

## The Plattsmouth Journal

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RONALD R. FURSE, Publisher  
FRANK H. SMITH, Editor  
HAROLD THURKER, Advertising Manager  
Helen E. Heinrich, News Editor.  
Harry Wilcoxon, Manager Job Department  
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## EDITORIALS

### NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK

"Your right to know is the key to all your liberties." That's the theme given to National Newspaper Week to be observed October 1 through October 8 throughout the United States.

We often wonder whether our people really appreciate the fact they do have the right to know. Whether or not they appreciate all the information, the good and the bad of our national and local governments, and the hundreds of other facts that are carried in the columns of their daily and weekly newspapers year in and year out.

So many nations over the world today suppress all information they do not want their people to know. They taint the facts with propaganda and paint it up with special words and phrases to form a picture suiting their own point of view. Politically, especially during election years such as now, this often occurs in many newspapers over our country, but on matters of public interest you can count on your local newspaper to give you the facts and look out for the welfare of the rank and file of our citizens.

Often we ourselves fail to appreciate the fact that here sitting in front of our typewriter we are free to write anything we desire as long as it stays within the bounds of common decency and postal regulations, which are most liberal. We can place our writings in this newspaper and send it into thousands of homes in this community. It is not necessary that we show this copy to a censor or anyone before it is published. We're the sole judge as to what will occupy this space this, or any week.

Here in America we call it "Freedom of the Press." It's a marvelous privilege come down to us from the Fathers who founded this nation. We sometimes abuse it, but more often our words are governed by the thought that our abuse of this wonderful privilege, our lack of truth and fairness, could put us out of business.

National Newspaper Week is just as important to you as it is to us. It isn't a week in which you are expected to eat more apples, wear more cotton, buy a puppy or den the fall hat. It is simply a week in which, thoughtfully and of your own free will, resolve to do everything in your power to keep the press of America free.

All of us, and the children to come after us, can then be assured of a continuation of the Freedom we have enjoyed these 177 years.

### NEBRASKA'S BUSINESS AND YOU

The Nebraska Small Business Men's Association observed today that basic industry in the State is running at an all-time high.

The Association based its conclusion on figures showing that for the first eight months of this year, the weeks of unemployment compensation paid to idle workers were twenty per cent less than for the corresponding period in 1947.

The NSBMA also pointed to the continued high demand for labor as a contributing factor to the production high.

Sidelighting the conclusion is the latest report of department store sales in Nebraska as compiled by the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. The survey shows a nine per cent gain for the four-week period ending September 11.

Figures released by the NSBMA this week show that Nebraska's farm income has increased by more than 300 per cent in the period from 1940 to 1947. The NSBMA points out that the farmer's income is greater since farming is the State's principal industry. The increase in net per capita income for all Nebraskans for the same period was 170 per cent.

Ninety-four thousand new homes grew under the carpenter's saw and hammer across the nation in the month of July. On a national scale that means the start of construction on 550 new homes per hour and nine each minute.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

### TEN YEARS AGO

Mrs. Chris Metzger, accompanied by her daughter Mrs. Neal Hall of Harlan, Iowa and Mrs. A. H. Duxbury of this city departed on a trip to the north with Canada as their destination.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Boedeker and daughter Jane were touring Europe. Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Steger of Columbus visited with friends here. Rev. Steger was pastor of St. Paul's church for several years. Bion Hoffman, Coach at P.H.S. was a guest at Rotary club and spoke on athletic work in public schools. Murray residents voted for the bond issue to erect and maintain water plant. Descendants of Mr. and Mrs.

## Furse's Fresh Flashes

An alimony verdict was the first court plaster.  
A flatterer sometimes doesn't know when his line is out of order.

Few girls have any particular view on kissing, reports a noted writer. It's probably because they close their eyes.

Paint alone will save your home—reads an advertisement. Keeping up the payments will help.

In these great days of prosperity, one can't even live as cheaply as one.

One half of the world doesn't know how the other half lives, until somebody starts talking.

The greatest drawback to a budding love affair is the blooming expense.

Note to young men—it's dangerous to drive with one arm. You might run into a church.

