

## Government Can Become A Deadly Parasite

In one of her recent columns, Dorothy Thompson dealt with the question of government in business, using agitation for federal electric power production as a concrete illustration. At the end she had something important to say about what happens under state capitalism—a term she prefers to the more commonly used one of socialism.

"The most perfect example is the Soviet Union," she wrote. "Why do the people of Russia continue to pay taxes when the state which owns everything and employs everybody has all the profits that once went to private persons? Can't they support the state apparatus out of these? No, they cannot. And the reason they cannot lies in the nature of the state as such, which is first and last: the police power

and is absolutely insatiable.

"NOTHING THE STATE GETS from society is ever returned. At what point, then, should its aggrandizements be halted? I say they should be halted whenever private persons can accomplish the same things even approximately as well. The burden of proof should always be on the state."

This principle should be made the test of whether or not to put government into the power business or any other form of business. There can be no excuse whatever for having the government do what the people can do for themselves. Most important of all, limitation of government is the first essential step in maintaining any nation's freedoms.

## A Gesture Honoring Freedom

Sir Roger Makin, British ambassador to the United States, recently sent a \$500 check to the fund being raised to restore the steeple of Old North Church in Boston. The money was contributed by members of the British embassy and other British citizens in this country as official representatives of their Queen.

The Old North Church was the site from which signals were fixed to send Paul Revere on his famous ride. The contribu-

tion from the British subjects in this country is a generous gesture and one which should help to strengthen the bonds of friendship between this country and Britain.

The old enmities have been forgotten. The British gesture is a reminder that a share in freedom, as the Old North Church is, can be honored by all free men whatever their differences may once have been.

## Good Fiction Material

Burglars, take notice! An unnammed sum of money, but presumably very large, has been stored away by Uncle Sam. Val Peterson, Civil Defense Administrator, says that this is an emergency stockpile, for use if the mints were destroyed in an air attack.

Just now the minting and currency printing plants are located in defense areas likely to be among the first to be bombed. If they were hit and their supplies and tools blown to pieces, Peterson says we would be using wampum again instead of money.

THE EXISTENCE of this hoard should be a boon to writers of adventure stories who think they have exhausted the available subjects. A good part of the novels that they construct could be devoted to running down the location of the treasure, no clues to which are given by Peterson. Then could come the lifting of the loot, and finally the downfall of the villains through the unerring pursuit of the FBI. Here is a plot made to order.

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

Michigan Republican leaders, now out of all high state offices, declare themselves planning to "re-build their party." Well, boys and girls, you certainly can't go wrong when you try to bring into existence a strong, working organization of party workers. They are like unto salesmen in a company that sells something to the public. But, boys and girls, don't overlook the creation of something for your "salesmen" to sell... it must be more than generalities, more than mere criticisms, more than mere slogans.

Postmaster General Summerfield finally has admitted that his efforts to decrease the department's annual deficit by allowing "junk mail" to clutter up the system, proved a failure. To which thousands of over-burdened postal employees and millions of householders will shout their approval.

Having more than two color tones to 1955 motor cars will enable the Lady to wear costumes fitting the color scheme combinations.

France's Premier Mendes-France seriously has launched a movement to cut down the drinking of alcohol in his country. Already he has made available for

youngsters free milk, instead of the cheap wines they are allowed to consume. Anybody who is acquainted with the whole problem of alcohol certainly will applaud the Premier in his efforts to bring more sobriety to France.

## So They Say...

Dr. Julian P. Price, pediatrician: "The physical and mental health of our people is relatively good, but there is evidence of spiritual disease."

Ronald Colman, stage, TV and screen actor: "Blanket indorsements have a way of falling off during cold nights."

Ben Alexander, the "Sergt. Frank Smith" of "Dragnet":

"Just so long as I have enough change in my pocket to eat out—and eat well—and every night—I figure the world owes me nothing."

Sir Hubert Wilkins, noted polar explorer: "The U.S. winter soldier is one of the best and most luxuriously equipped cold-weather troops in the world."

## Make It a Big Dose, Doc.



## HORSE SENSE AND NONSENSE

BY ALICE E. MORGAN

This is the time of year when yours truly would like to be the owner of a general store.

Business would be booming all over the place, especially if one had a small section devoted to "common medicines."

With the weather we're having, there should be howling demands for things to bring stuffed noses as well as plug those which have become over-activated. Cough syrups and tablets are quite the thing, too.

