

# Walter Reuther Talks Like a Politician

Walter P. Reuther, head of CIO, currently is criticizing American business because of the latter's approval of a restoration of the nation's economy to free, competitive enterprise. Reuther argues that any decrease in the country's production totals is directly the fault of business.

Reuther, of course, is not responsible for the operation of any American business that owns the tools of production. He is not accountable to any stockholders whose money is invested in private property.

All he wants is an environment where unemployment is unknown (and this, in itself, is a laudable desire) and he figures that if American business cannot keep industry on a 100 per cent working basis, then government should step in and do what it can to make this possible.

SUCH A RECOURSE means simply that Reuther believes American business enterprise is incapable of maintaining high production records—indeed, Reuther even suggests that American business and finance don't even want to achieve that goal.

In his current frame of mind, Reuther appears to assume that your average

American business doesn't want to keep going at top speed; that its owners and operators are quite willing to let their properties become partly idle.

This, naturally, would result in lower profits to stockholders, more unemployment, higher prices to consumers... and certainly the history of the American system of competitive enterprise disproves this position. For it is the factual record of the American economy that our system already has produced the highest standard of living of any nation on this earth.

WHILE WE DO NOT DECRY the manifest interest Reuther shows toward labor, for that is his rightful and honest job, we must never forget that he also must play a game of politics—both within and outside his labor organization. He cannot do otherwise and keep his job. Like an opposition political party, then, Walter thinks he needs must say many of the things he does against finance and industry—just as Democrats rave and rant against Republicans, and vice versa.

What a wonderful thing American free speech is... and how much more good it could result in if every man and woman utilizing it would stay within the areas of provable facts.

## Value of Women's Service Clubs

One evening last week we were invited to attend the presentation of a charter to the Altrusa Club, Birmingham's newest women's service group. Its members are local business and professional women with executive responsibilities.

Having been connected rather intimately with various service clubs over many years, we were considerably impressed with the several talks given by Altrusa's district leaders who were on the evening's program.

Among them were Dr. Viva Boothe, present district governor, who is director of the Bureau of Research of Ohio State University; Mrs. Opal Cunningham, of Detroit, current governor-elect; and Dr. Thelma James, immediate past-governor, who teaches English at Wayne University.

All three women made splendid talks about the objectives of Altrusa, which is dedicated to service for others. What they said proved that they are sincerely and seriously concerned with carrying on an

unselfish program, as it relates to vocational activities, public and international affairs.

ESPECIALLY WERE WE IMPRESSED with the talk given by Dr. James. As we told her afterwards: "We have attended many meetings, both in this country and abroad, of service and craft organization conventions, but never have we heard the theme of 'service above self' developed any better than you have just done it."

Incidentally, Dr. James has a wonderful sense of humor which leavened the otherwise seriousness of her topic. And may we add a personal word of congratulation to the new club here by saying that its first president, Mrs. Velma Isley, director of our Community House, carried off her chore as presiding officer of the meeting in splendid manner.

Good luck, Altrusans! Welcome to Birmingham... and good luck to other local women's service organizations.

## Election's Months Away, But...



## Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Cleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

### 50 YEARS AGO

DECEMBER 4, 1903

Any one wishing evergreens for holiday decorations can have all they want at any time by calling on the donor, E. C. Poppleton. They are in his yard and free for all.

The tearing down of the old barn on what is known as the Wallace place, removes one of the old village landmarks. The front part of the frame was that of the first school house in this village and stood close to the street.

A farmer's cow wandered into the town of Algonac early Thanksgiving morning and found her way to the rear of the Press office. It is now reported that the bustling young editor of the Press served milk punch with his Thanksgiving dinner.

The Ideal Entertainers gave a good show to a good house. Of course it was liberally patronized by all friends of the Library as a part of the proceeds went to it, and was immediately converted into a payment on the new piano.

Harvey Carter received word yesterday to proceed at once to Kentucky, having accepted a position with the Big Five and Majestic Oil Companies in which a number of our townspeople are interested.

### 30 YEARS AGO

NOVEMBER 30, 1923

Tomorrow the First State Savings Bank of Birmingham will begin its annual distribution of funds to the hundreds of members of its "Christmas Savings Club." Between ten and twelve thousand dollars will be withdrawn for Christmas uses by members of the club.

