

I'll Leave It to You

By John Deaver
Most people would rather take a beating than write a letter. They consider letter-writing about as plane with going to the dentist, or, in other words, as something to be avoided unless there is simply no escaping.

And yet, on the other hand, it is hard to find a person who does not get a kick out of being on the receiving end of a letter—unless it be one of those cheerless little notes from some creditor handicapped by too materialistic an outlook.

It would, therefore, add considerably to the zest of life—make a lot of dull days brighter and long nights shorter—if the art of letter-writing were more widely practiced. Why is it, then, that people don't write more letters?

Well, the two most popular reasons are: (1) they don't have time, (2) they don't know what to write about. The first excuse strikes you as being pretty shaky; however, when you recall that a good share of the most voluminous letter-writers in history have been people of action who accomplished more in a day than a lot of us do in a week—like Napoleon, Teddy Roosevelt, Jane Carlyle, and so forth.

As for the second—not knowing what to write about—this brings to the front a common error with which most people regard letter-writing; namely, that for a letter to be a good letter it must be newsy. Some of the greatest let-

ters ever written have been those which perhaps transmitted from the writer to the reader only a fragment of a thought, stream, an attitude of mind. When you chat with some one, you merely express what you are thinking. This, in brief, is what one should do in a letter. It makes no difference if your thoughts are mild and inconsequential so long as they are you. Spontaneity and sincerity—not current events and precise rhetoric—are the bases of a good letter.

Why not resolve to brush up on your letter-writing while you're on your vacation—which will find you with lots of time on your hands and plenty of interesting thoughts to pass along to someone? You'll get a great kick out of visiting with those at home, and, ten to one, you'll get a letter from them.

Local Entry Seeks Title In Culver Net Tourney

Interest in the Culver Center Tennis Tourney, being played currently at the summer school of Culver Military Academy, centered around a Birmingham entry. It is James E. Jeffries, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Jeffries of Morningview drive.

The championship in the annual tennis tourney will be held Monday, July 31st, 1934 at 10:00 P. M. in the Municipal Building for the purpose of considering the re-opening of the street known as Edison Avenue to Willow Lane, at which time an opportunity will be given to all persons interested to be heard.

IRENE E. HANLEY, City Clerk

Rep. Dondoro Shows Why United States Is a Republic Rather Than Democracy

[The following address contains excerpts from the remarks of Rep. George A. Dondoro in the floor of the U. S. House of Representatives, June 23, 1933, as reported in the Congressional Record, Vol. 79, No. 126, pages 10986-10989. The Eccentric reproduces some of these remarks because it feels they will be of interest to public-spirited Americans.]

By George A. Dondoro (Member of Congress, 17th Michigan District)

Mr. Speaker, I have been astounded and nonplussed at the loose and misleading governmental terminology indulged in today by modern writers and have wondered whether I have studied the history of our American Government aright or in vain. The habit seems to have been formed . . . of referring to "our democratic form of government."

I wonder if it is not the result of a famous expression of sophistry that we entered the World War "to save the world for democracy." Since when did the United States become a "democratic" form of government? Since when was "democracy" substituted for the "republic" as established under the Constitution?

In order to learn anew just what form of government our founding fathers actually established, I have returned to the writings of some of them, chiefly of Madison, of Washington, and of Jefferson, and even of Hamilton, and I have reached the conclusion, paraphrasing the famous expression above quoted, that our boys went overseas "to save the Republic of the United States for the world."

During nearly a century and a half under a republican form of government, privileges were secured; we developed a statement which thought and worked according to the standard; we assimilated the people along with us on our shores; we emerged from a civil war stronger and better; we made unparalleled material progress; and we achieved a leading place among nations. All this we did by adhering strictly to the standard form of government established by our founding fathers.

Madison and Hamilton, leaders among the wise statesmen who in the light of the experiments and failures of the past to establish permanent popular government, knew the kind and form of government they desired to create. These great men and their associates decided to create a republic in which, as Madison said, "the scheme of representation takes place."

