

**WESTERN NEWS
AND LIBBY TIMES**
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People Seldom Have Time For Prophets Of Disaster

By Charles D. Rowe

When a man's pockets are full of money, when jobs are plentiful, when he is riding the top of the wave, it is practically impossible to convince him that the nation is heading for financial destruction. Such warnings simply do not make sense to a man happy in his present prosperity. And yet there are financial experts and students of history who are telling us constantly that the nation is heading for disaster unless we stop our mad spending spree. Such warnings are heard daily in the present congress. So far they have made little impression. All of which recalls a statement once made by a student of financial history to the effect that whenever a nation has started on the pathway of huge financial hand-outs to large segments of its population, never has it been able to stop that spending until ultimate destruction overtook it. Today's record of continued and growing spending seems to be right in line with that statement.

This nation has got beyond talking in millions; today's expenditures are in billions. And no one can really comprehend what a billion dollars means. Let's see if we can put it in a more understandable way.

In the March issue of the Reader's Digest there was copied an article from the New England Letter, issued by the First National Bank of Boston. The statement was there made that in 1947 U. S. federal expenditures were approximately equal to the TOTAL PERSONAL income of all people in California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and about four-fifths of Texas. In other words, the federal expenditures in 1947 were approximately equal to the total personal income of all people living west of the Mississippi river excluding those in the states of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana.



THE SHADOWED VALLEY

All men sooner or later must face the shadowed valley of death. No matter how long life may seem, it must be lived in terms of its end. And so men have thought and written much about death. They have cursed it and blessed it; they have tried to close their eyes to it; they have tried to defy it; and they have welcomed it with open, tired arms.

Only the Christian can experience the calm courage with which David sang: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me." Only the Christian can triumphantly say with St. Paul: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be to God which giveth US the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" David and Paul saw death as it is, its shadow glorified by Christ's Cross and its power broken by Christ's Resurrection.

For the Christian the shadowed valley holds no fear. He knows that his Saviour went down into it before him and built a road through it—a road that leads swiftly and surely to the great heights of heaven. For God's children alone there is no tragedy in death. For those who mourn here, death may be sad, since it means parting for a little while. But for those who die in Christ it is joy. It is their birthday in the everlasting life of heaven. The shadowed valley looks dark only from this side; from the other side it is bright with eternal light.

Do you have this faith? Now, before death comes, is the time to have it! It changes one's whole perspective of life, and it pays eternal dividends.—ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH. adv.

Stated in another way, it took the total personal income of all people in 17 western states to equal the 1947 federal expenditures.

A further illustration of the magnitude of federal spending today is found in this week's issue of the United States News. The News notes the fact that the government is planning to spend 45 billion dollars during the coming fiscal year. The statement is then made that the value of all gold mined throughout the entire world since the time of Columbus—a period of 456 years—has been 40 billion dollars. In other words, we are spending in one year five billion dollars more than the value of all gold mined throughout the world since the time of Columbus.

But that is far from being all of this picture. The huge expenditures we are talking about did not include all governmental spendings. There were also the expenditures of state, county and city governments. The New England Letter said that today federal, state and local expenditures equal about 30 per cent of the total national income. Stated differently, the American people devote about one-third of their working time and effort to their various governments.

How this wild spending spree has gradually grown is shown when we consider that in 1929 federal spending amounted to less than two-thirds of the personal income of the inhabitants of the one state of California. Today it equals approximately the total personal income of the people of 17 western states. In 1929 federal expenditures were \$121 per family; in 1938, \$250 per family; in 1948 about \$984 per family.

And thus the happy jamboree keeps gaily sailing along.

Let's quote a paragraph from Frank R. Kent's letter in the Sunday press. Said Kent:

"Instead of being lightly taxed, the tax burden is unprecedently high. It bears grievously upon rich and poor alike. It has reached the point where to gain acutely needed revenue, economists generally fear the result of adding to it. Instead of a dependable surplus for nearly 18 years, we have consistently run increasingly large

deficits. Under such conditions any business, big or little, would be marked insolvent, would be branded as bankrupt. In other words, our federal fiscal structure is strained to the limit."

