The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesdays. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a mechanical situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Editor's Note: Publisher Elton R. Eaton, of The Plymouth Mail, is this week's "Guest Editor" of The Eccentric. He is the ninth to write in the absence of G. R. Averill, publisher.

To The Readers Of The Birmingham Eccentric

Shortly before the globe-trotting editor of The Eccentric left for another globe trot, he requested the writer to prepare his editorial column for this week. In view of the fact that the following comments are more or less of a political nature, let it be understood that these views are the views of the writer, and not of The Birmingham Eccentric. There have been times in the past when Editor Averill has literally "taken my hide off" and hung it on the fence for some editorial comments I have made in my own newspaper, The Plymouth Mail. Once or twice, in about the smallest type he has in his office, he has commended editorials that appeared in The Plymouth Mail. But ordinarily our views run counter-wise and, so, if in the following expressions there might be something said that does not conform to the usual high standards of Eccentric editorial discussions as well as its policies, do not blame The Eccentric, but just come over to Plymouth and we will be glad to show you a city that we are as proud of as you are of your own beautiful and progressive municipality.

ELTON R. EATON.

The Way To Settle It

Now that Governor Frank Murphy and his cohorts have seen fit to make the civil service question a political issue, there is but one way to settle it—let the people of the state do the thing that the legislature failed to do.

The legislature at its forthcoming session which the Governor says he is going to call, should take such steps as may be necessary to submit to the electors at the general election in November, 1938, the original civil service bill as it was submitted to the state senate and as it passed the upper house of the legislature.

Governor Murphy and his political associates have been smarting somewhat under the lashing they have been receiving from the public because of the defeat by the house of representatives of the civil service bill.

They have turned heaven and earth in an effort to make it appear that the minority party of the senate is responsible for what happened. But it is quite apparent that the general public has a little longer memory than the Governor is willing to give it credit for possessing. The public has not forgotten that it was the Republican senate which PASSED the civil service bill in practically the same form as it was presented. Neither has the public forgotten that it was the strongly controlled Democratic state affairs committee of the house that mutilated the civil service bill to such an extent that it meant practically nothing as it finally passed the house. This committee was and is under the direct control of Governor Murphy.

Many strong supporters of an honest civil service bill, who are members of the house, voted for the dissected measure simply because they thought it might give a start to civil service within the state government.

But as far as anyone can see at the present time, there will be practically no use in passing any "compromise bill," not in view of the action taken by Governor Murphy and his other political buddies up at Mackinaw Island, where the governor has been continuing his vacation since the legislature ended its session on June 25.

The Detroit News urges that the Republican senators who voted FOR the original civil service bill now accept an "honest compromise bill" such as the governor proposes.

From one who has been for civil service and who followed it closely through the legislative session, let it be stated emphatically that Governor Murphy has not proposed an "honest compromise civil service bill."

In addition, The Detroit News should know by this time that Governor Murphy is not now or has he been favorable to an honest civil service measure for the state.

The Governor said he was NOT for the Pollock bill a few nights before the house of representatives voted on the measure. His statement was made at a caucus of house Democrats. One of the Democratic members said so on the floor of the house, and the correctness of his statement was not challenged.

Subsequent events in the legislature bore out the truth of the statement that was made in the house.

But one should not gain the idea that all the Republicans in the house are for honest civil service. There are several Republicans who are just as opposed to it as are the Democrats. They have the same type of political minds as the Governor, with the same ideas. In fact, during the entire session of the legislature there was a group of Republicans who joined with a number of Democrats in "putting over" a certain type of legislation.

Therefore, if one will stop to analyze the situation, it can be readily seen that no "honest compromise civil service bill" can or will be passed by the present legislature.

The Detroit News and all the other newspapers that have been lauding Governor Murphy to the high heavens know this to be a fact. The governor doesn't want civil service any more than do many members of the legislature.

Not much time will be lost in the inauguration of civil service for the state if action is not taken on it until the next fall election.

The electors of the state, if given an opportunity to vote upon the original Pollock bill will, without doubt, approve of it by a big majority.