But there is even a greater market, and that is broader market, and one that is strictly seasonal. The best part of it is, the store owner knows exactly when the market opens and exactly when it starts. It's the same date every year.

FIRST THING, we would check our supplies of pencils, paper and erasers. Then we would trot over to the "drug" section and would we ever pile in those little pills to ease aching heads.

Then, off to the cigar section. It would be human to have that stock run low this time of year. Perhaps, if we had time we'd find ourselves a quiet corner and see what we could do about inventing a hair-pulling machine. That would free a lot of hands leaving them available for holding paper or reaching for those pills and cigars.

THAT DONE, we may even try to devise some little props in which weary heads can rest, with an easily installed attachment to keep eyes open.

Little gadgets, something like very miniature lawnmowers would be helpful to replace the energy wasted in chewing fingernails. Those, however, we toss in with a general assortment of sundries in our inventory. Our talent does not extend so far into complicated machinery.

Some things we'll stock up on, with an arrangement in store to dispense them. We'll have a pile of bills (paid, we hope), a few receipts for those "intangible" things which look so large on that particular horizon, cancelled checks and a nice long list of reminders.

EQUIPPED thusly, Mr. and Mrs. American Citizen would be all set to get it at it.

From 1949, etc., would be handy by, one copy to be mailed away and a whole stack of "practice" ones picked up at various sources.

Everything would start to click. Pencils would become dull or the lead snap, pills and cigars would vanish like mist before the sun, all the little machines would swing into action and the foot-stool would bang away at every tick.

There's one drawback. We, the store owner, would be wading into our profits, supplying ourselves with the same assortment, could this be tax deductible?

Doesn't look so good, on second thought. Guess we'll stick to newspaper work.

## 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  
January 20, 1905  
"Mr. Jos. Smallbone was driving home from Birmingham with Henry Denson on a load of coal, was thrown off and fell heavily to the ground. He was lamed up considerably but will come out all right in the spring."

"John Barnes of Holly, has painted a number of signs for his village, calling attention to the ordinance prohibiting spitting on the sidewalks. The signs will be posted at prominent places."

"Born to Mr. and Mrs. William Spaulding a fine baby boy, Mr. Spaulding is superintendent and foreman of Mr. J. F. Rundle's big farm near Northport."

"Because he speaks louder, harder and longer than was natural for him, Frank Kelsey of Flint has sued Frank Van Riper for \$10,000 damages, alleging that the latter is responsible for the condition. The two men had a fight some time ago, when Kelsey had his nose broken."

"Editor Mitchell and wife are in attendance at the annual meeting of the Michigan Press Association, held in Detroit this week Thursday and Friday. Papers read, speeches, vaudeville entertainment, and a banquet at the Wayne hotel, will make everybody happy, wealthy and wise—perhaps."

30 YEARS AGO  
January 23, 1925  
Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Beers were given a pleasant surprise last Saturday evening when a party of friends from Detroit and Eco

City arrived to celebrate Mrs. Beers' birthday. The party was entertained through the evening with progressive pedro, the first of which was played on Wednesday.

As a New Year's gift, Mrs. Frank L. Klingensmith, of Bloomfield Hills, presented to the Baldwin Public Library, here, nearly a half hundred volumes of travel, religion, literature, history and fiction.

Henry Wood Booth of Cranbrook cottage, Bloomfield Hills, is receiving congratulations from his friends for having reached his eighty-eighth milestone on Wednesday. Mr. Booth, sometimes known as "Lace, the church tramp," is active in religious and literary pursuits.

15 YEARS AGO  
January 18, 1940  
Places as a valedictorian and salutatorian, highest scholastic honors high school students can attain, have been awarded to Cecelia Ely, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Hyatt Ely of 248 South Adams, and Clifford Harvey, 18, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Elmer Harvey of 841 East Maple avenue. Miss Ely is the valedictorian and Harvey salutatorian.

Faye Anderson, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Anderson, 1140 Lake Park drive, has been elected Snow Queen by Baldwin High school students to preside over the Birmingham's Winter Sports Carnival to be held Saturday, Jan. 27, on Quarton Lake.

On the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary, Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. George Wiley of Detroit, were guests of honor at a buffet luncheon for 178 guests, given by their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh W. Hitchcock, at their home on Lowell court.

