

CAPITOL NEWS

(Compiled by Neb. Press Ass'n.)
Lincoln, Neb.—The legislature apparently is willing to go along with the national trend of higher assistance payments to the needy. But it is not as open-handed as its public health committee.

This week the unicameral gave tentative approval to bills raising maximum grants to the aged from \$50 a month to \$55, and to the blind, from \$50 to \$60. The committee had recommended a \$60 ceiling on the old age grants, and \$70 for assistance to the blind.

Sen. Norris Schroeder, Hoskins farmer, led the fight against the proposed boosts. He scored the argument that the present \$50 ceiling leaves 19 per cent of the aged on the assistance rolls with unmet needs.

Schroeder said the state and counties, on a 75-25 per cent formula, team up to provide money needed over the ceiling. He warned against falling in

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step "with the national trend of more and more social legislation (which) stifles initiative and cuts deep into resourcefulness."

Other opposition to the higher ceilings was based on the contention that they would not benefit the large majority of the state's wards who, it was said, have a hard time of getting along on the budgets allowed by the state assistance department.

After more than two weeks of debate, and amendments to amendments, the anti-fireworks bill was killed.

Sen. O. H. Person, Wahoo, abandoned his proposed measure after Sen. John McKnight, Auburn, amended it past his liking. Person wanted to ban sale of all fireworks, which now may be sold only in municipalities specifically permitting this.

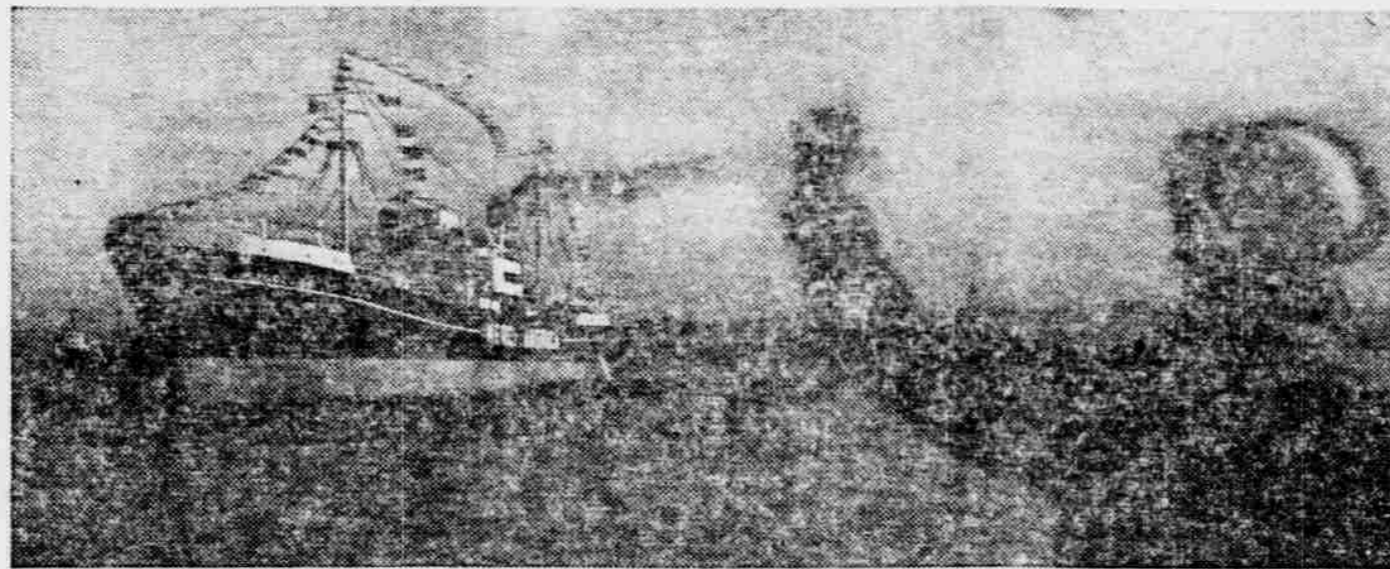
McKnight thought the blanket ban was excessive, and succeeded in amending the bill to permit the sale of "safe and sane" fireworks during the week before July 5. Person labeled his orphan bill "deplorable and asinine."

"I don't," he said, "want any part of being responsible for injury to any child, or the destruction of property."

He then offered the motion to kill the bill, and the legislature agreed, 21-17.

Opponents of the proposed new law argued frequently during the fortnight the bill bobbed up and down on general file, that July 4 patriotism called for the noise and color of fireworks.

GOODBYE FRANCE, HELLO BROADWAY!



A crewman on one of the coast guard vessels which saluted the S. S. Magellan, carrying France's 49-car Gratitude Train, waves a greeting as the French line freighter moves along New York harbor. After a colorful marine and aerial welcome for the French answer to America's Friendship Train last year, the train was unloaded (see photo at right) and the New York carload of gifts from France borne on an air corps trailer down Broadway in a gala parade of welcome. The other cars are currently being delivered to state capitals throughout the nation.

