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

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Williams' "Whipping Boys"

It is unfortunate that Governor Williams and his Democratic administration are trying to "play politics" with the rate schedules for utilities in Michigan.

Ever since he took office, the Governor has been critical of rate increases, holding that "Republican members of the Michigan Public Service Commission are pro-utility minded".

He infers, of course, that the Republicans aren't concerned about the cost of utility services to the people. This, he no doubt feels, is good political propaganda.

Well, maybe it will make him a few votes—but that will not change the nature of the fairness of the Commission's handling of rates cases.

We happen to know the present two Republican members of the Commission, Schuyler L. Marshall and Stuart B. White. Both are able, honest men. They are not beholden to any individual or group or organization.

They are endeavoring to carry out their duties, under Michigan laws established to control and direct them in their supervision of Michigan utilities.

The Governor, we are convinced, is using this issue for the chief purpose of getting votes. If he really thinks that Marshall and White are flaunting the law and unfairly favoring the utilities, he could remove both men from office.

Why doesn't he do so?

Simply because he no longer would have any "whipping boys" to use as a political issue.

We knew the Governor when he was a mere member of the Liquor Control Commission. We then respected his judgment and his intellectual integrity, even though we disagreed with him on some subjects.

What a tragic change can come over a public figure when, occupying a very high office, he resorts to political manipulation and maneuver in order to create "issues" which he hopes wins him votes.

"In nine out of ten cases it is the fault of the parent when the youth of America enters the courtroom," declared an Illinois educator. Probably truer words were never spoken. If a gardener neglects his garden, who is responsible for the weeds that overrun the flowers?

Bravo, Detroit!

Although we live in a suburb of the Fifth City, we continue to observe activities there—and what Detroit did for Charley Jones, only Negro judge at the primary election warms our editorial heart.

Appointed not long ago by Gov. Williams, to succeed the late beloved Christopher Stein, Jones led the list of candidates for nomination.

Commenting on the election success, Judge Jones said: "I am realistic enough to know that the people didn't just vote for Charley Jones. They voted as well for the essential rightness of the idea of Detroit having a Negro judge on its criminal court bench. It was their good conscience and their basic deceney which moved so many Detroiters to vote for me."

But perhaps the grandest comment on the subject came from Mrs. Jones when, in response to the question: "You must be proud of your husband this morning", she answered: "Yes, but I'm prouder of the people of Detroit!"

Charley Jones is a good American citizen. May his personal and public records continue to be guiding beacons in America's efforts to find a practical healing for the problem of inter-racial questions.

We have tremendous, unlimited respect for the office of President of the United States. For the men who, at various times, may occupy that office, we appraise them not as gods, but as humans . . . some of them good, some much less than good, and some in between. What we need in this great hour is a man with the frugality of a Coolidge, the organizing genius of a Hoover, the political sagacity of an FDR, the flight of a Teddy Roosevelt, and the simple humility of a Lincoln. Perhaps that is like asking God to become President . . . which it isn't! It's merely asking for a typically honest and intelligent American!

Quick Population Decline

Quickest population decline in American history hit the New York metropolitan area the other day when Census Bureau officials announced that an "error in adding" had been corrected, with the reduction of its population by 2,702,554 persons.

Apparently, civic officials took the loss in stride without demanding immediately that the area be recounted.

After all, what is a small thing like 2,702,554 people—there were 12,838,143 left in the revised count?

Beat Enemy Submarines

With the observation that the United States almost lost two wars because of submarine activity the Secretary of the Navy urges that this country step up its construction of submarines.

While we are inclined to agree with the idea that we should have more submarines, we must point out that the answer to enemy submarine activity is not more submarines but more anti-submarine weapons.

In the last two world wars the United States, and her allies, took a terrific beating on the high seas until sufficient destroyers and submarine chasers could be constructed to set up and maintain an adequate convoy system.

If we are to be ready to meet similar attacks in the future and keep the oceanic lanes open to ships serving our allies, we must have ample facilities for pushing the attack upon enemy submarines.

From Our Point of View

Senator Johnson, a South Carolina Democrat, says he is "tired of striped pants and cocktail diplomacy", and he would wage war against Russia itself, if another "Korea should develop." The Senator is echoing the beliefs of an increasing number of Americans, who are now alarmed at the dangerous menace to their safety—a menace which is being spawned upon the free world by the Kremlin.

