

Political Patronage Not Easy To Administer and Control

Who is boss of the Executive Branch of the government?

The obvious answer, of course, is that the President has this power, and discharges it through his cabinet members and other top-level appointees.

But, in actual practice, the situation isn't nearly so simple nor clear-cut. One of his Newsweek columns, under the significant title "The Shackles of Victory," Raymond Moley wrote: "A conquering general who turned statesman, the Duke of Wellington, once said that 'nothing except a battle lost can be half so melancholy as a battle won'."

MR. MOLEY WENT ON to cite some examples. According to him, Secretary Hays has some 30,000 employees under her. But when she took over she had only 16 available job openings.

Einstein Is A Great Mind - But

Professor Albert Einstein is admitted to be the greatest mathematician of our times. His thoughts travel through several universes, while most of us ordinary folk limit our thinking to but a small part of this earth.

Yet we common people are the ones who practice most of the things that make for the material security of chaps like Einstein.

Withholding Tax Is Clever Way to Delude Public

The best way to keep people informed about the taxes they pay is to have them pay such tribute directly themselves. Politicians know this, so they ingeniously devise many "hidden" forms of taxation and, of course, "get away with it" for long periods of time.

Such a device was resorted to by the Democrats a few years back when they requested employers to "withhold" a certain portion of one's wages every payday. They turn the withholdings over to a local bureau to the credit of Uncle Sam.

Matters seem to have been similar in the other branches and departments.

As Mr. Moley pointed out, the vast army of hold-over government employes includes many people of high ability and integrity. But it is an obvious fact that the great majority of them got their jobs because they had served the opposition party well, and it would be unreasonable to expect them to feel any real enthusiasm for the man who finally defeated the forces of the New Deal and the Fair Deal.

That this poses a tremendous problem to the Eisenhower Administration goes without saying. It stands in the way of rebuilding the Republican party through the disposition of patronage.

PATRONAGE IS A WORD in bad odor in many quarters, but it stands for one of the salient and basic facts of political life, regardless of what men or what party happen to be on top. Patronage, which simply means jobs, is one of the spots of party strength. Honestly and wisely used, it can create vigor and efficiency within the government.

Little by little, of course, the faces behind the government desks will change. But it will be a slow process—much slower than the top Administration officials apparently realized when they took over.

This is symptomatic of the enormous change that has taken place in government. Without arguing the virtues and evils of what has happened, it is apparent that government has grown so swiftly, and in many instances so haphazardly, that effective control is unbelievably difficult. Attempting to rectify this will be as difficult a long-range problem as the Administration will face.

So, when he tells U.S. teachers to refuse to testify before Senate Committee investigating Communism in education, we think the professor is not being practical... for it is the business of our lawmakers to strengthen and secure those protective processes of democracy that make possible the very freedoms guaranteed to us by our Constitution.

To be sure, employees know a certain portion (not less than 20 per cent) of their wages are kept from them, and they don't like it too well. But were they given all their wages each payday and then, on their own responsibility, had to forward them to Uncle Sam, they would resent it more—and such resentment, within reason, would find outlet upon their Congressmen... and no doubt these representatives would keep a closer control over federal expenditures.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Personally, we have enough confidence in the Eisenhower Administration's desire to do taxes to believe it honest when, to balance the current budget, it asks for no decrease in the present tax "take" until January 1. But millions of people perhaps will think otherwise, and the militant Democrats in next year's Congressional elections will make plenty of political capital of the situation. "Truth is forever on a scaffold, wrong forever on the throne."

Bad-leader Artie Shaw certainly must have a way with women . . . for he has wedded himself to seven of the fair sex. It is remarkable how a man who is vocationally tuned to harmony could allow so much discord to get into his home.

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Ken McCormick, The Detroit Free Press star reporter and expert on crime and prison subjects, recently put his finger on the basic cause for those riots in Jackson when he said: "Enforced idleness is a large contributor to inmate rebelliousness." For idleness in prisons is very harmful to inmate morale. But our unwise and stingy Legislatures neglect to set in motion conditions to correct the trouble . . . do not be surprised at future prison revolts in Jackson, "the world's biggest prison."

It is officially admitted in Washington that atomic blasts in Nevada are not the cause of the recent tornadoes. However, as yet they haven't cleared Senator Joe McCarthy of the blame.

Most of us are tappy, from childhood on, that we are children of God, therefore heirs to wondrous and happy experiences on this earth. The real task, of course, is to prove to many of us that our births are registered in Heaven . . . that we are not orphans in a plan-less world.

So They Say . . .

Charles E. Moylan, judge, Supreme Bench, Baltimore, Md.: "Convicted adolescents . . . are the recruits in the army of habitual criminals."

Einer Perman, head surgeon, Stockholm hospital: "The male sex is much weaker than the female."

