

EDITORIALS

Furse's Fresh Flashes

THE AMERICAN WAY

Capital News

FARM POLICIES KEY TO ECONOMY

The overwhelming vote of cotton farmers in some twenty states for Federal acreage quotas recently shows clearly how policies of the Department of Agriculture affect the national economy. As a result, the Government will once again set cotton acreage quotas, and support the price. Although farm profits have slackened steadily for almost two years farm income was still relatively high in 1953, because of government price-supports.

A further decline, however, could bring about serious consequences and the pinch being felt by many farmers is already being translated into other fields. Thus the role of Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson becomes a key one in the effort of the Republican Administration to maintain a high level of prosperity.

That there will be a conflict between the Secretary's farm policy proposals, and those who back them, and Congress is an accepted fact. The American Farm Bureau, meeting in Chicago, recently endorsed the flexible price support program as opposed to the fixed ninety per cent parity support program now in effect.

It is known, however, that many Senators and Congressmen, especially from the South and West, are not inclined to go along with the flexible system of price supports. They feel that as long as cotton farmers, for example, vote in favor of acreage quotas, they should be given a fixed and high support level.

Apart from the controversy over the farm program of the future, it is an elementary fact that further declines in farm income will have a serious adverse effect on the national economy. The reduction in income already suffered by many farmers has siphoned off the excess, or spendable percentage of their income, and it must be kept in mind that this income is always a great primer for business, practically all of it being spent for luxuries or new commodities.

The test of the Administration's agricultural policies in 1954 will be whether farm income is kept up to a level at least as high as that of 1953. Any further decline is almost certain to involve the Republican Administration in serious trouble at the polls next fall, and this should be kept clearly in mind by the politicians as well as the economists.

Another year has passed into history, but we're getting up to that age where we haven't anything to swear off of anymore.

The thing that worries us most when riding on the upper deck of a double-decked bus is we wonder who's driving.

The merchant who doesn't advertise has nothing on the man in jail — he isn't doing anything either.

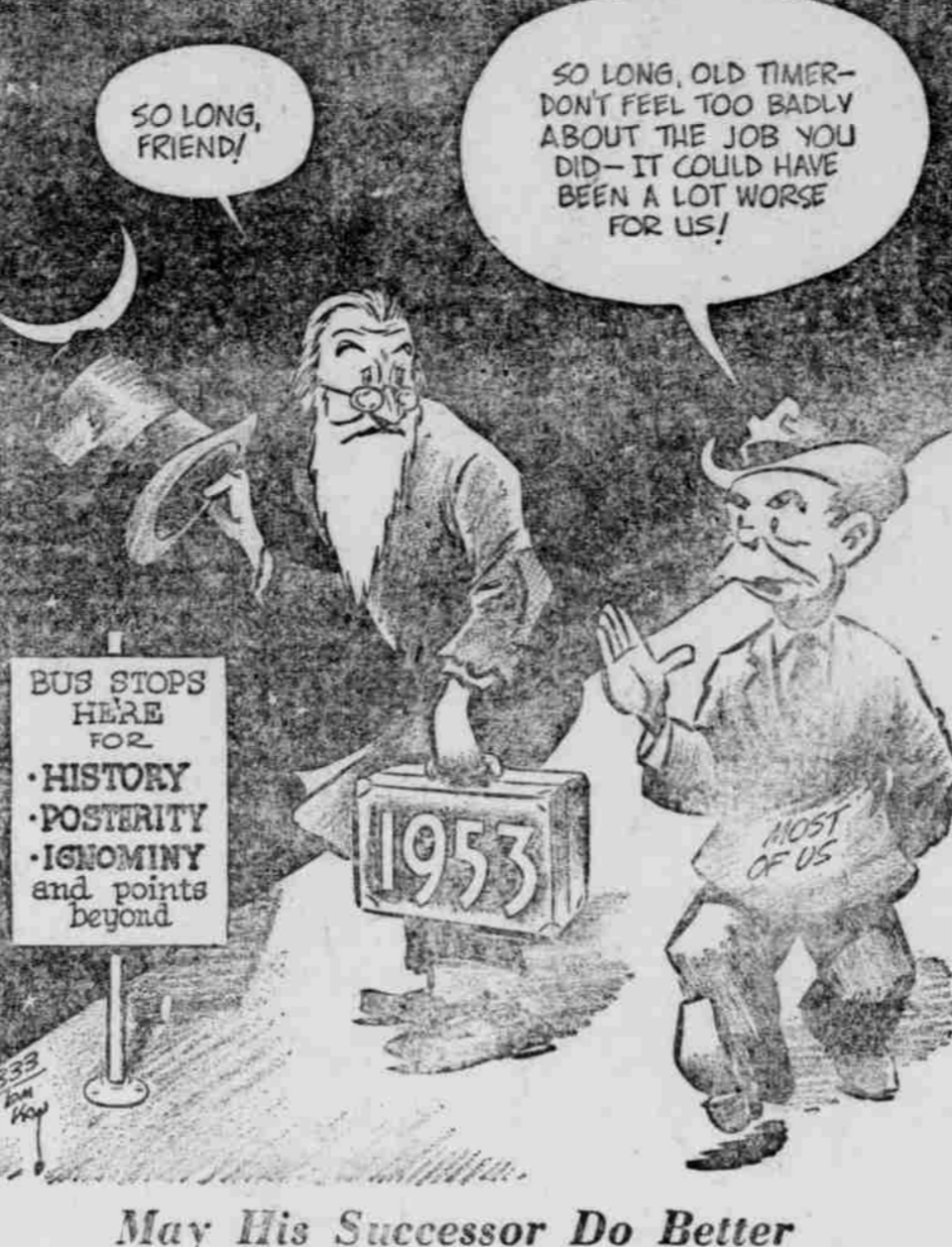
A local kid, visiting Joslyn Memorial the other day, says the pictures are all right, but there are no jokes under them.

