

## Keep Political Party Contributions Separate

Within every segment of society, no doubt, there are persons whose thinking runs all the way from brilliance to downright stupidity. The same is true of political parties.

You probably have learned that the high commands in both the Democratic and Republican parties have considered the idea of pooling their efforts this year to raise a lot of dough for the election campaigns.

Instead of each party working on its own, somebody figured it would be nice to have a common pot into which everybody in both parties could toss their contributions. Then the money would be divided evenly . . . and lots of irksome trouble would be avoided.

LATELY WE HAVE HEARD that the Republicans turned down the idea, that the Democrats really want it carried out. Later we learn that some big Republicans again favor it . . . but what may result finally we do not know.

But this we do believe: if this joint plan is carried out it will not be in accord with the Republican attitude toward unions assessing dues against all members, then using some of that money to support a particular party or candidate—even though some dues-paying members are not in agreement with the union's choice of party or candidate.

"Why should a man have to pay money into a fund, when his money helps an opponent?" is the Republican rallying cry. To which any Republican may now

ask: "Why should I pay my contribution into a common pot or pool, if some of it is to go to a political opponent?" . . . assuming, of course, that the Republicans, on a nation-wide basis, raise more of the pot's dough than the Democrats (and the condition would be just as bad, if vice versa).

WE ONLY MENTION THIS situation to remind you that even in the highest echelons of a segment of our population, plenty of stupidity can be made manifest.

Isn't the very essence of our national spirit pronounced from the elements of free and fair competition? Do not all informed Americans believe a strong two-party system is best to preserve freedom, to improve our social, economic and political environments?

This notion of a common political financial pot is not rooted in this competitive system. If the Democrats, or the Republicans, can raise from their own advocates more than their opponent, and do it legally, let 'em do it!

WHICHEVER PARTY CAN PRODUCE the best candidates, with the best platforms and policies for the public good, let it present its case and win!

At least, for those Republican leaders, they ought to be consistent in their arguments.

What's the difference between a union man contributing to an opponent's campaign, and a Republican or a Democrat doing the same?

## Planning Needed to Guide Automation

Dr. Vannevar Bush, one of the nation's most distinguished scientists, offered wise counsel about the social problems of automation as the joint congressional subcommittee concluded its hearings on the subject.

Dr. Bush, who is president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, told the senators and representatives that personally he has no great fears that the spread of automation will be harmful to society. But, he added, "it is a different story when it comes to the individual."

In making this distinction the scientist has come close to the heart of the matter. Few informed observers doubt that, in the long run, automation will bring great benefits to society. It will boost production

and at the same time free men for pursuits other than toil.

But individuals, perhaps large groups of individuals, may suffer as new automatic procedures replace workers. Though they will eventually be absorbed into other jobs, they may experience hardship meanwhile.

It is during this transitional period that a reasonable amount of planning and foresight—by both government and industry—can help ease the shift for individuals and communities. Dr. Bush put the matter well:

"It is incumbent upon us so to guide the change that an absolute minimum of injustice is done to any individual, and so that the social benefits far outweigh the distress that may be caused."

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

A Grand Rapids high school senior has won the title of "Best cherry pie baker in Michigan." This young lady actually did much practicing to win the coveted honor. She says she made 37 "trial pies" since Jan. 1 before investing all her skill in the one that won. Whoever marries this young woman certainly is going to get a persevering pie maker.

The Clearwater Advertising observes that psychiatrists have wrought some minor miracles with the human mind. One woman in St. Petersburg, the paper says, used to live in mortal fear of telephones. After a couple of sessions with a Tampa psychiatrist she now answers them whether they ring or not.

After all is said and done, why complain about the future? Isn't that all anyone has in which to spend the remainder of his life?

Human hair grows about half an inch each month. The average single hair falls out from two to four years before it is replaced by others, and some are not—this in spite of all the claims of all the manufacturers of hair restorers.

## Out of Style



## NATURE NOW

### Man Alone Can Upset Nature's Balance

The study of nature's laws has become a science called "ecology," a term often used in this column.

Among the first of its tenets is the law of adaptation. Every environment supports those plants and animals best suited to the living accommodations it has to offer.

A pitcher plant grows in a bog because it needs moisture and can live in nitrogen-deficient soil. Its leaves are shaped for catching, drowning and digesting insects which supply this needed element. Thus it is able to excel its competitors in its struggle for existence in the bog.

NATURE ALSO practices the law of succession. Thereby she uses past gains and builds for the future. Nothing alive is static. Habitats pass through a cycle of progress from lake shore, marsh to a grand formation of more mature land areas.

This is a very gradual process. It occurs in response to such factors as climate, drainage and deposition of humus resulting from growth and decay of evolving plant and animal communities.

Finally, a climax forest is reached, representing the highest type of plant community which any area is able to support. In Oakland county this is known as the "beech-maple" climax. In such an association nothing can live that is not adapted to deep shade.

