

Independent-Enterprise

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Freedom In Lap Of Congress

Instances of unjustified regulatory oppression in the name of the war emergency, are accumulating with frightening rapidity. Even more frightening is the growing evidence that the citizen cannot seek relief from this oppression through the judiciary. Recent attempts to secure court review of War Labor Board decisions and OPA price decrees have revealed that the "emergency" laws creating such agencies are so drawn as to either deny recourse to the regular courts, or, in the case of violation of retail price regulations, make of the courts mere instruments of harsh enforcement.

If a retail merchant violates a price rule, the minimum penalty has been a \$50 fine plus lawyer's fee and costs, because that is what the Emergency Price Control Act calls for. The courts have held that according to this law it doesn't matter if the overcharge is as little as one cent, or if it occurred admittedly through an honest mistake of the merchant or his employee. The good faith of the merchant has nothing to do with it. The fine is still \$50. Thus every petty snoop and shyster lawyer in the country is encouraged to search for the inadvertent penny mistakes of retailers, with the assurance of a rich reward for each mistake found.

One judge, in passing sentence under this travesty of democratic government, stated: "If there is any element of justice, morality or right in compelling a respectable and honest merchant as the defendant in this case, at such a time as the present when experienced clerks are scarce and hard to obtain, to pay a penalty of \$50 for an innocent mistake of ten cents by an inexperienced clerk, in which the employer who is so mulcted had no part whatever, I have failed to discover it."

The war emergency and fear of inflation have driven the country to the verge of despotism. Congress is the last official body to whom the people can turn for relief. It can rewrite the laws and curb the authority of administrative agencies now threatening the foundation of American freedom.

Gather Statistics With Sorely Needed Manpower

Announcement is made elsewhere in this issue of the Independent-Enterprise by the Bureau of the Census to the effect that during the week of July 17 a governmental agency will begin collecting information for "The Wartime Food Diary." In doing this nonsensical work in Payette county housewives will be interviewed on the amount and kind of food purchased for home use. The information will be used for statistical purposes only, according to the announcement. With businessmen, industry and agriculture crying for help nothing but public disgust can accompany the employment of people to gather such information. If there is to be any benefit derived from prying into the personal affairs of housewives the Independent-Enterprise must confess ignorance.

Statistics will not provide food, supplies and ammunition for the men on the fighting front, neither will figures provide man and woman power for the production of those essentials required at home.

BERNARD EASTMAN ANALYZES HOUSING SITUATION IN CITY

Bernard Eastman, prominent local real estate broker in the following article gives his views of the present housing shortage in this area and what it means for the future:

The housing situation in Payette and Payette county is no different than it is in almost every district in the United States. Quoting from an analysis recently made by the National Association of Real Estate Boards, "We find that we have reached the most acute housing shortage in the history of the nation. A recent survey of 376 U. S. cities showed that in 92 percent of them (as against 88 per cent six months ago) there were shortages of one-family dwellings, and of apartments in 83 percent, as against 75 percent six months ago."

In the history of Payette, and Payette county there has never been the demand for rentals that now exist. As a matter of fact there was a shortage of needed one-family dwellings at the beginning of the war. Everyone knows it, has even impossible to get material for residence construction since the war started except in centers where the manufacturing of war materials was carried on. Since this district is almost exclusively an agricultural and dairying district, little or no building of new homes has been done. However, more attention has been paid to care and upkeep and there is a marked increase in the condition of the homes throughout this district now. Many small improvements, painting, roof repairing, etc., have been done in the last year or so and the homes generally are in better condition than they were before the war.

The demand for one-family homes and for homes that can be converted into two-apartment dwellings is bound to increase in the immediate future. Many people who have been renting find it almost impossible to get adequate accommodations, and they are becoming home owners instead of renters. When the men in our armed forces return home, many of

whom were single when they entered the service, are now married with families, they will have money in their pockets and many of them will have war bonds which they will convert into cash, and they will follow the American tradition of buying homes.

It is true that building material can be produced in enormous quantities in the United States, but it is also true that it will be a number of years before sufficient building material is manufactured to take care of normal demand, together with the increased demand for homes throughout the United States.

The future picture of Idaho, and particularly Payette and Payette county, is indeed very encouraging. The Black Canyon irrigation district almost doubles the irrigated lands in Payette county, and in this district is some of the most fertile soil, with good water-drainage and air drainage to be found in the West. This district is rapidly proving its power of production and it will in the immediate future double its dairy herds and its general farm and row crop production. This will mean more business for Payette, and more business means more people to take care of it.

