

EDITORIALS

Furse's Fresh Flashes

SOME LOOSE REPORTING

An article appearing in the Lincoln, Nebr., State Journal, Thursday carrying a Plattsmouth date line regarding the re-locating of Highway 50 two miles west of Weeping Water, climaxes its article with this statement, "Cass County newspapers have fought over the issue for weeks now."

This, to us, is an extreme example of loose reporting. This newspaper up to this time has taken no position in the controversy being waged in our neighboring city. It has published for readers information, press releases and progress of the efforts to prevent relocation of Highway 50 in the news columns for the benefit of readers. It is an obligation of this newspaper to keep subscribers informed as to what is going on in Cass County, regardless of what it is or whom it is involved. We will continue to live up to that obligation.

The issue at Weeping Water is purely local and we respect the reluctance of public spirited citizens to give up their local thoroughfare without a fight. The same thing could happen here if the effort should be made some of these days to move No. 34 and No.'s 73 and 75, but with the splendid cooperation and willingness of our city dads to delve out information, plus the alertness of this newspaper, we doubt anyone would be "left in the dark" about any "deals."

In the mean time should The Journal "fight over an issue for weeks" the noise will be heard from border to border throughout Cass County and the stench would put to shame Omaha's Missouri river garbage disposal problem.

Marblehead, Mass., police have been instructed to take every teen-age youth found on the streets after 9 p. m. for a ride in the police cruiser—to their homes. That's the most effective way to clean up delinquency and vandalism.

PLAN FOR EVERY DAY
Art Sweet of the Nebraska City News-Press picked up a gem the other day that appeared in the Council Bluffs Nonpareil several years ago and re-printed it in his "Observations" column. We think it is worthy of republication here. If you have read it before, another reading might make a deeper impression:

GET up in the morning and say, "Thank you, God, for what I have," instead of, "Please, God, give me a lot more."

Try to make somebody happy for the day, before you leave the house.
Disregard the weather if it is bad. You can't do anything about it anyway.
Go out to "give" and not just to "get."
Don't engage in pessimistic talk.
Forget yourself and think of the other fellow.

If you are an employer assure your employes that your firm is in business to stay.
ASSURE faithful employes that their jobs are safe.

Warn careless employes that they must give better service.
If you are an employe, be sure you are grateful for your job.
Realize you are paid for your thinking.

Be willing for your employer to see you thinking and acting at any time of the day.
BE a booster instead of a knocker.

Be convinced you are living in one of the best communities in the world.
Enlist all of your thinking in your favor instead of against you.

Give and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together and running over shall men give unto you.

A. R. S.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Man is a wonder to himself; he can neither govern nor know himself.
—Benjamin Wicheote

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The average woman's joy and excitement comes from thinking how much worse the other woman looks in slacks than she does.

Marriage these days seems to be a race between the stork and a divorce lawyer.

A family tree is a device for tracing yourself back to better people than you are.

A woman on TV the other night reported that she had four sets of twins in five years. An old poker player at our house says this is what is known as "deuces wild."

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, says her new love affair is just a platonic friendship—play for her, and a tonic for him.

If taxes go any higher, there will soon be only two classes of people: the poor and the politicians.

We're very fortunate in having a wife—there's so many things that happen around this office we can't blame on the government.

Football season is over. Now all that remains is to accept the resignations of the coaches.

Down Memory Lane

20 YEARS AGO

Howard Hirz and William Crouch have been named honorary co-captains of the Plattsmouth high school football team. . . . Cass county projects amounting to \$3,100 have been approved for CWA funds. . . . Dr. J. H. Hall, Dr. J. W. Eren-dell and Dr. C. A. Liston have been named county physicians for Cass county. . . . North high defeated Plattsmouth 26-21 in the opening basketball game. . . . Miss Mary Ina Chancellor and Iley E. Mays of Fort Crook were married here December 16. . . . Charles L. Carlson has been elected commander of Mt. Zion Commandery, No. 5, Knights Templar. Lester Meisinger is generalissimo; M. L. Gayer, captain general; Frank L. Barkus, recorder. . . . Announcement is made of the marriage of Francis M. Yelick to Miss Nona Bridwell at Sioux City, Ia.

