

THE PEOPLE'S VOICE

In the Shadow of the State Capitol Building
MONTANA'S ONLY STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Vol. XII—No. 5

HELENA, MONTANA, JANUARY 5, 1951

Price: Five Cents

WAR BABY...

The price of lead jumped from 11½ cents per pound on June 23 to 17 cents on Dec. 13—or an increase of 48 per cent.

WAR BABY...

Wool tops jumped from \$2 to \$3.35 per pound in same period, for bump upwards of 67½ per cent.

WAR BABY...

Tin went up from .764 per pound to \$1.39, for an increase of 83 per cent.

WAR BABY...

Rubber, in same period skyrocketed from 28 cents per pound to 66½ cents or a climb of 133 per cent. (Source Cong. Record, Dec. 15, page A8206.)

RIISING PRICES EAT UP THREE BILLION DOLLARS OF MILITARY BUDGET

From WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Rising prices since last June 25 have eaten up enough of our defense dollars to—

Outfit and equip 10 infantry divisions.

Buy 300 B-36 bombers, enough for 10 B-36 bomber groups.

Buy 2,250 F-80 jet fighters, enough for 30 jet fighter groups.

Buy enough tanks for 10 armored divisions.

All this could be had at today's prices for \$3,000,000,000—and that, by conservative estimate of military sources, is just how much inflation and rising prices have melted away the purchasing power of the defense dollar.

In other words, we would have been able to buy this much more with the money Congress voted and is now voting had prices been held to their pre-Korea levels.

What the military is now preparing to spend \$30,000,000,000 for could have been bought for \$27,000,000,000 at pre-Korea prices. (The \$30,000,000,000 is a rough estimate of the amount that will be spent for procurement, research and development, and other items directly affected by rising prices out of the \$42,000,000,000 already voted and now being voted by Congress for defense.)

The military, like the individual, has found its dollars constantly melting away in purchasing power as the months go past.

Specific instances were cited this week by Chairman LYNDON JOHNSON, Democrat, of Texas, of the Senate preparedness sub-committee.

The money which would have bought 1,000 truck tires before Korea would buy only 85 miles in September and only 78 miles in November.

The money that would buy 10,000 barrels of fuel oil before Korea would buy only 4,700 barrels in November.

The money that would have bought 1,000 truck tires before Korea would buy only 830 in September and 720 in November.

The money that would have bought 10,000 pairs of khaki trousers before Korea would buy only 7,600

in Nov. Money which would have bought 10,000 pairs of wool socks before Korea would buy only 8,500 in October, and even fewer today.

OTHER EXAMPLES

The military can buy only 690 pairs of surgical gloves now with the money that would have purchased 1,000 pairs before Korea; and only 72 space heaters for Navy barracks with money that would have bought 100 before Korea.

Take an expensive item—about \$50,000 apiece—like height finders for the Air Force. The money that would have bought 10 of these before Korea now will buy only 7. And the money which would have bought about 1,000 yards of jute burlap before Korea now will buy only little more than half that amount.

Over-all, wholesale prices—the level at which the military buys in most instances—have gone up nearly 10 per cent since the Korean war began. But, as Senator Johnson's examples showed, the prices of scores of items affecting goods which the military must buy have gone up much more.

Large Loan Approved for Sun River REA Co-op

The Sun River Electric Co-op has been granted a loan of \$120,000 by the Rural Electrification Administration, a wire from Sen. James E. Murray advises.

The loan funds will be used on system improvements and to build 75 miles of new distribution lines in Cascade, Teton, Chouteau, Lewis & Clark and Pondera counties.

1950 Crops Set At Third Largest In Nation's History

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(CNS)—The nation's farms produced the third largest crop in history, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports. This record was attained despite adverse weather conditions in some parts of the country and the lowest planted acreage since 1942.

WANTS A CENTRAL CRIME DETECTION AND INFORMATION LABORATORY

By HJALMER BENSON, Helena
The People's Voice
Helena, Montana

Read your editorial "Money Well Spent" in the Dec. 29 issue and agree that if the same kind of enforcement is to continue, as much or more should be appropriated by the '51 legislature.