Kent was stressing the critical need of putting into effect the savings that would follow adoption of the recommendations of the Hoover commission. But he saw little possibility of that highly desirable thing being done. He said congressmen are too fearful of offending voters by moving to reduce federal jobs. Which magnifies the statement above referred to about the impossibility of ever stopping widespread hand-out expenditures were they are started.

Of course, this is no new subject. As stated at the beginning of this column, the person with his pocket full of money and drawing big wages is only tired and exasperated by such warnings, all of which sound silly to him.

It recalls to me a statement recently made by Dorothy Thompson in one of her columns in discussing world conditions and the spread of unsound doctrines. She said today "one might as well whistle into the wind" as attempt to stop it.

LIBBY GARDEN CLUB MEETS APRIL 19

Libby Garden Club met at the home of Mrs. Marion Johnson Tuesday, April 19. Roll call was answered by telling where you purchased your garden seeds. Nineteen members and four guests were present, two of the guests joining.

Committees were appointed for the summer months to work as Chairman's directed. Mrs. Etta McCallum, chairman for garden plot on Montana Ave., and Mrs. Mabel Johnson for Highway plot.

Etta McCallum reported work done on plot, and has been assured that the ditch will be dug for water by Connie Blackwell this week, which we need very badly to make our plot a success.

Doris Chapman reported that four loads of dirt were hauled on the Highway plot to be landscaped for rock garden. Anyone having some nice rock garden plants they would like to donate, please leave with Doris Chapman.

Mrs. Margaret Weydemeyer gave a wonderful talk on seeds, telling how various seeds scatter and reproduce in many interesting ways. She also gave a seed identification contest, each kind of seed in glass bottles. Many were surprised how little they knew their seeds. Mrs. Florence Gamache won first prize and Bessie Clowers second.

A very delightful lunch was served by the hostesses, Marion Johnson, Elizabeth Johnson and Margaret Weydemeyer. We meet with Doris Chapman May 17.—Etta McCallum, reporter.

STAYPAK, A NEW WOOD PRODUCT, IS PERFECTED

PORTLAND, Ore., April 7 — A super hardwood—cigarette proof, alcohol-proof and with its natural wood grain intact—is the newest product of lumber industry research.

And it's made from softwoods. The product, a compressed wood called Staypak, was perfected by the Western Pine association Research Laboratory in Portland, Ore., and is now ready for commercial manufacture. The process has been made available to members of the association.

Staypak differs from other hardboards made of compressed wood fibers in that it is the result of compression of a whole board down to approximately one-third of its original thickness. The natural wood grain is retained and the board comes from the press with a natural gloss. Water will remove the gloss but it can be maintained by clear-coating the board either before or after pressing.

Tests show Staypak to be from three to ten-fold stronger than the original natural wood. It is ten times harder and is resistant to chemical attack, abrasion and scuffing. The exceptional hardness of Staypak—its specific gravity of 1.35—together with flame and moisture-resistant qualities, make it an ideal material for flooring, paneling, bar and table tops, tool and knife handles, bearings, shuttles, furniture, bowling alleys and signs. A multitude of other uses are expected to develop when commercial manufacture is started.

Staypak can be produced from nearly any softwood of low resin content. Experiments conducted

with White Fir, a lumber species in plentiful supply throughout the western states, have been outstandingly successful. Englemann Spruce and Western Red Cedar can also be used.

**Carpenter & Cabinet Work
Linoleum Laying**

HARVEY W. ROBINSON

Phone 178-R

Libby, Montana

BETTER TRUCKS AND USED CARS

- 1936—Plymouth Sedan
- 1937—Dodge Sedan
- 1937—Plymouth, 4-door Sedan
- 1946—Dodge, 2-door Sedan
- 1946—Plymouth, Club Coupe
- 1946—Dodge, 4-door Sedan
- 1947—Plymouth, 4-door Sedan
- 1948—Dodge Club Coupe
- 1935—Chevrolet Coupe, \$150.00
- 1936—Nash, 4-door Sedan \$150.00
- 2—Very good 1947 Chevrolet Dump Trucks, priced low.