10 YEARS AGO

Defective wire was blamed for the fire at Carr Bakery here. The wire led to a neon sign on the store's exterior. . . . Raymond C. Cook, E. H. Bernhard and Roy O. Cole received the 32nd degree at the 106th reunion of the Scottish Rite Masons at Omaha. . . . Charles E. Bennett of Plattsmouth has been awarded the distinguished flying cross for raids over Europe. . . . Boys Town defeated Plattsmouth 29-10 in a basketball game at Boys Town. . . . George Brinklow has been elected commander of Mt. Zion Commandery No. 5, Knights Templar. Lester W. Meisinger is generalissimo; Louis F. Friedrich, captain general; and Les Niel, recorder. . . . Miss Helen H. Hough and Sgt. Clinton E. Nearhood both of Plattsmouth were married December 9.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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DREW PEARSON SAYS: ADMINISTRATION'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM HAS LIBERAL FLAVOR; PRESIDENT SYMPATHIZES WITH ELECTION PROBLEMS OF REP. AYERS; DULLES SHOCKED BRITISH AS WELL AS FRENCH.

WASHINGTON — President Eisenhower held two emergency cabinet meetings plus a regular cabinet meeting to whip his legislative program into shape before he sat down last week with GOP congressional leaders.

The program his cabinet came up with in the end was surprisingly liberal. Some said it was more like the New Deal than what the Republican party stood for, and this was the chief reason for the clash with the old guard GOP leaders.

However, the program is flexible and Ike advisers went into the closed-door session prepared to give.

Here is a rough summary of what the administration proposes:

Defense Budget — Secretary of Defense Wilson has finally produced a three-year program for trimming down defense spending. It calls for the reduction of the Army-Navy by 300,000 men next year and by 500,000 men during the three-year period. The Navy will lose 60 ships, including two battleships, but no airplane carriers. The Air Force, which was cut too drastically last year, will be given seven new groups—but not to be completed before June 1, 1957. This will make a total of 137.

The defense budget for fiscal year 1955 will be \$39,900,000,000 of expenditures or \$33,200,000,000 of appropriated

Ticklers

By George



"Gran'pa is in an awful hurry to fix the storm cellar! He just heard about the atom bomb."

money. The difference is accounted for by money left over from the previous year. This cut is drastic, but not as drastic as those ordered by Louis Johnson. Unfortunately, Undersecretary of Defense Roger Kyes failed in his attempt to revamp the defense establishment along modern, atomic lines. Instead the three services sliced a little, but basically stuck to conventional weapons such as warships and foot-soldiers.

Unbalanced Budget — Budget Balancing—The budget will not be balanced next year. Reluctantly Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey has bowed to the inevitability of an eight to nine billion-dollar deficit. He still thinks the proposed new budget is too high, and doesn't see how he's going to raise the money.

Taxes—The tax cuts scheduled to go into effect in January will be made. No effort will be made to stop them, though that is the only way the budget can be balanced. The president proposes to cut excise taxes by about 50 per cent; also wants to drop the increase in social security. There will be no attempt to put across a sales tax in the form of a manufacturer's sales tax.

Anti-recession Program—Ike's economic advisers have set up a public-works program not unlike new deal days; in case the business economy turns sour.

Farm Program — Price supports continue automatically next year. But, supporters differ according to different commodities—and much more effort to sell farm produce abroad. Congressional leaders don't like the flexible or sliding-scale angle. They favor rigid price supports.

Aid to Education — Some Ike advisers definitely favor federal aid to education in order to alleviate the desperate problem of overcrowded schools. Final outcome will depend on congressional leaders.

Trade and Tariffs — Revision of the Taft-Hartley act will be proposed, but will not go nearly far enough to please labor leaders.

Advice to Ike — President Eisenhower will battle hard for his legislative program in the next congress, but he won't use the big stick on GOP congressmen from closely contested districts if they don't support him all the time.

He realizes that those fellows in the marginal districts had a tough time getting elected. Ike told GOP Congressman William H. Ayers, who himself comes from the marginal district of Akron, Ohio. "They have to follow a middle-of-the-road policy most of the time without veering to the right or left. If they want to remain in congress next November, I understand their problems and plan to be sympathetic."

Ayers' district, which he carried by 22,000 votes in 1952, is one of the most variegated in the country, and is sometimes called "Little America," the Ohioan told Ike.

"My 465,000 constituents include 85,000 members of organized labor, 37 organized nationality groups of various ethnic origins, 30,000 Negroes and 3,000 farmers," reported Ayers. "They can't all get to see you, but they want me to act as their agent in expressing their views to you. One thing I can say confidently is that they want congress to enact your legislative program."