The Sept. 12 primary election was merely to select candidates for various offices from the two major political parties. On Nov. 7 you will be given the opportunity of electing the contesting winners to public office. In the interim, will it not be wise to learn as much as you can about these candidates, and what they may or may not do for you if elected?

By the way, did you use your American privilege of voting at the recent primary election? If you didn't but could have, are you a bit remorseful? To fail to vote, intelligently, is to be disloyal to your civic responsibilities . . . and is one of the chief reasons why the United States drifts its various units of government into the hands of demagogues and predatory politicians.

The nation's annual search for the most beautiful Miss America and Mrs. America has just ended at Atlantic City. Naturally, when being judged they were attired in the customary abbreviated bathing suits. Thus, even though lacking in adornment, the female proves more deadly than the male.

The close race for the pennant in the American League only proves that every play, in every game of baseball, may be the difference between winning and losing. The same condition holds true in most other activities in life.

Have you noticed that when President Truman has a tough assignment, requiring ability and intelligence, he now and then selects a leading American businessman? As in the case of making I T & T's William H. Harrison head of the National Production Authority. (Imagine what a fumbling job a mere "political crony" would do in Harrison's place.)

So They Say . . .

Charles T. Joy, Vice-Admiral, commanding naval forces in the Far East:

"The Germans thought twice before they tried to invade England."

Francis P. Matthews, Secretary of the Navy, referring to controversial speech:

"I was speaking for myself and the speech speaks for itself."

Triple-Threat Song and Dance Team

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits Of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

5 years ago
SEPTEMBER 27- 1945

Birmingham opened the football season with a 27-6 victory over a speedy Van Dyke team Friday in an under-the-lights game at Pierce field. Coming up from a poor and fumbling start in the first quarter, the Maples displayed really brilliant play to swamp a favored team.

John McCollum of Pontiac and Donald Dean of Drayton Plains announce the organization of their radio sales and repair company, McCollum and Dean. The firm expects to start business in Birmingham on Oct. 1. Both men are veterans of the U. S. Army Signal corps.

The selective service board is to be retained in Birmingham, according to a recent announcement. The city will grant the free use of two rooms in the municipal building where local operations may be continued.

A New York dispatch announces that Russell Barnes, news commentator, is the first civilian in the Office of War Information to be awarded the Exceptional Service Emblem. Barnes, a resident of Birmingham, is serving on leave from the Detroit News.

Hensel A. Fink, church architect from Philadelphia, will speak on trends in church design and construction at the First Methodist church tomorrow evening. Church officials announce that, to date, they have subscriptions totalling $68,441.35 and cash donations of $15,231.05 had been received in the building fund.

20 years ago
SEPTEMBER 25, 1930

Members of the Birmingham police department have been praised by members of the state police for the excellence of their marks in the recent police training school. Capt. W. I. Cross said the lowest mark from any local officer was 84—well above passing.

A loan of $110,000 will be made to the village by the First National Bank of Detroit, it was announced Monday evening. Village officials said taxes were being paid promptly but the slow returns on special assessments made the loan necessary.

Ted Hammond, 20, of Bloomfield Hills suffered painful injuries yesterday when the horse he was riding fell with him. Hammond was in a group of about 40 riders taking part in a fox hunt at the Oakdale Farms when the accident happened.

At a special observance today, the Methodist Episcopal church will honor the 90th birthday of one of its most loyal members, Mrs. Elizabeth Thurlby of 251 West Maple. A program has been arranged in her honor when fitting tribute will be paid her.

Entries are being received for the fourth annual Harvest Shoot of the Birmingham Gun club Oct. 1. The shoot will be held at the club range on Adams road beginning at 2 o'clock.

50 years ago
SEPTEMBER 21, 1900

Those who have read "The Voice of the People" will be glad to know that an earlier work of Ellen Glascow, "The Descendant" is now at the local library. There are any number of other excellent books there, too.

The village hydrants have all received their fall coat of paint. Commissioner Mudge did the work himself, and in a most artistic manner, getting a minimum amount of paint on the ground.

