

Would Be Wicked to Use Tax Money for Campaigns

How would you like to finance the campaigns of politicians by allowing them to use money directly from your taxes?

Such a plan is being proposed by several of the nation's leading Democratic officials. U.S. Senator Paul Douglas, of Illinois, again proposed such a scheme in a recent Detroit speech.

Instead of merely limiting campaign funds, yet demanding that they legally be acquired through private contributions, the Illinois chap would go right into the tax treasury, and dole out to certain candidates the dough for their electioneering.

For example, suppose such a scheme is legalized, and that five (or more or less) millions are appropriated for each major party during a campaign.

Truman's Place in History

When, in the future, calm and quiet historians write the record of the Truman administration, they no doubt will be hard put to reconcile Harry's good qualities with his lesser ones.

While they may seek to record that often he endeavored to accomplish righteous objectives, they cannot overlook the fact that he was and is, first, last and always, a politician and not a statesman.

IN OTHER WORDS, to Harry the

Whimsical State Department

So our State Dept. is going to make it hard for Charlie Chaplin to get back into the U.S.A. after he spends six months in his native England!

The ex-movie comic, who never applied for citizenship in the country that gave him his millions, is alleged to have pro-communist leanings, and also to have his morals questioned.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

On the whole, Senator Richard Nixon's TV and radio accounting of that \$18,000 fund appeared to satisfy a majority of the nation's citizens.

The tender soul of Adlai Stevenson must quit because of the harsh and nasty things he is told he must say about his Republican opponents during the campaign.

Acheson Defends His Foreign Policy," read a headline in a Detroit newspaper last week. And why shouldn't he . . . he made it . . . and few parents are willing to disown and discredit their offspring.

Civically speaking, it's a good thing the baseball world series is over and finished . . . now folks can settle down to hits, runs, strikeouts and errors of the politicians.

Did you see and hear that Oklahoma hill-billy named Robert G. Kerr, Democratic U.S. Senator, when he appeared on a TV program last week? He tried to make it appear that Sen. Nixon's \$18,000 assist was brewed in the devil's cauldron

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has proved itself. Who would know, during the campaign, actually how much tax money was being used by the party in office during the campaign? And, certainly, if the party in power were re-elected, and had used more money than the law allowed, do you presume it would "investigate itself"?

It certainly would not! And thus, by such a directly manipulated political subsidy, it conceivably could remain in office a long, long time.

THE PRESENT SCHEME of raising money for political campaigns lies within the ideology of a free, competitive system. That laws controlling contributions to political parties should be in existence, and enforced, goes without question.

To allow tax money to pay for political campaigns is but one of the steps and devices that lead to statism, to final dictatorship.

Let's have none of these professional ideas get into our vital elections laws!

Presidency was something to win votes for, not too much a high altar for the enthronement and perpetuation of equality of freedom for all the American people.

Although Republicans, too, are Americans, seldom did or does Little Harry have a kind word for them. Too bad, when our country needs solidarity in its citizenry, and dedication by its high officials to decency and the honest administration of public affairs.

WELL, WE DON'T HOLD any brief for Charlie . . . but we wonder why this same State Dept. has coddled a worse enemy of American Freedom than Chaplin, in the name of Harry Bridges, the west coast longshoremen's union leader.

(Does the Dept. adhere to an old axiom that says something about "don't cross your bridges . . .?")

yet Gov. Stevenson's slush fund was O.K. Honestly, and above all partisanship on our part, we think Kerr is as slippery as the oil, and as full of gas, as these two items made him a multi-millionaire.

The tender soul of Adlai Stevenson must quit because of the harsh and nasty things he is told he must say about his Republican opponents during the campaign. At heart "Stevie" must be a sincere and honest person . . . but getting into big-time politics, with its necessity of defending a partially rotten administration, must hurt him to the quick. Ah, what depths men often go to support their public outcries!

Gen. Eisenhower probably does not approve all the tactics of Wisconsin's Sen. Joe McCarthy. But that doesn't mean that the General is required to tell the people of the Badger state who they should send to the U.S. Senate. After all, hasn't a state rights of its own?

What is wrong with this woman; a thrice-married female in New Mexico recently pleaded guilty to plotting to hang her husband . . . so she could marry again. "But I still love my present husband," she told police. Stranger love hath no woman than that she would lay down the life of her present spouse for another.