If a hitch-hiker hikes
Much more than he hitches,
He'll wear out his shoes
Before he wears out his britches.

A local spinster advertised for a husband recently and got hundreds of replies. They all said the same thing—
"... you can have mine."

There are too many hydromatic people — shiftless and easy going.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, says it takes a wife for a gal to get a husband.



May His Successor Do Better

LINCOLN — The program of reorganization of school districts in Nebraska may have been given its biggest shot in the arm by a recent State Supreme Court decision.

The high court said the law under which reorganization is proceeding is constitutional. In fact the court upheld the law, passed by the 1949 Legislature, all up and down the line.

The test case had been brought by a group of Kearney County residents who opposed the redistricting of their county school districts into the Atxcel district.

The Supreme Court knocked down every one of their arguments. The opinion, written by Judge Adolph Wenke, said that the statute gave due opportunities for public hearings and elections on the question of any given reorganization, that it deprived no one of property without due process of law, and that it was proper for the Legislature to delegate this kind of power. Wenke wrote that since the reorganization is carried out by a duly elected committee it is a proper procedure.

State Supt. E. B. Decker called it a "milestone" toward progress in education in Nebraska. He said it proved what his office has contended all along — that the reorganization act is very democratic in the way it operates.

One staff member said the biggest advantage would be that opponents of redistricting couldn't get up in public meetings and charge that the law is unconstitutional. For the Supreme Court in very definite terms has said it is.

Talk continued this week that a bipartisan committee which is pushing the return of Nebraska to the two house Legislature system is having more trouble getting rolling than had been anticipated. First task for the group is to get 60,000 signers on petitions so the matter can go on the general election ballot next November. No one seems to think that will be too much trouble.

But the rock on which the effort may be foundering is that there are a lot of Republican party leaders who don't want to go back to the two house Legislature Nebraska had before 1937. Some want an improvement of the Unicameral — such as making it partisan or increasing the membership. Others like it just the way it is.

It's been no secret that the Democrats are split over the issue. Now there seems to be increased evidence that the Republicans are, also.

The drive is being led by State Republican Chairman Dave Martin of Kearney and State Democratic Chairman William Meier of Minden. Both deny that there is any trouble.

A meeting was called of the eight-member steering committee in Lincoln. Only four showed up, or not enough for a quorum. Martin told reporters that apparently the others were on vacation over the holidays.

