Here's a Happy U. S. Taxpayer

CHARLES P. SKOURAS

Highest paid executive pungles 92 per cent

BY LEVERETT G. RICHARDS
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

The idea of March mean more to Charles P. Skouras than any business executive in the United States. His $800,000 salary makes him the highest paid executive.

But, he revealed in Portland at two minutes to midnight Wednesday, his income tax is the least of his worries.

"It's all paid. I have to borrow money every year to pay it.

"I just pay 92 per cent. That's easy to figure," said the happy man who heads National Theaters Amusement Co., Inc., and Fox West Coast agency. What's more, he pays it with a smile.

Graft Absence Pleases

"If I got to pay it I'm glad to pay it to the United States government," Skouras said. "Why not? Government let me come here and live. You know this is only country in the world where you pay taxes honest. Other countries always graft," he declared earnestly, gesturing with hand behind back. He talks with his hands.

"Like I told the reporters in Italy. They asked me where all this money goes I pay in taxes. I tell them: 'You got $2,500,000,000 of it. It's going to the Marshall plan. I'm glad you're getting it. Only why you complain? We don't complain in this country. And we're the ones that are paying the money.'"

Video Effect Admitted

Skouras, who just returned from Europe, reports the Italians are eating well. "They're going to be all right." The Greeks, his own people, spent their Marshall money to kill off the guerrillas. So they aren't so well off. "But they're happy. They aren't afraid all the time of being killed now," he said.

Back to business, Skouras frankly admitted television is hurting the theater business. "Don't let anyone tell you otherwise," he said.

"Four hundred thousand television sets in New York. Five people looking at each one. They're staying away from the movies. That's costing maybe $500,000 a week in New York alone."

The movies' answer is better movies, maybe television, too. "Television is just motion pictures. We show maybe double feature, then television. But we got to get better television first, 1000 to 1200 lines to the inch, twice what television got now.

That's not why box office receipts have dropped off 10 to 20 per cent recently, however, Skouras says.

General Conditions Blamed

"That's slump like all business. People aren't buying like they used to. They got unemployment. They got payments to make. So they take in maybe one show a week instead of three.

"But that doesn't mean we got depression like in 1931. No, People were broke then. They aren't broke now. Banks in New York got $6,000,000,000 deposits now. They had only $2,000,000,000 then."

That's the clue to Skouras' meeting in Portland. He's here to tell managers of Evergreen theaters they have to cut out dead wood.

"Not cut salaries, I don't believe in that. But dead wood they don't need. We're going to show better pictures, too," Skouras added.

Gale Closes River To All Shipping

ASTORIA, March 17 (AP)—A gale that battered the coasts of Oregon and Washington closed the Columbia river to shipping Thursday.

Winds up to 46 miles an hour roughened the entrance.

Forecasters said the winds would diminish by Friday and shift from southeast to southwest.

Opinions of Portlanders On Mercy Killing Varied

THE FRONT DOOR BALLOT BOX

BY DAN E. CLARK II

Although one of two Portlanders hold that so-called "mercy killing" is never justified, four of ten persons express qualified approval in the case of the incurably ill. Significantly, euthanasia received its strongest support among persons over 40 years of age.

The much-discussed case of Dr. Hermann N. Sander, Manchester, N. H., physician who was recently acquitted of the charge of taking the life of one of his patients who was suffering from an incurable cancer, brings once more to the fore the age-old problem of "mercy killing." Is it ever justified, and if so, when?

Front Door Ballot Box interviewers found Portlanders divided on the issue; five out of ten feel mercy killing is never justified, four out of ten feel that it may be justified under special circumstances, and the remaining one in ten is undecided.

"Doctors must maintain confidence by helping people to live, not die!" exclaimed one woman. "While there is life, there is hope!" emphatically declared another woman opposed to euthanasia.

Here is how they answered the question: "Do you or do you not think mercy killing is ever justified?"