So They Say . . .

BEN MOORE, Federal District Judge: "A revival-meeting type of law enforcement may look well for a time, but its effect soon wears off."

E. R. HEIDBERY, Colonel, Professor of Mechanics, West Point: "Science has so outdistanced military advances that we must look upon war as an almost certain invitation to national suicide."



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.

50 YEARS AGO

October 17, 1902 The old Peabody store, now owned by F. Hagerman, is being changed in front. New single-pane windows make a great improvement in the outside appearance, while the light effect inside is something to be proud of.

Mrs. S. Fuller has returned from a short absence during which she visited friends in Farmington and also in Milford where she had the honor and pleasure of attending the W. C. T. U. convention.

About 75 librarians and trustees of libraries attended the state meeting in Detroit last week which was addressed by Mr. Scripps of the Evening News who kindly opened his house for the visitors. Miss Post and Miss Baldwin represented our library.

Miss Florence King is the happy owner of one of those new die gramophones which she purchased of Whitehead and Mitchell, and now she and her mother enjoy the latest operatic airs and best band music at a nominal cost.

S. C. Mills has been happy this week entertaining his cousin Henry Beard of Jackson. Mr. Beard is chief of police in his city. He has been associated with this fine body of men for 17 years. We think for a corner room when next we visit Jackson.

20 YEARS AGO

October 20, 1932 Clyde H. Wood, Jr., of Greenwood avenue, was graduated from the aviation school at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Tex., last week and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps. Wood, an alumnus Baldwin high school, will be stationed at Selfridge Field after Nov. 1.

A newly experienced increase in the sale of stamps at the Birmingham postoffice has, officials believe, removed the languor of the office receiving a lower rating. Standing now at \$27,700 total sales are expected to reach the needed \$40,000 before the end of the fiscal year.

A Royal Oak man was shot as the hunting season got underway

Plans are already underway by Birmingham merchants for the annual decoration of business places and the Kiddies' party at the Birmingham theater. Nine prizes will be offered homeowners in the decorating of their dwellings.

Speaking at the Birmingham Rotary luncheon Monday, Harry Hunter of Detroit, told how the general public can be aided greatly through providing employment for the blind. He pointed out that many of these persons can perform highly skilled work.

Nov. 10 is the deadline for Christmas gifts to be sent to children in Europe. The Save the Children Federation has been collecting toys for several weeks, and although they have had an excellent response, would appreciate other donations.

It's coming again—that time of the year when you hear queer noises in dark corners and see unusual figures flit across the face of the moon.

In Birmingham, of course, it will be a two-night affair. For the "crying" householders stock up on goodies and streets resound with the happy shouts of youngsters.

Odd little creatures with very human little hands will ring doorbells and reach out eagerly for the "treat"—automobile insurance against soaped windows and other Halloween pranks.

This starts early in the evening, practically the second the last bit of sunlight slips away. As the really little guys wander home with their "loot," sleepy but happy, quiet comes over the streets, mothers grin at each other and hope the kids had as much fun as they did, and Act I, Scene I of Halloween is over.

ACT II, Scene II opens with a bang the next evening. Parrots, cats and wheedle to get full diners into excited youngsters. Mothers fret and stew about dainty costumes which simply will not lend themselves to properly warm clothing. Boys and girls wriggle and chatter and are positive that their particular set of parents are the slowest and coldest in the world.

That second phase is the one which is full of the unmaking, and the most unheroic ones . . . the businestmen and women of the city. You never hear much of them, and unless they direct traffic, hand out food, you certainly don't see them. But evidence of their generosity is everywhere.

These are the men and women, no matter what the business, how large or how small, who have made this whole thing possible. Sure, the committee planning the

here Saturday. Struck in the leg by a rifle bullet, his condition is not serious. Officers report an exceptionally large number of hunters in the field and urge extreme caution.

In less than a century an Indian trail has turned into a magnificent highway, 204 feet wide and carrying some 48,000 vehicles every 24 hours. This, in brief, is the story of the wider Woodward avenue from which the last barricade was removed by workmen Monday.

Mrs. Salma A. Brown of Lakeview drive, was named Most Workmen's Grand Matron of the Michigan Grand Chapter at its fifth annual convention at Grand Rapids last week.