Ted Snyder, popular Baldwin senior, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Snyder, 708 Oakdale avenue, won a place as third alternate in competitive examination with 60 other young men for an appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER

By George Wm. Averill

For the past several years, attendance figures on Birmingham city commissioners have appeared in this column along about this time.

But each year, there usually is a new city commissioner who has served only a portion of the year because of his election the first Monday in April. This complicates the tabulations.

Besides, this year for the first time the Eccentric is going to accumulate and publish the attendance records of ALL members of ELECTED boards and commissions in this area.

We figure anyone who permits election petitions to circulate, who campaigns or allows himself to be elected, to public office, then he owes it to his constituents to be on the public job as much as he can.

So... we now are working on this "attendance roundup" and plan its publication the end of March.

If the city can sell Shain Park for \$250,000 and buy a new greensward in the next block for only \$150,000, some taxpayer may suggest that the city hall block be sold and a new municipal building constructed (of more economical design, too). If this maneuvering can be done regularly enough, someone might see in it a way to ease the yearly tax burden.

After all these years of peering through mud tossed up by trucks I have had to follow, it will now be a pleasure to see the truck tailgates.

Jan. 1 was the effective date of a new Michigan law which requires all trucks

to be equipped with mudguards or similar equipment.

Now if only the police will enforce the years-old tailgate law, everything will be much safer for the passenger car driver when behind a truck.

It certainly is no fun to have to slue to a stop because the little red light didn't go on—even though you can see where you are headed for.

Detroit is studying possible radio controlled buses and street cars as a means of improving service.

Well, if radio-aided control the DSR situation, thousands of passengers will be, for it.

Postmaster General Summerfield finally has agreed to end the "junk mail" delivery March 31.

In criticizing him for allowing this sort of "to-the-people" mail to bog down city mail deliveries, some people have called him foolish and stupid.

Quite to the contrary, Summerfield may have planned the whole thing this way: As a good politician, he knows public pressure is one of the best means of moving a legislative program to action.

So with the postal deficit so high because of improper inadequate, mixed up regulations, perhaps he said to himself:

"If I let the bus and the delivery really get bogged down, the public will hang away at Congress so it finally will take corrective action on many other postal problems, too. Perhaps?"

## Completes Year In 7th Infantry

7th DIV., KOREA — Pfc. Wes Infantry Division. Ostrander, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Ostrander, 1798 Maryland, re- Army division now in Korea, are recently completed his first year in engaged in a comprehensive training program including realistic

field work and maneuvers. Ostrander is assigned to Company of the division's 31st Regiment. He entered the Army in July 1953 and completed basic training at Fort Riley, Kan.

General news deadline is 4:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

## Folders ---- ?

YES... IN BLACK AND WHITE OR 4 COLOR PROCESS

Three Detroit Salesmen... TR 5-2629... Plant MI 6-2000

The AVERILL PRESS INC. of Birmingham

A COMPLETE PRINTING SERVICE FROM TYPESetting TO MAILING

FORMERLY THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC PRINTING DEPARTMENT

Why should I buy an automatic clothes dryer?

An automatic dryer saves tons of lifting, miles of walking, cuts sprinkling time to zero and ironing time in half.

Does it cost much to operate a clothes dryer?

An all-electric clothes dryer operates for just pennies a day... saves hours of work.

Why do so many folks that own an electric range also buy an electric dryer?

Personal experience with an electric range has proved to them that the electric way is the easiest way!

Which electric clothes dryer is the BEST?

See your dealer or stop in at Detroit Edison for comparative data and descriptive literature that will help you make a choice.

## The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., at the Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue Telephone MIdwest 4-1100  
GEORGE R. AVERILL  
Editor and Publisher  
PAUL NEAM-AVERILL  
Business Manager  
GEORGE W. M. AVERILL  
Managing Editor  
HAROLD E. BURGER  
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.  
108 Guardian Bldg. DETROIT 28, MICH.  
220 Broadway, NEW YORK 10, N. Y.

The Eccentric will publish contributed material providing it has new value. Suggestions are welcomed. Any erroneous reflection 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.

## Ticklers



"I wonder if we're makin' a mistake in a-lettin' our Minnie slope with Zeke? I don't like the way he comes down a ladder!"

## By George



"In grandfathers' time, parents worried about bringing up their children. Nowadays, their problem is keeping up with them."