

Editorial . . .

Centerline Lack . . .

An Invitation To 'Head-ons'

The lone completed stretch of Interstate 15 between Ulm and Cascade is a "dream" to drive on—if you do your driving in daylight. This piece of road, only recently oil-matted, as yet is without centerline paint.

Coming home from Havre late Sunday evening, this absence of a painted centerline made the 12.5-mile stretch of I-15 a particularly nerve-wracking venture. The worst spot of all was at the Ulm interchange. On a dark night it is next to impossible to determine with any degree of safety your traffic lane when facing the bright lights of oncoming traffic.

Since this piece of road is newly oil-matted there may be solid reason for the lack of centerline paint, although it would seem, in view of the highly dangerous possibilities of head-on collisions, that it should not have been opened to the public until after the centerline painting was taken care of.

There are a good many miles of other highway between Helena and Havre which, although of varying age, are presently without adequate centerline marking. Much of this highway mileage is "narrow gauge" or extremely crooked. With centerlines dim or non-existent a nighttime driver must be under constant nervous strain for fear of sideswiping or of being sideswiped by approaching vehicles.

Our reports are that spotty centerline marking is quite common in many parts of the state.

In the interest of reducing highway accidents, of curbing highway fatalities, painting and repainting centerlines merit highest priority of the Highway Department. If maintenance money is in short supply, then it is suggested the department slow down on some of its high-priced right-of-way purchasing for new construction and divert such state funds to the maintenance division.

This neglect of centerlines is an open invitation to head-on collisions which pay off only in sorrow, property destruction and increased business volume for the undertaking fraternity.

"Inflation" Bugaboo As Smokescreen

From LABOR

Now the Scripps-Howard newspapers have joined the organized campaign by the press and by reactionary forces against enactment of progressive legislation by Congress, all under the smokescreen of "Stop Inflation!"

Scripps-Howard readers are being hysterically impurported by the publishers to shower Congress with form letters to "stop spending" except for "essential expenditures." Other newspapers around the country previously launched similar campaigns.

Significantly, these papers say not a word about reducing the biggest and perhaps most inflationary Federal outlay of all—the more than \$40 billion a year spent for the armed forces, and additional billions appropriated to cover the cost of past, present or future wars. All other expenditures of the government are almost insignificant compared to those giant outlays.

What's really behind this campaign by the press, by big business groups, and by other special interests? One answer, as previously reported, is to lay down a smokescreen, to cover up such basic inflationary forces as zooming profits of corporations and soaring interest rates which add billions of dollars to private and public costs throughout America.

A second aim of the drive is to make it more difficult for workers to get wage increases which are justified by productivity, by corporate profits and by other factors. In the viewpoint of the press and employers, a dollar secured by workers is "inflationary," but a dollar to corporations or bankers is "sound."

A third objective is to block any and all legislation of a social welfare nature which this rich and powerful nation should have, such as a broad public housing program; aid to chronically depressed areas; improved unemployment compensation; a higher minimum wage; Federal aid to education; national health insurance, and similar programs on their merits, so the bugaboo of "inflation" is brandished against them.

One of the worst effects of this campaign is that it seeks to turn back the clock and impose a policy of economic contraction, when what's really needed is a bold and aggressive policy of economic expansion, one that would raise production, raise consuming power, and raise the national income so that needed benefits for the people can be financed out of rising revenues without even a whisper of inflation.

LSW Requests State AFL—

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be repealed, the convention pointed out that these carriers "of the Montana Workmen's Compensation Act are deceiving and forcing injured workers into signing compromise lump sum settlements of their rights and benefits under" the act; that the Industrial Accident Board "seems unable to conduct thorough investigations and is approving" such settlements, "thereby forever precluding injured workmen and their dependents from rights supposedly guaranteed them."

To implement their renewed drive for elimination of private insurance companies from the compensation field, the convention asked assistance of all Montana labor organizations "in preparing and compiling records of every possible shady action by insurance carriers operating" under the Montana act "for the purpose of presenting such record to future sessions

of the Montana State Legislature . . . until such time as Plan II is repealed. . ."

WANT ACTION ON MERGING WITH I.W.A.

Observing that the "continued existence of two workers' organizations in the lumber industry is not conducive to the best interests of the men involved," and that "efforts to combine the LSW and International Woodworkers of America "appear to be stalled with no great effort being made toward joining the two groups", the convention instructed the Montana District Council officers to "obtain and circulate to its member unions authentic information on the present merger possibilities between the IWA and LSW and the reason for delay." The convention also asked that "a request for action" be forwarded to the "next annual convention of the Western Council" of LSW.