Two new police cars are on order and will be equipped with the latest FM equipment, according to the Birmingham Police Department Monday evening. Police Chief John Hackett said that as soon as the new cars are delivered receiving and sending sets would be installed.

A bid submitted to Birmingham city commissioners for the construction of a new sewer line was turned down Monday, as far too high. City Manager Donald Egbert was asked to restate it.

5 YEARS AGO

October 23, 1947

Plans are already underway by Birmingham merchants for the annual decoration of business places and the Kiddies' party at the Birmingham theater. Nine prizes will be offered homeowners in the decorating of their dwellings.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

For the past month especially, and for the next two and a half weeks many small communities throughout the United States are finding themselves being placed on the "political map."

Nation and state political candidates save most of their important speeches for the auditorium and stadium of the large cities, but devote much of their time for handshaking to the small communities.

Some of these communities this fall for the first time in their existence have seen a state or national candidate standing at their "four corners."

These political caravans, the great majority of which are made by automobile, are extremely evident this fall, perhaps more so than at any other time in this nation's history.

THE REPUBLICANS, in an effort to end the 20-year domination of the Democrats, and the Democrats, fighting desperately to remain in the guiding hand of the nation, both are trying their best to get into as many nooks and crannies of these United States as possible.

Already this fall, several such Republican political automotive caravans have swung through this portion of Oakland county.

What would it be like to spend a good portion of a day with such a caravan, observing its impact on the people comprising it as well as on those persons who would come in contact with it along its route?

Just to find out, midmorning Friday I joined such a caravan and stuck with it until dinner time.

IN THE caravan were Fred M. Alger, Jr., Michigan's Secretary of State who now is the GOP candidate for governor; John Martin, state auditor general seeking reelection; Congressman George A. Bendoric; State Representative Howard R. Estes of Birmingham and Bill Broomfield of Berkeley; Sheriff Clara Hubbell, County Register of Deeds Orrin McQuaid; some county political notables, and a reporter from each group of the three Detroit daily newspapers.

The group met in Birmingham, piled into 11 convertibles—two Cadillacs, one blue, one gray, and nine fire-engine red Pontiacs. These cars were supplied by the Oakland county Republican com-

mittee, headed by Ed Wilson, who together with Dick Van Dusen, led the Friday motorcade.

ESCORTED BY a sheriff's uniformed deputy and a Pontiac police officer, we moved into Pontiac for our first stop at the Wilson Foundry & Machine Co.

The candidates and members of the GOP county committee went inside to do some politicking. Then to the Pontiac Motor Co. plant for lunch in one of its huge company cafeterias. More politicking along the assembly line after lunch.

Alger was the first gubernatorial candidate this fall to campaign among the Pontiac Motor workers. But company officials at lunch admitted they would probably get a call from county Democratic headquarters arranging for a "tour" by Gov. Soapy as soon as plant union officials could get to a phone to report.

THE GENERAL Motors truck plant was the next stop. The communities of Lake Orion, Oxford, Lakeville and Rochester were visited before the caravan arrived back at Pontiac GOP headquarters.

A steak dinner at the Waldron Hotel for the motorcade, then on to Waterford for 30 minutes, finally winding up back in Pontiac at the Bagley school where Alger made a major address.

Riding in the red convertible with me was a friend of mine, Harry Whitley, young Rogers City newspaperman who is Alger's campaign manager. He's been traveling

and campaigning with Alger since last May.

"Oh, once in a while we get a weekend off so I can return and spend a day or two with my family," Harry told me. "But what I really miss now is the hunting and fishing up at that country. That's my favorite sport and relaxation."

HE SAID their daily schedule requires them to be up about seven every morning. Their day ends somewhere around midnight.

There appear to be three types of people composing the groups who gather to see these political motorcades when they arrive in "the home town."

Some people come right up to be within several feet of these important officials. The third type stands back on the edges of the gathering, apparently skeptical, confused or bewildered by the whole goings-on.

TO PARTICIPATE in one of these "grass roots" motorcades was fun. Any more than that would be work. But it is a necessary and vital part of political campaigning, for it does make a favorable impression on most people in the towns the candidates visit.

And that's the primary reason the candidate does it. There are very few nations in the world where this type of political activity still is permitted.

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