Davenport brothers make a specialty of cider making and can make 60 barrels a day. They have the latest improved equipment run by steam. Each customer has the cider from his own apples. They invite all to come to them and they will try to please.

We are indebted to some Texas friend (probably C. H. Dennis) for copies of the Houston papers describing the damages of the terrible storm at Galveston. They showed many pictures of the heart-chilling havoc raised there.

Miss M. M. Wilson, sister of H. C. Wilson, has returned after three years of globe trotting. She has visited every large country in the world and brought back souvenirs from most of them, including for brother H. C. a cigar box from which emanates beautiful music every time he raises the lid.

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:

The following statistics are from a recent survey conducted by Miss Genevieve Young, 211 Gray court, and checked with the city assessor's office, which I would like printed in full to show conclusively how many homes and where they are which are affected in the parking plan.

The number affected are printed in your Sept. 7 issue and quoting the plan commission, stated that only 14 residential buildings, now housing 23 families and one business, would be wiped out.

211-227 Gray court (2 families), 224-232 Gray (2 families), 156 Gray (11 family), 321 Pierce (2 families), 361 Pierce (1 family); 385 Pierce (2 families), 139 Brown (1 family), 183 Brown (1 family), 211 Brown (1 family), 231 Brown (3 families), 251 Brown (1 family), 275 Brown (1 family), 285 Brown (2 families), 319 Brown (2 families).

335 Brown (residence and beauty parlor), 279 Hamilton (1 family), 291 Hamilton (residence and doctor's office), 367 Hamilton (1 family), 303 Park (1 family), 315 Park (1 family), 327 Park (1 family), 343 Park (1 family), 248-250 Ferndale (2 families), 264 Ferndale (1 family), 190 Willits (Florist shop), 244 Willits, (1 family), a total of 26 buildings affecting 36 families.

MRS. MARTHA C. SCHAEFER
251 E. Brown

To the Editor:

Several years ago a little man made a fortune dealing in swastikas. The impact of his mail-order business was felt throughout the world.

At the close of World War Two the swastika business was all shot to pieces. The little man's business folded up and he was short more ways than you could wave a swastika.

Today there is another big business booming around the world, the hammer and sickle business.

IT'S ANOTHER male-order business and patterned along the line of the swastika business.

In some localities the hammer and sickle business is beginning to be all shot.

When this business becomes as shot as the swastika business and folds up, the stockholders will probably find their salesman has also checked short.

FRED WEAVER
St. Louis, Mo.

We Heard It Said By:—

BOB DOYLE, scoutmaster of Troop B-1: "We're looking for several assistant scoutmasters to help out with our program this year. Experience is nice but not necessary. They should be between 18 and 23 and interested in working with young boys. We prefer they be single but this isn't a necessary requirement."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

HOW MANY DABS IN A PINT?

The other day a local woman rushed into a Birmingham dairy outlet and asked anxiously, "How many dabs are there in a pint of whipping cream?"

Startled clerks told her they didn't know, had never been faced with such a request before.

"Then how much fat I know I will need?" the woman complained. "I just want a dab on each of the desserts I'm serving to the members of my social club."

THE ACTIONS OF Birmingham youngsters resulted in the following two items, and shows the simple, clear reasoning of the very young.

One little boy came home one day with the expression, "goddam", apparently picked up from some playmate.

The first time his mother heard him use this profanity, she descended on him with indignation.

"Johnny, I never want to hear you use that expression again!" she demanded of him. "It is using the Lord's name in vain. You know you should never use the Lord's name except in your prayers."

Johnny said he understood and would never use the Lord's name except when praying.

But the next day Johnny slipped in his intentions.

His mother, in the kitchen, heard Johnny use the forbidden phrase while playing in the living room. Determined to teach him a lesson this time, she advanced toward him.

But Johnny caught a glimpse of her coming, bowed his head suddenly and blurted out: "AMEN!"

AT THEIR HOME, Mr. and Mrs. W were entertaining some friends at Sunday dinner. The conversation finally got around to family snapshots.

Mr. W turned to his very young daughter, Sally, and asked: "Sally, will you run into the living room and get those snapshots off the coffee table so I can show them to our guests?"

Sally jumped up, went on her errand. A few moments later she returned and said, "I can't find them, Daddy."

"Why, they're right there on the coffee table—that little table right in front of the couch," her father explained.

