

If We Had TVA Instead of Detroit Edison

An example of the difference between a public and a privately operated utility is shown in the case of the Detroit Edison Co., which in January turned over to cities, townships and villages in Southeastern Michigan the sum of \$18,900,000 in taxes.

If the Edison Company's customers were being served by a government-owned utility, such as TVA, these taxes would not have gone into the various treasuries of these units. In fact, such a TVA would be operated on a deficit basis—and the deficit would have to be made up by the entire nation's taxpayers, from every state in the union.

This is exactly what is being done wherever the federal government does operate utilities. To be sure, the locally served customers do get electric power cheaper—but at the cost of millions of people who never get a nickel's worth of the current.

This system, of course, is merely a form of Socialism.

Going back again to the Edison Co., out of its check for taxes the sum of \$1,566,000 is paid into various Oakland County communities served by this utility.

The Edison Co. operates as a privately owned enterprise, owned by scores of thousands of average people. It is, of course, allowed to charge certain rates by determination of the Michigan Public Service Commission, which represents the public.

Another tremendous value to Edison's customers is its well-known high level of service—a type of service practically unheard of where government owns and operate a business.

Our country was founded and built upon a free, competitive enterprise system. If we want to create and distribute more abundance to all, let's keep it that way!

"Ike" Appears To Embrace Left-Wing Ideas

President Dwight D. Eisenhower seems to be moving steadily to the left as he begins his last term of office as President. A close study of his major presentations to Congress in the month of January, and recent statements, shows the President is surprisingly close to the philosophies of Democratic presidents who preceded him, and who were considered New Dealers or Fair Dealers, of very liberal administrations.

The latest Eisenhower request is for changing the nation's immigration laws, which were overhauled only a few years ago by two-thirds majorities in both houses of Congress, in spite of a veto by President Harry Truman.

Various minority groups and racial blocs have been applying strong pressure to

break down the limits imposed on immigration into the United States by the present laws. And, in spite of laws, various reasons have continually been found to circumvent them and admit refugees, displaced persons and so on, via special laws. The President's request for greater immigration is somewhat similar to his request for greater foreign aid and former Democratic proposals which are now the main basis of the modern wing of the Republican Party, including Mr. Eisenhower.

All of which brings to mind the question whether the Conservatives in this country, including a part of both major parties, will eventually be forced to unite and form a party which will oppose the steady drift to the left—a drift which is active and apparent in both of the major parties today.

Russia's Soil Cannot Support Its People

Russia is having, and will continue to have, a tough row to hoe in her efforts to keep farm production abreast of her population increases, according to the belief of a University of Chicago professor, who recently spoke at Ann Arbor.

Chauncey D. Harris, professor of geography and dean of Chicago's division of social sciences, made the statement. He points out that in all Russia there is fertile land area only as large as North and South Dakota and the lower wheat areas

of Canada's prairie provinces.

This fact, no doubt, is one of the fundamental reasons Russia's rulers seek satellite nations, so that they may be exploited and robbed of their agricultural production.

Most certainly, of course, it is decreed by the inexorable and universal laws of justice that the satanic activities of the Kremlin are ultimately to meet with disaster and defeat.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Citizens of Southfield township who expect the mere change of their governmental status from township to city to bring them all the desired public services they may want and need, will be disappointed if they make this change on a

30-square-mile area basis. Especially if they fail to up their taxes plenty. Thirty square miles, most of it yet vacant property, is a mighty cumbersome community to handle to the economic satisfaction of all concerned.

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Paradise Lost



'Do-It' Fad Hits Washington



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Spring Heralds Growing Season

March 20 marked the spring solstice, the official beginning of another growing season. The first robin has found the first worm, horned larks forage along country lanes, the cardinal greets the morning with its ringing "what cheer", and all of life's longing is in the turtle dove's call.

A trek to the country where the old orchard waits, among our first attack of spring fever. Bending down a branch of peach or apple we find the winter-cooled buds already swelling and ruptured. Flocks of chickadees about their aerobics fill the dark branches with their cheerful chatter.

By the same token it ingeniously protects itself from man's destructive ways while its large leaves unfold and multiply throughout the warm days of summer.

Our feet sink deep into the rich leaf mold as we follow the little stream. Fox squirrels scold in the maple branches overhead. Since they are among the first mammals to bring forth their young, one can safely predict that hidden in a dozen protecting hollows in the surrounding trees the babies are already muzzling, safe and warm against their mothers' breasts.

HERE HAVE BEEN

few cold days during the winter when these birds have not been busy about their business of destroying insect eggs and pupae. They are particularly fond of the canker worm, so destructive to fruit trees. It has been estimated that the black-capped chickadee eats eight billion insects per year in Michigan alone. Good evidence is this of the bird's role in maintaining the fine balance of nature.

We reach out to examine the red maple branches left on the ground from last autumn's wood cutting. So urgent is nature's demand that although severed from the parent trunk the buds open on schedule to sift their weight of pollen on a just spring wind.

HERE ARE

the red-wing's noisy "O-kalee" as we pass the east-lawn on our way back to the old farmhouse. The males arrive early, preceding their mates by several weeks, to stake out and defend their summer's nesting and feeding grounds.

The sun shines warm as we pass the wet foot on its ever-so-artfully concealed by a pile of stones. Here, too, life is quickening and stirring. In the wood-piled against the foundation of the old barn a family of chipmunks has spent the winter.

