

EDITORIALS

PLATTSMOUTH SWIMMING POOL

The other night a number of interested citizens met for the purpose of discussing a swimming pool for Plattsmouth. A good representation of business and social clubs of the city were represented, but about all that was accomplished was the unanimous agreement that such a project was desirable—just as it was 10 or even 30 years ago.

We have little doubt that Plattsmouth could have a fine pool, even without the necessity of a bond issue, if parents and other residents here really want it. No single group or club could put the proposition over. It would take the combined and enthusiastic efforts of at least 80 per cent of our people to get the job done.

But, it can be done, for the reason that we can cite several cities not too far from Plattsmouth whose residents have the satisfaction of claiming "mission accomplished."

We honestly believe enough cash could be raised through sale of family season tickets at \$20 to \$25 each for the first year and through popular subscription to buy all materials needed for construction. A united effort in work donation by those unable, or unwilling to subscribe cash, could easily be obtained to build the pool.

It has been done elsewhere and it could be accomplished here—anyone want to head the drive?

THE EIGHTY-FOURTH CONGRESS

The Eighty-Fourth Congress is up to several antics which may cost a number of members of that body their jobs. In the first place, Congress is flirting with the idea of reducing taxes. In the second place, they recently granted themselves a juicy pay raise, which is out of all proportion to pay raises granted to workers in private professions.

In addition, there are several other hot issues arising which might, or might not, end up in headaches for Congressmen and Senators. The tax reduction, which would be \$20 for each taxpayer and each dependent, would be welcomed by many taxpayers but those who look too at the budget and many pay raises which will necessarily be voted this year, will not be able to reconcile the two satisfactorily.

The Government is still spending more money than it is collecting, even though economies have been effected and defense expenditures have been somewhat reduced. The President has warned Congress that this is not the time for tax reductions and has promised to favor such reductions next year, if collections hold up and if expenses can be further trimmed.

The Democrats, who control the Eighty-Fourth Congress, are sure to receive most of the blame if Congress votes heavier spending and tax cuts and thereby cause another large deficit. The deficit-spending problem has reached such proportions that it is no longer a secondary issue. Taxpayers are now footing a bill of some \$7,000,000,000 each year in interest on the national debt alone.

To us this does not seem like a very practical approach to the country's economic problems, and even though the tax cuts are designed to sugar-coat and soothe the fact that another unbalanced budget is coming up, and that defense economies are being by-passed, it may not work out that way in the end.

CHAMBER MEMBERSHIPS

We've always believed that membership in a Chamber of Commerce was as automatic as paying taxes or opening the door at your place of business every morning. Many others are of the same opinion and pay their fees on time. Much more could be accomplished by your

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Nature never makes excellent things for mean, or no use. —John Locke

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Furse's Fresh Flashes

Looking over the annual statement of General Motors it seems to us that what is wrong with this country is that we're trying to run it with only one vice-president.

There is nothing that makes us more jubilant than to park on what is left of the other fellow's nickle.

A Plattsmouth man has sued for divorce saying his wife hasn't spoken to him for the past six months. He should think that over—you just can't hardly get that kind no more.

Modern marriage wouldn't be such a gamble if so many couples didn't believe that a pair would beat a full house.

The alarm clock will get you up, but the rest is up to you.

The wife has changed quite a bit since we married her—my habits, my friends and my hours.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, says if we think bathing beaches are crowded, we should look at some of these new swim suits.

Chamber if everyone would do the job promptly and not require half the time of a manager and board of directors collecting, soliciting and selling memberships every year.

Down Memory Lane

20 YEARS AGO

The board of health lifted all quarantines for meningitis in Plattsmouth after a 10 day incubation period passed without any new cases. . . . A committee consisting of W. B. Banning, Union, chairman; Elmer Hallstrom, Avoca; William J. O'Brien, South Bend; Frank Melvin, of Murdoch; Judge A. H. Duxbury of Plattsmouth; and D. D. Wainscott of Weeping Water, which was appointed to take up public work projects in Cass county, met with the county board of commissioners in Plattsmouth to try to form plans for road work to relieve unemployment. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hild moved from their farm west of Mynard to Plattsmouth where he was to take charge of an oil service station. . . . Omaha Technical defeated Plattsmouth high school 70 to 9 in the regional basketball tournament at Omaha. Only Plattsmouth scorers from the field were Wooster and Case who had one each; Hendrix hit three free shots, Seitz one and Wall one. . . . Mrs. Ed Ulrich the mother, and Mrs. Francis Toman, a sister of the bride were hostesses for a miscellaneous shower given for Mrs. Richard Livingston, the former Anna Ulrich. . . . Murdoch high defeated Brainerd 25 to 20 to gain entry in the state basketball tournament, Murdoch players: Norman Kroup, Harold Tool, Vernon Ricki, Gerald Kuehn, Richard Eppings, Milton Weber, Henry Kelmme, Wayne Bornemeier and Robert Miller.