So, why not write into the fundamental law of Michigan an HONEST civil service provision, rather than accept some sort of doctored up mess that a bunch of office holders would like to, "put over" under the guise of civil service in order to have the public believe "they have kept faith?"

Begin It Now!

For over three long years we have heard the song of hate sung from early morn until late at night. We have heard men, long regarded as leaders in education and business, condemned as unfit citizens. Class hatreds have been raised. A determined effort by some political leaders to have it appear that there are but two classes in America, the rich and the poor, has had its unfavorable effects. The poor have been told that they are poor because of the rich. The rich have been told that they are the brakes on American progress! Those who are without worldly goods for reasons best known to themselves, have been held up as a persecuted class, and told that THEIR day has now arrived!

But in all this campaign, creating a sentiment of bitterness between two MINOR groups in the United States, no one has ever heard one word about that vast so-called middle class—the class that makes up the backbone of America.

This class, often referred to as the white-collared class, comprises the professional men, the business men, the men who operate the smaller independent manufacturing plants, intelligent workers, contractors, builders, educators—LEADERS ALL!

They are the real supporters of the government. They pay the vast portion of the tax burden. They give the community leadership that provides the stability to the nation.

They are the ones who have suffered the most as the result of all of these tirades and they now believe that the time has arrived for a right-about-fact attitude on the part of the haters and pettifoggers. They believe the time is here for a re-awakening of the old spirit of America. They believe that it is time to wipe off the smear of imported foreign mud and slime, clean house, and then wash our hands of the mess we have been led into.

They are demanding that the song of praise and GOOD-WILL be sung instead of the song of hate. They are demanding that strife and turmoil be ended. They are demanding that the public office holders, who have deemed it a popular thing to condemn everything and everybody and who have sought to create ill will rather than good will, now hold their tongue, if they cannot say something good for their country.

What a God-send it would be to America if EVERYONE would join in an effort to restore confidence, to restore belief in HONEST labor and endeavor with honest service given for honest returns.

When such a campaign becomes nation-wide, when pettifogging officialdom is ended, when EVERY man, woman and child AGAIN believes that this is a perfect union, with all the blessings of liberty, then, and then only, will we have again the kind of AMERICA we knew AMERICA to be before political rabblers began to sing the songs of hate and discord.

Today is the day to begin that campaign of goodwill and restored FAITH IN AMERICA.

Almost As Big

If you have received your new window sticker from the state board of tax administration, it will be noted that the new director of the department, Draper Allen, has had his name placed on the sticker in letters almost as big as that of the state of Michigan. Well, what is the use of being director of a department unless you can have your name stuck to a window pane in every business place in Michigan?

But, to many, the antics of these new state job holders are a pain in another place. It might be interesting to note that Allen's department is one of the many that has added swarms of new job holders. In fact, the increase in his department has been one of the largest of any in Lansing. Big letters, big jobs, big payrolls, the biggest political circus since P. T. Barnum's time. That seems to be the order of the day over where the Grand river flows by Michigan's political job factory. More power to the hordes swarming to Lansing to look after the welfare of the squirming taxpayers of the nation's most troubled state! It would be funny, if it didn't pertain to such serious and important business.

Unharvested Crops

Early last spring farm leaders of Michigan declared that unless the farmers of the state could secure more help that a very good portion of this year's crops could not be harvested. It was estimated on the first of April that there was an actual shortage of some 43,000 workers on the farms in this state. That estimate was made by the United States crop reporting office operated in connection with the state department of agriculture in Lansing. Since that time the demand for farm labor has constantly increased.

Think of the absurdity of the situation! With the farmers of Michigan able to use not less than 50,000 additional workers, the non-thinking legislature in Lansing voted for the greatest state welfare appropriation in the history of Michigan! Yes, that is a fact, the taxpayers of Michigan are going to spend more money during 1937 and 1938 for welfare than has ever been spent before in this commonwealth—and the farmers are unable to hire sufficient help to enable them to harvest their crops. But a lot of voters still think common sense isn't needed in Lansing.