"Oh, that one!" his daughter remembered. "I didn't know it was a coffee table. I've never seen any coffee on it—only martinis!"

IF WE RECALL correctly, some time ago a faction of the legal profession, led by H. W. Tweed, chairman of the American Law Institute, said it was going to simplify the legal language.

"Onus probandi" and "to wit" would be abandoned.

I'm in favor of the simplification.

Now a lawyer sums up a case against John Doe with the statement:

"The onus probandi for this pervivacious and unmitigated act repose with the defendant at bar, to wit, John Doe, and by him, the aforesaid John Doe, is acknowledged."

Translated, the lawyer means, "Doe gave his wife a sock in the puss and admits it."

Then why didn't the lawyer say so in the first place, I would like to know?

SPEAKING OF LAWYERS, City Commissioner Milton F. Mallender—himself a lawyer—likes to tell this story:

A young attorney was arguing his first case before the Supreme Court. He kept repeating, after each point he made, "This is fundamental law."

After he had done this a dozen times, the chief justice asked him:

"Young man, if, as you keep repeating, this is fundamental law, don't you suppose this court will be able to recognize it?"

"Your honor", the young lawyer replied, "that is the mistake I made in the lower court."

LOOKING AHEAD

By George S. Benson

OUR HIDDEN ENEMY—INFLATION

Some readers may have wondered from time to time why this column has so persistently warned of the danger of a prolonged practice of deficit financing (operating on borrowed money) by our Federal government.

The reason is that runaway inflation is disastrous, and if there is a single economic law on which virtually all economists can agree it is the one that says government deficit spending invariably brings on and feeds inflation.

In Asia, in the Orient, and in Europe I have had personal contact with the havoc wrought by inflation.

For a number of years I've carried a $10,000 currency bill in my wallet. In 1936, when we left Hong Kong to return to America, this Chinese money would have bought a very nice home anywhere in the Orient. Today the $10,000 bill would be just enough to pay for one slice of bread.

INFLATION CAN BE as destructive as defeat in war.

Lenin, the father of international Communism, said: "We must force the United States to spend itself into destruction."

In opening the nationwide Crusade for Freedom with a radio address early this month, General Eisenhower pondered the possibility that present Russian strategy may be calculated to force us into ruinous financial practices.

Earl Browder, the Communist, says in his new book that Socialism is inevitable in the United States. He gives as the foremost reason "Government deficit financing."

In its full, runaway stage, inflation creates panic and sometimes anarchy results, but in its first, insidious stages, it is not likely to generate alarm among the people.

THAT'S ANOTHER reason this column has frequently pointed out the danger.

Conditions which led to the French revolution were set into motion by the Finance Ministry's heavy deficit financing and resultant runaway inflation.

Hitler's National Socialism took root in a post war Germany prostrated by currency inflation.

The higher our national debt goes, due to government borrowing and deficit spending, the less value our dollars will have.

The debt has been increased during 18 of the past 20 years. Today it amounts to $258 billion.

THE DOLLARS in my billfold haven't shrunk in value like the $10,000 Chinese currency bill, but just since 1940 they have lost nearly 50 per cent of their purchasing power.

And the future income of our 150,000,000 citizens, young and old, is already mortgaged to the extent of $1,800 each by the national debt.

Besides being a danger to our national security, inflation is a hidden parasite feeding on the bank account, the savings, the insurance policy, the annuity, the pension. It hits everybody's earnings, everybody's savings, everybody's future plans.

For instance, about $5 billion worth of Defense Bonds were bought by citizens in 1940 and this year they are redeemable. The bond bought for $75 in 1940 and now redeemable for $100 is now worth actually only $63, in 1940 dollars.

Inflation has robbed the purchaser of $25 interest and has eaten up $12 of the principal he invested 10 years ago.

THE 80 MILLION Americans who own insurance policies are being highjacked by inflation every year the government spends more than it receives.

More than $50 billion in savings bonds are owned by citizens and every day inflation continues their value is sapped.

The average industrial wage was $23.86 in 1939 By May of this year it was $57.50, or an increase of $33.64. But inflation already had taken $23.40 worth of purchasing power from this increase.

People working to change our American way of life to Socialism or any other form of regimenting government gain headway by encouraging deficit spending, inflation, constantly mounting national debt.