There is but one answer to this question—we need more homes. While many homes have been recently purchased because it has always been an American way to own a home whenever possible to do so, this demand for homes is going to continue, and it was very gratifying to this office when we received a letter a few days ago which makes it possible to finance the purchase of homes on a remarkably easy monthly payment plan.

In its entire history Payette never has had the growing pains of a "boom," and I do not believe it ever will, but there is now and will be a reasonable market for homes priced at what they are reasonably worth, and no one should get the idea that prices are going to skyrocket, because they definitely will

PAYETTE'S CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM



Payette Junior baseball championship team from Payette. Front row, left to right—D. Hanigan, second base; Cotre, pitcher; Bill Ackerman, center field; R. Masingill, third base; D. Meechan, right field; Cliff Masingill, shortstop, and R. Barrie, utility. Second row, from left to right—D. Dibble, first base; J. Robinson, pitcher; G. Rose, catcher; H. S. Harper, coach; O. Kiefer, pitcher; Chadwick, left field, and L. Meyers, utility. (Photo by W. S. Brown. Engraving through courtesy of Idaho Statesman.)

The Independent-Enterprise FARM SALES CALENDAR LISTING

Sales listed in the Independent-Enterprise for printing and publicity are advertised without charge in Ontario, Welser, Cambridge and Vale. When you plan a sale, consult the Independent-Enterprise at once. Our "Sales Calendar" helps protect your date.

FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1/4 mile east of Cambridge, Idaho at 1:00 p. m. (PWT) Lunch on grounds. Farm machinery, household goods, pullets, cows, pigs, hay. Ray Jeffries, owner. Col. W. H. Welly, auctioneer; Fred Collins, clerk.

FARM SALE: Friday, July 14, 1 mile west of Vale on Graham Blvd. 1 p. m. PWT. Horses, cattle, hogs, farm machinery, hay, household goods. Guy E. Harris, owner. Col. Bert Anderson, auct. Lunch served on grounds.

FARM SALE: Friday, July 21st starting promptly at one o'clock. 36 head of Fine Dairy Cattle. At the Charles Ohms ranch, located 1 mile east and 1/2 mile north of the Payette river bridge or 1 mile north of the Country Club. Charles Ohms, owner. Col. Bert Anderson, auctioneer.

not. The members of the National Association of Real Estate Boards and the members of the State Associations are working to keep the market price of homes on an even keel. People who want to sell should not ask more than their property is reasonably worth, and the prospective buyer should not pay more than a property is worth. A few years ago property values were far below their reasonable value or their reasonable earning power. I believe that the price level of Payette property is now about where it should be, and it should stay at its present price level for some time to come.

MORE FERTILIZER, IF---

By ordering and accepting delivery early, Payette county farmers stand a good chance of getting an increased supply of commercial fertilizer for use in the 1944-45 season. War Food Administration advices indicate, such a policy in the year 1943-44 distribution raised October-December deliveries to 37 percent of the year's U. S. total, compared with delivery of only 18 percent of the year's requirements during the same period in 1939-40. The stepped-up handling enabled manufacturers and distributors to get the fertilizer to farmers in good season by keeping their working and storage space free of backlogged supplies. WFA says, 1944-45 supply prospects are for 25 percent more superphosphate than in 1943-44. If new production facilities including the plant at Ponville are completed on time and sufficient operating labor can be obtained, More nitrogenous materials than last year will be available also. Since fertilizer distribution is not rated as essential work by the War Manpower Commission, although fertilizer distribution is, farmers have greater responsibility than



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ANNOUNCEMENT

Effective next week I wish to announce my retirement as manager of the Peterson Furniture Company's Store of Payette and also to announce the appointment of...

WALTER STEINIKER

As manager of the local store, effective on the same date

MY THANKS

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to the people of the Payette trading area for the excellent support given me as manager of the store over a period of years, all of which has contributed much toward the development of this business to its present state of efficiency in answering the needs of our customers. I commend Mr. Steiniker to you as the new manager and hope that you will accord him the same courteous treatment and appreciation of which I have been the recipient. I hope that patrons both old and new will continue to make Peterson Furniture Company their headquarters when in need of items for the home.

J. L. "LOU" FOSTER