However, isn't it time that the State of Montana took a long look at its old-fashioned, cumbersome, expensive and as the past two years proved, inept local law enforcement system?

Many states have centralized laboratories to encourage the application of modern principles of detection and law enforcement. In Montana we have only a central information bureau, and I'll bet half the enforcement agencies of the state are unaware of its existence.

Where enforcement is state-wide and pressed by earnest and sincere officials, great results can be achieved, even on a low budget. But it

seems to me that it is demanding too much of an honest official to place all the responsibility of local enforcement upon him with a budget that would be inadequate for a single county. (Witness the dismal failure to accomplish the elimination of a single slot machine by the famed Lewis and Clark county Grand Jury after expending almost as much as the two year operation of the Attorney General.) While the crooks are on the run, of course the legislature should add a good sized enforcement fund to the State's Attorney General.

But I sincerely hope that attention will be paid to the basic weakness of the law enforcement problem over the entire state. It would be in line at this time to change the existing information center into a first class criminal detection laboratory open to all enforcement officials of the state.

A relatively small expenditure now along that line would yield immense returns in more uniformity and better trained and equipped law enforcement officials over the entire state.

Legislative KNICK-KNACKS

By GRETCHEN G. BILLINGS

Every odd numbered year in Helena there is a feverish activity in the field of politics and issues. Fifty six senators and ninety representatives come to the Capitol City to do the business of state for the two succeeding years.

With many of the men (there are two women) come their wives. Of these wives many attend the sessions and pay close attention to all that goes on. They attend teas and parties and they meet a host of people from all over the state and doubtless become as politically-minded as their husbands before the session ends.

Many times they stand for hours waiting for Mr. Legislator to finish this or that interminable conversation and from the respective chambers to the doors of the Capitol there are friends, lobbyists and the never ending discussions pertinent to the business at hand. The wife of a state legislator must be one gifted with patience. It is sometimes tiring, but it is rarely uninteresting. And in spite of the fact that all are usually happy by the end of the 60 days to return to home sweet home, it is the consensus of opinion that it is fun to come back another term.

Because of this it has occurred to me that some of our women readers would be interested in peeking in on some of the stuff the gals get in on during these crammed 60 days. Of course, you all know that I am not the wife of a legislator, and by no stretch of the imagination get in on all that goes on. I miss a great deal but I do get around a bit. So for what it's worth, kids, let's go.

The two parties held their caucuses on Sunday afternoon so New Year's eve found the Placer lobby a beehive of political buzzing.

That Placer lobby is really the interesting place during legislature. We walked in Sunday evening and the place was packed.

There was Senator Brown, Senator Rice, Senator Mahoney. Mrs. Brown was slowly starving to death while the Senator renewed acquaintances.

Senator Rice told us every session he buys a new hat. After the session is over he hangs the hat on the wall as a memento. He could not get away with that without comments about being a plutocrat of some sort. Not the least of the noise came from Senator Mahoney who doffed his display of all things the price tag, all ready yet.

Dr. Tripp hails everyone and we met Representative and Mrs. Blikken on their way to their hotel after a trying day. Next we met Representative Michels and his wife who are very pleased with their accommodations for the session.

William Jameson of Billings, who will probably be lobbying, comes by and shakes hands.

We had the opportunity to meet Judge and Mrs. Lindquist. The Judge was appointed senator (to fill the term of Senator Wilcox, who died.)

There were new faces to me in the lobby. The tall good looking man in his tuxedo is Mr. Roy Glover, Council and No. 1 lobbyist for ACM.

There are three gentlemen in earnest conversation in another corner. I am told one is Neil R. Taylor from up Scobey way. I recognized the name as he is a regular feature in the Daniels County Leader, the Bowler publication. He is also Republican chairman of the house appropriations committee. Another is Mr. Orey Armstrong, newly elected speaker of the

(Continued on page four)

Governor Urges Reorganization of State Government, Civilian Defense Program

Outlines Need for Buildings at Custodial Institutions, And Serious Situation Surrounding Montana Highways

Citing that "Montana now has at least sixty-four major branches of government . . ." and 56 other departments, Gov. John W. Bonner in his message to the 32nd Legislative Assembly Tuesday night, urged that body to make a " . . . complete reorganization of the administrative machinery of the state government . . ." To do this long needed piece of streamlining, the Governor recommended that "this legislature create a committee on reorganization . . . with power and authority

to study and formulate a program to present to this legislature, and, if necessary, to present to the next legislature—a program which will consolidate departments, eliminate duplications of service . . ."

