

Ticklers

By George

Favoring an Ideology That Is Opposed

It is estimated today that although most Americans would say "No" if asked the question: "Do you favor Socialism as the form of government to control the United States?" yet approximately two-thirds of them do favor Socialism without knowing it.

Perhaps you remember that Karl Marx called himself a Socialist, and that while today Russia admittedly is Communistic, its official label is the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. And it was Marx whose manifesto included, for example, the demand for "a heavy progressive or graduated income tax."

Well, few of us today will deny that our income tax isn't heavy.

ANOTHER MARXIAN DEMAND was "abolition of all right of inheritance." Does anybody today deny that the State hasn't passed laws imposing high inheritance taxes?

Marx also argued that "the State should own all factories and other instruments of production."

It is reported that as of now the federal government has invested, committed or guaranteed about 160 billion dollars (of your tax money) in various business enterprises. Some of them produce and sell electric power, operate railways and ships, buy and sell farm products, smelt and sell metal, engage in lending money, etc.

Centralization of credit in the hands of the State is another item on the Socialist's agenda. Does anybody deny that such credit is not now in the hands of the politicians and bureaucrats?

WHILE APPLIED SOCIALISM also defends the right of the State to own outright the tools of production, the federal government and many State governments have achieved that objective through taxation. They do not have to own the factories and machines and manage them... no, it is easier to leave them in private hands to worry about, and simply take away most of the profits with high taxes.

Yes, indeed, today's U.S.A. has and is drifting into Socialism!

When Will You Cry Out?

A most remarkable phenomenon exists within the pattern of human nature, and may be seen in the extent to which Americans will suffer at the hands of politicians.

This human weakness is what spawns demagogues, quacks, and tyrants in government.

First, your income tax, for example, may be one per cent of your income, and you gently criticize. Then it reaches five per cent, and more criticism. When it reaches 25 per cent (created by the de-

velopment of a national "emergency") you begin to get mad.

HOW HIGH MUST IT go before you are willing to go for the rocks, clubs and pitchforks—or, as in our country, use the ballot box, to de-throne your official tormentors?

Perhaps the elections of 1952 may provide a partial answer.

From Our Point of View

• Grand Rapids, Mich., seems to have, from time to time, quite a bit of trouble in keeping some of its youngsters in line. The latest problem in the Furniture City involved more than a hundred boys and girls, accused of staging wild drinking and petting parties, etc. Now cometh Grand Rapids' superintendent of public schools who admits that "there seems to be evidence of a general breakdown of morals." Yes, indeed, there does!

• It becomes more and more apparent that more American voters find it easier to write the word Eisenhower than they do Taft, Truman, or Kefauver. It may be that the General will have to succumb to the demands of a draft... and in this respect he will be able to understand better the feelings of those "greeted" in the usual manner as they are asked to remove civilian garments.

• It is rumored that President Truman is kinda sore at the State of New Hampshire. It is also understandable just why President Truman is kinda sore at the State of New Hampshire. It is also to be hoped, in many circles throughout the nation, that President Truman will get kinda darn good and sore at many more States!

• That Reno, Nevada, multi-millionaire who is said to have been robbed of two and a half millions in cash, bonds and jewelry, appears to us to be some sort of a foolish person. You remember that the loot was taken from his home, in a small 400-pound safe. Looks to us like an "inside job"... anyway, Reno now will become famous for things other than open gambling and easy divorces.

• Conceited and vain as he may be at times, it must be admitted by his most vigorous critics that President Truman is not an intellectual snob or even a "high-hatter". This latest book about him, "Mr. President", does reveal that the current occupant of the White House is an earthy sort of human being. So would be numerous millions of other average Americans, had one of them been thrust into Mr. Truman's job. In brief, most of the daily routine goings-on of Mr. Truman are what most American men go through themselves. So it is not the personality of Mr. Truman that adds lustre to what he does, it's the job he holds as the head of a mighty nation.

So They Say . . .

Dr. Karl Evang, director general of public health, Norway:
"To achieve its proper objective of contributing to positive health, sports must be engaged in by the average citizen."

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

NO' TO WASHINGTON, BUT 'YES' FOR LANSING

To state the converse of a popular expression, "Inconsistency, that is a piece of glass." Twice in recent weeks, our city commission has put its foot down on accepting financial aid from the federal government.

First was in connection with an Office of Civil Defense proposition that if the City of Birmingham paid half the cost of a new \$17,000 fire engine, the federal government would pay the remaining portion—all in the interests of local civil defense, of course.