When hyacinth and tulip bloom in the flower bed nearby there will be no sight more charming among the four-footed than these young, little balls of soft brown fur with bold-striped backs and tail-tipped stiffly upward.

AND SO IT IS that if last year's growing is discarded, this year's is already begun. Life comes only from life, making of itself a chain of circle whose throbbing pulse it is given to us to touch briefly here and there.

HERE ATTRACTED BY ITS FETID

odor will dine the first carrion flies

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 29, 1907

"Russell Blakeslee will spend this week of vacation in Birmingham at Grandpa Blakeslee's, so that he can have all the coffee he wants for his breakfast."

"Invitations to the Governor's ball at Pontiac are in the hands of many of our citizens. It is to be the swellest event Oakland county has enjoyed for years."

"Now here comes the grand wind-up of a jolly series of dancing at the Southfield this past winter. It is called the Maple Sugar dancing party, and will be held at the pleasant home of Mr. and Mrs. George Randall."

30 YEARS AGO
March 21, 1907

"Mrs. Calvin Coolidge was pictured at the main entrance of the temporary White House, the Patterson mansion. Moving was accomplished with little inconvenience, and the real White House was put in the hands of repairmen."

"Work on Birmingham's new motion picture theater on south Woodward avenue, is going forward today, in spite of the fact that efforts are being made to obtain an injunction against 100-foot Woodward avenue in circuit court."

"Plans are rapidly maturing for the Fourth Annual Roll Call of the Community House association of Birmingham."

15 YEARS AGO
March 26, 1912

"Word has been received from the mayor of Birmingham, England, by A. A. Bull, chairman here for the British War Relief Society, acknowledging the gift of a mobile kitchen bought by subscriptions for residents in the Birmingham area."

"The City of Birmingham made enough interest money from its deposit in the old First National Bank to cover losses in all closed banks."

"Cottage cheese was advertised as 12c a lb.; grapefruit, two bunches for 9c; grapefruit, six for 23c; paper towels, three rolls for 25c; old fashioned eye bread, three loaves for 29c; doughnuts, 10c a dozen; frankfurters, 23c a lb., and jelly beans, 12c a lb."

"Standard brands—standard pictured—parking just 2 minutes from your favorite stores in Birmingham."



ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

It was Friday morning. A good morning, compared to many we've had since the first of the year.

And we were well into the preparation of this week's issue.

The phone of my desk rang. On the other end of the line was a woman who still was concerned with last week's issue. She was very disappointed with The Eccentric. Or perhaps she was disgusted, or even mad in a suppressed, controlled fashion.

(Once in a while someone does react this way, it must be admitted.) It was evident, however, she was perturbed.

FINALLY I GOT HER to tell me more of what this was all about:

It seems we had mentioned her name in connection with a communication she had written to her municipal government regarding a local situation.

This municipality's elected officials had placed the letter on their agenda, and spent considerable time at their next meeting discussing the problem, which was common to the area.

It was apparent to me that this woman was embarrassed. She was believing—in correctly, in this instance—that she might

be subjected to neighborhood ridicule or even reprisals.

IN MY ESTIMATION, she could be commended for writing the letter to her elected public officials. The problem was within their jurisdiction. Something can be done about it. And the municipality is the only logical and practical means through which any solution should be administered.

Far from feeling embarrassed, this woman should be proud she had exercised a democratic freedom. She had come upon a problem—and had taken it to the proper authorities.

In more than a few countries, she would be imprisoned for such action. But not here. Not in the United States.

And what if the neighbors did ridicule? What if they did embarrass? So what? To stick to one's principles, to one's convictions is most difficult, even in private. But to let them become known publicly and to defend them in public—that is courageous, and is to be cheered!

Other day we came across an item mentioning the city of Kloof, in Natal, South Africa. Doesn't that make the residents there Kloof-dwellers?

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NEW ISSUE March 22, 1937

Interest Exempt From All Present Federal Income Taxes and Michigan Intangibles Tax

\$1,500,000

School District of the City of Birmingham
Oakland County, Michigan

3 3/4% and 3 1/2% Bonds

Annual Coupon	Due	Yield
\$10,000 3 3/4%	1938	2.40%
40,000 3 3/4%	1939	2.60
10,000 3 3/4%	1941	2.80
40,000 3 3/4%	1942	2.90
50,000 3 3/4%	1943	3.00
50,000 3 3/4%	1944	3.10
50,000 3 3/4%	1945	3.20
50,000 3 3/4%	1946	3.25
50,000 3 3/4%	1947	3.30
50,000 3 3/4%	1948	3.35
60,000 3 3/4%	1949	3.40
60,000 3 3/4%	1950	3.45
60,000 3 3/4%	1951	3.50
60,000 3 3/4%	1952	3.50
60,000 3 3/4%	1953	3.55
60,000 3 3/4%	1954	3.55
70,000 3 3/4%	1955	3.60
70,000 3 3/4%	1956	3.60
70,000 3 3/4%	1957	3.60
80,000 3 3/4%	1958	3.65
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90,000 3 3/4%	1962	3.65

These bonds, authorized by the voters for school sites, construction, equipment and remodeling purposes, will be in the possession of several direct general obligations of the entire District, all taxable property therein being subject to the levy of an additional ad valorem tax for the payment of principal and interest.

Principal and semi-annual interest (June 1 and December 1) first coupon due December 1, 1937 payable at The Detroit Bank and Trust Company, Detroit, Michigan.

Bonds due 1948 and thereafter are callable in advance of maturity June 1, 1947 at any interest date thereafter, as provided in the offering circular.

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