Other important parts of his message urged:

THE ESTABLISHMENT of a civilian defense and home guard program, stating "legislation is necessary to enable the state and the municipalities (in view of the serious international situation) to take the action necessary to operate civil defense plans which contemplate the maximum utilization of state and municipal facilities, officials and employees . . ." along with a sufficient appropriation to handle this. He also asked creation of a "home guard" to replace the National Guard, should that body be called to duty. Further and in line with his recommendation for consolidation of bureaus, he asked that such an agency be incorporated either within the Adjutant General's Department, or else abolish the latter, and place all three plus the Disaster Council in a Defense Department under the Adjutant General.

BUILDING PROGRAM: After reviewing the progress made within the past two years in improving and enlarging facilities at the several state custodial institutions, the Governor outlined a program of other buildings needed, and emphasized that the general fund surplus should be used for such capital improvements rather than for regular operation of the state government. The needed building program, as outlined by the Governor, includes:

State Hospital, Warm Springs: \$975,000 for another X-ray, a 125-patient receiving ward and a 125-patient dormitory, as immediate needs.

TE Sanitarium, Galen. \$500,000 for more buildings for personnel and general improvements.

Deaf & Blind School, Great Falls: \$75,000 for a new boiler house and additional storage space.

Vocational School for Girls, Helena: \$106,125 for replacement of roofs, construction of a boiler room and a water tower, and necessary piping for adequate fire protection.

Orphans' Home, Twin Bridges: \$105,258.83 for a sewage disposal plant, water mains, sidewalks and electrical wiring.

Industrial School, Miles City: \$640,000 for a new school building and more dormitory space.

Soldiers' Home, Columbia Falls: \$80,000 for a new building to relieve housing situation.

HIGHWAYS: Terming the condition of Montana's highways as serious, the Governor stated that it is necessary "that we obtain a minimum of \$9,000,000 if we are to take advantage of federal funds already available and which may be available and in order to have a real highway program. Pointing out that farm-to-market roads are lagging behind, he termed as "essential" that this legislature inaugurate a real farm-to-market road program. He also cited the tight financial spot the state finds itself in time of disaster—such as snowbound areas involving entire counties at times, and that only federal aid had made it possible to keep rural roads open in the past couple of winters. But, in asking for additional highway funds, the Governor cautioned against any "further tax or license" being placed on private passenger vehicles and asked for abolishment of the \$3 use tax as being inequitable.

Concerning the highway patrol, and the very high calibre of men we expect to man that organization, he asked the assembly to appropriate sufficient funds that salaries commensurate with their duties can be paid.

WATER: Reiterating the policy of "Montana waters for Montana people" that his administration has followed, the Governor reported that in "most aspects we have been able to maintain this policy." However, he noted that we are in grave danger of the International Joint Commission deadlocking over division of Waterton-Belly river waters, and urged the legislators to consider memorializing the congress to authorize and all-American tunnel to "capture these waters before they cross the International boundary . . ."

Miscellaneous: Other recommendations by Governor Bonner included:

Careful consideration of the problems facing school financing;

Passage of appropriate legislation to implement the referendum approving establishment of a separate department of labor.

Substantially increased payments to victims of Silicosis;

Adequate appropriations to provide for the needy aged, dependent children, blind, etc.

(Continued on Page Three)

Please, Mr. Legislator...

'DON'T FENCE US IN'

Parking anywhere in the immediate vicinity of the capitol during each session presents a most difficult proposition—not only for legislators—but—for us at Voice as well. Already on a couple of occasions we have had to put our cars through all kinds of acrobatics in order to get into our parking lot in front of the Co-op building. All we ask is that at least one entry space be left open in front of the building for our use. In exchange, you are all welcome to share the private area in front of the building to the limit of its capacity, or to park on our property just west of the building, with roadway entrance at head of Broadway at Montana.