

The Plattsmouth Journal

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EDITORIALS

AN HONEST PRICE

One unfortunate phase of the price problem is that everyone seems to be looking for a pat solution, which will solve it in one fell swoop.

The fact is that the problem is simply the sum total of innumerable other problems and forces, some of them of extreme complexity. For example, high wages contribute to high prices. Foreign aid contributes to high prices. Government fiscal policy, which is still strongly inflationary, contributes to high prices. Our record national income (increased printed money), which no one wants to reduce, contributes to high prices.

The worst illusion of all is that a return to price control of the OPA type would solve the problem. The government could set a low price for an article—but it couldn't make anyone produce that article if the price involved an operating loss. Price control would drive goods inexorably into the black market, which would then become the real market. Most dangerous of all, price control would be completely impossible unless it involved the strictest kind of wage and other controls—and subjected the nation to some kind of an economic dictatorship.

During the next year, prices may go up or they may come down. No one knows, and, as the experience of the past year or two shows, the forecasters are almost invariably wrong. But, in a free economy, where open competition exists all along the commodity line, down to the chain or independent store from which you buy your goods, the price will be an honest price. It will be an accurate reflection of present-day costs and conditions. And that is all that anyone can expect.

FIRE AND YOUR CHILD

"Fire is the leading accidental killer of children," writes the Star of Suggesties, New York. It then points out that while the battle against disease as a cause of child fatalities is being won, the battle against accidents is being lost.

Some 6,000 children under the age of five die in home accidents each year. More than a third die from burns and scalds—a larger toll than is exacted by the dread disease of polio. On top of that, for every child who is fatally burned, many more are crippled or disfigured for life.

No child is burned through his own fault. The blame comes straight home to parents who, through carelessness or ignorance or downright inertia, permit the child to be exposed to hazards. The Star cites some suggestions, made by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, which should be memorized by every parent:

1. Never leave children unattended in the home, and be sure the sitter is responsible.
 2. Keep matches, hot liquids, lamps, etc., out of the reach of children.
 3. Don't permit children to play with bonfires or fireworks. Such amusements as popcorn roasts should be held under close adult supervision.
 4. Avoid dressing children in highly inflammable clothing, such as net dresses.
 5. In case of fire, get children out of the house, then call the fire department.
- If all parents will follow these easy rules, the horrible toll fire now takes in the coin of children's lives and health will be sharply reduced.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

TEN YEARS AGO

Judge and Mrs. A. H. Duxbury visited at Ft. Crook schools where they showed pictures of their trip to Washington and New England states. . . . Mrs. R. A. Bates returned from a visit with relatives at Lockport, Illinois, the old family home. . . . Thomas Thomsen of Nebraska City established a credit bureau sponsored by the Business Men's Ad Club. . . . Life magazine honored former resident, Lloyd B. Wilson, president of the Chesapeake company, of the American Telephone and Telegraph Co. . . . W. W. Perry of Orange, California visited at the C. D. Spangler home and joined in celebration of his mother's 91st birthday. . . . Blizzard and winter weather caused Santa Claus to worry over anticipated trip to city.

THIRTY-ONE YEARS AGO

The ladies of St. Mary's Guild conducted a very successful Christmas shop in the Riley Hotel block. . . . Mesdames Fannie Dickson, William Mann and Fred Morgan entertained the Ladies Auxiliary of the Presbyterian church at the Dickson home on Chicago Avenue. . . . Frank Schmarder was victorious over Gus Pappas in match staged at Grand Theatre. . . . Chris Parkening purchased 308 acres near Cullom

Furse's Fresh Flashes

The members of the high school graduating classes over the state have just about five more months to be in blissful ignorance that the world does not owe them a living.

"A step farther and I would have been a step-father," explains a local man since he escaped the clutches of a Plattsmouth widow with a teen-aged son.

One Plattsmouth mother is not so perturbed by her children telling fibs as she is by them telling the truth at the most inappropriate times.

Too bad that by the time a person has sense enough to drive an automobile, he's too feeble to handle the wheel.

A local woman doesn't know whether to send her soiled camel hair coat to the cleaners or the beauty parlor.

All the nuts in an auto should be kept tight except the one at the wheel.

The trouble is, that all the things that come to a man who waits are seldom what he has been waiting for.

One reason we will never have a woman candidate for president is that a presidential candidate must be over 35 years of age.

A lot of people who are headed for hell should stop off here in Plattsmouth and get a glimpse of paradise.

We have such a stingy man here in Plattsmouth that he has all his children believing that Santa Claus is the "boogy-man."

A famed social worker makes the statement that a man needs \$1,000 before he marries. No doubt, but not anything like as bad as he needs it after he marries.

known as the Seybert place. . . . Thermometer at local Burlington station registered 4 degrees below zero at 7 a. m., lowest for the winter to date. . . . Fire Chief A. F. Braun reported to the city council the purchase of a forty gallon chemical engine as a splendid addition to the fire department equipment.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By Drew Pearson

DREW PEARSON SAYS:
CHINESE GOVERNMENT HUSHING UP GREAT LOVE STORY. SEN. AUSTIN PAYS TRIBUTE TO BRAZIL'S ARANHA. AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT HAGGLES WITH ARMY OVER FOOD.