OTHER PLANT communities in our state range from lake shore and cat-tail marshes through such thick associations as spruce-tamarac and oak-hickory.

The law of multiplication is another of nature's tenets. In its competitive existence, every living thing is subjected to one hazard after another. Any species, therefore, might be wiped out if nature had not taken great pains to insure its survival.

## ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Shoppers have discovered a bargain in parking at the city's municipal lot at Pierce and Merrill streets.

Some fifty spaces at the north end are limited to two-hour parking at five cents an hour. However, the remaining 174 are set up for all-day parking (12 hours to be exact) and the charge is two hours for five cents.

City officials have discovered there is a growing tendency to park at the south end, walk a few steps further, but save 2½ cents an hour.

Because it has an effect on meter revenue, the city would like to find a way to discourage the bargains, yet not have to change the rates or chase the all-day parkers from the lot.

While we're discussing parking lots, it should be emphasized that Birmingham residential taxpayers (the property-owning kind), are in no way helping to pay for the current parking program via their taxes.

Financing is being done by the city and the benefitted business properties. The city gets its 60 per cent share by selling parking bonds to private investors. The businessmen contribute their 40 per cent through the special assessment route.

Residents are contributors only when they park along side or in front of a meter.

City Commissioner James Allen is a little doubtful, now that the city has abandoned plans for a second lot in the southwest Birmingham business quadrant, that the city should be considering a second and smaller lot for the northeast quadrant.

He suggests maybe the city might be

about to make the same mistake twice.

"Perhaps we shouldn't have gone after two lots in the southwest area," he commented at a recent commission meeting where downtown parking was under discussion. "If it was a mistake to try for two lots there, perhaps it also would be a mistake to try for two in the northeast area."

If Allen believes that enough to vote that way when the second NE lot is up for final action (and it will be up), he may find Mayor Charles Renfrew agreeing. Renfrew believes the initial 176-car Hamilton lot will suffice for a long time. Then it could be multi-levelled.

Birmingham City Manager D. C. Egbert believes it will be difficult to replace Robert Fauteck as superintendent of Springdale park.

"He has done an exceptionally fine job with Springdale," Egbert commented. "We had hoped he would do as well with the new Eton artificial ice rink."

Fauteck left three weeks ago to take a better-paying sales job with a Royal Oak firm.

### Fast Answer:

A pastor, taking a census in his parish, always asked the children the same questions: "What is your name? How old are you? Do you say your prayers? What will happen to you if you do not say your prayers?"

One mother rehearsed her child so he would make a good showing. The pastor duly came to call. But before he could ask his questions, he got the answers:

"My name is Jerry Jones . . . 5 years old . . . say my prayers every night . . . go to hell."—Kreolite News.

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## 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 March 2, 1906

A Marks' hoop and stove mill burned out Saturday night, was a total loss. Estimated damages were \$4,000. The story included these comments:

"People within the length of two city blocks were undisturbed and all slept the sleep of the righteous, until the foreman, almost the nearest house to the factory was not disturbed until the fire had done its work then one of the spectators called up the foreman, Mr. Allen, and told him all about it. It was the quietest and most effectual fire we have had in many a day. We are a sleepy town and the fact that the most important factory in our village burned up and no alarm given proves something. We heard one man say, 'I guess our town don't know that the war was over yet.'"

Mrs. L. Stanley entertained very pleasantly at Pedro Saturday evening, first prize being awarded to Mrs. V. Patch and Mr. Showmish, consolation to Miss Aspinwall and Mr. Skibolski.

There was a surprise party on Mr. and Mrs. Henry Cost's last Thursday, their 8th anniversary. 48 young and old people were there, just think of the time."

Mr. Harmon has a fine new piano.

### 30 YEARS AGO February 25, 1929

Fourteen annexation propositions, comprising about 2,047 acres in Troy and Bloomfield townships, are to be voted on at the annual city election. April, the county board of supervisors has determined.

ist pastor, as its chairman. His first job will be "to cope with the threatened showing of Sunday motion pictures in the village."

In order to do away with the present crowded condition of Baldwin high school gymnasium lockers, some of which are shared by three students, the school board this week decided to buy 210 additional lockers for \$313.54.

### 15 YEARS AGO March 6, 1941

Plans are being finalized for the opening next week of the Bloomfield theater, the city's second movie house.

Icy windshields were blamed for two separate auto crashes Monday night. Police ticketed none of the drivers.

Police were called Sunday to 950 Wimbleson avenue, now vacant, when told that a number of boys were inside. They arrived and found five 11-year-olds in the basement recreation room playing pool. The pool table evidently goes with the house.

A significant factor in the growth of Michigan as a center of the automobile industry was its one-time leadership in the production of marine engines and carriages.



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Ticklers By George

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