



around the cracker barrel

There's been a mighty roar going up recently about the President's seizure of the steel industry. Columns and columns of stuff have been printed assailing the act as being that of a dictator. Orators have been straining themselves shouting from the houseposts at the iniquitous act. Law suits have been started in many courts, in the hope that one Federal judge can be found who will decide the case in line with the public clamor.

After reading some of these spoutings, especially to the effect that such an act had never been committed before, we became a bit curious. And without in any way agreeing with, or condoning the present obnoxious act, we were amazed to find how many presidents had used their "inherent powers" before this time.

The first public clamor against the use of inherent powers rose up in this country when George Washington—without consulting Congress—declared this country's neutrality in the war between Britain and France. This was in 1793, and the populace screamed that ours was to become a government of laws, not a government of men.

Many, if not all, of the early presidents used this inherent power on many occasions. Most of these early acts were not questioned, and no legislation was passed to curtail this use of executive authority. Finally Andrew Jackson went too far—in the opinion of the press and politicians of his day—and impeachment proceedings were commenced against him. But he remained in office.

Without doubt Abraham Lincoln used the powers which he believed inherent to his office more than any other president. He was in a somewhat different position, however, than now exists. In the middle of a war between the states, he never failed to do what he thought necessary simply because there was no law permitting him to act. In April of 1861 Lincoln ordered the secretary of war to take over the railway and telegraph lines from Washington to Annapolis. As soon as Fort Sumpter was fired upon he issued orders increasing the size of the army and navy. At one time, when Congress was too slow for him, he used the nation's credit to borrow a quarter of a million dollars needed desperately for the carrying on of the war. He established censorship of the mails, and finally issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation without any valid legal authority.

Presidents after Lincoln continued to use this intangible inherent power of the office in many ways. President Cleveland sent Federal troops into Chicago, in 1894, when the Pullman strike got bloody and out of hand. President McKinley ordered a blockade of Cuba. Theodore Roosevelt, before he became president and while Assistant Secretary of the Navy, ordered Dewey to storm and take Manila. No law or Congressional sanction existed for any of these acts.

Many of us can remember the actions taken in the name of these inherent powers by President Wilson during the first World War. Still more of us can remember just how Franklin D. Roosevelt ordered the nation's banks closed—without legal authority—and then went blandly on for years doing whatever he currently thought necessary, only to seek and get authority for the acts later.

As long as we have presidents of varying capabilities, as long as the inherent powers in the office of President are not defined by statute, just so long will we have acts of all sorts committed in the name of these powers. Actually, the seizure of the steel industry does not differ much from the seizure of the railroad in 1930. Nor does this latest exhibition of the use of inherent power differ in kind from other acts coming earlier in our history. The difference is largely in degree, and the surrounding facts differ. Truman seized the steel industry when there was a law on the books providing for another method.

The dangers of the use of the presidential powers are well demonstrated in this latest act. The people can well lose their liberties and their properties if the continuation of such acts is not stopped. The time seems to be here when these so-called inherent powers of the president should be defined by law. It's much better to have these powers enumerated than it is to go on with a system permitting the use of these powers limited only by the president's concept of what they are. Unless Congress, and the people, do something to protect their liberties and their properties, we may well see a continued extension of these executive powers beyond the point of safety.

All of which is a pretty long history lesson during this hot weather. But if these warm days continue with us so early, you ladies will surely be wanting to see the large collection of play clothes at the Village Store. These year the colors and fabrics seem more beautiful than ever, and the styling of all sorts of outdoor clothes has never been equalled. If you wait too long you'll find that your neighbors have all those perfectly matched play clothes, and you'll be trying to match some seersucker with sailcloth. We'll be looking for you, and you'll be welcome.

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HAVE COFFEE WITH US ON SATURDAYS



A CAPTURED SOVIET-MADE TANK is inspected by a Birmingham serviceman, Sgt. Leonard Bailey, at the Aberdeen (Md.) Proving Ground. The picture of the SU-76 self-propelled gun was taken by Ed Wergelke and appeared in the April 14 issue of NEWSWEEK which described the tank as being "a good anti-personnel and anti-tank gun mounted on a poor chassis, too cramped for the crew, too lightly armored with crude welding that, when hit, splits like a seam."

Dedication Date Set For New High School

A public open house will be held at the new Birmingham high school June 7 and 8.

The Saturday hours will be from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m., when faculty members and students will be on hand to personally conduct visitors through the building. On Sunday the hours will be from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m., with the dedication program to start immediately following the open house tours.

Board of education members began Monday to compile a list of special guests, including Birmingham city officials, boards of education from neighboring school districts, state school officials and state and national representatives. All former members of the Birmingham school board also will be invited.

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LWV Delegates Leaving Sunday For Convention

Two Birmingham League of Women Voters delegates, Mrs. William W. Williams and Mrs. John Ramsey, will leave April 27 to attend the National League of Women Voters convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

"The Citizens View of '52," sponsored by Life magazine, League of Women Voters and the National Broadcasting Company, will be featured attraction of the Convention on the evening of May 1.