Significant Action
The new State Advisory Highway Commission took certain steps at its latest regular monthly meeting which may prove indicators of how they will operate.

By a 5 to 1 vote the commission backed up the State Highway Department in its proposed relocation of US 183 in Rock County south of Bassett. Two groups of ranchers appeared before the commission. One group, led by Floyd Lackoff and Everett Satterfield, wanted to keep the highway where it is. The other group, headed by Homer Buel, came to tell the commission, they favored the Highway Department's proposed route three miles farther west and on higher ground.

Also on the fun were the Bassett Chamber of Commerce and the Highway 183 Association, both of which backed up the Highway Department. In fact L. A. Chandler of Ansley, vice president of the association, snorted that Rock County was acting like this was a township



"WE BETTER GO INSIDE - OUR HIRED MAN CAN'T KEEP HIS EYES OFF YOU."

The proper solution to the nation's over-crowded highways is going to be a painful one and probably lies in increased state and Federal expenditures. The proposal made by Connecticut's highway commissioner — that metropolitan areas look into the possibility of new taxes like payroll or sales taxes, to finance highway improvements — may be close to the solution, although such new taxes would constitute a highly irritating method of obtaining new funds. Probably the best solution is to be found in an increase in both state and Federal expenditures, painful as that solution may be.

The number of automobiles and trucks using the highways is increasing far more rapidly than improvements to our highways, and experts predict that unless the states, aided by the Federal Government, are to provide for expected heavy increases in traffic in the next ten years, the current situation will become acute.

Increased Federal aid can be provided through economies effected in the next few years, although the state may have to raise some taxes for their new revenue. Since the answer to this situation requires big money, relatively soon, the voter might as well face the facts and be prepared to shell out.

The American Medical Association, which ranks second among registered Washington lobbies, spent \$270,174 to influence congress in 1952. The Legion, which ranks eighth, spent \$106,235. Both are among the top lobbying spenders to influence congress.

But in this case the battle deeper than congress, with the A. M. A. encouraging doctors to infiltrate the Legion as ordinary veterans in order to fight the socialized-medicine battle from the inside. The A. M. A. has even set up a "front" group, The National Medical Veterans Society, to fight the socialized-medicine battle and warns its members to confine their statements to remarks "cleared through the A. M. A. to make sure you all say the same thing."

The Legion in turn has alerted its 15,000 posts to start shooting at the A. M. A. Bluntly, The American Legion Magazine warns: "The Legion has delineated its patience with the American Medical Association's weaving, twisting, opportunistic attacks on the federal system of care for veterans."

"Never before," says the Legion, "had the A. M. A. defined 'socialized medicine' in such a way as to compel America's war veterans to be for it."

What the battle boils down to is a proposal by the doctors to ban free hospital care by the government for non-service-connected disabilities. In other words, when a veteran gets sick for reasons other than a disability suffered in war, he would be denied treatment in veterans administration hospital.

Actually, this affects not merely the American Legion but about 20,000,000 vets, or 40 per cent of the adult male population of the U. S. A.

To prepare for its campaign to eliminate this medical service, the A. M. A. held a closed-door session at the Sheraton Hotel in Chicago. While the minutes were not made public, this writer has obtained a copy and since they effect 40 per cent of the adult male population, it seems appropriate to quote from them.

Dr. Louis N. Orr of Orlando, Fla., chairman of the closed-door meeting, told the doctors: "We have a tremendous job merely informing our own members—many of them are not sold on the \$25 dues to the A. M. A."

Pressing Congress
Dr. Joseph D. McCarthy of Omaha, a member of the A. M. A.'s committee of legislation, gave the doctors a peek at A. M. A. lobbying tactics. He explained that his legislative committee has a member assigned to each geographic division of the United States to alert key men in those states on pressing legislative problems.

These key men, in turn, are responsible for getting in touch with their senators and representatives and informing them of the medical profession's attitude toward proposed legislation. "This method," Dr. McCarthy added, "has worked admirably in the past."

Dr. William B. Walsh of Washington president of A. M. A.'s "front" organization, The National Medical Veterans Society, cautioned doctors against declaring open warfare on the Legion. "Education," he maintained, "is the cornerstone of the campaign."