Some five gallon oil cans—suitable for Outboard motor fuel containers.—\$1.00 each.

• 1—10-ft. dump box and hoist like new—a \$1000.00 value for only \$500.00.

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Libby

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AUTOMOBILE — LIFE — FIRE
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See me about State Farm Mutual's savings on auto insurance costs.

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 AT THE
**KOOTENAI MERC.
HARDWARE**
**Headquarters for Garden
and Lawn Supplies**



LISTED BELOW ARE SOME OF THE ITEMS WE HAVE IN STOCK

- Lawn Mowers
- Lawn Rakes
- Grass Shears
- Pruning Shears
- Lawn Sprinklers
- Garden Hose

SPRINKLING CANS, 1 to 3 GALLON SIZE
CHICK FAUNTS OF ASSORTED SIZES

STOP IN AND LOOK THEM OVER

Kootenai Mercantile Co.

Hardware Department

Get in the Swing **SPRING FOODS**
WITH THESE

LUNCHES? LUNCHES? LUNCHES? LUNCHES?
Yes, Mothers the K. M. Grocery Dep't. this week has handfuls of money saving items for that School and working man's lunch pail. Also be sure to have a supply on hand for that youngster's back yard picnic.

For That Fill In . .

- POTATO CHIPS
Fresh, crisp 4 1/2-oz. **25c**
- CHEESE RITZ
Sunshine 6-oz. **17c**
- RIPE OLIVES
Mt. Ida 9-oz. **30c**
- 5c CANDY BARS
Assorted 3 for **10c**
- DILL PICKLES
Juno 2 1/2 tin **35c**
- MARSHMALLOWS
Campfire 1 pound **35c**
- KOOL AIDE
Assorted 5 for **25c**
- PORK and BEANS
Van Camps No. 2 tins **25c**
- CHEESE SPREADS
Kraft—For stuffing celery 5-oz. **26c**

ICE COLD POP
6 Bottle Carton 30c
Plus Deposit

Pop Sicles and
FUDGE SICLES ea. 5c

For Delicious Sandwiches

- SOLID PACK TUNA
White Star Solid Pack **49c**
- SANDWICH SPREAD
Kraft Pint **39c**
- VELVEETA CHEESE
Kraft 2 Pounds **89c**
- DEVEILED MEAT
R & W—3 1/4-oz. 2 for **19c**
Delightful when spread together!
- PEANUT BUTTER
R & W 2 Pounds **79c**
- GRAPE JELLY
Welch's 1 Pound **25c**
Chop and mix these 2 with Mayonnaise
- SWEET PICKLES
Wilson 24-oz. Jar **65c**
- LUNCHEON MEAT
R & W 12-oz. **45c**

- French's
MUSTARD 9 oz. 15c
- R & W
CATSUP 14 oz. 22c
- Cudahy's
PIGS FEET 14 oz. 44c

WE INVITE YOU TO COME IN AND SEE OUR NEAT, ATTRACTIVE DISPLAY OF GARDEN FRESH PRODUCE.

- Crisp Solid
LETTUCE lb. 19c
- Cello Package
TOMATOES lb. 29c
- Green Tender
CELERY lb. 10c
- White Heads
CAULIFLOWER ... lb. 19c
- FLORIDA—Best for Juice
ORANGES 3 lbs. 35c
- Sunkist Large Size
LEMONS 2 lbs. 43c
- Florida
GRAPEFRUIT .. 2 lbs. 29c
- U. S. No. 1
ASPARAGUS lb. 19c

SPRINGTIME IS GARDEN TIME . . . We have a good supply of Garden Seeds, Onion Sets, Onion Plants, Certified Seed Potatoes, Grass Seed and Vigoro.

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