RECIPROCATING for America's gift of \$40,000,000 worth of food, fuel and clothing gathered state by state via the Friendship Train last year, the 49-car Gratitude Train is now distributing its cargo of more than 1,000 gifts from the people of France, state by state, to the people of America.

All 48 states—also the District of Columbia and Hawaii—eventually will receive one of the famous little 40-and-eight boxcars of World War I—only big enough for 40 men and eight horses, but bearing instead valuable gifts of French art and craftsmanship, including lace, pottery, vases, statuary, etc.

Gifts to Be Displayed.

In most state capitals to be visited, the train will be met at the railroad station by the governor, various civic dignitaries and a unit of the Forty and Eight, an affiliate of the American Legion, or a unit of the National Guard—or both. The gifts will then be placed on exhibit.

The train arrived in New York harbor February 2 aboard the

French freighter Magellan, ushered in by the Statue of Liberty—another gift from France—and welcomed by booming harbor whistles, fireboat geyzers, an armada of police launches and a sky blanket of roaring jet planes overhead. On the starboard side of the ship was a huge sign: "Merici America."

After being unloaded onto barges

at Weehawken, N. J., the train was shipped back to New York for a gala welcome parade down Broadway, with the New York car borne on an air corps trailer, after which the car was turned over to Mayor William O'Dwyer by French Ambassador Henri Bonnet.

In Washington.

In Washington, D. C., the train's arrival was greeted with eight jet planes roaring overhead in aerial salute, followed by a ceremony at the grave of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National cemetery in which the American Legion accepted from four French war veterans an eternal torch which had been lighted January 22 at the Arc de Triomphe

at least in the opinion of youngsters.

The attorney general and then the governor canceled out Sen. Don Hanna's (Valentine) plan to require life terms in the penitentiary to serve at least 20 years before applying to the pardon board for clemency.

The measure was enacted by a bare majority, and sent to the governor. Then Sen. Clyde Cretzinger, Paxton, urged Atty. Gen. James H. Anderson for his opinion on the constitutionality of the act.

Anderson held it was unconstitutional, since it infringed on the powers vested in the pardon board. This was enough for Gov. Val Peterson. He vetoed the measure.

Hanna did not try to override Peterson's veto. But he predicted the wide-spread discussion of the bill during its embattled progress through the legislature would prompt the board to scrutinize clemency applications more carefully, and require longer terms of the "ifers."

The familiar battle between sparsely populated counties and urban areas for a change in the allocation of the counties' share of the five-cent gasoline tax is due to be waged in the 1949 legislature.

The counties now share in the money on a formula of 45 per cent based upon motor vehicle registration, 45 per cent on rural population, and 10 per cent on non-farm population.

Schroeder last month introduced a bill to eliminate the 10 per cent non-farm population proportion. He would have this money distributed on the basis of the proportion of road mileage in each county, exclusive of the state highway system, to the entire road mileage in the state.

Now Sens. William Metzger, Cedar Creek, and John McKnight, Auburn, have announced a second proposed change, in preference to the Schroeder bill. They would earmark one-third the counties' funds for allocation on the number of feet of bridges in each county, not maintained by the state.

Metzger and McKnight said they were confident their plan would win legislative approval, since 47 counties represented by 26 senators would stand to gain, compared to their present cuts of the revenue pie.

The counties are Blaine, Boone, Boyd, Buffalo, Burr, Cass, Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dawson, Dixon, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Gage, Gosper, Greeley, Harlan, Hitchcock, Holt, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Keith, Knox, Merrick, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Pierce, Platte, Red Willow, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Sherman, Sioux, Stanton, Thurston, Valley, Washington, Wayne and Webster.

Another bill likely to produce bitter debate is the proposed compulsory retirement act for municipal employees. At a hear-

ing on the bill, supporters argued the act must be mandatory since too few cities and towns are willing to vote in the additional expense.

Employees would contribute four per cent of their wages, and the local government, six per cent. Spokesmen said salaries probably would have to be hiked if the compulsory pension is enacted, since the workers cannot afford a cut in their take-home pay.

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Mr. and Mrs. Art Steinhoff visited Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dankleff Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Rohlf of Nebraska City, announce the birth of a daughter at the St. Mary's hospital in Nebraska City, February 25th.

The Avoca volleyball team started to Adams where they were to play Barnston Wednesday evening. The roads were so bad and they got stuck and were unable to reach their destination. The Barnston team were able to get there and so the game was forfeited to them.

Mrs. Elmer Hallstrom will be hostess to the Avoca cemetery Auxiliary at her home Friday, March 4th, at the first meeting of the year.