Pessimism is often confused with knowing the facts about a given condition.

* * *

The popular man is the guy who tells you what you want to hear.

* * *

Not everybody who talks about the truth wants to discover it.

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

The Pot is Boiling

It is human nature to consider with more or less mild interest, murder, crimes, strikes and violence so long as they do not happen to ourselves or in our own circle or community. Such events usually become subjects of mere abstract discussion, and we do nothing about them. Even when last week a bunch of pickets were marching 'round and 'round in front of the Peck cleaning establishment and the Matthews shop, it looked so clownish and idiotic that people laughed at it.

T. H. MILLINGTON

Yet the unfortunate firms visited by these hooligans do not find it a cause for merriment. They were ordered to sign with the union for a closed shop, and told that while the union would permit the firms to finish work on hand, they would not be allowed to take in new work.

To be sure, Chief Hackett very promptly put guards at these two places of business, and placed officers on their delivery trucks, assuring them that if they wished to ignore the union demands and continue operations he would protect them. This was gratefully appreciated, but the fact that cleaning establishments may have—and these two firms did have—several thousand dollars' worth of garments, furs, woolens, silks, etc, in their places, and the further fact that threats of violence were made, and that, under the best of protection, some striking idiot might crash through and in the space of seconds throw acids or inks on garments, thus causing damage enough to put the firms out of business, caused the firms to decide to close their shops rather than run any risk. Besides, this Birmingham has not enough police officers to afford the employees protection in going to and from work.

It would therefore appear that violence was avoided, not because of the politeness of the strikers, but because of intimidation by the law-defying pickets.

It is not evident that, from the President of the United States down to governors and the law-enforcing agencies, a paralysing influence is working havoc with law and order?

When tax-paying, rent-paying, wage-paying business men, veterans of the late war may with impunity be the aggressors be forced to suspend business and sustain loss of trade to the employers and of wages to the employees, it is time for the citizens of this country to realize that civil war is in the making.

Nothing is done by the President or the Governor to stop these losses of income to tax payers. In fact, the strikers openly have said to this writer that "the Government is behind them." Such claims seem preposterous, but evidence seems to support them.

That the leaders of the C. I. O. activities are Communists frequently has been charged publicly and not denied. Neither have charges that the aim is to overthrow the United States been denied.

The burden of regret upon the befuddled men and women who voted for Roosevelt in '36 must be very heavy, and the betrayal of their faith in him keenly felt. It was dishonest propaganda and false promises which won Mr. Roosevelt his election, and it will be honest revolt that will kick him and his hordes out of office into oblivion. That this may be accomplished without violence seems a present quite impossible.

Never since the Civil War was there greater need for straight thinking and resolute, fearless action.

To give Mr. Roosevelt the power over the Courts which he impudently demands would be Constitutional suicide. God bless the stout-hearted men in both Senate and House who battle against this insult to the Court and to a free and sovereign people. All the emergency powers granted him should at once be revoked.

MINUTE SERMON
By Dr. A. F. Johnson
First Baptist Church

God is a jealous God. He is everything in our lives or nothing. The church must put God first or go out of business. God said, "Because you are neither hot nor cold I will spew you out of my mouth." We need more members in the church who are on fire for God.

Remembrance

The friends I knew long long ago
In blissful days of yore,
So true to me in weal or woe
Whom now I see no more,
Have willed to me remembrance sweet
Of hours glad
And moments sad.

Adown the chain of years so fleet
The joy fond memory brings
Of well loved friends
A sweetness lends
That to me heart e'er clings.
—Beatrice McDonald

Henry—A false appetite? What food would you advise, doc?
Doctor—Try a little mock turtle soup!

IS IT REAL OR A MIRAGE?

WASHINGTON LETTER

BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Roosevelt-Lewis Split Believed Improbable in Spite of Rumors

WASHINGTON. — Those who say there is or soon will be an open break between President Roosevelt and John L. Lewis may have a long wait before they can collect their bets. Lewis has let the word get out that leaders of the C. I. O. feel Roosevelt has let them down, and has implied that the President may lose labor support.