"It will be a constructive program, aimed at doing the most good for the nation as a whole," replied the president. "That's the kind congress should enact, without catering to any pressure groups. I am for a constructive revision of the Taft-Hartley law, but we can't scuttle the entire law to appease some labor leaders."

The same objectivity must apply to the farm program. We can't go overboard for farm subsidies at the expense of harnessed consumers.

Ayers said he felt confident that the next session of congress would support Eisenhower's legislative proposals, adding: "If congress doesn't support you, it's cooking its own goose."

the United States would stop all military aid unless the French approve the European army treaty at once. Dulles' virtual ultimatum not only shocked French politicians but also astonished British Foreign Secretary Eden. . . . Eden tried to get Dulles to soften his harsh language, but Dulles refused on the grounds that he had to talk tough in order to show congress he would not stand for any French stalling.

Bricker Foundation — A group of midwest industrialists are planning to set up a foundation to promote the adoption of the Bricker amendment to the constitution. The amendment, which would handcuff the president's right to negotiate international agreements, is a direct slap at President Eisenhower, Adlai Stevenson and Secretary Dulles. If passed, it would throw our whole foreign relations into a state of chaos.

Capital News

LINCOLN—The "fat" may have "fallen into the fire" this week as far as the question of some highly important wording in highway laws was concerned. The attorney general's office ruled that funds from the gasoline tax and from motor vehicle registration fees couldn't be used to maintain roads on non-statutory highways. These highways amounting to about 1,915 miles in all, have never actually been placed on the highway system by the legislature. But because state and federal funds were used in their construction they have been added through the years.

The opinion said that only "income from other sources" could be used on these. Since the gas tax and registration money constitutes the largest slice of state money available, prohibiting its use on the 1,915 miles—about 20 per cent of the entire system—would mean they couldn't be maintained. State Engineer L. N. Ress declared.

But in its contracts with the federal government for matching money for these roads, the state promised to keep them maintained. Highway officials expressed fears that if they were "n't kept up, the federal government might cut off its highway funds. That could wreck the current construction campaign.

This was what brought talk of a special session of the Legislature.

Deleted Words — The trouble seemed to stem back to an accumulated confusion in working over the years. The state highway system has never been completely defined. The word "federal highways" is sprinkled through the statutes although there really is no such thing. They are only state high-

ways built in part with federal funds.

Walter James, state revisor of statutes, tried to bring this to the attention of the Legislature in 1947 and even drew up corrective bills. But no one paid any attention as the legislators were anxious to get the session ended and return home.

This year the State Highway Department decided to have another stab at it.

They drew up a bill defining the state highway system. And in another "catch all" bill they carefully deleted the word "federal" so there would be no conflict between the statutes. The "catch all" bill was duly introduced and was among the last bills passed in the session. The "definition" bill had quite another fate.

Highway Commission Controversy — For in the meantime senators fighting the idea of a highway commission came up with the idea of a "highway study committee." In order for this group to have something to do, the bakers decided to let it have the job of defining the state highway system. The bill defining the system was tucked away and never introduced.

When plans for a highway commission were sidetracked by an attorney general's ruling that all its members would have to live in Lincoln, the commission backers turned to the "highway study committee" idea. This was largely incorporated into the highway commission bill which was eventually passed.

All except that business about "federal" roads being part of the highway system. Somehow, that got left out all the way around. And this omission has proved crucial.

Carmony Charges — A long time balker of the highway commission plan, Sen. Arthur Carmony of Trenton, charged that if a special session had to be called the blame could be laid at the door of the State Highway Department. He said they rushed through the "catch all" bill in the closing days of the session creating the muddle.

But Engineer Ross said that the bill contained sections absolutely necessary for the Department to carry out its current two year construction program. These included stress regulations and survey rights.

Sales Tax "Threat" — Gov. Crosby's initial reaction was to say he wanted to seek every avenue before calling a session. Some insiders said he didn't want a session where the tax question might be raised. Although the Legislature is restricted at a special session to matters contained in the governor's call, such a session would provide a sounding board for opinion on the tax situation. Some quarters believe that the position of those favoring a sales or income tax is stronger than it has ever been.

A clear indication of this came when the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution recommending "a sales or income tax or a combination of both." Up until two or three years ago, Lincoln was an anti-sales tax stronghold. But sources say that some Lincoln merchants got tired of turning in higher assessments than their neighbors in an effort to be honest. The continued disadvantage has made some of them believe a broadening of the tax base is the only answer, it is reported.

