

Kodiak Mirror

Reflecting the News of Alaska's Most Historic Island

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How High Can Wages Go?

According to some of the current theories, there would seem to be practically no limit to how high wages can go. When wages go up so fast that they leave productivity far behind, all business has to do is add the increases to prices—say those who accept inflation as inevitable if not desirable. The idea is that the big unions are so powerful that inflationary wage demands cannot be resisted.

Then, so that there will be enough money to go around, at the new high levels of wages and prices, the government would further inflate the money supply. All this seems simple enough, but there are a few serious flaws in it.

First, wage increases don't help much when prices have to go up along with wages—which are the biggest part of the price of almost everything. Second, the value of insurance policies, pension funds and savings keeps going down as dollars get cheaper and cheaper.

Third—and most important—a lot of people can't or won't pay the higher prices. They won't buy, or they'll buy the lower-priced foreign goods arriving here in an increasing flow. A time then comes for many an employee when last week's high wage is just a memory. For his company has been priced out of the market and he has been priced out of a job.

—from I. P. S.

Mirrored Reflections.

By Sig Digree

A lot of you will be asking yourselves as I did when reading the report of gains in personal income in Alaska, as found elsewhere in this issue, "Where was I—how come more of this didn't rub off on me?"

According to the report, Alaska's personal income was three-fourths again as high as in 1950, and the per capita income one-fifth higher than the national average.

This editor got the impression as he read the report, that he has kept his nose too long between the sheets of a newspaper, rather than seeking out ways of making money.

But reading further into the report, geographic distribution of income had to do with this editor being on the short end of the stick—income-wise. There is a marked uneven distribution of individuals and income in the State. More than three-fourths of total income, and more than two-thirds of the population, are concentrated in Central Alaska where average incomes are highest — one-third above those in the country as a whole.

The southeastern "Panhandle" has just over one-eighth of the income and nearly one-sixth of the population.

The sparsely inhabited West receives less than one-tenth of all income; has one-sixth of the population; and is characterized by per capita incomes one-fourth below the national average. The West, according to the report, is the least developed and least accessible part of Alaska. Its economic structure reflects the considerable importance of the military and the presence of a large native economy based mainly on fishing, hunting, and trapping, with seasonal employment in fish canneries.

We couldn't help but reflect that it is apparent that "them that have much, want more." This is brought out in the move to bring the capital in the vicinity of Anchorage. Central Alaska now has

three-fourths of the State's income, but wants to swallow up most of Southeastern's one-eighth.

When voting on Initiative petition No. 1, whether for or against moving the capital, it might be well to think about your future income and future taxes, and that of future generations. A conservative estimate of the cost of moving the capital from Juneau is \$50,000,000, but more than likely a great deal more.

Personally, we would rather hang on to what we have, and concentrate on boosting the economy of the State, so that individual incomes can still continue to rise. Maybe some of it may rub off on this editor yet.

The world's oldest scientific society celebrated its tercentenary in London July 18-26.

The Royal Society, or to use its full title, "The Royal Society of London for the Promotion of Natural Knowledge," is made up of the world's top scientists. Its purpose when it was founded 300 years ago was "to improve the knowledge of natural things, and all useful Arts, Manufactures, Mechanick Practices, Engines and Inventions by experiment — (not meddling with Divinity, Metaphysics, Moralls, Politicks, Grammar, Rhetoric or Logick)."

When the Society was founded, the members were acclaimed, then denounced by the church, then held in derision — and even His Majesty was reported by Pepys to have "mightily laughed" on hearing that the Fellows were doing their utmost to determine the weight of air.

The Society's membership has borne such illustrious names as Francis Bacon, Isaac Newton, Benjamin Franklin, Captain James Cook, Sir James Huxley, Bertrand Russell and Winston Churchill to mention only a few.

The Society's main purpose—the encouragement of the search for new knowledge—is being carried out today.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

This is in the form of a letter of thanks to the many persons that were so extremely kind to me the day I fell and broke my hip on the APA Cannery Dock in Kodiak. Special thanks to the ambulance drivers that drove so very carefully to avoid any big bumps, and the same goes to the pilots on PNA. From Homer they flew higher than they usually do because they said the higher they fly the smoother the ride.

The same goes to Dr. Bob and the personnel at the Griffin Memorial Hospital the two days I spent there before being sent over here to the ANS hospital. They did everything in their power to make me comfortable.