WASHINGTON—The greatest love story since Edward VIII of England gave up the throne of England to marry Wallis Simpson is now being fearfully hushed up by the Chinese government. It is the romance of Madame Sun Yat-Sen, widow of the founder of the Chinese Republic, with an American Army Captain, Gerald Tannebaum of Baltimore.

To understand why the Chinese government is so worried over this love match, it is necessary to realize that Madame Sun is the Martha Washington of modern China, venerated by nationalists and communists alike. Her home and everything connected with her has become something of a shrine in the eyes of the Chinese people. Therefore, the news that she had fallen in love with a foreign soldier would be shattering to Chinese public opinion.

Madame Sun is also the sister-in-law of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, and the sister of Madame Chiang. She is the youngest of the famous Soong sisters and married Dr. Sun, founder of the Chinese Republic, when she was only 23. She is now 55 and still one of the most beautiful women in China.

In high Kuomintang circles, Madame Sun is regarded as the black sheep of the family, because she has long advocated peace between the Kuomintang and the communists—the same policy as that recommended by General Marshall.

Some high Chinese privately even call Madame Sun a communist, though, because of her great prestige, no one dares say a word against her in public. Instead, the government guards her as a sort of living national monument, and writers sometimes refer to her as a "palace prisoner."

It was this close surveillance—and an intercepted letter—that uncovered Madame Sun's romance with Captain Tannebaum. For three years however, it remained one of the best-kept secrets in China. The story is that of a modern "Madame Butterfly" in reverse.

A comparatively young man, Capt. Tannebaum met the 55-year-old widow of Sun Yat-Sen in Chungking where he was attached to the U. S. Air Forces. Politically they thought alike, and an intellectual friendship was struck up, which swelled into a warm love, told in sentimental notes exchanged between the two.

LOVE LETTERS BY RADIO RECORDS
After the war, Tannebaum was transferred to Shanghai and Madame Sun followed. He continued to write love letters, addressing her affectionately as "Susie." These were deposited by a Chinese messenger in a secret cache where they would not be censored by Kuomintang watchers. When Mme. Sun was under too close observation, she sent records of popular love songs to Tannebaum's office at Shanghai's radio station XMHA, at that time operated by the



American forces. He would retire to the control room and play them in secret. Sometimes she was also able to put through telephone calls.

On such occasions, Tannebaum would order his staff out of the room. But to a few trusted friends he confided that he hoped to marry Madame Sun.

Madame Sun was most discreet, and took care to ignore Tannebaum at public functions that brought them together. But when it came time for his discharge from the Army and his return to the States, she took a daring step. She hired him to direct a small relief agency which she had organized. Later, he flew home upon word his brother was dying.

The Chinese authorities seized this opportunity to try to block Tannebaum's return to China. But after several weeks of waiting and wrangling, he managed to get back to Shanghai and the most idolized lady in China.

Best Friend of USA
Senator Warren Austin of Vermont, now U. S. delegate to the United Nations, arose in the closing session of the assembly and paid tribute to a great American—Oswaldo Aranha of Brazil.

The average newspaper reader might not think of the former Brazilian foreign minister as an American, because we have the bad habit of thinking that only North Americans are Americans. But not only is Aranha a great American—whether north or south—but he has been one of the greatest friends of the United States.

Time after time during the early stages of the war, when the Brazilian army and even President Vargas were convinced the U. S. forces would not recover from the crippling blow at Pearl Harbor, Aranha forced them to give vital Brazilian military bases to the U. S. A. Time after time he threw his weight behind U. S. requests that Brazil clean out Nazi agents and the Jap colonies in Sao Paulo.

At the recent United Nations meeting, Aranha as president did more than any other one man to pilot the assembly through the pitfalls of Vishinsky's recriminations, British vacillation and Gromvko vetoes. The sometimes wavering U. N. came out stronger and healthier for Aranha's wise leadership.

Senator Austin, who has done a lot for the United Nations himself, had good reason to know all this. The only thing that might have been added to Austin's tribute is that if anyone deserves the Nobel Peace prize next year, it will be Oswald Aranha for his great work as president of the United Nations.

U. S. Bureau Count Dollars
It should interest those who worry about government expenditures that the Agriculture Department has been haggling lately with its most stubborn customer—the Army. The argument is a familiar one in the grocery business. Agriculture has some surplus stocks on its hands that it would like to sell—dried fruits, dried eggs, sweet potatoes and peanuts. But the Army is a

frugal buyer and won't pay the prices.

Agriculture argues that the Army is in no position to quibble over prices with starving people to feed in occupied areas, points out that the Army's duty is to lay hands on any food it can get. Besides, isn't it more practical to buy up goods that will help both Europe and America at the same time?