Never justified	51%
May be justified	39%
Undecided	10%
	100%

Men and women agreed on the issue, but there was a marked split between persons under 40 years of age and those over 40.

	21 to 39	40 and Over
Never justified	47%	47%
May be justified	33%	42%
Undecided	10%	11%
	100%	100%

When is mercy killing justified? Here are the conditions under which those who think it may sometimes be justifiable feel that it should be done:

When patient is beyond recovery; incurable; hopeless	72%
When suffering is great; patient in agony; no drug relief	12%
Only after decision by board of doctors; at patient's request	18%
Other reasons	2%
	*104%

*Answers total more than 100% because some persons gave more than one answer.

It will be noted that although only 18 per cent actually mentioned that a board of doctors should decide, the answers given by the others ("when patient is beyond recovery; when there is no drug relief," etc.) indicates that many of them feel that some qualified person or persons should make the decision.

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House Vote Asks Stiffer Potato Aid

Amended Version Of Farm Support Goes to Senate

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP)—The house gave final approval Thursday to a bill which would deny government price supports next year to any Irish potatoes grown outside a rigid production control system.

Similar action by the senate, possibly Friday, will send the measure to the White House.

The house voted 150 to 66 on the compromise version of the catch-all farm legislation worked out by a senate-house conference committee. In addition to stipulating that there won't be any price supports on the 1951 potato crop unless growers accept tight bushel-and-acre production curbs, the bill would:

1. Institute somewhat milder guards against another big surplus of potatoes this year. This would be done by limiting price supports to potatoes covered by voluntary marketing agreements worked out by growers on a regional basis. Or—if it is too late to institute such agreements generally—supports would be limited to potatoes raised under a program devised by the secretary of agriculture to funnel them into the markets in an orderly fashion.

U. S. to Pay Freight

2. Allow the secretary of agriculture to give away any or all of the huge potato surplus the government has accumulated in its price-propping operations on last year's crop, and pay freight on the potatoes to their destination in the United States or loading point for shipment abroad. Public and private nonprofit organizations would be eligible for the gift spuds.

3. Increase cotton acreage planting allotments by about 1,250,000 additional acres to qualify for price support.

4. Raise allowable peanut acreage by 100,000 acres, principally in Texas and Alabama, and allow peanuts produced outside the allotments to be sold for oil.

The latter two provisions of the bill have been criticized as claimed inequities resulting from the acreage formula in last year's farm bill. Every cotton and peanut farmer will get increased acreage, but the cuts proposed by last year's formula are modified to give relief to many farmers who would have suffered major roll-backs.

Texan Replies to Critics

House members from big city districts protested the bill. One of them shouted that "the farm lobby is going full steam ahead." In reply, Representative W. R. Poage, Democrat, Texas, said farm prices have dropped 23 per cent in recent months, a decline he said was unequaled by any other segment of the nation's economy.

Although the bill makes a quota referendum a prerequisite for the support of next year's potato crop, the present law does not make any provision for potato quotas. A senate agriculture subcommittee currently is trying to draw up suitable legislation.

For the second straight day, Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brannan appeared before that group to urge that his farm plan be given a trial on potatoes next year. His plan calls for "production payments" (government subsidies) to farmers who are unable to get a fair price for their crop on the market.

In discussing the matter with the senators, Brannan conceded he had made a "very serious tactical error" last year by stressing that his plan for subsidizing perishable crops would establish a top limit of dollar benefits that could be paid to any one farmer.

Funds Requested For Portland P. O.

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP)—Representative Homer Angell (Republican, Oregon) introduced a bill Thursday to authorize remodeling of the existing main postoffice in Portland, Or., and construction of a new postoffice on the Hoyt street site at a cost of $5,000,000.

The site for the new post-office has been acquired, but Angell said no money is available for the remodeling and construction.

He said the Portland situation is an emergency. If authorization is approved congress must later appropriate the money for the work.

