Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press is Democracy's First Line of Defense

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NOTE: The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has news value; and suggestions are welcomed. 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.

Williams Should Be Retired By Voters at Tuesday Election

Next Tuesday, Nov. 7, is election day in Michigan.

Qualified voters are given the opportunity of selecting men and women to represent them in numerous public offices, including Congress, state and county positions. Also a number of state constitutional amendments are up for decision.

This newspaper, as you may recall, has always been independent Republican in nature. By this we mean that while generally subscribing to Republican policies and candidates, now and then we have argued for Democratic candidates when they appear better qualified than Republicans.

This year, however, we see no Democrats whom we prefer over Republicans.

* * *

INSOFAR AS MICHIGAN high offices go, we agree with those who oppose the re-election of Gov. Williams. He is so completely captive to labor leaders that to re-elect him would simply place in the hands of a selfish group the powers that go with the high office of Governor.

Were Williams more independent, accepting the good that labor provides, and at the same time amenable to traditional American civic procedures, we'd believe that Williams would do better for his State.

It is our sincere and objective belief that were Williams to be re-elected, the people of Michigan would be subjected to a duplication of New Deal-Fair Deal policies for years to come.

Such a group would follow the late Harry Hopkins dictum of "tax and spend —and tax and spend some more". Republicanism in Michigan would become the forgotten protection against the drift into Socialism.

Gov. Williams, personally a nice chap, has failed to retain his own independence in political status. He should be relegated to at least temporary political oblivion.

* * *

A FEW YEARS of such hermitage ought to give him time to take stock of where he has been drifting—then later he might try a come-back and chart his course within the boundaries of those virtues and qualities which, within his inner self, he knows are safe for democracy.

Of the four state proposals on Tuesday's ballot, electors should not have too much difficulty deciding what their vote will be on three of them. The fourth will require considerable thought before action.

Proposition No. 1 would change from 20 to 30 days the constitutional residence requirements for voters in cities and townships. The amendment would also remove obsolete references to persons living in the state in 1835 and 1850 as well as males of foreign birth naturalized before 1924.

Since adding 10 days to residence requirements would permit better preparation of election rolls, we believe a "Yes" vote is indicated.

* * *

THE SECOND PROPOSITION would permit the state to borrow $65,000,000 to erect mental and tuberculosis hospitals. The need is serious; present facilities are vastly overcrowded. This amendment should receive a "Yes" vote.

Proposition No. 4 concerns oleomargerine, which present laws require be sold uncolored. Approval of this proposal would permit it to be sold already colored by the manufacturer. We believe Michigan should join the other 32 states which permit sale of yellow margarine by voting "Yes" on this proposal.

Proposal No. 3, known as the "Subversion Amendment", has provoked much controversy. We have endeavored to understand the position of both sides of this question. Actually, existing State and federal laws already cover this issue.

The Amendment admittedly was hastily drawn by the Michigan Legislature and, if approved by Michigan voters, will undoubtedly face numerous court decisions.

* * *

IF YOU VOTE "NO" on it, or merely ignore it on your ballot, you will still be protected by existing legislation, our best information reveals.

A "yes" vote perhaps will do nothing except show that you believe Communism and Communists are dangerous menaces, and that you want your State and federal governments to more strictly enforce existing laws now on the books.

From Our Point of View

If you believe in the American free enterprise system and are opposed to monopoly, you will vote in favor of the sale of yellow oleomargarine in Michigan Nov. 7. For years and years the dairy interests have prevented the widespread sale and use of oleo in many areas in this country. Why not let the people decide, as they will in Michigan next month?

The federal government boys and girls want to help labor by advancing the idea that every union contract should include the flexibility of annual rate changes, depending upon the cost of living index. In view of the fact that these same Federal boys and girls want all of us to buy U.S. bonds, why not make them payable on the basis of the inflation, government allows to continue? Certainly the cash one receives from U.S. bonds is as worthy of its hire as is the labor of any man.

Campaign oratory, from the mouths of most candidates, is filled with honest insincerity, dishonest truth, fallacious logic, pompous humility, flippant flapdoodle, impractical solutions . . . and the prayerful hope that voters will remain confused and thus vote for such candidates. Otherwise, Dear Reader, why would American self-government be without the maximum existence of self-government?

