

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

TCH, TCH, TOO BAD!!

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Something to Teach Young People

We are thoroughly convinced that the young people of Birmingham should be taught the fundamental principles of their government. No chance should be taken that they grow up without learning to appreciate the vital factors which formed the basis of this union.

We are somewhat afraid that native Americans take this for granted.

Because they have been satisfied with their government, and because they understand the theories of our governmental system, they just suppose that all youngsters will somehow inherit a reverence for and an understanding of popular government as it was planned for this country.

The duties of a man or a woman as a voter should be carefully impressed upon all.

Often there is a tendency on the part of all of us to vote carelessly, if at all, and yet if our government is to succeed permanently, it must rest, fundamentally, upon the belief that the average voter will be moved by sound, honest motives in casting his ballot.

Are our young people being impressed with this truth?

Young people who aspire to public office, some day should understand that public officials represent the people, that their deeds are supposed to be for the interest of the people and that their constant endeavor should be to serve the public interest as distinguished from their own, or a group, interest.

Electricity in Your Brain

Science is always developing theories and telling us new things.

Sometime ago we heard that there was a kind of electrical brain activity, produced by cells which build up an electrical charge and then flash miniature lightning bolts to adjoining brain cells.

We won't pursue the discovery much further at this time but the idea is worth watching.

Maybe, in the years to come, a student falling in his classes, will be able to go to a service station and get a supply of electricity that will set his brain to thinking.

Without reference to any persons, we can imagine that there are many individuals—particularly in Washington, D.C.—who need some sort of miniature lightning in their heads.

The only way that they can be made to think is for somebody to make it as easy to do as it is to sit down and rest.

Officially U.S. Is at War

The people of the United States who clamored for the immediate return of American service men from overseas, when the actual fighting ended in Germany and Japan, will realize their mistake when we point out that up to this time no peace treaty has been made with either Germany or Japan.

The state of war continues so far as official declaration is concerned, certain economic and legislative controls are in force and there is considerable difference of opinion as to the methods to be used in relaxing these controls.

No unanimity of opinion is yet apparent on the extent to which the governments of these nations can be returned to the full control of their citizens.

A Perpetual Santa Claus

Into the indefinite future (if human nature doesn't change miraculously) we may be sure that the United States will be asked to play the part of Santa Claus to much of the remainder of the Anti-Communist world.

Why? Because other nations are so old, so tired, so lacking in the qualities of self-reliance and self-discipline, plus the fact that most of them haven't sufficient natural resources to support their populations.

So they will argue that if Uncle Sam wants them to help hold off the spread of Communism, Uncle Sam will have to continue to support them.

From Our Point of View

The frost is on the pumpkin and the leaves are on the ground; the nature seasons come and go—but the New Deal's still around. If man but followed nature's plan and changed things now and then . . . the people might have better things if they'd get some better men.

By the way, what has become of Mr. Alben Barkley, recently wedded to the Vice-President of the United States? Perhaps the answer is that, currently, society has traded places with politics—what with elections and all coming up this fall.

The most difficult phase in government bookkeeping is to make the outgo not more than the income. This is accomplished among most of the smaller units—but the federal folks have given up the idea long years ago. Their system doesn't require balancing.

An excellent way of paying-as-you-go for this current war is to cut down all political, unnecessary federal expenditures, using that money to apply on the federal debt. If you so inform your Congressman, it will help. (Another good act is to write your friends and relatives in other states, suggesting that they do likewise.)

American paradox: Through the ECA, the U.S.A. will help Great Britain fight locusts in her possessions in Africa and Asia, while at the same time our money helps her Socialist government to destroy individual enterprise in England.

Russia, under Communism, is like a ferocious bear. She may be captured and placed in a cage, but ever she stands ready to exercise the instinct to attack and destroy her keeper. It is to be hoped that the United Nations' freedom-loving members will never forget this fact.

Truman's Commission on Migratory Labor reports that Michigan should abandon the raising of sugar beets, since harvesting same requires the importation of cheap alien labor, some of whom remain in this country as social and economic problems. That's certainly a sweet thing to tell plenty of Michigan farmers! Maybe they should raise potatoes, selling the surpluses to the federal government.

An advertisement claims that "falling hair can be stopped." Those who have tried to achieve this inform us that no ordinary treatment can prevent the law of gravity from acting on, among other objects, human hair.

The November meeting of the Birmingham Board of Education was held to ratify the 10-point program governing Interborough Relationships and Cooperating Policies between those offices.

The First Presbyterian church will be the scene, this year, of the annual Protestant Thanksgiving services. The Rev. David Leach, Woodward, who will preside, said the one-hour service would begin at 8 o'clock.