Mrs. Henry Smith was hostess to the Extension club Tuesday. Leaders were Mrs. Elmer Hallstrom and Mrs. Albert Carr on the continued subject of "Insurance."

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lightful luncheons in Mrs. Markland's honor, and they saw Mrs. Laura Kennedy Carrick, frequently, and had a visit with Dr. and Mrs. Specht, while there. They also spent two weeks at the home of Mr. Markland's brother, at La Jolla, California. It was a trip filled with happy memories, of having seen so many former Weeping Water friends and relatives.

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Weeping Water

Mrs. Thomas Murty

Weeping Water Woman's club met Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. John C. Pryor, with a good attendance. It was a busy day, with the annual election of officers, which resulted as follows: President, Mrs. Ray Norris; Vice-President, Mrs. Murray Mutter; Secretary, Mrs. James Howland; Treasurer, Mrs. Joe Bender; Journalist, Mrs. W. D. Lenker after which the ladies enjoyed the play, "A Little Mistake," given by the following cast: Mrs. Floyd Hite, Mrs. Murray Mutter, Mrs. W. D. Lenker, Mrs. Arthur Jones, Mrs. Joe Bender, Mrs. James Howland and Mrs. Henry Knaup. The program closed with two piano numbers played by Mrs. Harold Harmon. The play was one of the finest ever given by club members, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Mr. and Mrs. August Klemme, of Weeping Water, will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary, Wednesday, March 9th, with a reception for all their friends, from 2 until 5 in the afternoon, at the Christian church, and in the evening from 7 until 9, they will receive their friends in their own home. All friends of this good couple are invited to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. I. L. Markland returned home Tuesday after a seven weeks trip which took them to Oklahoma City, then on to Long Beach and to La Jolla, California. They report a fine trip of more than six thousand miles, with no tire trouble, and fine roads wherever they went. On their way west they visited the Carlsbad Caverns, with their wonderful scenery. Mr. and Mrs. Markland have been married for thirty-six years, and they report this was their honeymoon trip, as it was their first long pleasure trip together, since they were married. They spent three weeks at the Torrence Flemming home, and they were entertained for one day by Mrs. Charles Hay, who took them to Knott's Berry farm, for a delightful day and for dinner. A group of ladies, all former Nebraska women, gave several de-

where France's Unknown Soldier rests.

In Baltimore, Md., Lt.-Gov. Alexis du Pont Bayard welcomed the train, after which a police band played lively airs and Legionnaires formed a guard of honor for the boxcar. Then the gifts were placed on exhibit for 10 days—February 5 to February 14.

In Trenton, N. J., Mayor Donald Connolly headed the welcoming committee for the train. The articles were displayed in the State museum there and then distributed among New Jersey public schools and colleges. The boxcar was turned over to the New Jersey society of the Forty and Eight for use in a statewide membership campaign.

Avoca

Mrs. Henry Maseman
Journal Correspondent

The Congregational church will hold Lenten services on Friday evening. The first meeting to be in charge of the Missionary committee with Mrs. Wm. Berger as chairman.

Francis Marquardt returned to his home in California after spending several weeks with his mother, Mrs. H. H. Marquardt.

Mrs. Albert Cocker came down from Omaha Tuesday to spend several days with her brother, H. H. Marquardt.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dumke attended the state lumbermen convention several days this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Zaiser spent the Washington holiday with friends in Omaha Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sloan and Mrs. Marie Tressler, are visiting at his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Marie Tressler.

Mrs. Hans Jensen was hostess to the ladies aide Thursday in the church parlors. Mrs. Elmer Hallstrom had charge of devotions.

Miss Lorena Stubbendick occupied the pulpit Sunday in absence of Rev. Berger, who attended a veterans convention at Hastings.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ruhge and family of Talmadge, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ruhge, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Stovall, Riverton, Iowa, were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. F. Ruhge.

Private Le Roy Sudman spent a three day pass at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Sudman. Le Roy was accidentally burned while firing a stove at camp and the stove exploded.

Private Chester Noerlinger is spending his furlough here after his thirteen weeks training at San Antonio, Texas.

Mr. and Mrs. John Berner moved Tuesday to their new home. Leslie Berner will move on their farm and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Solitt will move to the Young place which Leslie Berner vacated.

Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Ruge and Larry and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Emshoff and family visited Mrs. Dena Ruge and Frances on Sunday.

Mrs. Bessie Paap visited with Mrs. Martha Ruge Sunday. Ted Nutzman of Omaha visited at the J. L. Nutzman home Sunday.

Fred Baller visited over to Union several days last week. Mrs. John Sudman visited several days at Nebraska City last week.

Miss Ester Sheldon was some what improved over the week end and knew her brother, Lucian, when he arrived from New York, but at this writing, is very ill again.

Mrs. Eva Paine, who has been cooking at the Hadsell Nursing home, has gone to visit her daughter at North Platte.

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