Lewis resents the fact that Roosevelt didn't take a more forceful attitude in the "little steel" strike; he didn't like Roosevelt's interpretation of the public's attitude toward labor disturbance in the "plague on both your houses" comment; he is sore because Roosevelt allowed Secretary of Labor Perkins publicly to deplore sit-down strikes and Secretary Roper to infer criticism of C. I. O. by his reference to violence.

Lewis has had rough going recently. On top of what appeared to be defeat for him in the "little steel" strike, there was general and widespread antipathy to Lewis and his movement. Then a swing to the rival A. F. of L. followed the decision of many employers to encourage A. F. of L. unions as against C. I. O. Southern members of Congress have revolted, reflecting the fear their constituents have that C. I. O. will organize Negroes, sharecroppers and other poorly paid groups.

Roosevelt's "plague on both your houses" was a signal to Lewis that the heads of the independent steel companies would not be called to the White House and asked by the President to come to a peaceful settlement with the steel union.

One reason for this is that the President believed a result of such action would be to give Tom Girdler a chance to make new bitter attacks on the C. I. O., and perhaps on Roosevelt himself.

Also the A. F. of L., whose support the President wants, has been resentful of Roosevelt's contributions to the C. I. O. successes.

* * *

THE President did not want the C. I. O. to lose the steel strike. He did much quietly to help Lewis. But Roosevelt, much more sensitive to public opinion than Lewis, responded to pressure from other groups upon which he depends for support. The President decided not to go the limit toward helping the C. I. O. win the strike, and further decided to reprove the Lewis group gently. Privately, the President admitted that reports of dynamiting by strikers made it necessary for him to indicate publicly that he and Lewis were not going along hand in hand.

Personally, Roosevelt has no great liking for Lewis, but he feels Lewis is just the ambitious, aggressive, leader that Labor needs. It is doubtful if Lewis appreciates the fine points of Roosevelt's behind-the-scenes strategy employed to help the C. I. O. Lewis has his own technique which is to growl and complain when the administration fails to be as helpful as Lewis thinks it should be, and to mutter the threat that his political machine will cut loose from the New Deal, possibly form a farmer-labor party.

* * *

BUT unless Lewis arrogantly goes too far, the President will not break with Lewis. And Lewis in spite of all his grumblings will not break with the President as long as the books balance as they do now.

The United Mine Workers and affiliates contributed nearly a million dollars to last year's Democratic campaign, and delivered a good many votes. But Lewis realizes Roosevelt's importance in the General Motors victory; that Roosevelt must be thanked for the National Labor Relations Board, and must be looked to for an effective wage-hour bill and a Supreme Court that will be friendly to labor.

PARAGRAPHS

American Place Names

Presenting: Funk, Nebr.; Fink, Wyo., and Fank, Ariz.

Observation.

It always seems to take a pair of squeaky shoes the longest to get anywhere.—Kitchener Record (Canada).

Small But Daring

Little nations must be brave. You notice it's always the little one that is guilty of starting something.—Buffalo (N.Y.) Evening News.

Stress and Strain

London coronation ceremonies stressed the empire. The coronation that didn't come off laid a lot of stress on it, too.—Dallas Morning News.

Doubtful Definitions.

A politician is a man who can spend your money and bring in legislation to increase your taxes. A statesman is a man who can do the same thing—and make you like it.—Fort Erie (Ont.) Times-Review.

Powerful Herb.

Scientists have proved garlic vapor kills germs, which will be all right until they start using it in sterilize swimming pools.—Syracuse Herald.

Life in the U. S. A.

Americana — In Minneapolis a man reports swallowing a button by mistake for a sleeping tablet and passing a restful night.—Detroit News.

Note On Nature.

If all the spring flowers brought back from the country on Sunday nights were put end to end they still would not look as nice as in their original setting.—New York Sun.

Always.

Jack Warwick has looked it up and finds no time in our history when the country didn't have to be saved from the crowd that was running it.—Detroit News.