Dentists over the nation should serve on our tax boards. Didn't they major in painless extraction?

Tons of dirt circulates in the air around here every day. Only the scandal mongers listen to it.

J. R. Vallery held reunion at Elmwood Park Omaha on Sept. 25.

### TWENTY ONE YEARS AGO

Gust Foster who spent the summer in Denmark returned to Louisville following a very enjoyable visit with the mother in the home country. Herbert Swanson became owner of the Sportman cigar store and lunch room. Rev. Harold E. Sortor reassigned to local Methodist church. City football team organized for coming season, with Harold Erickson as manager. The street department of the city were kept busy following the heavy rains which wrecked the roads leading into Plattsmouth. Students at University of Nebraska revived ancient Anglo Saxon game of hare and hound. Plattsmouth Ad Club were arranging for corn contest for awards on best five ears of corn. Co. Agent L. R. Snipes in charge of judging.

## The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON  
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DREW PEARSON SAYS:  
MRS. ROOSEVELT WILL NOT ACTIVELY SUPPORT TRUMAN'S RE-ELECTION. NAVY HAS A ONE-MAN LOBBY; TREASURY DEPARTMENT DICKERS WITH GOV. EARL LONG ON TAX VIOLATION.

WASHINGTON—Mrs. Roosevelt has indicated to friends she will not be speaking in support of President Truman's re-election.

This is going to be a big disappointment to Mr. Truman, for, way back when the United Nations was first founded and he decided to appoint Mrs. Roosevelt as a delegate, he had in mind getting her support for his re-election. At least, he told Jimmie Byrnes, then secretary of state, that he hoped this would help keep the Roosevelt family in his camp.

Mrs. Roosevelt, however, has told friends that she will remain in Europe at the United Nations General Assembly until around December 1, will take no part in the election campaign.

Note—Mrs. Roosevelt was privately opposed to Truman's renomination.

NAVY'S ONE-MAN LOBBY  
The Navy has an unofficial press agent on its payroll who bombards editors and congressmen with letters, telling the Navy's side in its feud with the Air force.

He is Hugh L. Hanson, 9,000-a-year engineer for the Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics. Allegedly as a "private citizen," he writes what the Navy would dare not say officially.

This one-man letter lobby, if it doesn't actually violate the Lobbying Act, certainly is contrary to Secretary of Defense James Forrestal's directive against bickering among the services. Yet Forrestal, instead of rebuking Hanson, has been conferring with him in private.

Hanson claims he composes the letters in his spare time, as "sort of a hobby." Yet the letters are filled with technical information that obviously requires on-the-job research. They are also turned out on such a mass scale that it would take considerable "spare time." In subject matter, the letters consistently hammer the Air Force and support the Navy line.

Hanson even went so far as to write Senators against appropriations for the Air Force's giant B-36 bombers. To Senator Brien McMahon, Connecticut democrat, he wrote: "I would greatly appreciate it if you would tell me why we are expending public funds on a bomber whose performance does not seem to be any better than aircraft available prior to the war."

Hanson gave his home address as Canaan, Connecticut.

However, in a letter to Senator John Bricker, Ohio, republican, this Navy employe gave a different home address—this time, Columbus, Ohio. Note—Now Hanson has even started writing to the president.

### LOUISIANA POLITICS

The Chicago Tribune carried banner headlines recently accusing the Truman administration of threatening Gov. Earl Long with income-tax prosecution if he didn't call a special session of the Louisiana legislature to put Truman's name back on the ballot.

## Don't Take Us Too Seriously, Comrades



Real fact is that Governor Long does have an income-tax case which has been hanging fire for some time, but his arm was not twisted into calling the special session. The amount of money involved is not great and there was never any question of criminal prosecution. However, when the U. S. Treasury assessed a fraud penalty of \$1,200 against Long some time ago, he howled like a stuck pig, said he didn't mind paying the penalty, but didn't want it labeled a "fraud" penalty. The Treasury is still dickering with him.

Reason for the rumor about the Truman administration bulldozing Long into calling a special session was the secret tactics of Peyton Ford, assistant to the attorney general, who eased into New Orleans very quietly and had someone else register for him at the Roosevelt hotel. Ford, whose middle name is "Secrecy," operated in such a hush-hush manner that everyone suspected the worst.

