

Congress, Being So Political In Nature, Will Dilly-Daily

The American public witnesses a familiar scene each summer as Congress goes into a scramble to adjourn on a certain date. The familiar scene is not without its humorous aspects and yet it can be serious for those who are affected by proposed legislation which is either cast aside in the rush or hurriedly enacted without being adequately perfected.

seems to be a half-hearted affair. Many Senators and Congressmen spend only a few days each week in the capital during these first months and often one or both Houses meet only several days a week. Moreover, no one seems to be in a hurry about anything and time, therefore, rapidly passes.

Along about May or June, someone suddenly sets a date for adjournment and there is great excitement and hustling from that moment on. When all the excitement subsides, Senators and Congressmen blame the last-minute log-jam for their failure to pass certain legislation, and for their reluctant support of other bills which passed in less-than-desirable form.

The answer is, of course, one of two things. Congress can return for a fall session, which was proposed this year, or business can be begun in earnest at an earlier date.

Unexposed Scandals Undermine Government

Senator John J. Williams, Delaware Republican, recently revealed he possessed a photostatic copy of a report by an Internal Revenue agent, charging pay-offs, which had mysteriously disappeared from Internal Revenue files. Internal Revenue Commissioner T. Coleman Andrews later verified the fact that the file concerned had disappeared from Bureau records.

agency undermines the average American's confidence in his government. The Bureau has already suffered its share of scandal and corruption in recent years and further disclosures of the kind Williams is now making will only discredit those in charge during the malfeasance all the more.

Needless to say, disclosures, such as the latest by Williams, are not going to do Democratic chances in future elections any good.

Of all the scandals uncovered during former President Truman's regime, those concerning the Bureau of Internal Revenue caused the most disillusionment and disgust among the voting citizen. The scandal cost the Democratic Party many votes in 1952, and is apparently still very much alive.

AS WE HAVE MENTIONED before, scandal in the Bureau of Internal Revenue, more than in any other department or

No GI Labor Battalions!

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles proposed that thousands of American troops in Korea be used as labor battalions to aid in the physical reconstruction of that peninsula.

laboring while in combat. . . but to expect them to remain on foreign soil for the same purpose, when fighting has ceased, is to defame the U.S. Military Service. Equally true, it is to defame the stature of American citizenry.

Our country has been very generous with its dollars and its various supplies for foreign aid—and we are glad Mr. Dulles was cut down to size on this situation by the President, himself!

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

A lad-check-passer down Boston way resorted to these colors of hair dyes to fool police. They were red, brown, and black. Now the unfortunate chap, behind police bars, is mighty blue.

when this rich dowager went to Luxembourg as our Minister.

A preacher recently told his congregation: "If you would spend one-tenth as much in church, or submitting yourselves to the inspiration of religion, as you do with radio or television, you would obtain more essential happiness."

Los Angeles' city council has decided to play various types of music at its regular meetings. Well, there are enough forms of music to fit every mood and occasion. Now if only some Tin Pan Alley devotee will write a popular song whose title will be: "You Elected Me, and, Honest, Ain't I Delivering My Pre-election Promises to you, Dear?" that might be followed by an audience lament, "Am I Dreaming, Or Is This Too Good To Be True?"

Some of these days, it is to be hoped, the United States will cease to spend its taxpayers' billions for unnecessary foreign aid. The Republicans in power in Washington seem so disposed, and President Eisenhower also is finding out that you can't inspire people and win their friendship just by giving them money.

Heated arguments, unless resolved at once into cool discussions, do little to solve the moment's problem. Only where natural combustion takes place can there be light as well as heat.

So They Say . . .

Walter P. Reuther, President C. I. O., in Italy: "A free labor movement is the chief bulwark against Communism." Herman M. Koelliker, author: "One man working for you is worth a dozen men working for you." Stephen Paulson, preacher: "It is good for a man to be in direct contact with God's clean earth."

The Birmingham Eccentric
Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward
Telephone MI 4-1100
GEORGE R. AVERILL Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL Business Manager
GEORGE W. AVERILL Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BURKOW Advertising Manager
The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association and University Press Club
National Advertising Representatives Weekly Newspaper Representatives, Inc. 140 Guardian Bldg. 920 Broadway DETROIT 26, MICH. NEW YORK 10, N.Y.
The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has news value. Suggestions are welcomed. Any erroneous reference upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation, which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected if brought to the publisher's attention.

Going Overboard?



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 August 14, 1903 Albert Jennings Grand Rapids was back in town this week having just returned from his teaching career in the little old academy here years ago and has gone on up the ladder of success continually.

