

Clarkson Fights Party Dictation

James Clarkson, Democrat, from near-by Southfield City, is serving his first term in the Michigan House of Representatives. He is a lawyer, young, sincere, who wants to utilize his own knowledge in Lansing. Recently he voted against his party's income tax bill . . . and ever since he has been criticized by his party and by labor for his independent thinking and action on this tax subject.

Thus, young Clarkson is witnessing the efforts of others to shackle his civic freedom. Personally, we think that Clarkson knows more fundamental economic and tax law in five minutes than most of his critics do in a week.

Though we don't agree with every idea

this young man has, we certainly doff our hat to him for his refusal to prostitute his own convictions. He is learning "the hard way".

MAYBE HE'LL LOSE some labor leader support . . . but not necessarily the rank and file's approval. Maybe "Soapy" and Staebler and some other public officials won't like him . . . yet we think, by hard fighting, he'll win plenty of plain rank and file Democrat votes. And, finally, Clarkson, by remaining loyal to his own convictions, will retain his own self-respect which, after all, is worth more over a lifetime than the often empty honors accruing to public officialdom.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

President Eisenhower's decision to invite Russia's Khrushchev to visit the United States in September, and Ike's further plan to visit Russia in October, has met with varying public and political reactions—most of it, it is reported, favorable. Personally, this newspaper hopes that some good will come from the dual visits . . . but to expect a person like Khrushchev "to change his spots" as the result is, we think, expecting a miracle to take place. For the Russian already has a long list of bestial treatment of humans as his record, within and outside Russia, to his eternal discredit. Too, Khrushchev repeatedly has declared himself in favor of destroying everything that is not in accord with Communism—and that means Communism under the dictation and control of the Kremlin. Russia's word on international subjects cannot be trusted. However, again we hope that some good will result from the exchange visits of both leaders . . . but time alone will provide the answer.

In recent months the Ford Motor Co. officially and publicly has declared itself in favor of having business men and women participate more actively (and, we hope, intelligently) in American politics. Such declarations should have been made by American finance and industry many years ago. Why not? Labor unions are sled-length into politics now; labor's every move is to win a maximum portion of the wealth that our economy produces. To a reasonable extent, this objective is right and good. On the other hand, labor's dominant selfishness must be counterbalanced by the decent self-interest of management and capital. After all, our economy cannot operate without all these segments of our society to function. So, to Ford we say: "Thanks . . ." and to all of finance and industry we say: "Come on in . . . the water's still wet and warm enough to maneuver in—but don't wait too long, or you won't even have a bathing suit left to go swimmin' in!"

Just who is capable of greater table-thumping, as between teamster boss Jimmy Hoffa and Senate Rackets Com. counsel Robert F. Kennedy is not yet known. Kennedy, with the power of the U. S. government behind him, has accomplished so little in controlling Hoffa that the latter now and then practically ridicules Kennedy and even the Rackets Com. right in public. At first sight, it appears as though the Senate situation could be titled: "Fraidy-Cat Congress vs. No-Fraidy-Me Jimmy Hoffa."

Michigan's State Highway Commission, Mr. John C. Mackie, has a small farm in Ingham County, on which he raises some

grain. Recently he was threatened with a fine from Uncle Sam unless he plowed six-tenths of his surplus acreage under. So he did plow it under . . . but, unlike Stanley Yankus, Mackie apparently doesn't like Australia.

Few good citizens question the need for having suitable school buildings and teachers to meet the growing needs to educate youth. They know that these things cost money, too. If average groups of citizens banded together to oppose ever-increasing taxation on State and federal levels as they do on local tax situations—well, there would be more money for local needs and less opposition to the taxes for same.

Writing in The New York Times Magazine, Kingsley Davis describes the increase in the earth's population as an "explosion". Sixteen years from now, it is estimated, the earth will contain a billion more people—and in 41 years nearly four billion more.

A feminine New York city artist had several of her paintings on display, for over a week, in a gallery; when she visited the display she discovered her paintings to be upside down. (We offer no further comment.)

Total debts of all U.S. people, businesses and government bodies now amounts to 770 billion dollars, says the U. S. Dept. of Commerce. Boy! & Girl! an' that ain't no hay, either.

The U. S. Senate recently approved the plan to reveal the names and compensations of employees on their own personal staffs. This move should purge the air down in their marble palaces of the noisome stench of too much nepotism, or any other phase of unethical practices. Both of Michigan's Senators, by the way, favored the idea right from the start.