News that will prove of vital interest to local and nearby people was made known this week when word was sent out that the "Greater Woodward Avenue Association," formed for the purpose of co-operating with public officials in completion of the Woodward Avenue widening project recently begun between the Eight Mile road and Pontiac, was fully launched.

Incorporation of Birmingham from a Village to the classification

## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

"What did you have to be thankful for?"

When Uncle Abner asked this question after the Thanksgiving dinner was a fond memory and everyone had gathered in the living room, he received quite a shock. "Nothing," answered a nephew. "My girl wouldn't go to the football game, and what else is there?"

Before Uncle Abner could gather in his wits and reply, the ten-year-old asked why she wouldn't go to the game.

"Wanted to stay with her folks. Said she'd only have two days if she wanted to get back to sing with the college choir on Sunday night."

"Then," said the ten-year-old, "you should be thankful for a girl like that and a family of your own!"

During the ensuing silence Uncle Abner packed his pipe and lighting a splinter in the fireplace, thoughtfully through the smoke and a new, sudden flame leaped from the broken ends. Tommy stared like one under a hypnotic spell.

"When Pierre finished the teacher asked us what we thought of Thanksgiving. We had to tell, too. 'Some of the kids were thankful for warm houses. Most of 'em mentioned fire. Some even said they were thankful for school!'" Tommy snickered, then sobbed.

"I just got to feelin' I was awful lucky to have folks. Mom, Dad, brother an' sisters. Uncle Abner an' all the rest. Guess Pierre's the first guy I ever made without any family at all. He made havin' one sound awful important."

"Me, I'm thankful to Pierre for showin' me what a wonderful thing 'family' is."

of a year, a proposition that was broached a year ago, was brought up Monday night at the Commission meeting.

Fred Quarton of West Maple avenue, affectionately termed one of Birmingham's "Good Samaritans," was reappointed Monday night by the Village Commission as chairman of the Birmingham Relief committee, an organization founded several years ago to assist in the care of needy and unfortunate Bloomfield township and Village families.

Three motorists, one of them a resident of Birmingham narrowly missed serious and perhaps fatal injuries when the cars in which they were driving mixed in a triple collision on South Woodward avenue.

### 15 YEARS AGO

DECEMBER 1, 1938

In connection with the activities of the Hassberger chapter, Order of DeMolay members who were acting in an unofficial capacity, presented the city with a very beautiful United States flag for the Commission room.

A new public official to be known as the director of public works, will be added to Birmingham's municipal staff, beginning Dec. 5. City Manager Donald C. Egbert announced today. He is Matthew H. Merry, structural and hydraulic engineer.

Approximately 100 cases of simple larceny of an unusually large monthly figure for Birmingham, were investigated by the police department during the month of October, according to the monthly police report.

At a special meeting of the Bloomfield Hills City Commission last Wednesday evening, the petition of property owners on Lone Pine road for adequate sewage disposal facilities was denied by the Commission.

Birmingham residents who are decorating new homes and remodeling old ones and who are at a loss for attractive ideas will be interested to know that Mrs. Lillian Hagerman has opened an Idea Bureau for interior decorating and table arrangements.

## It's time to buy an ELECTRIC CLOTHES DRYER

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

East Lansing, too, has an off-street parking problem.

Like the city of Birmingham, it hasn't enough money right now to get into the acquisition of a sizable, economical parking lot program, either.

But East Lansing has embarked upon a plan which in many ways parallels latest attempts to obtain a potential 1,600-car parking lot in Birmingham north of Willets and west of Woodward.

The local effort, spearheaded primarily by Jacobson's, Inc., and the Wabek Corp., has involved the investment of nearly \$400,000 in land by the two business firms, and an offer to lease the area to the city on a trial basis, with an option for the city to purchase the property if it is determined the project will pay for itself in the long run.

BY WAY OF SHOWING how East Lansing is handling its parking problem, I want to quote a few paragraphs written by East Lansing City Manager John M. Patriarche for the November, 1953, issue of "The Michigan Municipal Review," publication of the Michigan Municipal League.

