

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

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Imagination, Good Public Relations Are Essential

We feel the city commission last week did not add to its prestige by what would appear to most of the local citizenry a too hasty intention to place the off-street parking matter on the November 7 ballot.

A little imagination on the part of the commissioners might have told them that such a move in such a short time—and without prior notice—would tend to give the measure a "railroaded" interpretation to the public-at-large.

The Eccentric believes in the commissioner's explanation, as disclosed at the meeting last week, that the parking problem should be settled as soon as possible, and that the Nov. 7 election would be the best time to do it.

But we feel the commission lost an opportunity to pave the way for a Nov. 7 balloting on off-street parking by its refusal—until last week Tuesday night—to accept full responsibility for the plan's ultimate disposition once it originally was presented by the city plan commission more than 14 months ago.

Last week, for the first time, we saw the city commission publicly acknowledge that it was the commission's responsibility to dispose of the plan now that it had come back from the city plan commission.

Commissioners Chad M. Ritchie, Milton F. Mallender and Ralph A. Main so acknowledged the subject last week Tuesday night.

Had the commission accepted this responsibility much earlier, had it requested the plan commission to return the revised parking plan at least 60 days prior to the November election, had it publicly announced that a series of public discussions would take place prior to the election—we believe the matter could have been settled on Nov. 7.

The public generally calls two strikes on a municipally-originated project. There is little reason in having public officials themselves call the third strike by having a plan stalled at the start because of the public's possible misinterpretation of any city action.

Compromise Is Impossible

"Any real compromise between Communism and Christianity is out of the question," declares the Rev. Dr. W. A. Visser't Hooft, general-secretary of the World Council of Churches.

The truth of this assertion is not to be found in the economic policies of Communism, repugnant as they may be to Americans who adhere to their own system of private capitalism.

Christianity preserves and expands the individual personality of man, while Communism subordinates human personality to the functions of the state.

Appreciating the Marines

Our unfortunate experience in Korea has led to a greater appreciation of the Marine Corps, a special branch of the service; fully equipped and especially designed for quick and immediate action in an emergency.

Representative Carl Vinson, of Georgia, chairman of the armed services committee, says the Marine Corps should be increased to four war-sized divisions, with twenty-six air squadrons. This is twice the estimate advanced by him in August.

He says Congress will be asked in January to provide the money for the Marine Corps expansion.

weapons, capable of overcoming an enemy who had a 20 to 1 numerical superiority.

He also referred to four types of homing-device missiles which, if given the scent, will track their game better than animal.

It is interesting to believe that the scientific experts of the United States are busily engaged in fashioning the most effective weapons that science can produce. But, in hearing about them, we must not overlook the basic power that wins war—the fighting men in the ranks.

Consequently, despite what the experts promise, we need to train our young men to meet any military task that may be assigned them in defense of their country.

Must Meet Enemy Attacks

We are not among those who are afraid of Soviet Russia or the use of the atomic bomb. We are among those who hate war and would do almost anything, without yielding in principle, to avoid a struggle which will increase the misery of the world.

Nevertheless, when the enemy sallies forth to battle, and aims its thrusts at the democracies, there is nothing left for free peoples to do but to gird themselves for the ordeal and let the enemy have it as quickly and as powerfully as possible.

From Our Point of View

Speaking of playboys, we see where movie actor Errol Flynn is about to make another entry into matrimony. With a record like Flynn's already statistically known, what kind of a dame is she who thinks she can make marriage with him be anything but a short course?

Walter Lippmann is an acknowledged authority on much of politics and international relations... purely from the academic viewpoint. We've thought that most of the time he is fairly sound... but when he argues that Gen. McArthur's convictions on the necessity of holding on to Formosa are all wet... well, Walter, just who so successfully was in command of the Pacific forces during the last war, anyway?

New York's Governor Dewey has re-nounced his opposition to running for office again, and will be the Republican candidate for re-election this fall. It is reported that Dewey, himself unsuccessful in two bids for the Presidency, will get behind General Eisenhower to beat Truman. That's fine... though we think he could make it on his own, if he gets into the race. (Which we predict his patriotism will require him to do.)

At least 1,315,000 Michigan children will be back in school this month, again to become subject to the teaching prepared by their elders. Will these youngsters emerge from school properly fitted for citizenship? Some of them... yes—in spite of what they are subjected to by bewildered educators, plus confused parents.

Truly, California is a fabulous land. Last week, with the temperature up to 103, popcorn growing in Fresno popped right out of the ears. At least that's what the Associated Press reports—and who ever knew reporters to exaggerate?

So They Say . . .

Harbans, Gaur Indarjit, female doctor of India: "We expect too much of man and woman."

Walton H. Walker, Commander of U. N. Ground Forces in Korea: "This is no time for complacency, the enemy still has the superiority."

Robert A. Taft, U. S. Senator from Ohio: "Russia could do exactly with East Germany what it has done in Korea."

Harry S. Truman: "Formosa is now at peace and will remain so unless someone resorts to force."

James Robb, British Chief Marshal: "We have quality. What we need now is quantity."

Philip C. Jessup, U. S. Ambassador-at-Large: "Dropping atomic bombs on the Soviet Union is not the way America does things."

Nathaniel Goldstein, Attorney-General, New York: "Modern war comes fast without formal announcement."

Wait for Me, I'm Running, Too



GEORGE G. BRAGG

Happenings of Long Ago

50 years ago SEPTEMBER 14, 1900 The Presbyterian church of Birmingham was a delightful place Sept. 11, when a group of devout young people, members of the Christian Endeavor Union met for their annual meeting.