OFFICERS ELECTED

LSW district council officers were elected for the coming period at the

Legislative Council--

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ing on the health and all-around capabilities of Mr. Williams.—EDITOR.) Some members of the council felt it was "regrettable" they were put in the position of having to proceed with the investigation, but they all agreed that in the face of HR 7 they could not avoid it.

"A CREATURE OF THE LEGISLATURE"

Ted Schwinden (D-Roosevelt) said "our course has to be determined by the legislature because we are a creature of the legislature and whatever course we take must be based on what the legislature told us to do". This summed up the unhappy and unwanted task facing this interim legislative group. Schwinden did not believe it was a "regrettable" thing. He said "I think employees are fortunate we are here."

The unhappiness of the group was expressed by Sen. Paul Ringling (D-Meagher) when he said "it is a regrettable thing this has come before the council . . . We could become a grievance committee in pot and kettle things."

Yellowstone Republican John Cavan was concerned about whether Williams would want to proceed with the investigation, and asked "suppose it would be extremely damaging to his character . . . are we justified in going ahead in spite of his wishes?"

However, it apparently was not necessary to ask Mr. Williams if he wanted to proceed with the investigation, because only one question was posed by Sen. Robert Durkee (D-Hill), council chairman: "In your opinion was your demotion a reprisal because of testimony before the legislative committee?"

A calm and confident Mr. Williams said "Yes", produced his evidence, and the second question didn't materialize.—GGB

Cross-Examination--

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tee report. Durkee contended, "the temperament of the people involved, unless held strictly to facts and problems can get into accusations and I visualize complete chaos."

Attorneys John Cavan (R-Yellowstone) and Pat Gilfeather (D-Cascade, council members, supported the cross-examination phase of the report.

Gilfeather said, "You have to give them the right to question their accusers . . . this is the proper thing to do . . . we are put in the spot of having to be judges but we have been put in that spot so that is what we are."

Cavan admitted a congressional investigating committee process would be "much easier to control", but congressional committees, he pointed out, "are not known for some of the best of operations". He said there had to be an opportunity for each side to "test the veracity of" the statements of the other by cross-examination. He also felt the court type hearing was more protection to the council itself. He said the straight legislative investigating committee procedure would be "pushing ourselves right into the thing, hook, line and sinker."

A suggestion to hire an outside attorney to further protect the council was discarded because of the possible difficulty of council members being able to agree on one.

There was unanimous agreement that the "sole issue" will be the reprisal aspects of the demotion and dismissal, and the investigation will have nothing to do with the high-

convention.

Fred Sonnenburg, Seeley Lake, was reelected council president, as was vice president Benjamin Vaughn, of Libby.

Robert C. Weller, Kalispell, was reelected to another four-year term as secretary-treasurer of the council.

Other officers elected were: warden, Frank Stanford, Hamilton; conductor, Irvin J. Fleisher, Libby;

All above, except Weller, were elected for two-year terms.

Paul Gleffe, Missoula, was elected to a three-year term as trustee. Hold-over trustees are: George W. Porter, Bonner, and William E. Brown, Missoula.

Executive committee members at large are: Lloyd Wise, Missoula, Vic Koford, Kalispell; William V. Dutton, Libby, and Melvin W. Hoy, Thompson Falls.

Surprise! . . .

Britain's Health Plan Proves a Great Success

From the OREGON LABOR PRESS

We wish every American could read an article in the current (May) issue of Harper's magazine. It's called Socialized Medicine, 10 Years Old, and it describes the success of Britain's National Health Service.

Harper's is no radical magazine, and the author of the article is no leftwing propagandist. As a matter of fact he is Don Cook, a veteran newspaperman who is chief of the London Bureau of the New York Herald Tribune—one of America's leading Republican newspapers.

Cook sticks to the facts. The facts show that Britain's great experiment in free medical, hospital, dental, and optic care for all citizens is a tremendous success.

To us it seems a tragedy that this article appears in Harper's, with its small circulation, rather than in one of the big magazines with millions of readers. But the big magazines are afraid to offend the powerful American Medical Association. And the AMA doesn't want Americans to know that Britain's National Health Service is a success (Heaven forbid).

Our eyes were opened by the following facts and quotations from the harper's article:

PUBLIC APPROVES

"Ten years after the establishment of the British National Health Service it is difficult—in fact almost impossible—to find an opponent of socialized medicine on the island.

