

The Plattsmouth Journal

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A THOUGHT FOR TODAY: Pleasure and pain are the only springs of price of pain. —George Pettie

EDITORIALS

SILLY FEARS ABOUT FARM SUBSIDIES

A subsidy is a subsidy, whether it is paid to the operators of steamships, air lines or farms.

Consequently, it is passing strange that many Americans fear a government payment to farmers will destroy their character and self-reliance but have no qualms about the character and self-reliance of those who run the steamships, air lines and other businesses which receive financial favors from the government.

Farmers, in connection with the money they receive, as a result of federal legislation, should not overlook the fact that this is a subsidy regardless of the manner in which it is paid. Manufacturers who sell their goods on a protected market, due to the tariff, receive a similar subsidy.

So far as we have observed, no prominent business man has expressed any fear in public lest the tariff subsidy destroy the character and self-reliance of manufacturers. Since the tariff subsidy has been operating for many decades, without arousing the consternation of those who look out for the character of other people, it seems logical to suggest that a subsidy to farmers might operate successfully without impairing the moral fiber of agriculturists.

ORGANIZATIONS PRESUME TOO MUCH

The organized farmers of the world are alarmed at the "disturbing indications" of an "apparent unreadiness" of governments to undertake measures in the international food field, declares H. H. Hannam, president of the International Federation of Agriculture Producers.

We do not know anything about the organization which Mr. Hannam presumes to term an international group of producers, but we have been under the impression that the farmers of the United States are, to say the least, not organized.

We suspect that the so-called I. F. A. P. is something like a great many other organizations, set up by interested persons who presume to represent everybody in the classification described without actually representing anybody besides themselves and their associates.

A CONGRESSMAN FACES A CELL

The trial of Representative J. Parnell Thomas of New Jersey, charged with payroll padding and receiving kick-backs from fictitious employees, was ended when the solon entered a plea of nolo contendere and threw himself on the mercy of the court.

The case against Mr. Thomas developed when his secretary, after many years' service, was replaced by a younger woman. She went to the Department of Justice, and revealed what had been going on. The evidence showed that she received no money from the scheme and her attorney contended that she acted under the "compulsion" of the congressman. The charges against her were dismissed by the judge.

It seems from the evidence in the case that Congressman Thomas had his secretary issue payroll checks to her niece and her maid. These were then endorsed, deposited in her account and, subsequently transferred to Mr. Thomas' account in checks for exact or similar amounts which

Furse's Fresh Flashes

Married women wear wedding rings to distinguish them from single girls. Married men wear worried looks.

Met a fellow coming down the street the other early morning wearing a barrel. Asked him if he was a poker player. He replied, "No, I'm not. But, I met a bunch of fellows last night who were."

We never worry very much about what the preacher says in his Sunday sermon. It's a mighty poor speech if he doesn't hit us somewhere.

A local father spent an evening here recently explaining to his small son the "facts of life." He then asked him if he had any questions. "Yes, daddy," the son replied, "there's something I've wanted to know for a long time. How do they make bricks?"

A Plattsmouth woman says she figures they live about eight blocks to town and 10 blocks to home as her husband always walks straighter goin' to town than when comin' back.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, thinks it's a shame they are sending all those nice Marines to Japan and asks, "What will they do there?" I guess she ain't ever been out with a Marine.

Our hotel manager didn't find any towels in a guest's suitcase, but he found a maid in his grip.

apparently were immediately written.

The Thomas case will probably have a salutary effect in Washington. While no other charges have been preferred against other members of congress, there have been reports, from year to year, that various members of the legislative bodies have practiced the "kick-back" system, either through placing non-workers on the payrolls or requiring workers to give back a part of their check each month.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

20 YEARS AGO: The "Union" publication of Carnegie, Pa., carried a review of the book, "Tradition and the Church," by Father George Agius, D. D. J. C. D. Henry Klinger and John T. Porter, with their hound dogs, captured several racoons along the Missouri river near Gochenour's island. Charles Hartford, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Hartford, was called to position of superintendent of the Maizewood Insulation Board Company of Dubuque, Iowa. Employees of the mechanical department of the local Burlington shops responded to appeal sent out by the city welfare and associated charities to aid in securing funds for care of defective children of the community, raising \$100 for this fund. High school orchestra, under the direction of B. E. Woodward, gave a fine concert at the high school building.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

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DREW PEARSON SAYS:

SNYDER AND ECCLES ARE ASKED TO CEASE THEIR "PUBLIC SQUABBLING." ECCLES WANTS TO DISCOURAGE DUMPING GOVERNMENT BONDS; SNYDER SAYS CONGRESS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR INFLATION TRENDS.

WASHINGTON. — The inflation row between Secretary of the Treasury Snyder and Federal Reserve Dynamo Marriner Eccles attracted headlines a few days ago. But when the two men met behind the closed doors of a senate committee, the final results of the feud were hushed up.