Teacher—Now, can you tell me who didn't like the prodical son?
Jimmy—Yeah, the fatted calf.

Facing America's Basic Problem

By RAYMOND PITCAIRN

National Chairman Sentinels of the Republic

Congress at this time is proposing a thorough study of the pressing problem of unemployment.

Every thoughtful American will approve such a plan. For as all citizens realize, **widespread re-employment—with its consequent increases in production and in income for workers—constitutes the true key to recovery.**

Yet like all ills, the current one of joblessness is difficult to solve without proper diagnosis. And that, according to many students of government, has been lacking. Earlier proposals for an accurate census of the jobless appear to have been ignored, while relief posts show no sign of shrinking.

In the place of some such accurate census, various estimates of the extent and nature of unemployment have been published. But these have varied widely—adding to the confusion. There is no question that a true knowledge of just who are out of jobs—and why—would help greatly in approaching a solution to this basic problem of the day.

Whether or not the proposed Congressional study contemplates such a count at this time has not been stated. **But a sense of justice would seem to demand it—justice not only to the unfortunate job-hunters themselves, but to the millions of workers who bear the cost of aiding the unemployed, and who have a right to know just how their money is spent.**

Every taxpayer is eager to help the jobless—but he wants to know that his money accomplishes that purpose without political ineptitude or waste.

And only through a sincere attempt to learn the facts can he get that assurance.

Unnatural.

Hollywood reports that Gypsy Rose Lee in clothes is as nervous before the camera as a Tennessee recruit outfielder in shoes.—Detroit News.

Mr. Webster

"Do you go in for outdoor sports?"

"Silly! If I went in, they wouldn't be outdoor sports."

Random Remarks

Elmer Thomas, U.S. Senator from Oklahoma:
"The money question has been a world racket throughout the ages. The public has been kept in ignorance about money."

Chandra Lal, Hindu newspaper writer:
"Great Britain will lose India by revolution."

Robert W. Bingham, U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain:
"If the dictatorships are better prepared to begin war, certainly the democrats are better able to finish it."

Frank Knox, Chicago publisher and Republican vice-presidential Candidate:
"Labor unions in England register, make an accounting of funds and keep open books."

Robert W. Wagner, U. S. Senator from New York:
"The real death blow to Communism and Facism in America was delivered through the achievements of Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

Ralph W. Sockman, preacher:
"A bad democracy is better than a dictatorship even a benevolent one."

Edwin W. Kemmer, economist:
"We are facing a substantial period of rising commodity prices which will carry the cost of living to much greater heights."

Owen D. Young, industrialist:
"We need today inspiration, not irritation."

Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., chairman, General Motors Board:
"No conscientious American citizen desires to avoid payment of his just share of the country's tax burden."

Lord Tweedsmuir, Canadian Governor-General:
"It is the church's duty at all times to testify against anything that will cramp and confine a human spirit."

Harry R. Daniels, Department of Commerce official:
"Before long it may be possible at the turn of a switch to manufacture different kinds of air, such as mountain air or sea air."

Jots 'n Jest

A BROOKLYN girl won a national freckle contest with 1985 freckles, making it pretty easy to spot her in a crowd.

* * *

A Vienna barber set a record when he shaved a man in 15 seconds. Nothing was mentioned about the time for the blood transfusion which was expected to follow.

* * *

Two women, injured in a railway accident, brought suit for damages, which is a bit confusing. It might have been more to the point to ask for repairs.

* * *

The report from the Russians' North Pole camp that high temperatures caused the ice to turn into slush is going to make a lot of kids lose faith in their geography teachers.

* * *

Maps show Philadelphia is only a short distance from New York, but then take a look at the American League standings.

Everybody Drives But Father

A pedestrian, according to an Oklahoma Senator, is a man with three grown children and one car. What about the man with one car and one wife?—Toronto Star.

It's Their Idea

War is to man what maternity is to woman.—Mussolini.

It is in war that a people's soul is forged.—General Mola.—Living Age.

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