Mrs. Iva Bishop of Detroit has purchased the grocery business of Miss Eva Mattison. She took immediate possession and can be found behind the counter every day.

Fred King of near Bloomfield has lately put in a telephone and now can have communication with all parts of the United States—including Pontiac. The modern improvements are great and Mr. King is just the man to enjoy them.

While switching cars here in the yards last Friday several freight cars got away and ran into a train half a mile down the track. Two cars were each made into kindling. No one hurt.

Phillips and Hunt have struck another flowing well for the Rochester power house and are boring on their third well a few rods away from the other two wells.

30 YEARS AGO August 17, 1923 Several thousand white-headed figures met in the woods about four miles east of Birmingham Monday night and were held for the night behind the huge cross as more than 1,000 new members were initiated into the Ku Klux Klan.

"Motor caddling is reprehensible for three-fourths of our highway accidents," an Oakland county deputy sheriff said this week. He added that all law enforcement officers were instructed to put a halt to the practice, by arrests if necessary.

Birmingham's volunteer fire department marked its 10th anniversary Monday, James W. Cobb, president, presided at a banquet given by the organization which started out with 22 men. The first fire was started on Oct. 20, 1843, when a two-day convention for MEA District 6 opened.

School will open in Birmingham on Sept. 12, with a full schedule of classes getting underway. The first break will come Oct. 20, when a two-day convention for MEA District 6 opens.

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN
It was about 7 o'clock in the morning on July 1 when the fire started that destroyed the rented home of Mr. and Mrs. James Shafor and their five children on S. Woodward.
Almost immediately Birmingham residents came forward with offers of clothing and household furnishings. The Shafors accepted this help gratefully but they are still without their prime need—a home.
At present the family is separated, living with relatives in Royal Oak. They have certain household items but nowhere to put them, nowhere to sleep. They cannot find a home.
One lady, who has spent considerable time trying to find a house large enough for the family and with a modest rental fee, says she has exhausted every lead. The Shafors, she says, are very discouraged.
"THEY WANT to be together as a family," they want to stay in Birmingham. They cannot find a home to rent, which they can afford, and they have no money for a down payment on a home.
"Their family is facing an additional trial because one of the boys is in a hospital and will be for many months. That makes the parents feel even worse and not have all the others together. One of the girls cries herself to sleep every night. She says her mother is sad. This lady wonders if Birmingham residents and businessmen would not help the Shafors financially.
She is not the only one who has thought of this, but so far no relief fund has been started, so far as she knows.
"During the past few days this lady has been furthering her contacts to get such a fund started. She is asking her friends if they can help; she will ask businessmen what they think of the idea. She is going to do everything she can to put words into action.
Her efforts will need support from all the people in Birmingham. As one person put it, there are about 21,000 persons in Birmingham. A dime from each person would help the Shafors their start.
ANOTHER LADY expressed her opinion by asking, "What is a family without a home?"
Her efforts will need support from all the people in Birmingham. As one person put it, there are about 21,000 persons in Birmingham. A dime from each person would help the Shafors their start.
"Fire Chief Vern Griffith said he considered the Shafors one of the most deserving families he had ever known.
"Those children," he said, "are very nice. The parents are both working trying to get another start after a fire of less than a year ago.
"Two fires in a year. That sounds, to some people, like a bad record. It isn't. Neither of those fires were in any way the fault of the Shafors. To that man and woman and their five youngsters this year has been a very hard year.
"I'm going to check every source I can find to see if I can't help them get the home they want in Birmingham."
BIRMINGHAM TRAVEL SERVICE
for Wherever You're Going
MI 4-5711 379 Hamilton

ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

Normally, I don't like "continued stories." But the following piece I've had for some time, courtesy of B'ham City Manager D. C. Roberts, was quite a while ago passed out copies of it to the city commission with the observation: "I enjoyed this article very much when I first read it, and have read it several times since. I feel the need of gaining a better perspective of the problems of the city."

course, without closing any of them off for repair or putting on any sort of oil or gravel that might soil his white sidewalk tires. All he asks is that the water be pure and free from germs—and without adding any chemicals which might harm the taste.
All he asks is that the snow be removed the minute it falls, and yet without packing any of it to the side of the street, or using any messy salt or sand.

"I've spent considerable time trying to figure out how to condense it into a single, fairly short article. I can't, without destroying the idea. So if you will bear with me, here is the first half—the rest will come next week."

ALL HE ASKS is that sewers built 60 years ago not back up or become clogged when the rains come; but, of course, when the rains hit anybody digging up his previous sidewalk to put in a bigger sewer.
All he asks, in other words, is perfection. All he asks is that nobody ever make a mistake.