Republican and Democratic presidential candidates Estes Kefauver, Robert Kerr, Harold Stassen, Earl Warren and Paul Hoffmann, representing General Dwight D. Eisenhower, have accepted invitations to attend and answer questions, James they will discuss are being chosen by the ballots of over 200,000 citizens at League forums this week.

National Broadcasting Company will carry a special network program of the event.

TUESDAY EVENING, April 22, at the Bloomfield Township hall, Ingle Lake League of Women Voters presented a Forum of cooperation with "The Citizens View of '52." Many Birmingham citizens attended.

Ballooting among the 200 present indicated that in the Oakland county area, these questions were considered most important:

"The U. S. at Home: How would you prevent dishonesty and inefficiency in government? How would you safeguard our internal security and at the same time maintain maximum individual liberties? Do current government controls aid or hinder the progress of our country? Do you think we should hold down the cost of living?"

"The U. S. Abroad: How much reliance should we place upon the United Nations as an instrument of foreign policy? What do you think of our military commitment in other parts of the world outside of Korea? What policy do you think we should pursue in Korea?"

These ballots have been sent to the National League headquarters in Washington, to be tabulated for the May 1 discussion.

tion of the gym, badly warping the floor.

"It will take just about a month now to finish the gym," he said, "and we cannot possibly hold the open house and dedication without that room available."

Dr. Ireland also explained that the event scheduled for April 29 is not, strictly speaking, an "open house."

"It will be our regular annual achievement day, sponsored by the P.T.A.," he said. "Parents of high school students and those who will enter high school next fall are being invited to meet to discuss curriculum choices of their sons and daughters."

"This program is held each year in order to introduce parents to the facilities which the school offers and to enable them to assist their children in selecting the courses of study they wish to follow during the coming year."

A DRINKING fountain, blocked open by workmen, flooded one section of the gym.

Atorney Asks Further Action on Harbored Zoning Change Request

A letter from George D. Cram, attorney representing Mr. and Mrs. Mike Harbored, in their request for rezoning of two lots in the East Maple Gardens, has been referred by city commissioners to City Attorney Forbes Hall and the Birmingham plan board.

Refrigerator Explodes

WALNUT LAKE—Damages at the George Drake home on Deerling road were slight when a refrigerator exploded and burned early Sunday morning. After removing their two grandsons, Tommy and Jeffrey Drake from the home, Mr. and Mrs. Drake extinguished the blaze without calling the fire department.

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Baldwin Library Steps To Be Repaired Shortly

An appropriation of \$1,200 has been approved by Birmingham commissioners for badly needed repairs to the steps at Baldwin public library. For the past several weeks the city has kept flares burning there every evening because of the condition of the steps.

New steps will be of concrete with a steel nosing, replacing the present brick steps.

Plan Resurfacing Program In Troy

The Oakland County road commission has scheduled over seven miles of black topping for Troy township roads if the Michigan Supreme Court rules favorably on the gas increase tax.

Supervisor Norman Barnard said that the entire county program of resurfacing is contingent upon the upper court's decision.

Proposed black topping will cover two miles on East Long Lake road from Adams to Crooks, two miles on Crooks from Wattles to South boulevard, one-half mile on Crooks between Clawson city limits and Maple, one and one-quarter miles on Livornois from Maple to the high school and two miles on East Maple between Coolidge and Livornois.

BOWLING SCORES

OAKLAND COUNTY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

	Won	Last
Clayton Recreation	90	26
H. H. Labadie Heating	87	30
Hillwood Recreation	77	45
Hillwood Recreation	69	56
Funney Drugs	69	56
G. B. Dupont	65	61
Funney Prescriptions	61	63
G. R. Dupont	61	63
Funney No. 2	58	66
Dick's Air Cooled Engines	58	66
Hillwood Recreation	57	67
Precision Products No. 1	57	67
Funney No. 1	57	67
McBride Hardware	55	69
Funney No. 13	55	69
Hillwood Recreation	54	70
Hillwood Recreation	54	70
Funney Drugs	53	71
Funney No. 1	52	72
Funney No. 2	52	72
Funney No. 3	52	72
Funney No. 4	52	72
Funney No. 5	52	72
Funney No. 6	52	72
Funney No. 7	52	72
Funney No. 8	52	72
Funney No. 9	52	72
Funney No. 10	52	72
Funney No. 11	52	72
Funney No. 12	52	72
Funney No. 14	52	72
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Funney No. 46	52	72
Funney No. 47	52	72
Funney No. 48	52	72
Funney No. 49	52	72
Funney No. 50	52	72

Sidewalk Approved

Birmingham city commissioners have approved the necessity of sidewalk construction on South-lawn boulevard, and ordered the creation of a special assessment district to defray these expenses.

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