The Angell bill would authorize erection of an annex to the present central postoffice at Broadway and Glisan street. The issue has been before Congress since the 1948 session. At that time $300,000 was appropriated to acquire a site and make plans. Contemplated has been a six-story building covering 160 by 100 feet. It would be erected immediately west of the existing structure.

'Paul' to Stage Spiritless Ride

BOSTON, March 17 (INS) Paul Revere will restage his famous ride on April 19 to warn that "the British are coming" but with more fuss and complications than the redcoats ever caused.

First of all there are complications as to what route the original Paul actually took. One group says the 1950 Revere should ride at night, another by day.

But the real stickler is the uncontested fact that the revolutionary Paul stopped off at Medford on his famed ride to get a spot of rum.

Medford is now bone dry.

Death Fails To Mar Trip

ASTORIA, March 17 (AP)—A rural mail carrier, who had saved for years to make a trip to his ancestral Ireland, arrived in England Thursday—unaware that his son has just been killed.

Thomas Hopkins Jr., 32, was fatally injured Thursday in a logging accident in God's valley near here.

The mother decided not to cable the news to her husband, Thomas Hopkins Sr., 60, who was due to land at Southampton, England, aboard the Queen Elizabeth.

Relatives explained that young Hopkins "would not have wanted his trip ruined. Apart from trip to Ireland." He had planned it too long.

The son was killed south of the Sunset highway junction, when a log slipped and struck him in the back. Besides the father, he is survived by his mother and three brothers, Leo and John of Birkenfeld, Or., and Patrick, San Francisco.

Missing Ship Eludes Navy

PEARL HARBOR, March 17 (AP)—Four navy planes continued to search in vain Thursday for a navy net tender overdue since Monday at the Marshall islands.

The 163-foot tender Elder with 40 men aboard has not been sighted since the Elder, transport General A. W. Brewster sighted it Monday afternoon 200 miles from Eniwetok and "in no apparent trouble."

A Hawaiian sea freighter spokesman said it was likely that a broken drive shaft which had silenced its radio, but the possibility it had struck a drifting mine was not excluded.

The comparatively narrow search area prompted reduction of an earlier hunting force to four planes.

The Elder left Pearl Harbor March 4 with navigational buoys for Eniwetok in the Marshall islands.

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3 Officers Of Big Mo Face Court

Navy Proceeding Open to Public Dated March 27

NORFOLK, Va., March 17 (INS)—The navy Thursday ordered general courts martial for Capt. W. D. Brown and two other officers in connection with the grounding of the battleship Missouri on a Chesapeake bay mud bank January 17.

Besides Brown, who was skipper of the Missouri at the time of the grounding, Com. John R. Millet, operations officer, and Lt. Com. Frank G. Morris, navigator, must stand trial.

The courts martial will be convened at 10 a. m. (EST) March 27 at the Norfolk naval base if the defendants are ready to proceed at that time, and proceedings will be open to the public.

Fourth Reprimanded

A fourth officer, Lt. John E. Carr, who communicated the Missouri's operations center, escapes trial but has been reprimanded by Rear Adm. Allan E. Smith, commander of the Atlantic fleet cruiser force. The reprimand will be made a part of his service record.

An official navy announcement said Smith's decision to order the courts martial was reached "after careful review of the record of proceedings of the court of inquiry convened to investigate the facts."

Brown, who was making his first cruise as commander of the "Big Mo" when the grounding occurred, at first blamed lack of teamwork and inefficiency of subordinate officers" for the incident but later dramatically took full blame.

Charges Kept Back

The announcement by Adm. William M. Fechteler, commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet, said:

"The formal charges and specifications will be served upon these officers and upon which they will be tried will not be made public prior to the convening of the respective courts.

"The individual officers concerned, however, may release the charges and specifications in their respective cases at their own discretion."

The navy said the court of inquiry found "no serious blame" attached to Ensign Elwin R. Harris, assistant navigator, and therefore no disciplinary action was taken in his case.

Admiral Smith praised the Missouri's engineering watch for "extremely alert" action at the time of the grounding.