30 YEARS AGO

After two weeks closed for repairs, the Platte river auto and wagon bridge, owned by T. H. Pollock, was opened for traffic. . . . Tennis players geared to open the season with a bang and awaited announcement by Raymond Larson, president of the Plattsmouth Tennis Club, to call a meeting. . . . A bid of \$150,000 was successful on the King of Trails bridge. . . . Miss Freda Gauer was married to William Wendt in a ceremony performed by Rev. Theodore Hartmann at the Lutheran Evangelical church in Louisville on March 4. . . . F. I. Rea transferred to Plattsmouth as local representative of the Continental Gas and Electric company. . . . Miss Francis Cloidt celebrated her fifth birthday with a party for Plattsmouth school mates. . . . John Walter Burbee, little son of Superintendent L. W. Burbee at Nehawka, took a notion to entertain his father and kept him up most of the night, reported the Nehawka correspondent.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

(Copyright, 1954, by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.) JUSTICE DEPARTMENT GIVES FLIMSILY ALIBI FOR TEXAS GRAIN SCANDAL; JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CONVICTS IN HOUSTON BUT DROPS TRIAL LIKE HOT POTATO IN GALVESTON; IN HOUSTON NO FRIEND OF GOVERNOR SHIVERS WAS INVOLVED.

Washington — Attorney General Brownell went out of his way at a press conference last week to try to alibi the dismissal of five Galveston grain scandal indictments just before they were to go to trial and shortly after Governor Shivers of Texas had lunched with President Eisenhower.

Brownell even brought his chief of the criminal division, Warren Olney, a competent public servant who did a good job as counsel of the California Crime Commission, to the Conference. Together they claimed they were short of evidence and that one government witness had reversed himself.

One Cheerful Note



This did not, however, satisfy some of the senators, most of them Republican, who investigated the shocking Galveston grain scandal two years ago and who gathered enough evidence to indict several of the grain dealers plus E. H. Thornton, Sr., the father of Gov. Allan Shivers.

Senator Milton Young, North Dakota Republican, also expressed dissatisfaction. "How can American wheat farmers expect to sell abroad in competition with Canada," he said, "when Canada maintains strict inspection of its wheat exports while American wheat is sent to ports like Galveston where it is mixed with hog feed and mijo meal, then sent abroad as supposedly top grade American wheat?"

"The American farmer doesn't know his wheat is being mixed with hog feed and he's the one in the long run who suffers."

Senator Young referred to the fact that two shiploads of the impure Galveston wheat had been sold to the Swiss who refused to take delivery. Several shiploads were also sent to the west German Republic, a country we are trying to keep friendly to the west. They, however, accepted the wheat and used it even though later found to be "unfit for human consumption."

"That's the kind of reputation our wheat is getting abroad," Senator Young commented. He also referred to the fact that the Bunge corporation, an Argentine firm, made it a regular practice to ship wheat to Galveston where it had a friendly arrangement with the Galveston city grain elevators of which E. H. Thornton was manager, to mix its poor wheat with "good grade U. S. government wheat right under the eyes of the U.S. inspector."

Thornton brazenly admitted to investigating senators that he gave orders to "slug the ships as much as possible," that is, mix off-grade wheat with the good. He told how ships selected to be slugged were loaded at night when it was difficult for the inspector and the sampler to see what was happening.

"It's a hundred feet from one hatch to another," Thornton testified. "He has to walk that hundred feet, and these ships we might have selected to slug would start at night; and he can't walk from one hatch to another in ten minutes." He went on to explain that the sampler had to climb up and down hatches.

The Amazing Brownell The most amazing thing about Attorney General Brownell's alibi for dismissing these indictments was that the Senate agreed to the Bunge deal.

However, the Justice Department apparently agreed with Perich, not with the senator from North Dakota. They dismissed the indictments.

In Houston, however, they did not dismiss. There, the same agents for the Bunge Corp. bribed William Fellrath, superintendent of the Houston public elevator, a total of \$15,299. In this case, the Justice Department went to trial and secured convictions.

Senators can't help wondering what the difference was between Galveston and Houston. Could the difference be, they wonder, that in Houston the father of Governor Shivers' campaign manager was not involved and the governor did not lunch at the White House just before the trial?

I See By The Papers . . .

By Bill Murdock

A. J. (Tony) Cuhel, who works at the city water pump house at Bruno, had home grown tomatoes the other day though the ice froze and the cold wind blew. He planted them in pots and let them set in the sun of the warm pump house, says The Wahoo Newspaper.