Owen Lattimore, accused by Senator McCarthy of friendliness to Communistic China, now urges that President Truman visit India, where he could invite leaders of all free nations to a big conference. Maybe Lattimore's got something there—anything to get Truman out of Washington, you see!

A noted Detroit psychiatrist favors requiring all future world leaders first to be given mental examinations to prove their fitness. While the idea sounds good, it never will be used until the people who elect their leaders are given a similar test to prove their fitness to vote.

Mrs. Nancy Sinatra was recently divorced from her crooning husband, and will receive a third of his annual million dollar income. She says she has enrolled for a musical appreciation course at the University of California. What? . . . couldn't she appreciate Frankie's singing?

If we were Gov. Williams' campaign manager this fall, we'd come through with a slogan something like this: "Keep Michigan's government clean with 'Soapy' Williams!" (Then the opposition could come up with: "Re-elect 'Soapy'. Williams and he'll impose enough more taxes to clean out your purse!")

So They Say . . .

Edward L. Cochrane, administrator, Federal Martime Board:

"A great merchant marine is valueless unless the navy can gain command of the sea."

John Fostes Dulles, U.S. delegate to United Nations:

"For five consecutive annual sessions, this General Assembly has met in an atmosphere of steadily mounting tension."

Warren R. Austin, U. S. delegate to United Nations:

"There need not be world war but the strength of the free world must increase —spiritually and physically."

Chester W. Nimitz, Admiral U.S. Navy:

"There must be one free Korea—not two countries."

Harold E. Stassen, president, University of Pennsylvania:

"If we want the world to develop under a system of law, the United States must take leadership."

Dwight D. Eisenhower, president, Columbia University:

"In the long run, freedom probably cannot be sustained except in a peaceful world."

Philip Murray, president C. I. O., talking about industrial leaders:

"They're awfully fond of money."

A Grim Lesson

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
November 2, 1900

The rain Monday and Tuesday last filled up the creeks and cisterns and it is said by some, who claim to know, that winter weather will be here right away.

Bert Leonard who was recently shot while hunting birds is getting along nicely. Dr. Anderson of Big Beaver removed a dozen or more shot from the young man's face.

We have recently had another demonstration of the fact that we need a place for lawbreakers. Three different women have been recently frightened by drunken men on our streets and in one case is was hours before the woman was able to go to her home.

We have had two stories come to us this week of good ladies finding a quantity of ripe strawberries in their gardens and one Miss Almeda Blount picking a large branch of ripe raspberries.

We hope that the ladies of Birmingham will read and heed the advt. of Mrs. G. W. Terry of Pontiac this week. The cheery little lady is building up a nice clientele and is offering some really beautiful hats and prices anyone can afford. Give her some of your business, local ladies.

20 YEARS AGO
November 6, 1930

Oakland county supervisors will meet today to consider the 1931 budget. An increase of $683,808 is noted for the coming year due to the increase in welfare work cases. This figure more than offsets the $458,191.60 decrease in the general fund.

A resolution was passed Monday evening for the village to borrow $300,000 from the Detroit Trust company. The loan was made necessary because of a $402,371.-21 delinquent tax list.

The annual trek to the woods will begin next Thursday. From local reports many of our residents are planning to try their luck and skill as pursuing deer and bear in Michigan's north country.

J. Borden Newman began his art classes for children at the Community House last week. Newman briefly outlined the class methods and described the aims of the group. Classes will be conducted every Saturday afternoon for three hour periods, beginning at 2 o'clock.

The Colvin service station will open at the northwest corner of Merrill and Woodward next week. Officials of the corporation said the gas station and garage would have a parking lot for 200 cars immediately adjacent to their building.

5 YEARS AGO
November 8, 1945

The Charles Edwards Post, American Legion, and its auxiliary are asking local residents to help them supply hospitalized veterans with Christmas gifts. They will package and deliver all gifts left at the Legion Home before Dec. 10.

Miss Leona M. Winegarden of Detroit has been appointed to the First Methodist church as parish assistant. She was a recent guest of honor at a reception given by the various youth groups of the church.

Everett C. Swanson, 1688 Norfolk, has been appointed to the Detroit headquarters staff of the National St. Lawrence association. He will be the assistant to W. C. Cowling, executive vice-president. Swanson has been associated with various firms in this section as well as newspapers in Detroit and Chicago.