MERRY GO-ROUND  
Senator Owen Brewster of Maine spent \$1,752 to print copies of his speech attacking Howard Hughes. That doesn't include secretarial service and mailing charges which the taxpayers paid for Brewster due to the fact that he has free franking privileges.

A long list of new Jersey lawyers have petitioned the Justice department to investigate the very serious charges I have made against Congressman Parnell Thomas of New Jersey.

Four days after he returns from the west, President Truman will hit the road again—in the opposite direction. This time he will speak in large eastern cities—Philadelphia, October 6; Newark, N. J., October 7; Syracuse, N.Y., October 8; Buffalo, the same day.

Scranton, Pa., October 9. Then back to the White House. Winston Churchill will spend next winter in Palm Beach. He will arrive in New York early in December to speak before the National Association of Manufacturers, then head south.

TEXANS ROW OVER TRUMAN  
When President Truman received his typically Texas reception in San Antonio the other day, he was blissfully ignorant of the fact that Truman Democrats and Dixiecrats had staged a terrific battle over him just a short time before.

San Antonio gave Truman just about the biggest reception of his trip. But if he had come a little earlier he might have stepped into another battle of the Alamo.

A few weeks ago a lot of Texans said they wouldn't go around the corner to see Harry Truman. Regular democrats were out to defeat him, and Jesse Jones' newspaper later did come out against him. But a group of Roosevelt Texans, led by Tom Miller of Austin, Maury Maverick, Woodville Rogers and Bond Davis, all of San Antonio, led the fight for Truman and won.

They succeeded, among other things, in kicking out bitter anti-Trumanite Wright Morrow as democratic national commit-tee man in San Antonio to prepare

for Truman's visit, he was on the upgrade in popularity and even some of the Dixiecrats were ready to embrace him. In fact, the regulars didn't even admit County Chairman Bond Davis and State Executive Commit-tee man Woodville Rogers, the men who pioneered for Truman, into their meeting to prepare for Truman's reception—until Mrs. Maury Maverick raised a rumpus about it.

So when the Truman special rolled into town his onetime critics were so full of honeyed phrases that Wright Morrow was right at the head table, snuggling up to the man he had cussed out in unprintable language.

VETERANS HOSPITAL PROBE  
Rep. George Bender of Ohio is probing charges that Negro patients at the Tuskegee, Alabama, Veterans hospital are living in "filth and neglect."

Bender plans to get to the bottom of reports that the hospital's mental and nonmental patients are huddled together in the same wards; also that there are only 10 psychiatrists to care for 1,500 mental cases—about half the number needed for minimum requirements.

Another case deserving Bender's investigation is the condition of white patients at the Veterans Administration hospital at Perry Point, Maryland, a short distance from Washington.

But by the time the democrats met in San Antonio to prepare

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## WASHINGTON COLUMN

BY DOUGLAS LARSEN  
NEA Staff Correspondent



## GI Homeseekers Got a Jolt From Hike in Interest Rates

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—When the information leaked out that Veterans' Administrator Carl Gray was considering hiking the interest rate on GI home loans, veterans who had applications in the mill got a nasty jolt. And so did the government effort to check inflation.

The curious part of the whole business is that Gray apparently didn't want the power to raise the interest on guaranteed mortgages from 4 to 4½ per cent which the special session of Congress gave him. He certainly didn't ask for it. And it's obviously contrary to the President's announced policy of trying to hold the line against increasing prices at every possible point. Yet Congress barely got out of town before it was out of the bag that Gray was seriously considering using that power which would add to the inflationary spiral.

AGITATION to increase the interest rate on GI home loans began many months ago. The sale of homes to veterans constituted a large hunk of the nation's housing business. The banks and agencies which were financing the sales naturally wanted more interest on their money. The 4 per cent rate fixed in the GI Bill of Rights was quite a bit lower than the regular non-government loans were bringing, and cost the vet from one-half to one per cent less than the government's FHA guaranteed loans.