AT THAT MEETING, commissioners commonly agreed that if Birmingham needed a new fire truck, we would find the money to pay for it ourselves.

The commission—expressing a staunch Republican viewpoint—was anxious to find that Washington D. C. believed Birmingham would dip into the federal "grab bag" for anything it thought it could get.

Secondly, the commission turned down an endorsement of a proposed federal amendment to the social security act which would permit municipalities to put their employees under this act on "cradle-to-grave" federal control.



"He's been reading the household hints column."

Happenings of Long Ago

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

50 YEARS AGO
MARCH 28, 1902
Where is the midway? What do people mean when they speak of the midway? It is a square that was once the pride of our village but is now a nuisance to all who live nearby and an eyesore to all who see it.

Whitehead & Mitchell close their 21st business year in the drug and grocery trade Monday night, and appearances indicate that they are going to do another 21-year stint, thanks to their many friends.

At a congregational meeting of the United Presbyterian church last Friday night the treasurer of the building committee reported that the building debt was met in full. The note was burned amid the rejoicing of a grateful people.

Mrs. N. M. Corey, Mrs. C. H. Mitchell and Mrs. Clara Andrus, the latter from Detroit, are all on their way to, or have arrived at, the 21-year stints, thanks to their Mrs. C. E. Hoy and family.

Miss Maud Gates called on her many Birmingham friends Sunday morning at the home of Mrs. J. H. Still holds a lucrative position on the Oxford Leader and is one of the willing workers that make that paper a power throughout the state.

20 YEARS AGO
MARCH 21, 1932
English teachers in the Birmingham schools will again supervise an essay contest among students in conjunction with the Community House Roll Call. "What the Community House Means to Me" will carry a first prize of \$5; two of \$2.50 each and 10 prizes of \$1.

Draper Allen, 528 Westwood, will resign his permanent chairmanship of the Oakland County Democratic convention at Pontiac Tuesday night. The keynote address will be delivered by Franklin E. Morris of Maryland.

W. Whiting Raymond has been named general chairman of the Yard and Garden contest sponsored by the Birmingham chapter

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

RED BADGE OF COURAGE
Nearly every day we can read of a man or woman who has made a daring rescue of someone who is in danger. Often we see the deed only briefly, but when we do think of it, most of us have a slight feeling of awe that one person should have so much courage.

We are apt to tip our mental caps to the man who heroically regards his own life lightly and risks it to save a stranger from harm.

It is true, the acts of these persons should get recognition. But let's look around us—take a minute to look at the heroes whose courage keeps them going from day to day.

Nearly everyone of us can number among our friends and acquaintances a man or woman who display more courage than the man who, in the heat of emotion, plunges into a flooded street to save a life.

THESE ARE the people who go about their daily living, without fuss or fanfare, working under handicaps which call for real courage to bear. They are the next door neighbor who pushes a physical handicap or a continual strain and worry into the background.

We have in mind one tiny woman whom we had known for several years. She is always ready for friend and stranger alike. Her handicap was firm and steady. She was a woman who would help you in any way she could. Her husband was firm and steady. She was a woman who would help you in any way she could.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eclectic 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 "good neighbor" policy hit a new low two weeks ago when the Birmingham fire department responded to a fire at 2150 Yarmouth road, Bloomfield Village, and the firemen were refused the right by the policy of the city commission and the city manager to put out the fire. They did, however, use their radio equipment to call the Bloomfield fire department, which was very kind of them.

There is a water main connection between Bloomfield Village water supply and that of Birmingham, and here we have the condition where the city hall refuses to pump water from their main to put out a fire across the road from Bloomfield Village, even though, under an emergency, they might be getting their water

The firemen looked well fed, healthy and ready to go, but are unable to do so by the present rates laid down by the city hall.

WE WOULD LIKE to have the conditions reversed where the Bloomfield fire department arrived on the scene ahead of the Birmingham fire department and let our boys show them how it is done. No episode like this has ever happened to the loyal volunteers of Bloomfield Village fire department.

We doubt if any community like Birmingham should be so smug because in the past two

months they have escaped aerial disaster twice, through no fault of the fire department.
There have been two serious explosions, and if these had happened in the center of Birmingham, several blocks could have been destroyed by fire, and the Birmingham would welcome a bomb from Royal Oak and Pontiac, when they have affiliations, and also from the "small fry" around the perimeter of their great city.

WE HOPE the emergency never comes, but if it does, Birmingham will get a lesson in the "good neighbor" policy in reverse from what it was the other day. We don't blame the firemen—they were acting on orders from the city hall, and we think the city hall needs is a change of water for the minnows.

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