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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have new value and which are written by persons not known to the editorial staff. If you have a story to be presented before noon on Thursday, the rights to such material should be reserved. If you are unable to do so, work submitted as necessary to the style of the paper and the mechanical details in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff, and copy never owned or drove an automobile, and his greatest dispiration is the left fastening of his suit coat. We know him so intimately that we can say: the Governor could have made only one other appointment, namely, to D. Dickinson, now in the Detroit office. Mr. Dickinson, by the way, lives near Charlotte; is a great sprayer—prepares and sells much maple syrup. Mr. DeFoe likes pancakes, too, but buys his syrup.

One of the remarkable versatility of the human mind is always manifest when two opposing political parties begin to interpret a Civil Service law to interpret a statute or regulation. This is seen currently in Michigan relative to the Civil Service Law. Under Democratic Governor Murphy, the law went into effect; with it went the absorption of Democrats into hundreds of State offices. Now, under Republican Governor Fitzgerald, many Democrats are found "not wanted" in office—they are dismissed in what seems to be, in many cases, violations of at least the spirit of the Civil Service Act. And so goes the battle for jobs.

In our own opinion, we don't believe that the Republicans will emancipate the Act any more than the Democrats did, or would, in like circumstances. Of course, that does not excuse the other side for violating any phase of the Act; but, apparently, so long as competitive partisan politics lasts, and so long as the great rank and file of voters is so unconcerned with sustained decency in public officialdom, the evil will last.

Thus, this week we read that Attorney-General Thomas Head says the Civil Service Act is thus and so; former Attorney-General Raymond A. Starr said, when he was in office, it is thus and so; the "thus & so's" of both men disagree. In practical politics, it may be stated, "might makes right"—or at least it provides the jobs.

Do you know how many separate taxing units there are in the State of Michigan?

One unit for each 544 persons in the State, or a total of 8,905, is the answer. One for each 645 square miles of the State's area.

It is small wonder, therefore, that taxes of all types, supporting local, State, and national governments now equal 23.6 per cent of the entire nation's income, summarizes a report from the National Consumers Tax Commission, of which Mrs. W. R. Alford, of Highland Park, is Michigan chairman. This group is engaged in a national crusade to acquaint the public with the menace of increasing taxation, especially that part of tax revenue obtained indirectly.

The report states that Michigan's tax units almost equal the number of the State's schools, hospitals, and libraries, which total 9,320.

It is estimated that 63 per cent of today's huge tax burden is paid every day by consumers in "hidden taxes," which become a part of every purchase made by each member of the family.

The National Consumers Tax Commission is now operating in 2,500 communities. Consisting of women only, it works on a non-political basis.

It seems to us that there is an opportunity for the Birmingham Women's League of Voters to lend its support to this deserving movement.

Dr. George Gallup, director of the American Institute of Public Opinion, which has displayed an amazing accuracy in disclosing public sentiment upon candidates and issues before this country, says that current surveys show "the 'good old days' are literally gone forever."

Dr. Gallup says that even conservative members of the public have accepted the right of collective bargaining and government regulation of the stock exchanges. He points out that the conservatives have moved several degrees left of where they stood ten years ago.

Addressing the Congress of the Industry, Dr. Gallup gives his conclusions on several public questions. Today, he says, there is real doubt that President Roosevelt could be elected for a third term.

Fathers and mothers have always had a difficult time in raising children—perhaps for the reason that Dads and Mothers: Here's A Great Story!

In the good, old days, you know, youth had plenty of chores to do; youth had to struggle more for what it got. The nation was not so rich then, and there was less to go around. But today—whether you have money or whether you have not—youth is confronted with many new problems that its elders were fortunate to escape.

But the value of struggle within a human life, it has always seemed to us, especially in a person's early years, cannot be over-estimated. For out of the strength created by a struggle, youth obtains some character qualities that are so extremely valuable all through life.

Parents who are able, financially, to stand all the expenses of sending one or more children to college really have a problem. Should they send the child to college, and the son or daughter by the son—while he or she is in college? Should the boy or girl be required to do something to pay part of the cost; not so much for the money involved, but for the experience of the struggle that is so valuable a by-product?

We have asked ourself that question, now that we have a son away at college. Recently, then, in company with a younger friend who, himself, graduated from a large eastern college, we posed the question: should we ask our son to work at something in order to pay part of his tuition, and thus obtain the by-product of struggle?

This younger man's parents are very comfortably situated, and so had often wondered if our friend had had to pay a portion of his tuition, or whether he had been given every cent required. To our agreeable surprise he told us the story; it was so fine that we asked him to write our Bill, at Northwestern, and here is the letter he wrote:

Dear Bill: You will undoubtedly be surprised to hear from me, so I'd better start by explaining this letter. From time to time in the past your father has asked me questions pertaining to college studies, life, finances, and the viewpoint with which I approached business as I left Harvard.

Recently we were discussing the financial arrangement between my father and me. It was evident from your father's remarks that you and he were working out your own scheme.

After leaving him I began to think it was only fair to you that you should know of our conversation and just what I had told him.