They not only created a republican form of government for the Nation but they also guaranteed in the constitution that each to each of the States of the Union. Having seen now that the founding fathers created a republic, let us see what contradistinguishes it from other forms of government, especially from monarchy, democracy, from mobocracy to autocracy; from feudalism to communism; and from bondage to license.

Thus we have witnessed a succession of experimental failures in government for thousands of years. Fitfully there are here and there rays of light, as in Greece, in Rome, in Holland, and Switzerland, and even in England, but it remained for the wise statesmen who wrote our Constitution to establish the golden mean and evolve a standard form of government when they erected the Republic of the United States of America. It was and is the best form of government ever conceived by the minds of men.

Certain nations which have erroneously been given the designation of republic or democracy neither wholly one nor the other. In each of them will be found the elements of democracy or autocracy. In our day, in this period of loose terminology, it is the vogue to hook up the United States with the so-called democracies of England and France. As a matter of fact, England, or in the broader term, Great Britain, is a limited monarchy with only one element of parliament resembling a republic or a democracy. The time might have been since the French Revolution when France was conditionally a republic. But not now. And surely it is not democratic in form. It is an admixture of various political philosophy with no stable form of government worthy of the name.

United States for the world," and I am more than ever convinced of the truth of the view presented world conditions. Republic Not Democracy. Prior to two decades ago the writings and utterances of our leading American statesmen may be searched in vain for the use of the term "democracy" except in its fundamental sense as distinguished from aristocracy and not as a form of government. On the other hand will be found innumerable references by those statesmen to our "Republic" as a form of government.

It cannot be gainsaid that all peoples in the mass or raw state of unorganized society are democracies as when our Articles of Confederation proved a failure and "a more perfect union" was sought. When our independence was accomplished fact a nation was yet to be created and a government formed. "We have a government," wrote John Adams to Rutledge, "and God only knows what it will resemble." But finally a written constitution created a republic, balancing and apportioning among the several parts a few powers that they cannot so restrain and correct the others.

The republican form was not chosen by accident, but deliberately. This was the form sought by statesmen and philosophers throughout centuries of history. It was not found until the American Constitution established the American Republic. This, I say, was not found along with the more perfect union and described by the French patriot Lamartine as a "model republic," that is to say, a pattern or standard form of government. Other standards have been wrought out in the crucible of time; then why not a standard form of government?

These were the definitions of and the distinctions between a republic and a democracy as set forth by Madison, and concurred in by Hamilton, Washington, and Jefferson. Hence the words of Madison and learn anew the character of the government our forefathers established.

Hamilton said: "Give all the power to the many; they will oppress the few. Give all the power to the few; they will oppress the many. Both therefore ought to have the power that each may defend itself against the other."

Jefferson admonished that if we wander from the pathway of our fundamental principles in moments of error or alarm, let us "hasten to retrace our steps and regain the road which alone leads to peace, liberty, and safety."

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tary distribution of powers which that has established are the two sheet anchors of our Union. If driven from the one hand, it is in danger of foundering."

I prefer the definitions given by James Madison, the "Father of the Constitution," in which he expressed the purpose and sentiments of his co-workers in the constitutional convention: "The two great points of difference between a democracy and a republic are, first, the delegation of the government, in the latter, to a small number of citizens elected by the rest; secondly, the greater number of citizens and extent of territory which may be brought within the compass of republican than of democratic government. The effect of the first difference is to leave less room to refine and enlarge the public views by passing them through the medium of a chosen body of citizens, whose wisdom may be better discerned and whose patriotism and love of justice will be less likely to sacrifice to temporary or partial considerations. Under such a regulation it may be shown by the people themselves, convened for the purpose."

If we resort to a criterion to which different forms of government are established, we may define a republic to be, or may define a government that derives all its powers directly or indirectly from the great body of the people, and is administered by persons holding their offices for a limited period, or during their behavior. . . . The true distinction between these forms is that in a democracy the people assemble and exercise the government in person. In a republic they assemble and exercise it by their representative agents."

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