Also, two yam salesmen were caught after stealing a ham, says the Wahoo Newspaper. Two men made the rounds of the Wahoo grocery stores a while back selling the biggest yams anyone ever saw around there. Suddenly, a grocer reported to the sheriff's office that a large ham was stolen from his smoke house. Making like Sherlock Holmes, the sheriff traced the culprits through two large yams found on the floor in the smokehouse.

Ike was ahead in a straw vote conducted at a clothing store in Lexington as the Republican party leader, Robert S. Kerr led the Democrats. A total of 230 Republicans voted and 215 Democrats.

The path is rocky at Primrose. This was indicated by a story in the Albion News relating how the Eugene Kraus family moved there and their three youngest girls burned themselves; the oldest had a severe sinus infection and another fell on the ice and received a brain concussion.

Also, reports the News, a coon dog owned by Wess McCoy of Albion dived into a hole after a beaver and couldn't find his way back to open air. It took an 18-foot long trench and a 14-foot-deep hole to rescue him.

Capitol News

By Melvin Paul
Statehouse Correspondent
The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN — The Legislature this week was taking its first hard look at proposals to reform the property tax system administration.

The first bill to sail across the boards ran into heavy weather right off the bat.

It was LB 150, a proposal to exempt from taxation all but seven items of household goods. It would replace the present system where all household goods are taxed but the householder gets a \$200 exemption first.

In two days of debate the Legislature refused to sink the bill. But they loaded on some extra items such as fur coats, diamonds, jewelry, musical instruments, and electric dishwashers not included by the writers of the measure.

LB 150 was one of seven tax reform bills written by a special Legislative Council Tax Study Committee, headed by Sen. Otis Liebers of Lincoln. This same committee recommended the constitutional amendment proposals placed on the November ballot by the Legislature in special session last spring and upon which the voters acted in the general election.

Another of these bills, LB 148, received approval by the Legislative Revenue Committee. But some heavy going was expected.

LB 148 would change the definition of value. The Nebraska Supreme Court has said that under the present law value for assessment purposes means "market value."

This sounds reasonable at first glance. But the trouble is that some types of property sell so seldom that using figures from the few sales in a year may be unfair in determining all assessments of that type of property.

For example, in some counties very little farm land is sold. Yet according to present definition all assessments must be pegged to the few sales.

The same is true of downtown real estate in towns and cities. Some of these business and commercial buildings have never been sold. How, then, is an assessor going to figure out the sale value?

LB 148 would allow assessors to base their valuations on such factors as relative location, earning capacity, desirability, reproduction cost and amount of depreciation, and comparison with other property of known value.

Purpose is to give assessors "more tools" than just the inflexible "market value" factor.

Ernest Woodard of Hebron, field man for the tax commissioner's office, said that homes probably wouldn't have been assessed as high the past two years if such a law had been in existence.

But opposition is reportedly in the offing for the measure.

Railroad Opposition

It will largely come from the railroads. Here is said to be the reasoning behind this opposition.

Since railroads are not bought and sold every day or even every year, the present definition of "market value" doesn't fit them. Therefore there is a special formula for the railroads.

But if LB 148 with its broader definition of "basic value" were adopted it might be used to assess railroads as well as other types of property. Therefore the railroads don't want it.

So attempts are expected in the Legislature to either water down the bill so it won't mean anything or to try to get it back to where it really means "market value" all over again.

The fight over the measure thus might be one of the most crucial of the session.

A third tax measure, LB 151, was killed by the Revenue Committee and then revived. It would change the tax assessment date from March 10 to either March 1 or Jan. 1. The point of this bill is that everyone keeps books on the basis of the first of the month doesn't fit anybody's system.

Business Inventories

The other tax measure to be heard this far, LB 149, would provide for assessing merchants on the basis of their annual average inventory. At present they are taxed on the basis of what they have on hand on March 10.

Witnesses at the Revenue Committee hearing on this bill said that the present system disrupts business because many merchants intentionally let their stocks get low for March 10. Many farmers sell their cattle before this date depressing the market.

Using the average inventory over the year's period would mean there would be no point in juggling inventories. Testimony was that it would probably greatly increase the tax revenue from this source.

Other Measures

Still to be heard are three other bills: LB 152, to allow the state tax commissioner to set up rules and regulations for tax assessing; LB 153, to place on the ballot a constitutional amendment to set up a state tax commission. (This same proposal was narrowly defeated last November.) LB 154, to place on the ballot a constitutional amendment to allow grain to be taxed on a per bushel basis, instead of the present ad valorem method.