After outlining the difficulties the city had in trying alone to develop the parking project, Patriarche says: "It was at this time that a group of East Lansing businessmen approached the city council with a plan for assistance. They proposed to incorporate with the city in purchasing the land needed for the off-street parking program and then in turn leasing it to the city until such time as the city could arrange financing to purchase it."

"THE PLAN HAD MERIT and other businessmen hearing of the plan asked if they couldn't also join the group."

"Whereupon, the city council on April 20, 1953, appointed a committee, composed of East Lansing businessmen and the city manager, to be known as the parking committee, for the purpose of purchasing land for off-street parking."

"The committee followed the general plan of the city for the development of off-street parking, and began negotiations for several parcels of property."

"The success of the committee was due largely to the efforts of several of the real estate men in the community, who gave of their time willingly, without any cost, to purchase the properties."

"IN A MATTER OF a few weeks, the committee had succeeded in purchasing or leasing eight parcels of land at a cost of almost \$200,000 which would provide parking for 173 cars."

"By August 17, 1953, the city council had authorized the signing of the last lease to open the way for additional off-street parking."

"The leases provide for a monthly rental, payable solely from parking meter funds for a period of five years, during which time the city may purchase the property at the same price that the committee originally paid."

"The parking lots are now being constructed and are expected to be in full use by December, 1953."

"IT IS THE INTENTION of the city Council, now that the price of the land is fixed, to negotiate for the sale of revenue bonds, as soon as possible, so that the city can purchase the parking lots and return to the businessmen and other citizens the money which they have invested in the city's future."

"The parking problem in East Lansing, which loomed so big in 1946, is rapidly on its way to solution in 1953, and proves that cooperation can beat any problem."

Jacobson's, Inc., also has a store in East Lansing. Jacobson's president, Nathan Rosenfeld, played a prominent role on the East Lansing businessmen's committee to which Patriarche refers.

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## From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Soviet Russia wants to outlaw the A and H bombs, but won't agree to allow periodic inspections of her country to see that she lives up to the idea. This is nothing new in her international attitude. Americans never should forget that many of the Kremlin's public statements are made for propaganda use among its own people.

A wealthy Texas oil tycoon recently was so pleased with the University of Houston's football victory over another team that he gave it \$2,500,000. He already had given it \$25,000,000. The chap is Hugh H. Cullen, and he most certainly is devoted to both football and other forms of education.

Researchers connected with the British Museum now declare that a skull found in 1912, and pronounced by them at the time to be part of the skull of the so-called "Pitdown man," was a hoax. It was planted by unknown pranksters in a gravel pit at Pitdown, England. The scientists now believe the skull belonged to an ape. So the textbooks on the subject will have to be changed.

When the city of Los Angeles gave a civic banquet to the King and Queen of Greece a few weeks ago, Hollywood enter-

tainers were on the program. It now develops that city officials there were "shocked" by some of the songs and comedy patter provided. Good for Los Angeles! It really has a conscience.

Some day the Constitution of Michigan will be amended to make it unnecessary and impossible for the rural sections of a county like Wayne to suffer the taxation imposed upon it by supervisors. With Detroit embracing most of that county, with its own governmental ramifications, why should its citizens become the tax "victims" of a group of people who are, for the most part, just small politicians?

It must come close to nauseating the stomachs of thousands of this nation's good musicians when they realize that every time a radio or TV program is provided free music by the union musicians, the name of their president, James C. Petrillo, is mentioned. This necessity, of course, only reveals how all-powerful and dictatorial that Petrillo chap is—so typical, too, of many of the unions in this country.

To be sure, as practitioners of the Good Samaritan policy, we are more than willing to lend a hand to others who need help—yet we never should forget that we can't surpass God in His philanthropy, for isn't it true that "God helps those who also help themselves"?

## So They Say...

John J. Sparkman, U. S. Senator from Alabama:

"For the first time in history, people of underdeveloped countries are aware that their living conditions can be improved."

Helen Traubel, eminent Wagnerian soprano and Metropolitan Opera singer:

"To assert that art can be found in the Metropolitan Opera House but not in a nightclub is rank snobbery that undercuts both the taste of the American public and the talent of its composers."

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