Howard Holah, chairman of the bond sales activities in Birmingham theatres said today that both were pushing sales as much as possible. Special displays are in the lobbies of both theatres, with time given for public reminders during each program.

The committee in charge of the Halloween celebration reported today that they felt it was one of the best the city had had, in spite of the many food restrictions. Committee members said only splendid cooperation by all made the success possible.

People's Column

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

To the Editor:

The hens of tomorrow will be laying dried eggs that is, if my experiments continue to be successful.

I'm using Fair Deal hens because they lay big eggs.

We are told the egg-head man, or head egg man, in Washington has about 105 million pounds of dried eggs on hand.

A few of my best layers were taken to Washington to show them the size of eggs being laid there.

Now they're discouraged.

THE MIDDLE MAN in the egg business will have to find a new job when I start to deliver dried eggs direct from hen to government. In this way Uncle Sam can have fresh dried eggs.

My production figures are not available yet, however, I figure the overhead saved in laying dried eggs will enable me to compete with and undersell Red China.

The great states of Alabama and Idaho may decide to make a thirty-eighth parallel out of Mississippi and a few more states unless they get the Glen Taylor episode settled.

We have too many irons in the fire already without having Alabama and Idaho feuding over the remote control lines.

ALABAMA HAS done as much to please our eyes as Idaho has done to please our stomachs. People removed from Idaho know little about Senator Taylor but they all know about Miss America and Idaho potatoes.

It may be that we could get this argument settled by having Idaho send a few carloads of potatoes to Alabama as a peace offering.

Alabama could then reciprocate. She could have Miss America recommend Idaho potatoes as an aid to beauty.

FRED WEAVER
St. Louis, Mo.

To the Editor:

This note is written to express grateful appreciation for the publicity given the meeting of the Michigan Baptist convention held in our church recently.

Many of our delegates commented favorably on the generous space and attractive form given to the publicity. So, the convention tenders a hearty "thank you" for this service.

Furthermore, I want to express the gratitude of the Baptist church to the members and friends of the other churches in the community.

So prompt and widespread was the response to our appeal for rooms to house our delegates, that we did not have enough guests to go around.

WITH THE HELP of so many folk from the other churches, both Protestant and Catholic, we were able to provide adequate and comfortable housing for all out-of-town delegates.

This experience was a splendid demonstration of the friendly and hospitable spirit of Birmingham. May all our people continue to share it in the fight of an admonition from the Bible:

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Hebrews 13:2)

EMIL KONTZ, Pastor
First Baptist Church

To the Editor:

The resolutions committee of the Michigan Baptist convention held recently in your city presented the following resolution which was unanimously approved by the convention in business session:

"Be it Resolved: that we express our sincere thanks and deep appreciation to the local newspapers for the widespread publicity given to our convention sessions."

THE REV. R. J. BUTTON,
Recording Secretary
Michigan Baptist Convention
Lansing, Michigan

Stories for the church page must be submitted by 3:30 p.m. Thursday of the week before publication.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER — By George Wm. Averill

REMARKS AT RANDOM

Authorities on alcoholism out in New Haven, Conn., suggest a teaspoon of salt in a glass of water as a cure for drinkers craving liquor. It's ironic that brine will prevent you from becoming pickled.

Somewhere we read that if all the trucks in the U. S. were lined up, they would circle the globe more than once. Yeh, and we can imagine what those drivers would be shouting at the guy in front!

A St. Paul, Minn., burglar swiped 50 report cards from a school teacher's desk. If he's eventually caught, he should be able to count on at least 50 pleas for leniency.

The British government has handed its taxpayers a bill for $630, the cost of a government survey on the habits of African elephants. Compare that to just one of the foolish surveys taken regularly by the U. S. government and you will find the British only invested peanuts in the pachyderms.

A Washington Congressman recently testified that an army troopship left San Francisco with seven bad risks among the crew. Could he have possibly referred to the cooks?

We see where opera singer Eddie Roecker tied for top spot in a Memphis, Tenn., hog calling contest. Did he obtain his practice in a role in "Sow-th Pacific"?

In Towson, Md., race horses wear sponge rubber cups on their fetlocks to protect them from injury. Fairies are certainly getting some low-down usage these days.

African natives in Zomba, Nyasaland, are reported to be buying radios as fast as they are produced. We bet television would be even better suited to the "Dark Continent."

Those two ice-breakers the U. S. lent to Russia some time ago still have not been returned. Icebreakers should be an ideal cold war issue.