"PUBLIC WORKS AND PRIVATE GRIPES"
By Bill Vaughan
Kansas City Star
I want to salute you tonight as representatives of what surely must be one of the world's noblest occupations. Just who was the originator of your profession, I don't know, but I enjoyed your article very much when I first read it, and have read it several times since. I feel the need of gaining a better perspective of the problems of the city."

ALL HE ASKS is that sewers built 60 years ago not back up or become clogged when the rains come; but, of course, when the rains hit anybody digging up his previous sidewalk to put in a bigger sewer.
All he asks, in other words, is perfection. All he asks is that nobody ever make a mistake.

"Always expecting, of course, the Great Director of Public Works who fashions the world in six days. On the seventh day, he rested, a privilege which is denied the public works official of today. When the telephone puts him at the mercy of the citizen who wants to know a certain thing, he assures him—why that chuckle on East Whoozie Street hasn't been filled."

ALL HE ASKS is that sewers built 60 years ago not back up or become clogged when the rains come; but, of course, when the rains hit anybody digging up his previous sidewalk to put in a bigger sewer.
All he asks, in other words, is perfection. All he asks is that nobody ever make a mistake.

"You may find a certain amount of comfort in the fact that even the public works official of today hasn't been free from criticism. He probably thought that he had given us a pretty good world."

ALL HE ASKS is that sewers built 60 years ago not back up or become clogged when the rains come; but, of course, when the rains hit anybody digging up his previous sidewalk to put in a bigger sewer.
All he asks, in other words, is perfection. All he asks is that nobody ever make a mistake.

"BUT WE have had to move the divers and level the mountains and fill in the low places and some misguided souls have even clamored for a change of adaptation. I'm sure that all public works officials must learn—or go crazy."

ALL HE ASKS is that sewers built 60 years ago not back up or become clogged when the rains come; but, of course, when the rains hit anybody digging up his previous sidewalk to put in a bigger sewer.
All he asks, in other words, is perfection. All he asks is that nobody ever make a mistake.

"It has often struck me that it may have been a good thing that Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden before they got the place organized with a municipal government and all the rest. Because they obviously would have had, eventually, a Department of Public Works. And then the unhappiness would have started."

ALL HE ASKS is that sewers built 60 years ago not back up or become clogged when the rains come; but, of course, when the rains hit anybody digging up his previous sidewalk to put in a bigger sewer.
All he asks, in other words, is perfection. All he asks is that nobody ever make a mistake.

"51 YEARS AGO August 18, 1902
National recognition has been bestowed on Mrs. Antoinette Burke Mary Jones Huestiter, 175 Abbeville road. The Kingswood girl was one of the first of more than 200,000 high school entrants in the American Magazine's Youth Forum."

ALL HE ASKS is that sewers built 60 years ago not back up or become clogged when the rains come; but, of course, when the rains hit anybody digging up his previous sidewalk to put in a bigger sewer.
All he asks, in other words, is perfection. All he asks is that nobody ever make a mistake.

"MEN AND WOMEN and the birds of the air and the beasts of the field, living in perfect harmony, would have been thrown into bitter arguments and violent fights the first time a paved road was built through the Garden. Nobody would have been satisfied. We know this, because nobody ever has been satisfied with a road or a bridge or a garbage collection system."

ALL HE ASKS is that sewers built 60 years ago not back up or become clogged when the rains come; but, of course, when the rains hit anybody digging up his previous sidewalk to put in a bigger sewer.
All he asks, in other words, is perfection. All he asks is that nobody ever make a mistake.

"There would be letters to the newspapers—of course, the Garden of Eden, being a paradise, would have newspapers. These letters would start out by complaining about the road.
Then there would be hints that the Public Works Department wasn't keeping the Tree of Knowledge in the way it should. An Old Subscriber would write that

ALL HE ASKS is that sewers built 60 years ago not back up or become clogged when the rains come; but, of course, when the rains hit anybody digging up his previous sidewalk to put in a bigger sewer.
All he asks, in other words, is perfection. All he asks is that nobody ever make a mistake.

"ALL HE ASKS is for the city's streets to be always smooth, but of

Fed Up with Rust-Wrecked Tools?
Get an Electric Air Drier
(Dehumidifier)
Hot under the collar because rust makes your favorite saw blades make drils seize and chatter, makes tool calibrations hard to read? Excess moisture causes the trouble.
Dry out the air with an electric dehumidifier. Its strength is enormous. It removes as much as 3 gallons of water from damp air every 24 hours.
Electric dehumidifiers are compact—easily moved from one trouble spot to another. They plug in, just like a floor lamp.
SEE YOUR DEALER or Detroit Edison