5 years ago SEPTEMBER 20, 1945 A. D. Merrill, former superintendent of the Massillon (Ohio) City cemetery has begun his duties as superintendent of the White Chapel cemetery here.

20 years ago SEPTEMBER 18, 1930 Beginning Sept. 22, peddlers, hawkers and other solicitors in Bloomfield Hills will be required to pay \$25 daily fee plus \$10 a day for each helper.

5 years ago SEPTEMBER 20, 1945 Henry W. Price, 655 Oakland, who usually plays the Springfield golf course at around 10 a.m. on the Hole-in-One club the other day when he copped the ball on the hole with a rolling drive.

20 years ago SEPTEMBER 18, 1930 Announcement was made today of the transfer of Oakland Encampment, 138, IOOF from Birmingham to Clawson. The lodge will share the rooms of Council Lodge, 361, which are located on North Main street near Maple avenue.

Lyvel Stanley of Madison avenue has been re-appointed to the position of Boy Scout chairman for the State of Michigan, under the sponsorship of the American Legion.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

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

To the Editor: There was a time when man could enjoy peace during the interim between wars.

Now the cold wars get so hot that we have to be in a state of shoutin' or shootin' every day.

PEACE WAS ONE of our best friends until the war took her away. It would be wonderful if we could have her back in our midst.

WE BUMP AND BOUNCE all the way up Pierce street from Lincoln on, to dump our darlings into a sea of mud—in this gracious county of living hell, ye people of Birmingham!

The city manager promised me to drive past Pierce to see if conditions were as bad as I pictured them—I hope he won't have to call me back and be pulled out of the mire, as I was last spring after a PTA meeting.

City commissioners Tuesday night referred to the building code committee for study and recommendation a request from Harold Kallfuss for an amendment to the building code.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

MAPPING PROFIT FOR THE ECCENTRIC?

Last week, city commissioners spent one hour and fifty minutes listening to residents of the Birmingham Crestview subdivision argue over the esthetics of plain white concrete vs. black asphaltic concrete for residential neighborhood.

Considerable time also was spent by the property owners trying to impress the commission that a 24-foot street would be much safer from a traffic hazard standpoint than a wider improvement of 29 feet.

One gentleman suggested that perhaps it would be a good thing to dead-end all the residential streets in the area to prevent short cuts and high speed traffic.

IT WOULD BE similar, he explained, to the plan mentioned for a northward Detroit subdivision some time ago. (The Detroit plan, as far as we know, has been shelved in favor of some one's desk as not being the right time to press the matter.)

Only residents of the area would know the most direct way out of this labyrinth. All "outsiders" would become so confused that once they got out, they would steer clear of the area in the thousands.

Purely from a selfish standpoint, I believe The Eccentric would be prevailed upon to back such a "dead-end" plan for Crestview and any other Birmingham subdivision.

The Eccentric could make considerable profit by printing the thousands of maps that would have to be sent to friends and relatives of the people in the local areas.

Unwarranted Trick Within reason, I believe no municipal police force should be forced into the open in efforts to apprehend lawbreakers.

If they occasionally want to utilize city trucks or cameras, privately erected signboards to wait behind and observe traffic movements, they should be criticized for such action.

Naturally, many motorists object to such practices on the part of law enforcement officers. They say they wouldn't break traffic laws if they knew a policeman was watching.

Well, neither would a pickpocket swipe a wallet or a second store man climb through a window if an officer were standing close by.

With Taxpayers' Money You probably have your own preconceived ideas. What Healy would look like if you are lucky enough to get there.

It is not a very considerably different from what the ancient Norse warriors visioned as their Valhalla, the Hall of the Chosen Slain.

If killed in battle, these Norsemen believed they would be welcomed by Odin, chief of the gods, to a wonderful grove which had shining gold leaves. The Hall has 640 doors, each of which would permit 800 marching warriors enter it each day.

Walls were of glittering spearheads. The roof composed of golden shields.

It sounds like some real early New Deaders had already arrived and spent considerable time in the Heavenly taxpayers' money.

LOOKING AHEAD

By George S. Benson

Why worry about debt? Waging what at any time may become the "most terrible" war. This action would make the full economic cost of war and the monetary cost of war and the economic sacrifices entailed painfully apparent to all Americans and thus check them into a more active participation in the affairs of their nation.

Senator Byrd's proposal would cut back domestic-level expenditures for the 1948 level, thus saving \$5.2 billion, cut \$2 billion from Marshall Plan funds being expended in Europe for peace-keeping purposes, and save another \$1 billion from such expenditures as public housing, administrative and readjustment program expenses of the VA, \$4 billion; trim government civilian payrolls and tighten up the general functions of government, thus saving several hundred million.

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That the direction of the government's fiscal affairs is toward bigger borrowings and ever bigger deficits, and that continuing to finance big domestic postwar expansion program, continued expansion of Federal payrolls.

THE ATTITUDE being created is, "Oh, why worry about a \$300 or \$500 billion debt within five years?"

Here's why: We could win by developing which seems to be our national—in economic collapse caused by this ruinous fiscal policy of government.

Next week: The Hidden Enemy—Inflation.

MICHIGAN MIRROR

By Gene Alleman

POLITICS, AS USUAL living blood bank to combat a possible atomic disaster.

And while Korean casualty lists crowd front pages in Michigan, Donald S. Leonard, acting civilian defense director, says this state has taken the lead in preparations for defense.

Leonard says that if a bomb were dropped on Detroit tomorrow, "things could be kept under control."

"No responsible labor groups" have protested against the legislative plan to curb Communists and other "press travelers" in Michigan, says State Post-Webster press secretary for Governor Williams.

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