Vessel's Status Changed

The 60,000-ton Missouri, the navy's only active battleship, was stranded on the mud bank until February 1, when an elaborate array of tugs and salvage vessels, aided by favorable tide and wind conditions, hauled her free.

Since her grounding, the "Mighty Mo" has been ordered in status to a training vessel for midshipmen, but that order will not take effect until the ship completes participation in the current Caribbean war games.

The navy has reported that damage to the battleship resulting from the grounding was relatively minor.

SOFIA HONORS STALIN

LONDON, March 17 (AP)—Bulgaria has renamed the gulf of Varna in the Black Sea as Stalin gulf, the Moscow radio reported Thursday night.

Birthday Fete Stabbing Brings Murder Charge

A charge of murder was lodged Thursday against Mrs. Irene Gregor, 34, sweetheart of Buster A. Higginbotham, 34, who died late Wednesday of stab wounds to the chest following a birthday party in their apartment at 637 S. E. Pine street.

Chief Criminal Deputy District Attorney John Collier, after interrogating the woman, ordered the charge filed.

Mrs. Gregor first told police Higginbotham had twice stabbed himself in the chest during an argument, but, after eight hours' questioning, admitted that when Higgenbotham put the knife to his chest stating "I'll give up," that she replied: "Well, do a good job this time," and struck his arm.

Four Wounds Result

The butcher knife penetrated his chest and Higgenbotham was pronounced dead on arrival at Good Samaritan hospital. He suffered two knife wounds to the chest, one to the forehead and another in his left elbow.

Mrs. Gregor told police she had purchased a birthday cake and bottle of liquor Wednesday afternoon with intention of celebrating Higgenbotham's birthday. She was cooking dinner when he arrived, she stated, and the two had a "couple of drinks," then he became argumentative.

She said the victim threatened to "end it all" with a knife, but didn't go through with it. Later Higgenbotham picked up another knife and when he took a stance with the knife near his chest, she shoved his arm.

Police Cite Other Tiffs

Mrs. Gregor went with him to the hospital and sat by his side after he had been pronounced dead.

Police records show that in September, 1949, Higgenbotham was treated at St. Vincent's hospital for head lacerations, suffered when hit by a cup thrown by Mrs. Gregor, and again was given aid in December at Good Samaritan hospital for head wounds, suffered when she heaved a chair at him.

Czechs Oust Papal Envoy

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia, March 17 (AP)—Czechoslovakia Thursday ordered the Vatican's lone representative in this country to leave within three days, raising the possibility of a break in diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

The Vatican representative is Msgr. Ottavio de Liva, secretary of the papal nunciature in Prague.

The foreign ministry accused him of abusing his official position by interfering in internal affairs of this Communist-ruled nation.

The ouster of Monsignor De Liva climaxes a prolonged attack by the Communist press on the Vatican. It opened the way for a complete break with the Vatican, where Czechoslovakia still maintains a small legation.

The government recently expelled American Mormon missionaries and announced all western missionaries would be ousted.

Roman Catholic sources said more than 60 priests have been arrested since the first of the year. The government has threatened state action against Archbishop Josef Beran, the Catholic primate, and his bishops.

Weather Forecast

Complete Report on Page 15

Portland—Cloudy with showers.

Oregon — West: Cloudy with showers. East: Partly cloudy.

Washington — Mostly cloudy with a few showers.

Fight Opens Over Deal On Housing

Group Protests To Mayor Lee Against U. S. Plan

Opening guns of a campaign to block construction in Portland of 2000 units of low-cost federal housing were fired Thursday when representatives of real estate, apartment house and home builders' organizations informed Mayor Dorothy McCullough Lee they intend "doing everything possible" to oppose the program.

The announcement, which took the mayor by surprise at a conference in her executive offices, was made by a delegation of some 16 persons, most of whom represented the Portland Home Owners' council, chairman of which is Tom Young. "Observers" at the meeting included Edgar Smith, president of the chamber of commerce, and W. J. Morrow, executive secretary of the East Side Commercial club.