It was Snyder who, perhaps knowing he would be no match for the shrewd and experienced Eccles, insisted on a closed-door meeting. However, here is what happened.

Present at the senate session was Tom McCabe, popular, easygoing federal reserve chairman who agrees with Snyder on most things, and who pleaded with both Eccles and Snyder to cease their "public squabbling" because of repercussions on business and the stock market.

Eccles shot back that stock-market reaction to his dispute with Snyder was far outweighed by the future economic and financial welfare of the nation. It would be better to have a showdown now, public or otherwise, he said, rather than wait until inflation hits us.

"The press has made this a personal dispute between Secretary Snyder and myself, but it's not that at all," Eccles declared. "It's a question of deep, fundamental policy that affects the future welfare of every man, woman and child in the United States. The federal reserve system cannot adequately carry out its obligation

'TIS THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS, AND—



to control inflationary trends while the treasury continues to borrow at fixed, low interest charges.

GOVERNMENT BONDS DUMPED: The interest rate (now averaging about 2 1/2 per cent on long and short-term government securities) should be somewhat higher, Eccles contended, to discourage dumping of government bonds by banks, insurance companies and other big purchasers.

Also, it should be more flexible, he argued, so the federal reserve board could use it as a lever to prevent either an overexpansion or a tightening of bank credit.

Interest rates on government securities naturally influence the rates on commercial loans, Eccles pointed out, and therefore the quantity of such credit — which the reserve system is expected to control.

"Well, the treasury has obligations, also," argued Snyder. "Let the interest rate go up on government bonds and there will be a howl from farmers and other groups, who will then have to pay higher financing charges on private loans and mortgages."

Turning to Senator Douglas of Illinois, chairman of the meeting, Snyder remarked that congress was chiefly responsible for inflation trends.

"Inflation originates in the congress," he commented, tartly. "If congress votes to appropriate great sums of money and then doesn't increase taxes to balance this spending, you are making inflation. You can't build up big deficits without taking risks."

ROBBING PETER: The treasury chief added that the low interest the government was paying on its bond issues represented that much of a saving to the taxpayer and helped to balance the budget.

Eccles shot back that it did nothing of the kind, but was a robbing Peter-to-pay-Paul policy that actually cost the taxpayers more in the long run.

Low interest rates on government bonds often lead to dumping by big investors, who prefer to reinvest their money in less secure, but more profitable commercial loans, he explained. Since the federal reserve system is required by law to buy up the bonds dumped on the open market, this further increases national bank reserves — against which more inflationary money is then issued.

The amount of money the treasury is saving now by its fixed, low interest rates, is only a pittance compared with the future cost of inflation — if Snyder continues his present policy, Eccles warned.

MERRY-GO-ROUND: George Craig, first World War II vet to command the American Legion, had four years active combat service, and is really fighting in peace for the democratic ideals we had in war.

Courageous Congressman Andy Biemiller of Wisconsin deserves credit for taking Judge Armstrong's "bonus-for bigotry" foundation off of the government's tax-exempt list.

U. S. Ambassador James Clement

Dunn, now in Rome, is angling for the highly prized post of ambassador to the court of St. James. Sen. Pat McCarran now thinks he is almost as important as the president. When McCarran returned to Washington last week, the entire staff of the senate judiciary committee was lined up waiting to greet him like a returning potentate.

Avra M. Warren, now American ambassador to Finland, will be the next U. S. envoy to Pakistan. The navy has just developed the world's most powerful airplane engine. It will outfly even the fastest Russian jet.

A long-suppressed feud between Secretary of Defense Johnson and Atomic Energy Chairman David Lillenthal is about to break into the open.

The real estate lobby has a new device for killing rent controls. It is fixing up a list of vacant apartments in overcrowded Washington exclusively for congressmen who want to rent — just to show there's no housing shortage.

AIRLINE LOBBYIST: You've got to hand it to Pan American Airways for being versatile when it comes to lobbying. All during the 80th Republican congress they depended on GOP Senator Brewster of Maine and Sam Pryor, former GOP committeeman from Connecticut, to do their lobbying.

In fact, only one Democrat, Carroll Cone, was on their lobbying payroll, and prior to November 1948 he was expected to exit after the elections.

Immediately after the elections, however, Carroll Cone, Democrat, went up in value to Pan American, and he may now become a vice president.

But in addition, Clark Clifford, soon to leave the White House for the law-lobbying business, will become the brightest star in Pan Am's lobbying army.



The "PX" or post exchange, remembered — and usually fondly — by all veterans, is by no means a recent development. It had its pioneer equivalent in the sutler's store, an integral part of every frontier military post.

As the Army took on the task of protecting settlers, traders and travelers on the far-flung frontier, it became necessary to establish military posts far from the edge of civilization.

Fort Atkinson, Nebraska's first military establishment, was so isolated, and later Nebraska posts such as Forts Kearny and McPherson, were similarly situated.

Life at these frontier posts was monotonous at best, and in many cases it would have been unbearable without the service sutler, who brought to the men stationed at lonely outposts comforts and luxuries which the government failed to provide — as well as tobacco, whiskey, and trinkets.