The Army says it intends to draft some 1,400 dentists. Well, it's nice to know that the men who have been pulling for their country will have a chance to be Yanks as well as yankers.

People who constantly remind you just how many shopping days are left till Christmas undoubtedly are afraid that Yule forget them.

An English minister advises boys and girls to study four sweethearts before deciding on a final choice for marriage. Would this be called picking allor-natives?

After sinking a 173-yard drive, a North Carolina salesman collected $400 on a hole-in-one policy from Lloyds of London. That's one way of making golf a putt-and-take proposition.

LOOKING AHEAD — By George S. Benson

WHO'LL BE NEXT?

What would you do if, tomorrow the Federal government were to announce a plan through which it would become your boss, setting forth the new regulations and conditions under which you would henceforth work and the standard salary or wage all people in your occupation would be paid?

You wouldn't like it. You'd no doubt protest in every way you could.

Most adult Americans have observed and even had some direct contact with political management and political regimentation.

VERY FEW WOULD want a political bureau or ward heeler to take over their occupation, business or profession.

Of course, if I'm a plumber and you're a butcher and the politicians announce they're taking over the butchers and the livestock industry so plumbers can have more meat to eat, and at little, if any, cost, that might be a horse of a different color—at first glance.

Until I'd had time to think twice, it might get my favorable attention.

The butchers wouldn't like it, but of course they're outnumbered.

UPON THINKING the thing through, I'd know the plan was a come-on for the Socialists; that after taking over the butchers and the livestock industry they'd have to take over the farmers and the feed mills because they're a part of the livestock industry; and the railroads and truck lines because they're necessary to transport both livestock and feedstuff; and the automobile manufacturers and box car and locomotive foundries because they make the vehicles of transportation; and the construction industry which builds the plants to house the box car and auto production lines and—oh! ah!—the plumbers!

For who else would put pipes in those manufacturing plants to make them operate.

That's what is happening in England. There the Socialist-Labor Party used medicine instead of meat as the first persuasive come-on; though they also promised, as all Socialists do, "fair shares" of meat and bread and butter for everyone—without compensating effort.

BUT THE "fair shares" turned out to be hardly more than sustenance rations.

Before the English people had thought twice, the politicians and bureaucrats had taken over the profession of medicine and the physicians and hospitals for their compulsory health program which, they said, would not cost anybody much of anything.

Then the Socialists went on from there. They're taking over the steel industry now because everything else they've socialized has, they point out, some direct or indirect dependence upon this basic metal.

A great many English people still haven't thought twice. They continue to live in a miserable Socialist austerity, propped up by American dollars, blindly hoping for economic miracles.

IN AMERICA the political "medicine men" are proposing a compulsory health program which would socialize, or "nationalize" the American medical profession.

Most Americans already have thought twice on this scheme and have refused to be taken in.

But the entire leftwing press and a number of influential politicians and bureaucrats are keeping up a huge flow of propaganda for the something-for-nothing Federal medicine program.

Our hypothetical butcher didn't want to become a pawn of the Socialists. Neither does the American doctor.

The medical profession is fighting back. And in their fight every American citizen, young and old, has a stake—his individual freedom.

If the Federal government, operating under no matter what "brand" of political philosophy, should take over the medical profession, it would be only a matter of time before every other business and profession—and every job—would fall within the grasp of the comparatively small group of "planners" who seek to become the ruling force in a Socialist America.

The medical profession has been slow realizing that its fight is not merely against socialized medicine but rather against Socialism itself.

It realizes that fact now.

THE PUBLIC SHOULD not be so slow in recognizing that the ultimate objective of the compulsory medicine politicians is not merely socialized medicine, but rather the full socialization (and thus the destruction) of our great nation.

We must keep our professions, our business and industries — our occupations—out of the hands of politicians.

MICHIGAN MIRROR — By Gene Alleman

PREDICTS ELECTION RACE WILL BE CLOSE

"Now is the time for all good men to" . . . Election time is here again, finally pushing war news off front pages in Michigan. Gubernatorial candidates are slugging it out toe to toe.

Kelly makes not-so-subtle remarks about Socialism and Communism and the Democrats. Williams continues to foresee a "lobbyists' government" and more consumer taxes if Kelly wins. These are but a few of the charges but those most repeated.