But the Army complains that its budget is running low as a result, first, of the shaving Congress gave appropriations; second, the sudden skyrocketing of prices; and third, the extra bills which dollar-bankrupt Britain left the U. S. holding.

Now it looks as if Congress may step in and settle the controversy. At the backstage prompting of Senator Carl Hayden, Arizona Democrat, the Senate agreed to make surplus foods available for overseas relief at the same price per calory as wheat. If the resolution passes, Congress will make up the losses to the Agriculture Department.

Note—Agriculture still isn't happy, doesn't want the losses to appear in its bookkeeping. It would rather that the Army bought the surpluses at prevailing prices, then let Congress make up the deficit to the Army. (Copyright, 1947, By The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

Nehawka Woman's Club Notes

The Nehawka Woman's Club met Friday, Dec. 5th, 1947 at the home of Mrs. Raymond Polard, with Mrs. Bruce Stone, Mrs. Leo Switzer and Mrs. Geo. Sheldon as assistant hostesses.

The President, Mrs. Henry Ross, conducted the business meeting.

Mrs. John Hansen led the flag salute. Mrs. Will Ost, devotional leader, used Bible verses and stories concerning the Nativity of Christ, taken from the book "Christ and the Fine Arts."

Roads and weather prevented guests and speaker from attending. Mrs. Glen Rutledge, program chairman, proceeded by using

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EDSON'S WASHINGTON COLUMN

BY PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(NEA)—Major criticism hurled against President Truman's anti-inflation program is that it represents a return to "planned economy."

Truman himself, in one of the worst political boners of his career, admitted at a press conference a month before his special message to Congress that consumer controls were police state methods. Republicans are rubbing that one in till it hurts.

Senator and presidential candidate Robert A. Taft charges that the Truman administration is demanding "complete power over everything and everybody. . . a regimented and planned economy." Previously Taft declared, ". . . we can better stand higher prices than we can stand a complete retrace to Fascist regimentation."

Republican National Chairman B. Carroll Reece —in what sounds like an attempt to crack the first political slogan for 1948—says Truman wants to put "a cop in every kitchen."

But bless their hearts, if you removed from Washington all the people of both parties who had plans for curing whatever it is that's wrong with the country, this place would look better.

MAKING plans is the biggest business in the capital. People who hate the Truman ideas the most are some of the hottest planners. Committee for Constitutional Government—certainly one of the most anti-New Deal outfits in the country and the second biggest spender among the registered lobbyists—issues more plans and statements than Democratic and Republican National Committees.

National Assn. of Manufacturers fills many wastebaskets with copies of its plans on taxes, labor, high prices or what have you. Railroads, realtors, farm organizations and labor now have research staffs and representatives who do nothing but make plans. Before World Depression One most of the planning was done by individual scholars, like Adam Smith. They would shut themselves up and write a book.

The New Deal of course went in for planning in a big way. That's where the dog got its bad name. Nevertheless, the government's National Resources Planning Board did some exceptional work.

But outside government a few blue ribbon private and endowed groups have begun to take hold. Today, National Planning Assn., founded in 1934, and Committee for Economic Development, started in 1943, are probably at the top of the heap among the private organizations interested in trying to steer the economy for the general good.

It is difficult to know just how much good these planners do. Certainly, congressional reorganization could not have been put over in 1946 if advance planning had not been done by George B. Galloway for the American Political Science Assn. and Robert Heller for the National Planning Assn.

National Planning Assn. was probably responsible for starting the thinking on postwar reconversion and full employment in '41-'42. Committee for Economic Development, in studies by A. D. H. Kappan, anticipated most of the contract termination policies later developed by Barney Baruch for the postwar planning committee.

Some of their ideas have been duds and flops. Other examples of plans that panned out could be given. Those cited above illustrate the main point, which is that economic planning is now a science. Every big business firm now has its planning staff. And for the government, which is the biggest business of them all, to try to get along without planning would be the height of folly. Only a few of the politicians have yet waked up to the fact that politics is no longer purely an emotional game. It is also a science—political science.

Politicians, therefore, don't mean what they say when they talk about doing away with planning and the planned economy. The Republican proposal to cut taxes and let the economy run wild is just as much a plan as Truman's proposals to try putting on a few curbs and attempting to prevent World Depression Two.

USE JOURNAL WANT ADS

"I LET THE GAS FLAME QUINTS DO THE WORK IN MY HOME"

You, too, can save time, energy . . . and money . . . with the aid of these jolly elves! Just install a modern automatic gas range, silent gas refrigerator, dependable gas hot water service and carefree gas heating in your home.

- "CLEANLY" helps keep everything spotless. Gas is delivered clean, burns clean.
- "STEADY" assures absolute dependability. Gas fuel never lets you down.
- "FLEXY" gives you high heat, low heat, any degree between. Gas is flexible.
- "SPEEDY" saves time. Gas is the only fuel that reaches full heat instantly.
- "THRIFTY" safeguards your budget. Gas appliances are long-lived, gas rates low.

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