

Anti-Monopoly Laws Violated By Labor

The American theory, enacted into federal law years ago, holds that no individual, or group of individuals shall hold a monopoly on any economic factor in our national life. Whether it be a single business, manufacturing corporation, a huge financial institution, or any phase of these two basic enterprises, when they constitute monopoly, they are considered negative to our free system of competitive enterprise, and under the law are broken up.

These laws have been enforced, in reasonably good measure, whenever conditions required.

Today, however, under a federal government whose policies have operated on the principle that winning elections is its most important duty, all phases of the monopoly system have not been required to live up to the law.

ESPECIALLY IS THIS TRUE of labor organizations. No informed person will deny that, today, labor exerts monopolistic powers over the nation's economy. Even the Truman Fair Deal government doesn't try, openly to deny this. Yet it does condone and tolerate mo-

opolistic labor unions that have, and still can, exercise life and death control over our economy.

We all know, too, that from time to time there is talk between AFL and CIO union leaders of a merger of these two major unions. If accomplished, the labor monopoly would be more dangerous to a free economy than any comparable situation in our history.

Yet leaders in the federal government, hungry for labor's votes, do not raise their voices against the monopoly that currently exists, or that would become more threatening to freedom if the merger takes place.

UNWISE LABOR LEADERS, hungry for more and more power, will work for the merger. The rank and file of union members, many of them unaware of the dangers in a labor monopoly to their own freedom, do not openly oppose it.

Only a government, sworn to live within the laws of the land, can protect each of us against every form of monopoly. Let us hope, and work to enthrone such leadership in the federal machinery of government!



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned from Old Files of the Eccentricist
The Items That Make Up The Historical Background
Of The Birmingham of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
August 22, 1902
Prof. James A. Field, "a self made man", has been selected as superintendent of schools for Birmingham. He is a graduate of Alabama college in two courses and is still striving for higher education—the type of man Birmingham wants and admires.

Area farmers are reporting large yields of sugar beets this year. William Patisson, of Big Beaver, who has the largest individual acreage in the state and speaks with authority, says his are "growing like weeds" and will give the biggest yield in history.

The festive auto can go the horse one better in running away because it can run away backward. A resident of our community is acquainted with a lady who was hurt when one of the contraptions started backing up at a fast pace as she was trying to extricate herself from its complex design.

Mrs. Gaylord Simpson has been made to rejoice by a visit from her son Harry of Bad Axe. He has been a successful salesman here and is a preacher in the Methodist church.

Physicians say there is every possibility of a great deal of typhoid here this fall because of the heavy rains all summer. Our beloved residents are advised to take every precaution against becoming a victim of this dread disease.

20 YEARS AGO
August 25, 1932
Postmaster James Cobb announced this week that special delivery mail will be delivered in Birmingham seven days a week. He said that many persons felt that deliveries would not be made Sundays nor Tuesdays and Saturdays afternoons when carriers do not work.

With 90 teacher contracts signed, the teaching staff of Birmingham's schools is nearly complete, according to Ray A. Palmer, president of the board of education. Only four or five candidates retained their contracts unsigned, he added.

Village Manager James Parry

has recommended to commissioners that the speed limit on Woodward avenue be raised from 12 to 20 miles per hour, to conform with Auto club suggestions. Woodward, through Birmingham, is the slowest driving section anywhere in the immediate area.

William Bronsing, 13, is recovering at his home, 375 Chester, after being accidentally shot in the leg with a .22 rifle. The bullet was removed Monday afternoon at St. Joseph Mercy hospital.

An automobile made this week establishes the Hawthorn Electric company as the official dealer for radio radios in the area. The firm was selected because of its long and splendid record as a Birmingham business establishment.

5 YEARS AGO
August 28, 1947
Vincent Scantone, new coach for Baldwin high's eleven, said this week that he expected to start training sessions on Sept. 1. Candidates are asked to report Saturday morning for a workout period and to receive field equipment.

John P. Hackett, Birmingham police chief, will head the annual committee for the Sunday Oakland county dog show Sunday. The event will be held at the Birmingham Open Hunt club, with more than 500 entries already registered.

Maple and Hunter figured largely in police reports this week with their traffic mishaps at the intersection of the two streets. The crack-ups resulted in injuries to two drivers and extensive damage to six cars.

Many of Birmingham's fine old trees were damaged by the high winds and heavy rains which visited the city Wednesday evening. Edison crews spent several busy hours repairing damages to power lines in sections of the city.

Walter Fauer, local Michigan Bell stranger, demonstrated the new mobile radio without equipment to the Birmingham Rotary club Monday noon. The Rev. W. Glen Harris, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, initiated the device in Birmingham with a phone call to his wife.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

Within a very short time several thousand Birmingham youngsters will be returning to school. Those who are currently out of town on summer vacations will have returned home and will be using the city streets daily.