THOMAS JEFFERSON viewed public debt as "the greatest danger to be feared." He said, "We must make our choice between economy and liberty or profusion and servitude."

Elder Statesman Bernard Baruch recently spotlighted the danger. "What could make people more dependent on government," he asked a Senate committee, "than inflation?"

MICHIGAN MIRROR

By Gene Alleman

LULL IN POLITICAL CAMPAIGN

The political furor has died out temporarily while newly-nominated candidates bolster bulwarks and load ammunition for the November election. And so Michigan eyes again turn toward Korea, Europe and spiraling prices and wages here at home.

Bringing the war closer home is the fact that young Michigan men now are entering the army at a rate of more than 1,200 per week. Machinery creaked to a start, but now appears to be operating smoothly. Inductions are expected to increase. And although 290,000 men have been classified in the state, there have been but 300 appeals from the draft. Answer? Proper classification by draft boards has left no grounds for appeal.

Economists still agree that the current postwar binge just cannot last . . . that as Shakespeare said, "the times dre out of joint". News columns verify that prices of industrial raw materials and

The expected labor shortfinished products continue to push higher. Among those prices most affecting Michigan is that of rubber which is at a 25-year high.

age in Michigan is well on its way. Some plants are refusing to hire draft-age men and turning to women workers. But the babushka parade is not expected to reach World War II proportions. Another influx of workers from the South is reported under way in the industrial regions. With housing still strained these persons may be forced to take only what is available. Result? New and larger slums.

Max C. Henderson, executive secretary of Michigan Field Crops, Inc. has asked government officials to keep enforcement of housing and wage standards out of the farm picture. Says it would mean "regulation on paper only". He adds that such restrictions usually mean a nice crop "of people drawing government salaries." The migrant question is not new to Michigan. These migratory workers helped harvest the cherries which will furnish cherry pies for the army. Growers and packers around Fenville and Paw Paw are furnishing 36,625 cans of sour pitted cherries to the army.

Also on the farm side: Michigan farmers who opposed raising Danish Red cattle in the state will be interested to know these bovines now have been crossed to make American Red Danish cattle, many of which produce more than 500 pounds of butterfat. The experiment was tried in Sanilac.

On the home defense front Michigan's new security squad is in operation. An additional 50 men will be in training by Oct. 1.

A refreshing note in these times of inflation: The national convention of Amvets has voted unanimously to oppose any federal bonuses "until the national economy justifies such action."

With the reports by the census bureau that large city areas have grown as much as 20 percent faster than rural communities the old cry of reapportionment is sure to be raised in state legislature again next year. As proposed by the League of Women Voters in 1949, apportionment would redistrict the state, giving more representation to the cities.

Will recent wage boosts raise auto prices? Ernest R. Breech, executive vice-president of the Ford Motor Co., says: "The impact of this action on product prices cannot be clearly established now. In the long run wage increases can be financed only out of increased production."

Interesting sidelight: General Motors production this year is running 25 percent ahead of last year's output. First eight months of this year saw 2,575,752 units manufactured.

Religion and schools—a touchy subject. Dean J. B. Edmonson of the University of Michigan recommends a compromise. The number of sectarian groups prevents promulgation of any religious course, he says. And so schools should place emphasis on moral training instead.

We Heard It Said By:—

Miss Audrey Kennedy, children's librarian at Baldwin Public Library: We have had a wonderful response to our summer reading course for younger children. They have all been very eager to read the books selected for them and turned in some really exceptionally good reports on them. I'm especially proud of one little reader who was unable to visit the library due to illness, but still kept up with the entire course."

Blue Eyes

By BEATRICE McDONALD

Our little Blue Eyes smiled at me today
Just as I stepped beyond the nursery door,
And then I kissed him and he smiled some more
And hammered with a vengeance on his tray.
Chuckling in his delightful roguish way
He shoved his new red blocks off on the floor,
And looking very wise in baby lore
Just settled down to his pursuit of play.
Pale golden as the winter morning sun
And soft as silken gossamer his hair . . .
His hands like rosebuds and his soft cheeks fair
As flowers and his bright eyes full of fun
And bluer than the bluest summer skies . . .
Our own sweet baby, little Old Blue Eyes.