Gas Tax Extended The Legislature by a resound- (Continued on Page Seven)



WASHINGTON, March 10 — The goal of full prosperity for America is the pie-in-the-sky dream of every economist, but there are many different views on attaining that goal. Right now it looks like the viewpoint of the former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, and that of President Eisenhower's advisers are to be the two theories most debated.

The National Conference of Economic Progress, headed by Leon Keyserling, who is head of President Truman's economic advisers—has just issued its blueprint for full U. S. prosperity, and this group believes the nation can attain this full prosperity by the end of 1955, while increasing national production six percent a year.

The essential goals of this group are: 1. Raise personal income tax exemption by \$200. That would increase purchasing power by \$4,500,000,000. 2. Raise the wage minimum from 75 cents to \$1.25 to add another \$2,500,000,000 in purchasing power. 3. Increase federal outlays another \$3,500,000,000 add to purchasing power. 4. Increase old-age insurance payments by \$1,000,000,000 as another boost in purchasing power. 5. Subsidize slum clearance and low-rent housing.

This program would hike national production by \$30,000,000,000, the National Conference of Economic Progress report says. By increasing national production this rapidly, at least six percent a year, unemployment will be rapidly reduced, and the budget would become a smaller percentage of national output.

This economic program would result in the budget being only 17.7 percent of national production in 1955, whereas it was 20.2 percent in 1953. Meanwhile taxes paid by the government would increase as total production increased and some costs, such as unemployment benefit costs, would be reduced as jobs multiplied.

The basic conflict between this program and the President's program is the degree of activity which, it is proposed, the government exerts in controlling the national economy. The President's advisers are following a plan for a three percent rise in production annually in this country.

They feel that some sore spots in the economy are normal developments and that some unemployment is unavoidable. The Keyserling group feels that the present Administration is allowing too much unemployment to continue and that it is not planning for a rapid enough rise in national production.

Eisenhower's advisers feel that the Keyserling group would exert too much control over the economy, that such a program would lead to a regimented economy. The Keyserling group says huge additions to the labor force now occurring in this country every year cannot be easily absorbed unless total output is increased more than three percent a year.

These two conflicting economic theories are likely to figure in next year's political campaign, in many areas, since the CIO's Walter Reuther is a member of the National Conference committee. This will no doubt line much of the country's laboring force up behind the Keyserling-group's program.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Oriental Animal

Grid for crossword puzzle with clues and answers. Clues include: 1 Depicted animal, 5 It is a deer, 13 Dry, 14 Raised, 15 Seed vessel, 16 Rear, 17 Exist, 18 Aop, 19 Advisers, 21 It is dark brown, 22 Cereal grain, 24 Vases, 26 Cleatrix, 27 Italian city, 28 Transpose (ab.), 29 Italian river, 30 Palm lily, 31 On time (ab.), 32 Heap, 34 Places, 37 Units, 38 Redact, 39 Four (Roman), 40 Tells secrets, 46 Artificial language, 47 Sense, 49 Stupid person, 50 Distant, 51 Vibrant effects, 53 Burden, 54 Chemical salt, 55 FORTS. Answers include: 5 Cotton fabric, 6 Land-d animal, 7 Mexican coin, 8 State, 9 Symbol for sodium, 10 Greek letter, 11 Finches, 12 Urfa, 16 Anent, 19 Gayest, 20 Presumes, 23 Cows, 25 Grew wildly, 32 Its horns usually have four, 33 Reverse, 35 Harangue, 36 Shops, 41 Love god, 42 Weight of India, 43 Horse's gait, 44 Mislace, 45 Half an cm, 48 Device used by golfers, 50 Passing fancy, 52 Parent, 53 Behold!

Nehawka Hog Sale May Set Record

NEHAWKA (Special) — What is believed to be a national record for consecutive hog sales will be established by Harry Knabe when he completes his 70th sale on March 14 at his sale pavilion at Nehawka.

Mr. Knabe started in the hog breeding business in 1913 when he purchased a 60 pound 4H gilt from Raymond Pollard of Nehawka for \$25. He took this gilt to Weeping Water by team and wagon to compete in a show with other animals of the county. The exhibit was held in pens on the muddy streets. His first sale in 1923 were the descendants of the original gilt.

Mr. Knabe said there were many ups and downs but he stayed with it and came out on top. In 1934 he sold bred sows for \$8.15 and the top price that year was \$41.

The highest top he received was \$1,625 in 1949. His son, John has been in partnership with him for a year.

Mr. Knabe is a member of the National Purebred Hampshire Breeder's Association and was a member of the board of directors for 17 years, resigning in 1953.

Cass County's Greatest Newspaper The Plattsmouth Journal