As Dr. Edgar E. Wesley, of the University of Minnesota, an historian of the military frontier in Nebraska and the West, has put it: "A cruel or exacting commander could be tolerated; hard service was accepted as an inevitable part of life; but an unaccommodating or inefficient sutler was a real calamity."

Little wonder, then, that the sutler's activities were carefully regulated, to make sure he functioned for the benefit of the garrison as well as himself.

The sutler was a civilian, but was given military status midway between enlisted and commissioned personnel, with no duties. His appointment came from the military authorities and he could be discharged at any time. Each post had only one sutler. In return for the monopoly he enjoyed, the sutler paid a certain amount each month, depending upon the size of the garrison, into a post fund, used for the benefit of the soldiers and their families. Post schools and

libraries were maintained out of this fund.

The sutler's prices were fixed by the military authorities, who also determined what goods he was required to keep on hand. A Council of Administration usually was set up for this purpose. Frequently, sutler and council were at loggerheads, over prices to be charged. Occasionally, when the council was slow to act, an enterprising sutler would have an entire shipment of goods sold before a price had been fixed.

Sutlers were allowed to extend credit to soldiers at the post, but only in an amount up to half of a month's pay. In order to assure himself of pay-

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THE NAVY STILL has a chip on its shoulder. An almost brazen meekness was seen in the round of parties for Adm. Louis E. Denfeld, fired from his post as naval chief of staff by Secretary of the Navy Francis P. Matthews.

Opinion in Washington is that Admiral Denfeld and his cronies, whether they are right or wrong in their stand on national defense, certainly did not have a leg to stand on in refusing to obey orders from their civilian superior or obeying with thumb in cheek and spreading their refusal on record before congress.

The Constitution provides for civilian control of military forces, with the President as the commander-in-chief. And it was in effect, the President giving orders, when his second in command, Secretary Matthews, gave Admiral Denfeld his orders — orders which the admiral protested before congress.

No military organization can command respect without discipline. An analogous situation would be this: If Admiral Denfeld ordered the captain of the battleship Massachusetts to report to Pearl Harbor for maneuvers and the captain demurred and declared that strategically he should report to Guam, not Pearl Harbor, that the good of the country demanded the presence of the Massachusetts at Guam. And the admiral, a little red faced, would demand he obey his orders. And the captain, still protesting, would complainingly obey, but would carry his grievance to a congressional committee.

Admiral Denfeld would be the first to demand court martial of the captain for such tactics.

No one has questioned Admiral Denfeld's patriotism nor his sincerity, but observers here now are questioning his attitude, even for the new post which he has been offered, and which at this writing he has not accepted.

The question of national defense is determined by the top men in all branches of the service. All problems are worked out in the war college, and close to 200 technicians and experts in the military establishment take part in these decisions.

After a program is drawn up it goes to the chiefs of staff where it is studied before a decision is reached in conjunction with the secretaries of the army, navy and air force and the secretary of national defense. Every one has his say, but once a decision is definitely made and the secretary of defense has given his approval and the orders are issued, then as military men the admirals and the generals are expected to go along wholeheartedly.

If they do not, as Admiral Denfeld refused to do, then the civilian heads of the military establishment have no alternative but to oust the admiral from his post. That should be the last of it. But apparently the Navy is still aggrieved.

Despite the fact that the new Anderson-Gore farm bill boosts farm support prices some 6 per cent, farm income will be off, as compared with other years, in 1950. Some experts figure that farm purchasing power will be down as much as 15 per cent next year, and that the loss of purchasing power will be felt in purchase of farm machinery and other durable goods. Farmers have caught up on farm machinery needs the past few years of high income, as well as on reductions of farm debts. So if there is a drop in farm income, the farmer is in better shape than ever before to absorb the cut. Some insist that because of the continued demand and increased consumption, the farmer will fare about as well next year as this, in spite of surpluses which appear in the offing.

For many years some members of congress have taken the position that the large appropriations made for self-liquidating projects in the fields of reclamation, hydroelectric power dams, irrigation and for loan purposes, for which the government is repaid at interest, should not be classed in the budget as government expense. These members maintain that these funds, all of which are repaid to the federal treasury, should be put into a revolving fund.

The point is, if these appropriations were taken out of the federal budget, it would not take much figuring for the congress next year to balance the budget without a tax increase and end the so-called deficit spending.

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Crossword Puzzle grid with clues for horizontal and vertical words.

Answer to LAST WEEK'S Puzzle: FAR PAUSE MAY, ODE ANTIC ARE, PERRY SHIRKS, DOT MAORI, PEBB BEE ANSA, ROB HILS BEEB, APTIN DUB EN, BRAD MAN BRE, SBAU MUM GUSE, BEAD PAR, PASTRY PABODA, ATE MORAF PAW, DEF AROSE EWE

YOUR brain budget advertisement with a list of 10 items and their values.