It is true that, during the summer, the youngsters are home all day and more apt to be around during the daylight hours, but it is also true that these are the hours of lightest traffic.

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NO DRIVER is to injure or kill a child, but accidental death is as permanent as deliberate murder. A child struck by a careless driver cannot be brought back to life. One maimed by a speeder cannot be made to walk again.

Drivers will, some of them at least, go on the theory that streets are to place for children. True—but how can they get from place to place without crossing streets?

Drivers are supposed to know more than children, to have a greater respect for danger, to be able to think faster and more logically. No adult expects his small child to be able to go any distance in a day's work—he isn't, of course. He doesn't expect the boy or girl

to take over the job of administering the family's finances. He knows the youngsters aren't equipped to make important decisions. In fact, the purchase of a candy bar often becomes a major issue when it turns into child desire versus adult logic.

All these things adults agree upon. They argue that the lower teens are too young for boys and girls to handle the family car. They have passed compulsory education laws because they feel boys and girls should not go to work when they are "only children."

YET, THOSE who, as adults, when it comes to driving a car themselves, go blithely along, incautious and a lot of cases, downright careless.

They back out of drives as though jet-propelled, and slow down only when they see residential areas without any extra alertness on their part, letting "the kids keep out of the way."

It just doesn't make sense. We do not say Junior or his sister cannot learn to drive because they are "too small," but because they are "too young." Yet, when we get behind the wheel, we expect the youngster to assume the responsibility of his own safety.

It is up to you and to me to go a lot more than half way to keep our cars on the streets and roads and the children safe and sound.

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Open the Gates!

What will become of the scores and scores of Truman-appointed federal bureaucrats, when they have to leave Washington's strangle-hold on the country after next January?

Some of them will open Washington offices and sell their services to clients who want to sell the federal government things. Others may get into private businesses.

Is Birmingham a "Speed Trap"?

In certain suburban areas (including this one), Birmingham is getting the reputation of being a sort of "traffic trap."

While we agree with every good effort to enforce sane driving, we don't like to learn that our community is being called unkind names, for giving traffic tickets.

Why doesn't one city investigate the use of more and better signs for the regulation of motor traffic? We believe that

THEN WE PRESUME that many college and university faculties, mindful of the need to teach socialism and the values of the welfare state, will absorb some of them.

Those who get into business for themselves will no doubt change their philosophies when the tax collector (and maybe the sheriff) comes for his take.

catchy signs, displayed overhead, and large enough to be read easily, will do much to slow down fast automobiles.

The traditional traffic signs, placed along curbs, are so familiar that they tend to be disregarded... so why not try a change in typography and art as they relate to traffic signs?

It will improve the "merchandising methods" of traffic regulations.

Soviet Leaders Are Modern Gangsters

The bootlegging "Twenties" were the days when anti-social people, with plenty of sadism and bestiality in their make-ups, gained fame and riches as they violently disobeyed the tenets of law and order. They came to be known as "gangsters."

As a nation, the leaders of the Soviet Kremlin are in that same classification. They will stop at nothing to gain world domination. Their record is one of sub-

jecting millions to slave camps, of killing off millions of others.

THEY REPRESENT the most sinister threat to human freedom that our earth has ever known. No sacrifice we are asked to make, under honest and capable leadership, is too great.

But we must insist upon such leadership!

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

• When Harry S. Truman leaves the White House next January, no doubt this Korean "police action" will still be going on. Many people now refer to it as the "Truman-Acheson war". Certainly neither Stevenson nor Eisenhower will want it called after them—whichever one wins the Presidency. Well, perhaps we can change it to "The War Of Independence . . . Missouri."

• If all the so-called "beauty soaps" being so extensively advertised to bring to women "alluring, transcendental and heavenly beauty" were gotten together and placed in some great hot springs, wouldn't it make a nice lot of suds!

• If Ike and Adlai remain political gentlemen and refuse to call each other the usual bad names that occur during a campaign, the forthcoming one will be unique in American history. (Yet we'll wager that candidates for lesser offices will make up for the above loss of mud-throwing.)

• Russia failed to beat the United States in total points during the recent Olympic games in Helsinki. However, had one of the games been for false propaganda, outright lying, enslavement of human beings, etc., etc, there is no doubt but what the Soviet would have taken the cake.

So They Say . . .

PAUL B. KERN, Methodist Bishop: "Religion is the very center of human life, not merely penicillin to be used when the fever runs high."

TSUMICHIYO ASATO, legislator, Ryukyu Islands: "You cannot teach democracy at the point of the sword."

Lotte Werner, dress designer: "I like the simple, well-put-together look."

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