Also, I wish to apologize to Mrs. Jess Tucker and another patient, name unknown to me, who were in the same room with me. With all my moaning and groaning, I'm sure I disturbed their sleep which I'm sorry for.

Will see you all some time this fall.

Sincerely,
Una Malutin,
ANS Hospital, Anchorage.

Bowling

Women's Scratch Trio

July 26th

	W	L
Syns	28	17
Rins	27	21
Gems	25½	22½
Reds	24	23
Hubs	20	28
Bips	19½	28½

High game: Lila Lester 197; series: Gerry Gronlund 516, Lila Lester 525.

Mixed Doubles

Final Standings

	W	L
Buzzards	30	6
Kurlie's	20	16
Pin Flyers	19	17
Criss	19	17
Stovers	17	19
In Laws	17	19
Watkins	17	19
Frosty Eggs	15	21
Tasks	13	23
Mix Ups	13	23

Week's high games: L. Wittich 231, V. Panchot 187; series: L. Wittich 583, V. Panchot 499.

Season's high games: R. Panchot 255, V. Panchot 205; series: Wm. Unger 640, L. Lester 536.

Averages: L. Wittich 188; V. Panchot 157.

The annual hospital bill for cancer is estimated at above \$350,000,000 or over eleven times more than what the public gave the American Cancer Society to fight cancer in 1959. Support the Society's 1960 Crusade.



Mr. and Mrs. John K. Keers of Brooklyn, N. Y. left this morning (Friday) for their home after vacationing in Kodiak since July 16. The John Keers were house guests of their son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Keers. This is Mr. Keers' first visit to Kodiak, the second for Mrs. Keers.

Personal Income of Alaskans In 1959 Was \$556 Million—Big Gain Since 1950

Personal income received by residents of Alaska in 1959 was a record \$556 million, according to the first official income report released recently by the Office of Business Economics, U. S. Department of Commerce.

Last year's total was 6 per cent more than the \$527 million volume recorded for 1958, a rate of gain about the same as for the nation. Alaska's personal income last year was three-fourths again as high as the 1950 total of \$319 million. This increase represents a rate of growth moderately in excess of the rise of more than two-thirds for the country as a whole. With a rough allowance for the advance of consumer prices in Alaska since 1950, total purchasing power of individuals in real terms has risen about two-fifths over this period. Other indications of economic growth include a population expansion of more than one-half and an increase of one-seventh in per capita income.

This information is part of a forthcoming comprehensive report based on a study of the Alaskan economy initiated by the Office of Business Economics immediately after statehood was achieved. The report, which covers the period 1950-59, provides an economic record consisting of summary figures on total and per capita income and detailed breakdowns of the overall flow, by type and by industry.

As to sources of income in the new State, of Alaska's 1959 personal income total, \$281 million, or one-half, was paid to residents by private industry; \$239 million, or 43 per cent, by Federal Government; and \$37 million, or 7 per cent, by State and local governments.

The size of the Federal Government percentage—higher than in any other state—reflects Alaska's major role in national defense. Military payrolls form the main component of Federal disbursements, totaling \$112 million in 1959. Earnings of civilian employees of defense agencies located in the State added another \$50 million. National defense payrolls thus account directly for nearly one-third of all income in the State.

The largest source of industry income since 1950 has been from contract construction.

VFW Auxiliary Selling Tickets

Crocheted and hand made articles will be awarded winners in the ticket sale conducted by the Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW Post 7056. Awards will be made on August 25, at the Post rooms.

The articles are on display in the window of the Wilton White Insurance office next to the Orpheum Theatre, and are the work of Helen Parrish, who is in the Alaska Native Hospital at Anchorage. Tickets are on sale at the Tailor Shop, VFW hall, the City Market and may also be purchased from any member of the Auxiliary.

Of the 9,400,000 Americans who applied for life insurance last year, 9,118,000 or 97% were accepted as insurable.

Read the classifieds for profit; use them for results.



New officers of the Kodiak branch 165, Fleet Reserve Association, were installed July 15 at the EM Club, by Hank White, founder of the local branch. Left to right are Ed. Kraft, vice-president; Roy Roberts, president; White, J. T. Harrison, secretary; Opal Mehrtens, past-president LAFRA Unit 165, Mary Harrison, president and Bill Poling, treasurer.