While the lending agencies sought the increase, they were also putting considerable pressure on veterans to make special combination VA-FHA loans. This type guaranteed the lender 100 per cent of its money. The straight GI loans only guaranteed 50 per cent of it up to a maximum guarantee of \$4,000.

On a \$10,000 home under the straight VA plan a vet ended up paying about \$14,311 for it, including interest. Under the combination plan he eventually paid about \$15,513 for the same house. This whole situation of lenders tending to shy away from straight GI loans was presented to the recent special session as a "drying up of the GI loan market," caused by the low 4 per cent interest rate. On this basis Gray, without asking for it or wanting it, was given the power to increase the rate a half of per cent.

BECAUSE Gray hadn't sought the power, it was logically assumed that he wouldn't be in a hurry to use it. But Gray immediately wrote to the heads of the 70 regional offices asking them to investigate whether the increase was actually needed to spur on the loan program. And, as is his habit, he also wrote to the big veterans' organizations asking their opinion. He must have known, however, that every one of them had just gone on record opposing it.

The letter-writing let the cat out of the bag. As soon as the lenders got wind of the fact that Gray was seriously considering raising the rate, most of them naturally stopped negotiation on loans at the lesser rate, many of which were in the final stages of approval. Before this happened, however, many of the reports from the VA regional offices had shown that the GI loan market was far from drying up.

But the damage was done. The very situation which the agitators for the hike wanted automatically came into being. The market virtually did dry up. And it practically placed Gray in the uncomfortable position of being forced into raising the interest rate. Only an order of President Truman himself to Gray could keep him from doing it.

And immediately it became apparent that the opposition to the hike would be licked. The Veterans of Foreign Wars national encampment quickly voted approval of report which read, "We recommend with reluctance this necessary evil of the home loan guarantee program."

At the time the bill was passed giving Gray the power to make the increase it was sagely remarked that it would put the administration neatly over the barrel.

### OVERSEAS PLANE WINS IN DIAPER DERBY

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP)—Man-made wings are faster than the stork's.

Flying an emergency layette shipment from New York to Geneva, a Seaboard & Western Air Lines DC-4 Air trader touched down the winner in a diaper derby half-way round the world, beating the stork by a margin of hours.

The cargo, unique in air freight history, was landed in answer to the appeal of the prospective father. The plane carried everything to outfit the anticipated newborn, from booties to bonnets and including several dozen diapers. The expectant parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Alexander, two American writers touring Europe, were delivered in their return to the United States beyond the stork deadline.

### Crime Detection Motorized

CHICAGO (AP)—Two scientific, fully equipped laboratories now roll to the scenes of Chicago crime. The station wagons are fitted with cameras, fingerprint equipment, devices for extracting and examining bullets, and containers for fragile clues that must be removed to the regular laboratory.

### Registered Duocos Announcing Our "Penaway Boar Plan"

YOU visit the farm or phone to make your selection. WE feed them free until October 20. Try us first—if we don't have what you want we'll help you find it!

RICHARD D. SACK  
Ph. 5016 Murray, Nebr.  
1 mile west and 1 mile north

Use Journal Want Ads

## A \$14.00 ELECTRIC POLE NOW COSTS \$26.00

BUT your electric rates are actually lower than before the war.

Yes, an electric pole that cost approximately \$14.50 in 1929, today costs approximately twice that much and we must buy plenty of them to keep your electric service at its best. But high prices are no news to you because living costs in general have increased over 70% and some items as much as 200% since 1929. Yes, those are hard cold facts—hard on you and hard on us. Yet, with all of these increased costs, your electric rates have not increased. In fact, they are actually lower than before the war. That means that we now provide your electric service at below pre-war rates even with the high cost of materials today.

We have tried to do everything possible to keep electric rates down—have made THREE GENERAL RATE REDUCTIONS since 1939. Increased use of electricity and more business have helped to partially offset these increased costs. But, frankly, with need for expanded facilities to serve growing requirements and constantly increasing costs, we cannot help wondering how long we can hold the line.

\*From state news release 6-23-48 based on Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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the horse has bolted? Order your coal now. Have it ready for use when the first cold wave comes. Being sorry doesn't keep you warm. Being prepared does.

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