier of Lincoln.

Under the law of Shiah—a widely followed Persian religion—a man and woman can be married for any period of time they specify—even an hour, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

The Chinese Hung or Triad Society has the largest membership of any secret society in the world. It was founded in 386 A. D. to spread religion. Later it became a political organization.

Deer are Wyoming's most numerous big game animal.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

DREW PEARSON SAYS: GENERAL MEYERS KEPT THREE SETS OF BOOKS ON AIR CORPS PROCUREMENT DURING WAR; GENERAL ARNOLD WAS AWARE OF MEYERS' BOOKKEEPING PRACTICES; TRUMAN VOCIFEROUS IN DESIRE FOR PEACE. WASHINGTON.—Now that the Senate War Investigating committee has dipped into the personal bookkeeping practices of Maj. Gen. Bennett E. Meyers, it might also take a good, penetrating look at the way he kept top secret records of the Army Air Forces materiel command during the war.

The Senate committee has developed the fact that General Meyers concealed hundreds of thousands of dollars of personal income. But if it looks thoroughly into the Air Corps, it will discover that Meyers kept three sets of books on Air Corps procurement.

Even such top-flight War Department officials as then Under-Secretary Robert P. Patterson had difficulty getting the true facts about the Air Corps buying program from Meyers. And when Patterson finally sent several aides to see Meyers to determine whether the Air Corps was wasting Federal funds, they learned that Meyers kept three sets of books.

Set No. 1 told the true facts about the procurement program. This was for the eyes of brass hats only.

Set No. 2 was for the White House and was calculated to show Roosevelt how able and brilliant top Air Corps officers were.

Set No. 3 was for the White House and was calculated to show Congress how hard up the Air Corps was and why it needed more money.

ARMY BOOKKEEPING

Patterson's ex-assistants say that General Hap-



Arnold, Meyers' superior, was fully aware of Meyers' book-keeping practices. At one point when Patterson ordered an assistant to make a survey of Air Corps procurement practices, Arnold and Meyers even fought the survey and it was only by calling in private engineers that Patterson was able to calculate the exact status of Air Corps procurement.

This survey showed that Air Corps buying policies strongly resembled a man drinking coffee and eating doughnuts. If he had half a doughnut left over, he ordered another cup of coffee. If he had a cup of coffee left over, he ordered another doughnut—thus making for an endless cycle.

In the case of the Air Corps, when the brass hats had too many planes, they ordered more planes. When they had too many pilots, they ordered more pilots. When the quantity of pilots, planes and gasoline got out of proportion, they ordered more air bases.

Patterson finally had the report read to a meeting of Hap Arnold's air staff, following which Arnold acidly inquired: "How many copies of that report are there?" "Three," replied Patterson's aide.

"Put them in the safe," said Arnold turning on his heels and storming out of the room. What Arnold didn't know until later was that there was a fourth copy of the report. This was taken to Harry Hopkins by Isador Lubin, then a White House secretary. Hopkins summoned Arnold to the White House and showed him the copy of the report charging Air Corps waste. Arnold claimed there was no truth to it whatsoever.

Meyers' Arrogance General Meyers' occasional arrogance frequently angered some of his associates. One successful Washington businessman who served the Air Corps with the rank of Colonel passed Meyers one day in the lobby of a Dayton, Ohio, hotel. Meyers threw his hotel key at the Colonel and told him to give the key to the hotel clerk. The Colonel, not used to being ordered around like an office boy, let the key drop to the floor and walked away. An hour later the Colonel, who is worth several millions dollars, visited General Meyers in his office and said: "Benny, I'm thinking of buying an airplane for myself after the war."

"You are?" replied Meyers. "Yes," replied the Colonel, with a bloody look in his eye, "and I'm thinking of hiring an Air Corps general to pilot it for me."

After that Meyers threw no more keys in hotel lobbies. Truman on Russia

President Truman used the clenched fist of the communists in talking about Joe Stalin the other day. Discussing world problems with John L. Golob, national commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Truman asserted:

"My life and my work is dedicated to keeping the world at peace. I'll do everything within my power to preserve peace, but—I held up a closed fist—"We are prepared to use this if we absolutely have to."

"I don't want to see any more crops of disabled vets," Truman continued. "We've had two huge crops from the last two wars. Our European friends have had even greater ones. Their disabled veterans far outnumber their war dead."

The President went on to say that if the American people had a better understanding of the tragic condition of the countries we are trying to help, they would be even more generous.

"We must understand that these countries are made up largely of old men and cripples, women and children," Truman said, "because of the great toll war has taken in their manpower. Therefore, we must be all the more patient in helping these unfortunate countries to get back on their feet."

Dividends For Peace This, the President added, would pay future dividends to the United States and to the world in preserving peace, for sick nations are easy prey for war makers.

Truman didn't identify the critics of the European Aid program, or say whether they were in Congress. However, he brought out that it would not be necessary for him to ask Congress for emergency relief had he used his war powers after V-J Day.