And as part of that education, he said, "we must encourage physicians to join the American Legion but to avoid the creation of doctor's posts. By remaining informal (one of the boys), the doctors will be more effective in an ordinary post."

way. Backstage, however, two of the most powerful groups in the nation — The American Legion and the American Medical Association — are getting ready for a cutthroat battle against each other that will end up in the halls of congress.

The issue, in effect, is "socialized medicine."

Dr. William O'Brien of Nevada asked if the group thought it would be wise for medical societies to tell the nation's doctors not to care for non-service-connected cases now in V. A. hospitals.

Dr. Walter E. Martin, president-elect of the A. M. A., warned that any such drastic step would be a fatal error and the doctors would "get our throats cut and get in the doghouse permanently."

One doctor, whose name was not identified in the minutes, asked his fellow doctors what plans they had for treating the 37 per cent non-service-connected cases.

"How," he queried, "could these patients be placed in already overcrowded local hospitals. How does it help the taxpayer if the burden is simply shifted from the federal to the local government?"

After warning the doctors that their proposal was impractical, the delegate asked: "If the doctors do not know that the American people have a special regard for veterans, the congress does know it."

Dr. Oscar B. Hunter of Washington, D. C., told the group that their proposed changes in V. A. medical care would have tough sledding in congress. He reminded the doctors that the A. M. A. "is in some disrepute in congress and during recent congressional hearings the congressmen asked questions 'baited' against the doctors."

Meanwhile the American Legion Magazine, not exactly known as a socialist organ, has published a stinging editorial accusing the A. M. A. of "urging that indigent, disabled veterans be thrown back upon their communities for indigent care in order to save the country from socialism."

regard fight instead of a national highway question.

Regardless of the decision, some dismay was felt that the Highway Commission voted by secret ballot. The Legislature specifically stated that all business was to be done in public.

"Undemocratic" System
But perhaps the most intriguing part of the meeting was a full scale attack by member Don Hanna of Valentine on the sufficiency rating system. This method, developed by the Highway Department, determines by scientific methods which stretches of road need repair and improvement first. Gov. Robert Crosby has pledged that his road program will be based on this method and thus far he has not deviated.

Hanna said the system was "undemocratic" because it didn't allow for any expression of the will of the people. He said the old "political pressure" system of building roads was better because at least you know what people in the district wanted.

The Valentine man's crie was with the fact that the current two year Highway Department program includes improving State Highway 2 northwest of Anslemo. Hanna said this is a good enough stretch of concrete. Instead of "pouring" money there, it should be used on a nearby stretch of road, he stated.

Hanna said he thought the 11 miles of gravel road just north of Theford on the US 83 route leading to Valentine should be paved first. He said that people in the area would rather have it this way.

Crosby immediately rose to defend the system. He said he had decided against building political roads. And he reminded Hanna that one reason why western Nebraska doesn't have better roads is because under the "political pressure" method it could never match "the east end vote for vote." It stands a much better chance under the sufficiency rating method, Crosby asserted.

The governor said that if there was enough money to go around that would be one thing. But since there isn't, there must be a way of dividing it up. Crosby said he would stick by a scientific procedure rather than the "political pressure" way.

partment laid before it a suggested map containing about 6,200 miles. John Hossack, chief of the Department's planning division, said the plan would connect all major towns with each other, serve every town above the population of 900, cover roads carrying 85 per cent of Nebraska's highway travel, and service every county seat except three. These are Harrisburg, Stockville, and Tryon. Hossack said all but three sandhills areas would be within 20 miles of some road on the system.

WOMEN IN OFFICE
According to the 1953 survey of "women in public service," there are now more women in Congress, in state legislatures and in other state elective offices than ever before. Congress has 12 women members. State legislatures have 28 women members, with only four states reporting no women, lawmakers — Alabama, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Virginia.

IT'S HIS NUMBER
Hamilton, Ohio — The infant son of Mrs. Henry Saylor certainly can claim "1" as his number. He was born at 6:11 a.m. on the eleventh month and the eleventh day at Mercy hospital ere. He weighed 11 pounds, 11 ounces. His parents reside at 611 South Eleventh street.