Members of the Fellowship club will give the second showing of its Honey Du Minstrels and have announced that proceeds of the show will be used to help needy families in Birmingham. The show will be at the Community House on Dec. 5.

Police Chief John P. Hackett announces that Patrolman DeLisle Service has been promoted to act. He reports that the new recruit Service has been with the department since 1928 and has been on 100 or more motorcycle squad much of the time.

Thanksgiving Day marks the opening of the annual tuberculosis seal sale. Local committees will go into action on that day as representatives of the Oakland county tuberculosis association.

Ira Boddicker, 9, 1000 West Bay City schools was in town Saturday and Sunday last to chat with friends and relatives. He reports everything going smoothly and that he has been having a very pleasant and profitable stay.

Pontiac has had a few falls on her hands due to people having fallen on defective sidewalks. Birmingham has had a similar situation if some of the walks about town are not repaired before the winter sets in.

The Village Improvement Society is getting very busy and lately signs of trees and buildings—what they threaten to make all an example of the very next offender.

E. Mather, M. D., has been appointed medical examiner for the American Benjamin Franklin in Birmingham and surrounding district. August Miller is the local health officer.

Birmingham is last to have a wood yard. Kellogg and Marvin have completed arrangements whereby they have secured about 100 acres of woods near the village which they intend to convey into lumber for building purposes.



ASIATICS

Happenings of Long Ago

5 YEARS AGO November 15, 1931 John Smith, 65, of 937 Pierce street was killed and 52 others injured when two buses and an oil truck crashed Monday at Bloomfield Hills. The buses crashed head on as the drivers tried to avoid striking a driverless oil truck which had slipped its brakes and rolled into the path of traffic.

Russell Barlow Day has been planned for Dec. 2. The event will be held at the Community House to honor the local man who has just returned from heading the U. S. Army Psychological Warfare branch in the Mediterranean area. It is sponsored by the local A.A.U.W.

Capt. Donald C. Fournace, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fournace, 291 Townsend, has been released from military duty at the George Field Illinois separation base. He has been with the Air Force since Apr. 6, 1942 and recently with the Troop Carrier Command.

Mrs. Frank Haskins, president of the Women's League of Voters will address the local chapter here Monday. Mrs. Walter state chairman of county activities will accompany Mrs. Haskins and speak briefly on the work of her department.

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People's Column

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

To the Editor: I wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to you for the generous amount of space you allotted in your issue of October 26, to the bestowal of the "God and Country Award" to Richard Emery, Boy Scout.

Knowing the excellent work that is being accomplished in the Boy Scout movement for boys in all walks of life, I feel the public announcement of the "God and Country Award" will awaken many boys and their parents to the good that may be accomplished through working for this cause.

LYMAN S. ABBOTT, Christian Science Committee of Publication for Michigan.

To the Editor: A brainy society, the Society for Philosophical Inquiry, has folded and it looks like the last thinking in America. A lack of thinking was blamed.

When I read about this, I was heartbroken. If Washington has ever needed anything, it is a brain society.

If the society couldn't get enough thinking members, another location could have been tried.

The folding of this society may have some significance. It may mean that a good many people who want the government to take care of them, may also want it to do their thinking.

These are days when we need some good intelligent thinking and it looks like the last thinking we have. The more potatoes we have.

FRED WEAVER, St. Louis, Mo.

Traffic Deaths Show Drop, But Accidents Gain

Traffic accidents in Michigan during the first nine months of 1936 totaled 161 persons, eight less than were killed during the same month last year. Despite the reduction, total injuries and accidents continued the upward trend which has prevailed for the winter sets in.

According to the State Police monthly statistical report, there were 114 persons killed, 22,275 injured and 110,395 accidents. Compared with the same period last year deaths were down 12 or ten per cent, injuries increased 2,708 or nine per cent and accidents increased 8,024 or eight per cent.

Collisions between motor vehicles and with fixed objects, san-offroadway accidents and pedestrian mishaps were major factors in the rise in injuries and accidents during the nine-month period in both rural and urban areas.

That is why the Council, employing old logic of economics, has asked almost \$100,000 in additional tax to back up its request for \$297,495 in 1937-38 and \$333,210 in 1938-39. Michigan Motor Vehicle taxes in 1937-38 were \$1,000,000,000 in 1937 to get the same benefits available in 1945.

How is all this to be paid? Inflation is like a thief. It robs everyone of money, and money is needed to buy goods and services. Our post-war inflation has made fixed state appropriations hopeless. Inadequate.

WE FEEL THE tourist industry has a better chance of getting more state funds than perhaps the average good cause—education. Tourist advertising brings many new, fresh dollars INTO Michigan. It is an investment, that even cash dividends.