My father is what is known as a "self-made man." He came from a very poor family, grew up in a village, and ran away from home. As he succeeded in doing so, and I approached college years, he became concerned about the fact that I had always had everything I needed and had had no occasion to learn the value of money.

Because of his respect and affection for me, this problem caused him a great deal of thought, and he finally decided that my moral training was over. If by this time he had been unable to instill in me those principles of Christianity by which we live, then it was too late. He felt that he had done a good job, but still wondered if the student he was supporting was really getting the most out of his education.

Finally he came to a decision and put it squarely to me. He explained that it would be much easier just to give me an ample allowance and turn me loose in college. He said he would respect for me promptly his own idea of what to do.

Namely, to demand from me that I sacrifice. His proposal was that I was to work my way through one year at Harvard. This I could do any year. He didn't want to be arbitrary about which year as he knew nothing of college life. He did suggest that I should work in a restaurant or in a store, try it because of the strangeness of working in my new life. Likewise, he felt that it would be nice to leave my senior year unhindered. However, the choice was mine. I elected to do this my sophomore year.

I found that it was not easy. My room and board earned by waiting on tables three meals a day. Part of my tuition came from a scholarship I had won in my freshman year. The balance of the tuition, spending money, clothes, and transportation I earned by working as a head waiter at night. I also found time to make up my mind to do my own thing.

But when the work over, I was glad it happened. It taught me the value of money and showed me just who were my real friends in college.

An incident comes to mind that illustrates just how closely my father held me to our agreement. In the spring of my sophomore year I decided to accept a roommate's invitation to visit his friends at the University of Virginia during our vacation. We took the trip.

Unfortunately we ran out of money several days before our visit was over. I wired my father collect to please send me some money. I had no reply. Thinking to make my own money, I wrote a little story, and I wired collect, stating that I'd had no gain for two days.

Finally a wire came and I opened it with great expectation. The wire read—"Congratulations. DeValera went twenty-three days stop best of luck stop Dad."

I thought you might be interested in my own money, Bill, and I certainly felt you were entitled to the same story I told your father.

With kindest personal regards, I am, Sincerely,



PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential unless requested. Letters must be limited to 500 words, and must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

240 Aspen Road, Birmingham, Mich., January 24, 1939

To the Editor: Birmingham Eccentric, Birmingham, Mich.

Dear Sir:

Last Wednesday I served on a jury panel on the subject of "Community Planning for Adolescence" at the Women's Club in Detroit held for social club in Detroit held for youth workers and lay friends of youth under the auspices of the Detroit Work Council, which comprises the professional and lay leaders of such organizations as YWCA, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, and various community houses and settlement houses. The problems stated were so similar to Birmingham that it felt it important to pass on the conclusions of the panel and audience. Incidentally, our own local chairman of the panel, a sympathetic chairman of the panel discussion and showed himself a past master of that most difficult art, the art of listening.

A third Birminghamite on the panel was Mrs. Hollister Mabley, recently appointed director of the Social Service Department of the Christ Church Cranbrook. Mrs. Mabley attended the meeting as well and contributed some helpful points to the discussion of the audience.

Here is Mr. White's summary of the discussion: "Community planning for adolescence is imperative and can best be accomplished by the formation simultaneously of an adult community planning council, for all community needs, including those of youth, and a youth council especially for youth needs, composed of youth between the ages of 16 and 25. These two councils to be correlated by an advisory sub-committee of the older group."

"This joint community planning council, then, must consider all of ways and means to help youth in an abiding way that wants and needs most; jobs and fun. Help in preparing for jobs and getting them means more and better vocational guidance, and the schools must be prepared to give it, getting at the same time the active cooperation of industry; for the boy and girl who is not going to college need guidance as well as the minority who do go."

"Help in having good healthy fun means aid in finding acceptable meeting places and occasionally leaders, for the sort of fun youth wants—for the majority of youth, this means more and better recreation, high school civics courses should include information and discussion on community planning, on community resources in the social agencies and the social services, and on community responsibilities to an extent our own generation has never yet created."

"These are all important responsibilities to the general public of the present needs involved, even if their fulfillment means slightly higher taxes."

Congressional Comment

By Representative George A. Dondero of Michigan

To the Editor:

If the Congress approves the complete national defense program now proposed, the appropriations will be by far the largest the nation has ever known in the history of the United States—\$1,500,000,000 for every man, woman, and child.

It is proposed to spend \$1,336,000,000 for this purpose in the fiscal year 1940; \$1,126,000,000 for ordinary army and navy expenditures and \$210,000,000 for an additional national defense program.

For purposes of comparison with previous appropriations for national defense, I list those for 1931 to 1939 inclusive:

Table with 2 columns: Year and Amount. 1931: \$667,000,000; 1932: \$661,000,000; 1933: \$633,000,000; 1934: \$494,000,000; 1935: \$494,000,000; 1936: \$488,000,000; 1937: \$485,000,000; 1938: \$480,000,000; 1939: \$476,000,000.