That's One Way to Look at It I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL HOW THE FRENCH GIVE EVERYONE A CHANCE TO BE PREMIER



Happenings of Long Ago

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

40 YEARS AGO July 10, 1913 Prof. Miller, of Center-view, Mich., formerly a teacher in the E. H. S., was calling on old friends in town Saturday last. He notes many changes for the better in Birmingham since leaving here some 14 years ago.

Madam Rumer says the girls will look stuffy-looking in their new summer dresses down to quantity. Squeezing a girl in corsets has been compared to hugging a red-hot stove pipe at a revival meeting.

Many of our people are enthusiastic over the possibilities of the coming tournament to be held in Detroit, July 15 and 18 during the reunion of the Army of Santiago.

Children picking wild flowers in the swamps near Royal Oak report running across a wild man who was evidently more frightened of them than they were of sight of him. If that could be, The poor fellow was in "rags" and said to make his home in the swamps in the face of the wind.

The little village of Leonard is greatly excited over an epidemic of "the reds" which is being spread by the village ratten-egged wife of a sailor alleged to have flown quite a distance during the absence of her husband.

30 YEARS AGO July 13, 1923 Work on the new building being constructed for E. C. Huston on North Woodward avenue is being pushed forward rapidly. The concrete basement is finished and the walls are going higher and higher.

The first outdoor initiation of the Knights of Pythias lodge No. 149 of Birmingham was held Thursday evening, June 25, in the orchard on the farm belonging to Ross G. Adams.

Dissatisfied with the price of \$10 a foot for 25 feet of his land on Lincoln avenue, which the village,

HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

There's a Bloodmobile coming to Birmingham later this month. Its usual activities will be centered at the Community House, also known as "The Heart of Birmingham."

"The Heart" has greatly widened its scope in matters like this because through it pumps blood which often goes to the far corners of the world.

The Red Cross, in processing blood, maintains a supply for Birmingham. It is true, but it also sends blood plasma and other blood products to whatever section is in distress.

MOST RECENT call came from a "neighbor" of ours, Flint, where many tornado victims were in critical need of this life-sustaining blood.

All around us today are the calls of doctors trying desperately to curb the wavy of polio that is once more spreading like a fast country. Gamma globulin is made from blood. The blood of these Birmingham donors may be a factor in saving some child from the crippling effects of this disease.

It may play another role in some distant spot as it restores the waning strength of a wounded soldier.

STILL FAR AWAY it may help save the life of a civilian hurt in Birmingham. It is true, but it also sends blood plasma and other blood products to whatever section is in distress.

IT DOESN'T look like anything very exciting, and surely there is

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

It is to be hoped that the city, now that its fiscal year has just begun, can take a few hundred dollars from its contingent or capital improvement funds and buy additional rubbish containers to place on downtown sidewalks.

Debris—primarily paper—is still to be found in profusion along the sidewalks and gutters in the business section. A great deal of it undoubtedly comes from pedestrians who haven't yet learned to hang onto it for a couple of blocks until it is the get to one of the containers already in use.

Too, if more containers were available, perhaps merchants would be more inclined to collect their sidewalk sweepings and deposit them in a nearby container rather than push the rubbish into the gutter, as is the common practice today.

Birmingham has long been known for its fine residences, but several visitors have mentioned to me that its downtown section now is getting to be known for its paper-lined gutters.

I'm not a gambling man myself, unless you consider that an occasional conversational game of penny-ante poker makes me one. I'm not in favor of lotteries, as a rule. The only lottery I would support is of one which used the numbered corners from ballots to award a nice prize to some poor or persons who took time off to go and vote.

Well, the other day I came across this suggestion for adding some pounds. Get a half-pound of shelled almonds. Put them in scalding water and take the brown coatings off. Combine the almonds with a half pound of seedless raisins, put the mixture through a food grinder. Keep in the refrigerator until eaten, which is usually at breakfast. A topping of medium cream may help it go down faster. This is considered a four-day supply.

Me? Got a good weight reducer. In nice hot weather like this, one wonders what has happened to the Birmingham city commission's special committee investigating possibilities of an outdoor swimming pool.

Some people do learn from experience. In the example of the parents who never wake up their second baby just to see it smile.

One certain way to save face is not to lead with your chin.

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A good many things depend on your approach. Edward Ross, the famous editor of the Ladies Home Journal, loved flowers and people. One time he planted some tulips on the street side of the fence which encircled his house.

Friends warned him against placing the flowers in such a tempting location, saying they surely would be stolen. "These flowers are under the protection of the public."

Not a single flower was plundered. A foot may be known by six things: anger without cause; speech without profit; change without progress; inquiry without object; putting trust in strangers and mistaking foes for friends—Arabian Proverb.

You're doing very well. (1) Hitting on all cylinders. (2) Cooking in the front burner. (3) Rocking on all legs. (4) You must be mistaken. (5) Full of praise. (6) Off the beam. (7) Full of space gas.

Please stop talking. (1) Button your lip. (2) Stop beating your gums. (3) Plug your jets. (4) Go now. (5) Skedaddle. (6) Scram. (7) Blast off!

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