There were about \$63,000,000,000 of unused appropriations for the war program on V-J Day, all of which he asked Congress

to cancel, the President recalled. "Had I used some of that money to help reconstruct our European friends at that time, they might not be in such critical shape now," he declared. He went on to explain that he refrained from using his powers because he didn't want to do anything that might be contrary to the wishes of Congress. (Copyright, 1947, By The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

FOR LOANS AND INSURANCE see Mutual Loan & Finance Co.

John Conis, who is attending the University of Nebraska, was home over the week end to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Conis and his brother, Tommie.

EDSON'S WASHINGTON COLUMN

BY PETER EDSON NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NEA)—Text for today will be from the words of Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio, candidate for President in 1948. Quote:

"The President recommends that we extend and strengthen export control. Why, he has had power to control exports right along, only he hasn't exercised it in any effective way." End of quote.

This seemed like a challenging statement, worth looking into. Has the Truman administration failed to control exports? Does it have all the authority it needs? If not, what more power does it want?

The situation stacks up about like this: Authority to control all exports is given the administration in the Second Decontrol Act of 1947. It was passed last July 15 and became effective next day. It expires Feb. 29, 1948.

Main thing Truman wants is to have the act renewed. It's as simple as that. Since it usually takes Congress several months to act on a measure of this kind, it seems entirely proper for the President to ask for extension now.

The second part of Taft's charge, that the President hasn't exercised export control authority in an effective way is a more complicated story, but worth a look.

During the war there were approximately 3000 commodities under export control. Before an exporter could ship any of these items out of the country, he had to get a license from the government.

In extending export control authority last July, Congress laid down the policy that the government should "eliminate emergency wartime controls of materials except to the minimum extent necessary."

As a result of this mandate from Congress the number of commodities under export controls has been steadily reduced. As of Oct. 1, only 352 items were under export control.

Congress took one other step to make sure exports were decontrolled as fast as possible. It cut the appropriation of the Export Supply Branch in Department of Commerce, which administers this program.

During the war, Office of Export Controls had some 800 employees. It was cut to 120 last July, but now has 190. It can't employ more because it hasn't the money. Congress appropriated \$675,000 to wind up the work by next Feb. 29. Of this, \$135,000 must be used to pay terminal leave of employees. That leaves \$540,000 to operate on.

On one day last month over 5000 applications for export licenses were filed. On three other days the number was over 3000.

What Truman apparently wants is appropriation for enough of an organization to do the job it is supposed to do.

A big change has come over this export control business. Up to a year ago everybody—exporters, foreign buyers and the government—all wanted to get rid of export controls fast as possible. Now all the pressure brought on Department of Commerce is to tighten up controls and stop the outflow of scarce materials.

UP to now, export controls have been applied only quantitatively and without regard to price or destination. Exporters were given licenses to export certain quantities of goods to any country they chose, in line with prewar trade patterns. Effect of these exports on U. S. supply and domestic price levels was not a factor. Under the President's proposed anti-inflationary program, these factors will be given more weight.

More consideration will also have to be given to charges of profiteering in exports. A license now gives the exporter a virtual monopoly. He can charge the buyers any price he can get. If importing countries are to be financed with U. S. tax money under the Marshall Plan, it will become all the more necessary to control prices on American export items, both at home and abroad.

From now on it is expected there will be more emphasis in regulating the flow of exports to specific countries where need is greatest and U. S. foreign policy interests will be best served. There is particular pressure from Congress to limit exports to Russia and her satellites. Even Taft will probably approve of that.

Guests at the Warren Scharf-enberg home Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. George Berck and daughter, Sharon Lee of Osceola, Nebraska. Mrs. Earl Ossenkop of Lincoln was a visitor in Plattsmouth over the week end, a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Baumgart and enjoying a short outing.

Advertisement for Plattsmouth stores. It features a map of Plattsmouth with various neighborhood names like Ashland, Cedar Creek, Louisville, Greenwood, Murdock, Alvo, Manley, Weeping Water, Eagle, and Union. The main text says 'It Will Pay You to Shop PLATTSMOUTH First!' and lists benefits: 'POPULAR PRICES', 'CLEAN, PLENTIFUL STOCKS', 'NATIONALLY ADVERTISED PRODUCTS', 'FRIENDLY, PERSONAL SERVICE', and 'LESS TRAVEL'. It also mentions 'Avoca'.

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10th  
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and EVERY EVENING Beginning DECEMBER 17th

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Advertisement for Elliott Cleaners. It shows a person cleaning a suit and says 'Special DRY CLEANING'. Below the image, it says 'Leave Bundles at... Rosey's Barber Shop or Phone 5134 For Free Pickup and Delivery Elliott Cleaners All Work Guaranteed'.

Advertisement for Carson Robison on KFNF. It says 'Hear The ONE And ONLY Carson Robison ON KFNF Mon. - Wed. - Fri. Time 9:30 - 10:30 A.M.'.