The Chamber resolution went through the hands of three separate committees and emerged virtually as the taxation subcommittee wrote it. Observers remarked on the startling unanimity thus displayed.

Omaha is still expected to fight a sales tax, however. And Omaha has always been able to get three members on the Legislature Revenue Committee. This solid core has consistently been able to get enough help in the nine-man group to kill all sales tax bills.

Woodchucks, or groundhogs as they are often called, are primarily vegetarians. It is reported that 99 per cent of their foods consists of plants while the remaining 1 per cent is made up of animal food.

Ten Word INTELLIGRAM

- Check correct word.
1. The Grand Canyon is in (Arizona) (Nevada).
 2. "My cup runneth over" is in Psalm (23) (44).
 3. (Magellan) (Balboa) named the Pacific Ocean.
 4. The giraffe (does) (does not) utter sounds.
 5. (Three) (four) children of Henry VIII sat on the English throne.
 6. Aelurophobia is a morbid fear of (nightmares) (cats).
 7. There are (several) (no) volcanoes in Alaska.
 8. Ice (is) (is not) heavier than water.
 9. (Polk) (Taylor) succeeded Tyler to the presidency in 1845.
 10. The romance languages are derived from (Greek) (Latin).

Check your answers, scoring yourself 10 points for each correct choice. A score of 0-20 is poor; 30-60, average; 70-80, superior; 90-100, very superior.

Decoded Intelligram

1-Arizona, 2-23, 3-Magellan, 4-Does not, 5-Three, 6-Cats, 7-Several, 8-Is not, 9-Polk, 10-Latin.

Legislative SIDELIGHTS

by BERNIE CAMP
Information Director
Nebraska Farm Bureau
Federation
Peace on Earth

Perhaps only it is memories called back through the amnesia of years that filter out for recall the most pleasant things that make Christmas seem to have meant more when we were young. In those days, when we were six or eight or ten, Christmas had a special meaning, undimmed by the every day problems of family and community, untinted by the confusions of a world in which sometimes it seems the Christmas spirit is a lonely wail.

There was something extra special about a small town church where stained glass windows cast a multi-colored reflection upon the clean purity of the snow, something special in the crackle of the snow under bob-sled runners and in the echoing slap of horses hoofs. There was a sort of storybook perfection when you were almost certain you heard the voices of angels singing the wonders of the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. All the world seemed attuned to the spirit of the season.

There have been material changes in Christmas with the years. The runners of the bob-sled and the slap of hoofs no longer echo on crisp evening air, but the spirit is still with us.

It must be only we who are a little older who think Christmas has changed, for little boys and girls still anticipate Christmas with all the "visions of sugar plums" we knew once.

We know too for certain that Christmas hasn't changed when we hear the hearty "Merry Christmas" of a friend; when strangers take time to be helpful; when families gather; when the world pauses for a few hours in its mad, headlong confusion of hatreds and conflicts to heed the injunction, "Peace on Earth, Good Will among Men."

Some of the outward manifestations may have changed a little, but the spirit first breathed into the world nineteen hundred fifty-three years ago is still a potent, vital force, a force which remains in 1953 the one hope for a world to realize peace on earth and good will among men.

No, Christmas hasn't changed. We who celebrate, a little older, a little more weary, may have changed, but the spirit of Christmas is as pleasant and powerful today as it ever was.

Look to the children, and you will know Christmas is eternal, never changing.

Record Keeping—Farm Management Weak Spot

Income tax planning and record keeping continues to be a weak spot in the management of too many farm businesses, according to Everett E. Peterson, extension specialist in agriculture economics of the University of Nebraska.

Farmers should start now to get the past year's records together and to plan ahead to tax paying time. Two of the most common and costly mistakes farmers make in filing the returns are incomplete records and hasty preparation of returns.

Taxpayers who receive at least two-thirds of their gross income from farming and whose business year starts January 1, have two choices in filing returns: File the returns and pay the tax on or before January 31, 1954. File an estimate of the tax and pay this amount by January 15, 1954, then file the final return and pay any balance due by March 15, 1954.

Every person whose gross income during the year is \$800 or more must file a return even though no tax is due. Gross income is total income (subject to tax) before any expenses are deducted.

To help farmers with their 1953 income tax returns, the bulletin which gives much useful information on many of the common problems and questions on farm income taxes has again been made available. This bulletin, called "1953 Farmer's Income Tax," can be obtained from the offices of the County Agricultural Agents or directly from the Extension Service, College of Agriculture, Lincoln.

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