"Ninety-seven per cent of the population are registered patients of the National Health Service, and never pay any medical bills. All but a handful of Britain's 49,000 doctors serve health service patients.

"On the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the service, the British Medical Association's Journal was full of praise for it from leaders of the medical profession.

"From the point of view of the consumer it has been an enormous benefit and success," wrote Dr. H. Guy Dain. "The absence of any financial barrier between doctor and patient must make the doctor-patient relationship easier and more satisfactory."

"Iain Macleod, former Minister of Health in the Conservative Cabinet, said: 'I believe in the National Health Service with all my heart. Indeed, I believe that some sort of national health service * * * will come to every country in the world.'

"In Britain, more of the population get better medical care than in any other major country on earth.

"In Britain you don't pay, no matter who you are or how complicated your problem is or how long you have to stay in the hospital.

FREEDOM OF CHOICE

"You may sign up with any doctor, and you can change if you aren't satisfied. Likewise the doctor is free to turn you down if he feels he already has enough patients on his panel list.

"If you should need hospitalization, surgery, or special consultations, your doctor will make the arrangements for you to receive these services just

way program or departmental efficiency.

The procedure will be further discussed and perfected at the September meeting of the council and after council attorney and executive secretary Gene Tidball has had a chance to confer with attorneys for Williams and the Highway Commission.

Sen. Paul Ringling (D-Meagher) thought it ought to be made clear that "under no circumstances" would the council make a statement on a decision following the hearing. He said their only obligation is to make a report to the next legislature. The report, he said, could be "merely a conclusion of facts".

Sen. Arnold Reider (D-Jefferson) said, "we should come to some conclusion or what is the use of holding a hearing?"

There seemed to be a feeling that there would be no conclusions made public unless it were a "clear cut" case, then there would be no "reasonable doubt".

Attention MPCo. 'Brass' . . .

FPC Says Utility Owners Must Pay For Political Ads

WASHINGTON—REI—The Federal Power Commission last week dealt a sharp blow to power company hopes that political advertising costs could be passed along to the consumer; and upheld the principle that cost of such propaganda must be borne by utility investors.

FPC approved a ruling by one of its presiding examiners excluding evidence a group of electric companies had offered in an attempt to justify their treatment of such advertising as an operating expense. The firms involved were identified as American Independent Electric Light and Power Companies.

Following hearings on the matter last January, FPC ordered the firms to "show cause" why these advertising costs should not be "below the line".

In electric accounting parlance, below the line costs are those which cannot be considered as an expense to be passed along to consumers in rates. Above the line costs can.

Power companies claimed their treatment of advertising costs as operating expense was just and reasonable and attempted to show these were necessary expenditures to tell their side of the story.

The examiner excluded this as evidence and FPC affirmed the ruling, stating the ads were of a political nature and hence must be below the line.

The companies may seek a re-hearing before FPC, but an appeal must be filed within 30 days of the time the ruling is issued.

However, FPC sources said there is a question if the ruling is appealable. Only an "aggrievable" order can be appealed and it has not been determined that the companies have been "aggrieved."

Now, if FPC will only take a look-see at power company lobbying expense before state legislatures and make a determination as to how much of that expense should be "below the line", it might be that in future there will be far fewer birthday and other parties hosted by the utilities for legislators each time the Montana Legislature is in session.—EDITOR.

as he would in private practice.

"All National Health Service doctors are free to take private fee-paying patients along with their state-pail patients.

"For free dental care you simply make an appointment with a National Health Service dentist of your choice. He is paid a fixed fee by the state for routine work and passes you on to a specialist for complicated dentures or oral surgery.

"With over 50 million people in England, Scotland, and Wales, the cost this year will be less than \$50 per person for complete medical and hospital care.

"All statistics show that the British people are much more healthy and longer lived than they were 10 years ago.

"A medical tragedy can no longer become a financial disaster. In Britain the shadow of medical bills has been removed from family life forever.

DOCTOR NOW GETS HIS MONEY

"The National Health Service as it is working in Britain today affords a maximum of individual freedom to both doctors and patients. Most of the settled families of the country are signed up with the same doctor they had in the old days—only now he is paid by the state and they have no more doctor's bills.

"An American cannot live in Britain today and see the Health Service at work without coming to a simple realization: What has been done here by democratic process in a free society is a great step forward and an object lesson for democracy throughout the world."

The moral sense, or conscience, is as much a part of man as his leg or arm. It is given to all human beings in a stronger or weaker degree, as force of members is given them in a greater or less degree.—THOMAS JEFFERSON.

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