Two Clubs Suggested

Young dropped on Mayor Lee's desk a detailed statement listing formal arguments of his group against the federal housing program worked out by the housing authority and the public housing administration. He said the group wants a public hearing on the program when the city council is asked to enter into a co-operative agreement with the federal government on the tax setup which would take effect when the homes are built.

Members of the delegation indicated they would attempt to block construction of the low-cost units, designed for low income families, by persuading the council to reject the tax agreement. Should this fail, one member asserted later, the organization will seek to refer it to the voters at the November election.

Mayor Lee advised the group to write a letter to the council requesting a hearing.

City's Poverty Noted

John LaPorte, head of the Portland Home Builders' association, described the housing program as "a step toward socialism." He charged the federal government "won't stop at 2000 units" and added "private enterprise is trying to make a living."

Dexter W. Johnson, managing editor of Pacific Builder, a magazine serving the light construction industry of the West, said: "I believe this matter is so important that we cannot allow it to proceed in its regular channels. We want to show how low-cost housing will affect the city, now in stringent financial condition. This is not a matter of the closed corporation real estate interests vs. the people of Portland."

A key point in the formal presentation of arguments marshaled against the housing program for Portland was the council's assertion that the 2000 units would have a total assessed valuation of $4,000,000 which, on the basis of normal taxation levied at 51 mills, would yield $204,000 annually.

Subsidy Charge Placed

The group's brochure said if the shelter units are rented at an average rental of $23 a month and if the full 10 per cent allowed under federal law is paid in lieu of taxes, total payment for all governmental services furnished by local agencies would amount to $35,200 a year. This, the group charges, would result in an annual "subsidy" to the project of $148,800 which must be paid by local taxpayers.

Among persons present were Paul Gronnert, attorney for the organization; Arthur J. Jones, attorney for the Portland Apartment House association; John LaPorte, the Portland Home Builders association; Sam Plunkett, secretary of the Oregon Apartment House association; Ralph Walstrom, president of the Portland Realty board.

The 2000 units of low-cost, low-rent housing were allotted to Portland in October.

Preliminary Loan Okehed

The public housing administration in December authorized $350,000 preliminary loan contract, now executed, to Portland for preliminary study and planning for the 2000 units, and notes have been signed for the initial $50,000 portion of the fund.

Co-operation agreements between the Portland housing authority and the city are in final stages of preparation by their legal staffs. They will provide for such services as police, fire protection and similar functions, and for the payment by the authority in lieu of taxes at the rate of 10 per cent of rentals.

Selection of sites for the $17,000,000 of housing is also advancing. Location of the discussed sites has not been disclosed to prevent speculation.

BRITISH OFFICER DIES

CHELTENHAM, Eng., March 17 (AP)—Vice Adm. Sir Francis Arthur Martin, who headed the British Atlantic fleet from 1923-25, died Wednesday after a brief illness. He was 71.

MRS. IRENE GREGOR
"Do a good job of it"

McIver Takes Highway Post

STATE HOUSE, Salem, March 17 (Special)—Appointment of Milo K. McIver, Portland mortgage broker, as a member of the state highway commission, was announced by Governor Douglas McKay here Thursday.

McIver succeeds T. Harry Banfield, Portland, chairman of the commission, who asked to be relieved of his duties on the highway commission because of personal business affairs requiring his attention.

Banfield was appointed a member of the commission in 1948 to fill out the unexpired term of Henry F. Cabell, also of Portland, who resigned to enter military service.

Governor McKay said he spent more than six weeks considering possible successors to Banfield. "I feel that McIver will distinguish himself further in this new capacity," McKay said.

Reports here indicated Ben Chandler, Coos Bay, would be elected commission chairman at the April meeting of the group.

Additional details on page 7.

