

We Can... There is nothing wrong within the structure of American processes of self-government that an intelligent and alert citizenry cannot correct at any time it wills to!

We hear and read, these days, about the drift of the United States towards the Socialist State. If more people really understood how their State and federal governments (especially the latter) are operating currently, they would rise up in rebellion...

For whatever may be the label given by the demagogue and the bureaucrat, governmental paternalism is the offspring of the despot, with tyranny as its handmaiden.

That has been the history of past governments... some of them within the memory of our living today, some of them going back centuries.

The farther a unit of government is from the home, the less we seem to be concerned with its impact upon our lives... we do about continually mounting taxes levied from Washington, but we do less about it than we do in matters of pure local import.

For example, Wednesday evening of last week 350 Birmingham men and women gathered at Quanton school to listen to city and school officials discuss the problems of these two units of government... they gathered there because they had been told their property was to be given a 20 per cent increase in assessed valuation this spring.

At that meeting, it was disclosed that of all the taxes levied against people in the United States, only 11 per cent, these days, is collected and expended for local governmental services... the remainder goes to the State and federal governments... most of it to the federal unit.

Why is this so? The answer is obvious: simply because the local units, being close to the people, are contacted frequently by the people, and thus taxes are kept lowest.

If local people (and this is true of nearly every community in the nation) were to let their State and federal representatives know how they feel about ever-increasing taxes, no doubt their State and federal budgets would be smaller—with the result that much less than 25 per cent of the present national

income would go to pay the costs of extravagant units of government.

As we said in the first paragraph of this editorial: There is nothing wrong within the structure of American processes of self-government that an intelligent and alert citizenry cannot correct at any time it wills to!

For many, many years the citizens of Michigan were victims of predatory individuals and groups, both inside and outside the realm of public officials. Then Michigan instituted the "one-man grand jury" legal procedure, and certain grafting public officials, gamblers, etc., were brought to justice.

Now a movement is under way to eliminate the "one-man grand jury" law in Michigan. A bill already has been introduced in the State Legislature for that purpose.

Opponents of the "one-man grand jury" system want to "restore the old, ancient, and unworkable 1925 grand jury" system, holding it to be more democratic. The actual truth, from experience, is that this type of grand jury never has brought desired results; under it, wrong-doing in public office flourished, as did the gambling element.

If you, the good citizens of Michigan, wish to keep your State as free as possible from crime, we suggest that you let your State Senator and Representative know how you feel—at once. You can write him, c/o State Capitol, Lansing, Michigan.

Under the "one-man grand jury" system, now in effect, law enforcing officers can get the evidence needed to bring about final convictions; because of this fact, the movement to abolish it is under way.

While some sincere and honest people may be seeking to eliminate it, for academic reasons of their own, experience has proved the "one-man grand jury" system to work in the public interest. Its minor faults are greatly counter-balanced by its virtues.

Can anyone recall what has become of the old-fashioned politician who preferred to stand by his principles rather than serve special interests?

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 200-221 North Woodward Avenue, GEORGIA 4-1111. Editor and Publisher: PAUL NEAL AVRELL. Managing Editor: HAROLD P. BURRILL. Advertising Manager: JAMES W. PARRY.

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NOTICE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish their contributions. Contributions are usually edited and returned to the contributor. The Eccentric is not responsible for the return of unsolicited material.

Clarence Viet, superintendent of schools here, was the speaker tonight at the dedication exercises for the new Keego Harbo school. He will speak on different phases of modern education.

James W. Parry, speaking to the Women's City League Tuesday noon, predicted great growth for Birmingham, with a population of possibly 30,000 in the not too distant future. He urged that the would better the community and assure it of strong growth.

The distinction of being the first to swim in any of the nearby lakes, this year, goes to Jack Thayer of Jack's swimming club, who took their first dip in Walnut Lake last Thursday. The two 14-year-old boys, Jack and Tom, who did not have not, as yet, recruited any big parties to join them.

Six volunteer firemen are soon to be known as the "Bloomfield Hills Fire Department," according to Russell Moore, chief of the one-month old department. He said that the number of active volunteers in the very near future.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Chapman, owners of the Birmingham Recreation and Country Club, announced their championship in the recent husband and wife bowling tournament at the Cadillac alley in Detroit. Mrs. Chapman teamed with Ann Wells to bowl 1,212 pins and win the women's division, also.

Letters were mailed this week to the annual fund drive of the Community House. A total of \$200 in contributions was the goal of the drive, with 275 members.

Merrill Badgley, 19, while on his first night's employment for the gas station at the corner of Woodward and Humphreys, was held up and robbed of \$40 by three armed men. The youth lost

People's Column

The Eccentric welcomes letters for this column. They should be signed, but signatures will be kept confidential. Letters must be limited to 500 words.

To the Editor: Your editorial "The Press Must Give the Whole Truth" is a good one, especially this part—

"The truth upon which people can depend, must be presented in such a balanced manner as to give the reader a correct impression of the whole picture involved."

And also the next paragraph was fine—

"It is quite possible for propaganda to print nothing but the truth, but yet distort the correct conclusion by suppressing other facts which give a correct picture."

Now, that is wonderful editorial writing but where were you when the third assistant was vice-president dug up the special story from your Washington Bureau printer's copy in the "one-man grand jury" matter?

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It looks like your "unbiased" reporter got in the "one-man grand jury" matter, but you stuck to the theme of your editorial and be fair in your reporting. The "one-man" matter could even go unreported.