Both are being careful not to follow Dewey's lead, and are campaigning right up until the polls are closed.

The odds? No two persons agree—but our guess is that the outcome will be close; that Governor Williams has the best chance of any Democratic nominee in more than a decade to win re-election.

The reasons are not hard to find: Population trends continue to favor urban industrial centers where labor unions are strongest; the C.I.O. and the Americans for Democratic Action—the A.D.A.—now control the Michigan Democratic party, proof of their remarkable strength William's large primary vote, although he was unopposed, demonstrated his popularity with Detroit liberals.

TENS OF THOUSANDS of war workers flocked to Michigan during World War II from the Democratic South to work in our booming industrial plants. Thousands of them remained in Michigan's big cities. This migration is again being repeated at the eve of the new rearmaments orders from Washington. Many ready-made Democrats from the South have been added to Michigan poll lists—new votes for Governor Williams.

Former Governor Kelly's campaign has been the threat to Michigan government through alleged seizure of the Democratic party by socialist-minded tax-spending liberals in the ranks of organized labor. He has sought to link these liberals with communists as presenting a menace to American freedoms.

Observers predict the rip-snorting campaigns of both parties will draw a record off-year election vote, veryone is pushing the "get out and vote" slogan. Perhaps they will. It will take a lot of Republican votes upstate to offset the Democratic margin in populous Detroit and Wayne county.

MANY VOTERS FEEL as one columnist stated: "It would be refreshing if sometimes a candidate would campaign for what he actually believes he could accomplish if elected governor rather than on the sad state of affairs that would face the people if they elect his opponent."

The smaller ballot issues go unannounced. There are four constitutional amendments also on the ballot. They are:

Proposal No. 1—Would require registration in cities and townships by voters 30 days before election. Now it is 20 days. Election boards have complained that 20 days is too little time to compile their lists.

Proposal No. 2—Would allow the state to float a $65,000,000 bond issue to expand mental hospitals. Some $5,000,000 would go to aid the T. B. program. Would add 8,000 beds to state hospitals.

PROPOSAL NO. 3—Defines subversion and makes any acts therein a crime against the state. May be the closest vote of the four amendments.

Proposal No. 4—Would repeal the 49-year-old ban on yellow margarine sales in the state. Has been the most heated argument of the four since it affects more persons.

General K. B. Wolfe of air materials headquarters announces a $200,000,000 program for presses to hammer out the tools of war. The statement followed a tour of Adrian's Gerity-Michigan Corp. plant where four huge presses are being used for experimental work. And at the same time the steel industry is considering a rise in the price of steel—base of a multitude of things used by everyone every day.

Hunting season still interests every sportsman in Michigan—and safety committees as well. They are warning hunters not to get lax now that the season is well under way and are reminding the youngsters of their responsibilities in handling firearms. Conservation department officials are holding their breath as the forest fire frequency in the state continues low despite drying weather and the number of hunters in the field.

Be sure to vote on Nov. 7!
Your ballot is vital!

WE HEARD IT SAID BY:

L. C. Banks, Bloomfield Hills police chief: "We have discovered quite a few teen-age drinking parties going on in cars in this area recently. Many of these take place after football games and pep rallies, in other communities where there is strict enforcement by authorities, they think they can get away with it by going out in the country. We found one boy last week who was only 13. You'd think some parents would wonder where their teen-aged children have been when they come home early in the mornings."

Stars and a Little Moon

By BEATRICE McDONALD

Now as the night begins and each little star
Is lighted in a row across the sky
Like lanterns with their chimneys polished bright,
A slender silver moon weaves in and out
Among the slate-grey mass of floating clouds.
The chill of deepening night infolds the earth.
Now as the night begins and each little star
Is lighted in a row across the sky.

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF SPECIAL ASSESSMENT
No. 354
STANLEY BOULEVARD PARKWAY

Notice is hereby given that Special Assessment Roll No. 354, heretofore made by the assessor for the purpose of defraying the cost of improving Stanley Blvd. Parkway, including the grading, seeding and tree planting, is now on file in my office for public inspection.

Notice is also hereby given that the Commission of the City of Birmingham will meet, in the Commission Room in the Municipal Building in said City on Monday, the 6th day of November, 1950, at 8 P.M., to review said assessment, at which time and place opportunity will be given to all persons interested to be heard.

Irene E. Hanley
City Clerk.

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