Another phase of our expenditures which is closely akin to national defense is our program of pensions and benefits for war veterans and their dependents. Over the ten-year period, 1931 to 1940 inclusive, the total cost of this phase will exceed nine billion dollars. Annual appropriations for these pensions and benefits have fluctuated from \$579,000,000 estimated for the fiscal year 1930 to \$2,748,000,000 in 1936.

According to budget figures just released, our national debt has shown a steady increase from \$19,300,000,000 in 1931 to \$41,132,000,000 expected by June 30, 1939 with the prediction that it will reach \$44,458,000,000 by June 30, 1940.

I do not know of anything that has done me more damage than to hear about the City of Birmingham purchasing the fifteen acres of land for a Park. In my estimation this is going to be lovely for Birmingham, especially along the highway which will be completed in the future.

If the State had not asked the owners of this property not to subdivide eighteen years ago, today, it, too, would have been a beautiful subdivision similar to the one east of Oxford Drive. The State, however, not knowing just how much land they would have to take for the highway, caused this property to be unplatted, and this owners to carry the expense all these years of special assessments, taxes, sewerage, etc.

Had the acreage not been zoned as so many residents wanted it, it can truthfully be said that it would have been in the future a business section along the new highway. It would have been commensurate with the surrounding subdivisions.

CORA N. POPPLETON, 631 East Maple Ave.

Jobs in Jest

Isn't it about time for somebody to report seeing that first robin that's been around here all winter?

Whoever thought of that wimple style for women's hats isn't so dumb. They ought to sell little hok cakes during the windy season.

A 10-cent admission charge for football games? At that rate, they'd have to say students to attend a fencing match.

WASHINGTON LETTER BY SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Court Decision May Wreck Tobacco Marketing Regulation

WASHINGTON—Agricultural Adjustment Administration officials are on the anxious side these days. Sometime soon the Supreme Court will hand down a decision upon which the fate of tobacco marketing regulation depends.

A group of tobacco farmers signed a petition last year asking an injunction against warehousemen to prevent collections of a penalty equal to 50 per cent of the sale price of tobacco in excess of marketing quotas which was offered for sale.

The marketing regulation act provided that warehousemen direct assesses by the government might deduct this assessment from the price to the grower, thereby passing the penalty along.

A court in Valdosta, Georgia, granted the injunction. The court held in escrow the money over the payment of a similar nature of the Tifts case affected only 40 or 50 Georgia farmers who signed the original petition. Other petitioners of a similar nature were dropped by Georgia and Florida growers.

But it was decided to make the petition of the Valdosta group a test case. Counsel for the warehousemen and the farmers decided to move the case to a federal court.

On petition from the Department of Justice the government was allowed to enter defense when the case reached the federal Middle District Court of Georgia.

The federal court decided the collection of taxes on tobacco marketing quotas was a due process of law in interstate commerce and therefore a valid regulation. Subsequently the case was appealed to the Supreme Court.

If the decision of the lower court is reversed by the Supreme Court, it will depend on how sweeping the court's indictment is whether other marketing quotas will be affected. The Supreme Court might simply say the marketing of tobacco is a local matter, not in interstate commerce. Then Congress would direct legislation to return to the farmers the taxes collected from them.

The Supreme Court might go a little farther and say the marketing of any commodity is a local matter. In which case, taxes could not be collected on sales of the 1939 crop of cotton, rice or tobacco, in excess of quotas.

It is possible, but not probable, that the Court might go so far as to hit at control of production by direct legislation. Such action would be defined as economic coercion and the history of the Supreme Court vs. New Deal agrarian policy would repeat itself.

Even in this case, however, the conservation program would not be affected. Benefit payments would be earned for diverting soil from production to conserve its fertility are on a voluntary basis.

No Place For Politics

By RAYMOND PITCAIRN

Probably no recent report from Congress has been more interesting to the American people than that of a Senate committee citing the public funds appropriated to aid the unemployed in distribution of such practices as both the employed, who pay the taxes from which such funds are supplied, and the unemployed, whose needs they are appropriated to meet. They would not only the American sense of justice but our sense of individual freedom by threatening to make recipients dependent on public policy for the necessities of life.

By increasing the cost of aid to the unfortunate, they retard also the very processes which would reduce the widespread unemployment that still afflicts America.

Public funds spent for political purposes, like all other public funds, must come from the pockets or the savings of others and producers. And the more money that is taken from these sources, the more it has to carry on the process of production, which, in the last analysis, is what creates jobs and prosperity.

Congress, as this is written, has evidenced its determination to look closely into methods of distributing the funds supplied by the workers to help their less fortunate neighbors.

If Congress corrects these conditions, and thus achieves a sound and practical reduction in the mounting cost of public aid, it will perform a valuable service—one which will benefit not only the recipients, but the Nation as a whole.

And in attempting this reform Congress will accord to a real and insistent demand on the part of all the people.

There is no place for politics in public aid.

Honors For The Bard

For the first time, Shakespeare was saluted by the Blackshirts. A little group of Blackshirts men and women gave the Bard a salute and afterward had a Blackshirt feast on the post-tomb—Eastern Evening News, of Norwich, England.

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