DALE O. MILLER, 414 Waddington Rd., E. Ham.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Eccentric still believes, as stated in its editorial, "The Press Must Give the Whole Truth" and which Mr. Miller refers, that truth facts be presented by balanced facts. The whole picture involved.

The story from our Washington Bureau, which Mr. Miller also mentions, quite possibly does read like a "Cite" matter, but the reporter was stating information and statements made by various officials, including Fred Hartley's ex-congressional activities. The reporter was presenting the "one-man" matter, but was attempting to present management's statements, not to interpret the union's statements.

We do not agree with Mr. Miller that the "one-man grand jury" matter could even go unreported. A free and open press attempts to present both sides of the story, but not necessarily in the same article. American newspapers are not supposed to present only one side of the picture, but to present both sides of the picture. Thanks, though, Mr. Miller, for your letter.

To the Editor: This is in reply to a letter from Mr. Donald McGraw on the subject of public parking lots which appeared in your People's Column on March 31, 1949.

Mr. McGraw wrote a good letter, and it would be commended for its interest and the obvious amount of time and thinking which he devoted to the matter. However, on one or two points it seems that his information is incorrect.

In short, the Chamber of Commerce is not a pressure group in the sense that it favors one element of its membership over another. Any action taken or recommendations made on matters of civic importance will represent the wishes of a majority of all its members, both Resident and Business.

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Financing of parking lots has not even been discussed by the Chamber of Commerce to date, because a program will have to be determined first, and what is to be financed will be

There is a lovely spot that we have found. Beauty is there and wonder fills the place. Wonder defying time and thought and space. Just you and I have been in fragrant flowers abound. Have watched the moon and seen its silver light. Across the lengthening shadows of the night. Counted the stars as soon as they were lit. Just you and I have set beside the stream. To watch the little jeweled ships sail past. No one but you and I, dear heart, would dream So foolishly, or hold a dream so fast.

—BEATRICE McDONALD

Two People

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Just a Lovers' Quarrel



Congressional Lobbies Fighting Over Ways and Means of Improving Health

ment every year because of non-industrial accidents or illness. A Board indicates that on any given day, 7 million Americans are unable to engage in their normal activities and that the average disability lasts 14.3 days.

Rep. U. S. medical agency is the Veterans Administration, which provides care for more than 6.6 million either through its own facilities or through private doctors working on a fee basis.

The Public Health Service spends about \$165 million a year in grants to state, research and direct health of patients. This year it has allotted \$32,429,000 to states for general or specific public health programs and \$73 million more for hospital construction. Michigan got \$1,097,000 for health and \$2,175,000 for hospitals.

The most controversial proposal before Congress, and the center of what promises to be one of the biggest rows in years, is President Truman's national health program, built around a system of compulsory insurance.

Mindful of the Administration's difficulties with its anti-filibuster proposal, and its original intention to bill, few are willing to contemplate on the probable future of the health program.

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Have You Met... Mr. and Mrs. Robert Farr from St. Clair Mich., who are now living at 2238 Buckingham road in Birmingham, Ala. Mr. Farr is a salesman with the Commercial Sales and Engineering Company.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Last year's Grand Prize winner in the National High School Photographic Awards is typical of the fine photography of today's teen age.

National High School Photographic Contest Open

ONB of the best creative activity for students of which we know is the annual National High School Photographic Awards. Open to high school students in the ninth to twelfth grades, inclusive, in public, private, and parochial schools in the United States, the competition has won warm approval from hundreds of educators. And the entrants themselves have found the competition fun.

Not only have the students found it fun, but many have found it an education. In fact, all three of the grand prize winners of the last three years have used their \$400 in prize money to help meet their college expenses. In all, the contest offers \$2,500 in cash awards, with a top prize of \$100 in each of four classes, an additional \$500 to the \$100 winner chosen as the best of all winners in the contest.

Other prizes include second place awards of \$50, also in each class, and more than 300 prizes of \$10 and \$5 plus Certificates of Merit.

This year's contest, open from February 1 to May 7, includes classes for photographs of school life; for shots of school athletic events; for pictures "around town" showing people at work or play and reflecting how we live; and for prints of pictorial beauty, scenes, still lifes, and similar subjects.

As in past years, only black-and-white prints are eligible. Since the contest is designed to stress education, in fact, all three of the grand prize winners of the last three years have used their \$400 in prize money to help meet their college expenses. In all, the contest offers \$2,500 in cash awards, with a top prize of \$100 in each of four classes, an additional \$500 to the \$100 winner chosen as the best of all winners in the contest.



If you are a Democrat, are you ashamed of it? Or do you brag because you vote Republican? That seems to be the big issue in current legislative debates. The advisability of eliminating the secret primary. This is the system of primary voting now used in Michigan that does not require voters to declare party affiliation.

Democrats, who were largely responsible for initiating the secret primary in 1937, feel that "pressure against Democrats is too great in the small towns" to make it wise to return to the old system where voters must reveal their party in order to vote. Many Republicans, on the other hand, feel that the present system is destroying party responsibility and ultimately will result in destruction of the two party system.

Repeal of the two-year-old lobbyist registration act is being considered. This is the law that was fathered by former Governor Sigler as part of his better government program. Rep. Howard H. Carrol (R. Mt. Clemens), who has introduced a repeal bill, says that "the law is not being enforced to control real lobbyists. All it does is discourage people from using their constitutional rights to talk to their representatives."

Another Sigler innovation, however, is doing better. The new Department of Administration which is getting new friends everywhere. Although originated by a Republican administration, Democratic Governor Williams is giving the Department his full support. Just the other day he described it as "the place where state government men can go and find someone who can tell you about any part of government."

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