ON A DOLLAR BASIS this is a better chance of getting more state funds than perhaps the average good cause—education. Tourist advertising brings many new, fresh dollars INTO Michigan. It is an investment, that even cash dividends.

THE GROWING INFLATION of 1950-51, spurred by rearmament orders and continued deficit spending by the federal government, is going to affect ALL state appropriations. There is no escape.

THIS COLUMN has pulled no punches in pointing out, many times in past years, the dilemma of the State of Michigan caused by diversion of 78 per cent of state sales tax dollars back to home governments.

THE VOTES have reaffirmed, by substantial majorities, their desire to have the State of Michigan serve as a tax collector to help finance national government services such as their public schools.

EVEN WITH A 10 per cent cut in state appropriations—and the legislature's control is greatly limited by constitutional amendments—your state government is now running in the red every week of the year.

PARENTS ENJOY CITY'S HALLOWEEN PARTY, TOO

MAM householders are required to buy municipal garbage service units for their garbage disposal in the kitchen sink or an incinerator in the basement.

Many persons have been buying their garbage to avoid vacant lots. Others didn't bother to bury it, but merely dumped it on the backyards.

The rates have it. They thrive on it, because it is such an easy way to find a meal.

Authorities have proved that the best net central method is starvation; if rats can't find food, they are forced to move to other areas where food is available. That, or else starve.

The city's determination to prevent a filthy habit should stimulate many filthy scavengers.

ALL OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF patrol cars should be able to transport traffic accident victims to hospitals, believes City Commissioner Ralph A. Main.

LOOKING AHEAD

GAMBLING ON DISASTER

A friend of mine is building a new home. He frankly admits he is not financially able to pay for it. He has borrowed money to come. He's gambling on inflation.

If, because of inflation, the dollar continues to lose purchasing power, the \$15,000 house my friend is building may cost him only half that amount, or even only a tenth as much, as it is valued on the dollar he paid for it.

In other words, if inflation continues he figures his income, in the long run, will be worth less in about five years without his real earning capacity or actual living purchasing power having been improved.

WITH HIS ADDITIONAL supply of the cheaper dollar, he then could easily pay the fixed installments on his home.

If my friend wins his gamble the people who hold the mortgage on the house will find his new building contract to be a loss.

Thus they would lose in proportion to his gain. But it is infinitely more serious than that.

If my friend wins his gamble on the dollar, he will be continuing for another five years, the national economy may go on to a severe depression.

Values would be virtually wiped out and a likely result would be economic collapse and probably panic; and in the end, he likely would lose his unpaid-for home in a liquidation sale.

THE STRENGTH of America as a nation among nations, is based on the stability of our economy. Our production for national de-

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

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MICHIGAN MIRROR

INFLATION IS A THIEF

Now that the Nov. 7 election is over it takes no crystal ball to foresee clearly the A-1 problem before the State Legislature in 1937.

Here is a timely illustration: The Michigan Tourist Council, a clearing house for four regional tourist associations and for all-Michigan promotion, is dissatisfied with its state appropriations. The Council wants more money—more state tax dollars—and reasons for this are "no-proof."

When the Council was created by a legislative act in 1945, its first year's appropriation was \$250,000. This amount was repeated for the following three years.

Last spring the legislature sliced half appropriations from the Council in an attempt to balance the budget. The Council's budget dropped to \$125,000 for the fiscal year July 1, 1950-51.

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So the diversion of sales tax revenue presents "cut" by new inflation, presents a formidable task to crack for 1951 members of the state legislature. Something has to give either money or tax dollars for the same services available for 1949.

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BRITISH WAR ORPHAN IS ADOPTED BY SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Alan Thomas Collier, 12, has recently acquired several "orphans" through the adoption of his Sunday school class.

Alan, suffering from tuberculosis, rheumatic fever and malnutrition, is making his home with his aunt and uncle who are paid a small government allowance for his care.

Class members have pledged \$15 a month for the support and plan a letter-writing campaign on subjects of their interest, including their school work.

THEY WILL ALSO send gift boxes from time to time which will include clothing and toys.

According to Foster Parents, Alan is in need of friends and companions as much as anything. He reports that he has had a very good school work, habits and other activities will do much toward restoring him to a normal happy childhood.

Which do you prefer—to pay for what you wish, including your freedom and your country, or to have the government take away your savings through inflated debt?

Frankly, we can't see much difference between the two. One way is above board; it is honest. The other is hidden; and it is dishonest.

IF GETTING SOMETHING for "nothing" means inflation of the currency, such as we have today and such as Europe and the Orient have had for years, then you say still going to be a free dollar.

Inflation, you say, is a thief. It robs you, like a thief in the night, taking away from you the hard-earned savings of your daily life.

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