Red Cross Drive Near Half Point

Contributions in the 1950 Red Cross campaign in Portland and Multnomah county late Thursday reached $140,070, or 43.5 per cent of quota, Rey B. Early, director of the drive, reported.

"We hope to pass the halfway point by this week end," Early stated. He particularly lauded the east side group, central division, which has reached 75 per cent of its quota under Chairman Douglas Gerow.

Two divisions normally late to start have begun to roll. Early said. Public employes, under City Commissioner Dormond R. Bean, reported in 25 per cent of quota and the industrial division, headed by R. W. DeWeese, counted 21 per cent on hand.

Ingrid Plans Return to U. S. to Seek Daughter's Custody But Senator Says 'Nothing Doing'—Morals to Bar Entry

LOS ANGELES, March 17 (AP)—Ingrid Bergman will return to the United States to battle personally for custody of her 12-year-old daughter, Pia Lindstrom, the actress' attorney said Thursday night.

But counsel for her husband, Dr. Peter Lindstrom, indicated a hot contest is in store. He said the surgeon will counter with the charge that Miss Bergman is not a proper person to have custody.

"Ingrid is determined to make the fight of her life for Pia," said chief attorney, Gregson Bautzer. "She will be a witness when the case comes to trial."

Bautzer said Miss Bergman will leave Italy "as soon as the trial date is set."

Doctor to Answer

Dr. Lindstrom's lawyer, Isaac Pacht, said the husband soon will file an answer to Miss Bergman's suit demanding custody of Pia and an accounting of the couple's community property. Pacht said a full inventory will be given, and added:

"And we are certainly going to assert that Miss Bergman is not a proper person to have custody of this child. We will show that Dr. Lindstrom, by his action and conduct in this matter, is the proper person to have the child."

Pacht talked to reporters, in Dr. Lindstrom's presence, about the suit filed Wednesday by Miss Bergman's counsel in which she demanded $154,000 in assets she says are held by the doctor, and custody of Pia. Pacht said the surgeon will himself ask for a California divorce, charging Miss Bergman's recent Mexican divorce.

Miss Bergman in February gave birth to a son in Rome, the child of her Italian film director, Roberto Rossellini.

Senator Would Bar Entry

In Washington, Senator Edwin C. Johnson, Democrat, Colorado, said of Miss Bergman and Rossellini, in a letter placed in the senate record:

"Since both of these alien characters are guilty of moral turpitude, they cannot set foot on American soil under our immigration laws."

When Miss Bergman's attorney, Bernard Silbert, filed the suit late Wednesday, he said "all attempts to reach an agreement with Dr. Lindstrom have failed." The negotiations have been going on for months, overshadowed recently by the sensations of her romance with Rossellini and the birth of her son.

Dr. Lindstrom ignored the Mexican decrees, and Pacht called it an "impertinent affront" to California courts. Both she and Lindstrom lived here for ten years until she went to Italy last year to make the film "Stromboli" under Rossellini's direction.

—AP Wirephoto
DR. PETER LINDSTROM
Will fight Bergman suit

Pacht termed the Mexican decree "a complete nullity" and said Johnson "had jurisdiction over neither Miss Bergman nor Dr. Lindstrom."

The doctor's countersuit will contain a demand for a divorce, the lawyer said.

He added that the doctor always has kept Miss Bergman advised on the status of community funds and will willingly provide the accounting she asked.

But he said her demand for $154,000 as proceeds after taxes for "Stromboli" is "fantastic . . . perfectly absurd." He declined to estimate the actual figure until he has "made a complete analysis," he said.

Swedish Divorce Delayed

Dr. Lindstrom, who has refused to discuss any aspect of the case except with his attorneys, has been subpenaed to appear March 25 before Miss Bergman's lawyers to give a deposition in her suit.

The actress still is in Italy, where both she and Rossellini have said they plan to be married as soon as legal technicalities of her Mexican divorce are ironed out. Recent reports from Sweden, however, indicate that approval of her divorce may not be forthcoming from that government. She is a Swedish citizen.