NATO
NATO nations will have spent \$65,500,000,000 on defense during 1953 and it is expected that 1954 spending will be slightly greater than that figure.

Classified Ad in The Journal costs as little as 35 cents

TOLL ROAD NOT ANSWER

In the past year a number of proposals have been made for toll roads and turnpikes, as the answer to crowded highway conditions confronting the nation. Several new toll roads have been opened and are apparently highly successful.

The consensus of opinion at the National Chamber of Commerce's National Conference on Highway Financing, however, was that toll roads are the solution on only about 8,000 miles of the most heavily-traveled roads in the country. For other roads, another solution will have to be found to current over-crowding.

One of the most interesting ideas discussed at the National Conference was the proposal of the Conference of State Governors that the Federal Government get out of the gasoline taxation field. The idea would be that this source of revenue would be left to the states, which would gain increased revenues to finance highway improvements. Under this proposal, Federal highway aid would also be withdrawn.

Objections were voiced to the proposal on the theory that the end of Federal taxation might not always be followed by increased state taxes on gasoline, in which case there would actually be less revenue for highways in some areas than before.

Down Memory Lane

10 YEARS AGO

The marriage of Helen Perry, daughter of Mrs. Glen Perry, and Rev. Paul Iverson was an event of December 27 at the home of the bride's mother. The groom is the son of Mrs. Emily Iverson of Plattsmouth. . . . The BREX bowling team is leading the Plattsmouth Bowling league with a 25-11 record. Woster shoe store is in second place with a 23-13 mark. . . . Albin E. Chovance, a naval training student at Cape Girardeau, Mo., is visiting at the home of his parents. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ted Spauat are the parents of a son born Christmas day. . . . Rev. J. W. Taenzler will serve both the Plattsmouth and Murray Christian churches. He was recently recalled here. . . . Miss Dorothy Marsh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Marsh of Omaha, and Lyle Jewell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Troy Jewell of Weeping Water were married December 21.

20 YEARS AGO

Miss Ruth Bestor, daughter of Guy Bestor of Plattsmouth, was married at Chicago to Edward Sidenius on Saturday, December 23. . . . The annual meeting of the Plattsmouth Loan and Building Association will be held January 9 according to C. A. Johnson, president. . . . Deputy Sheriff J. E. Lancaster has won high honors at the shooting gallery with a score of 29 out of a possible 30. He had 26 successful shots before missing. . . . Fred Rothort, coach at Plattsmouth, and Bernard Galloway, ex-athlete here now in the coaching profession, joined alumni cagers from Peru in a basketball game with the current Peru college team.

UNUSUAL CLUB

Pittsburgh, Pa. — Pittsburgh has an unusual club, which meets only on Friday, the 13th of the month. It's the "Friday the Thirteenth Club of Pittsburgh," composed of fourteen Pittsburgh business men, who meet for luncheon and a program which calls for enyzing the dining room by walking under a ladder, sitting beneath open umbrellas at tables decorated with black cats, throwing salt on the floor, breaking mirrors and paying for meals with 99 bills. The club, formed a few years ago, has as its officers, thirteen vice-presidents and a vice-president in charge of vice-presidents.

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Fulfills Fears

Observers pointed out that it was just exactly this sort of thing which opponents of the highway commission have said would happen. Those fighting the highway commission idea have said it would lead to seven men working hard to get roads built into their own home towns.

Trunk System

The commission started work on the basic task handed it by the Legislature — laying out a trunk highway system of 6,500 miles. The State Highway De-

Man originates in muck, roades a while in muck, makes muck, and in the end returns to muck. —J. F. C. Schiller

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DREW PEARSON SAYS:
A. M. A. AND AMERICAN LEGION GIRDING FOR SOCIALIZED-MEDICINE BATTLE; DOCTORS WANT TO BAR FREE NON-SERVICE MEDICAL ATTENTION FOR VETS; LEGION MAGAZINE CASTIGATES DOCTORS.

WASHINGTON — Mr. John Q. Public will be chiefly watching taxes, social security, national defense, and other headline issues as congress gets under