Most citizens would criticize a police officer, for example, who watched somebody burglarize a home, or who failed to prevent the attack of a ruffian on an innocent citizen. And rightly so. Members of a State Legislature or a Congress, you know, enact most of the laws that policemen enforce. These lawmakers are supposed, always, to defend the person and the property of every citizen. But they don't always do so—frequently they merely stand by and refuse to enact legislation to curb wrong-doing, where it may be found. That's why so many members of Congress, either outright allies of labor leaders, or fearful of them, refuse to support legislation that is needed. The average citizen, too, also fails to make known his desire for corrective legislation. So "wrong is forever on the throne . . ."

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., in the Eccentric Building, 220-224 North Woodward Avenue Telephone Midwest 4-1100

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ON VACATION



NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehe

Muskmelon Member Of Gourd Family

Now in mid-August our tables are laden with the first fruits of our gardens and fields.

Among them are many members of the gourd family. Some of these, such as muskmelon and watermelon, are commonly classed as fruits. Others including pumpkin, squash and cucumbers, are called vegetables. Botanically speaking, all are fruits.

The gourd family (Cucurbitaceae) includes some 700 species which grow most abundantly in the tropics. Most are vines with tendrils and alternate lobed leaves. When fertilized, the ovary attached to the lower part of the calyx of the perfect flower, develops into the fruit or so-called "vegetable" which we eat. Within a central cavity or seed pod, are scattered throughout the fleshy pericarp, are many flat seeds.

THE MUSKMELOON, most popular of the gourd fruits, is native to Persia and adjoining areas. The word "musk" means perfume and refers to its fragrant odor. One of its many varieties is the cantaloupe which frequently appears on our tables these days.

Others are the delicious honey dew, and casaba melons shipped from warm regions. When one travels in the First Century A.D. and the Middle East, melons of many different and delicious varieties occupied a prominent place on hotel menus.

THE OLDEST record for the muskmelon goes back to some 2400 B.C. where it appears as part of the food in the funeral offering of an Egyptian nobleman named Ti. He said the muskmelon pictured on the walls of his tomb in the great burial ground of old Memphis just south of the pyramids.

FROM THESE inscriptions much of the life pattern of this ancient civilization has been reconstructed. Muskmelon was cultivated by the Greeks in the third century B.C. and the Roman Pliny noted it as "something new" in the First Century A.D. It was commonly cultivated in Europe during the Middle Ages.

Spain was growing it in 1492 when Columbus carried its seeds to Isabella Island in the New World. By the 16th century the Spaniards were growing it in North America where it soon became a staple crop with the Indians.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Aug. 12, 1919
"For Sale" New cement house, one block from Woodward avenue, 4 bedrooms, bath and closet on second floor, 4 rooms downstairs, large veranda, hot-air furnace, hot and cold water, hardwood floors, good barn large enough for horse or auto; cement walks, cistern, etc. Worth looking at; also worth a mention. If you are asking for it, we'll sell it for \$3,500 on easy terms."

"Will the party who took the umbrella in front of J. F. Wooster's store Monday morning please return it at once as the party is known and it will save further trouble."

"Harry Jenkins was routed out of bed last Monday at 3 a.m. by six soldiers looking for a deserter. Harry joined the gang and at last soldier was located three miles north of Pontiac and was taken back to camp."

29 YEARS AGO
Aug. 8, 1929
One of Birmingham's oldest and most prominent citizens died here Sunday. He was Francis Hagelmann, 88, who came here in 1883 and lived here for 46 years. He was village council president from 1890 to 1892. He was active in village, municipal and business affairs.

A new two-story building, to be known as the Hanna building, is to be constructed at the southwest corner of Maple and Woodward, Birmingham.

"The use of 'no left turn' signs at Woodward and Maple avenues on Sunday mornings and Sun-

days brings much relief to local women, especially those whose arms are often filled with purchases. They say they are able to get across the street without fear of being run over."

15 YEARS AGO
Aug. 18, 1944
Plum Hollow poor Sam Byrd won the Michigan open which was played at Orchard Lake country club. He carded a 208. Claude Harmon of Lochmoor took second spot, six strokes behind with a 214.

Birmingham City Clerk Irene Stanley expects that a certain presidential election balloting will be the heaviest this city has ever seen. She reports no registrations are more numerous than usual.

STRICTLY FRESH
Though you could deny that the stork brings babies, there's no dodging the fact that a big bill arrives about after baby gets here.

Starting at the bottom is a fine new thing for the busy housewife. If you're in the diaper-laundrying business.

"There's nothing like the sound of childish laughter to drown out the comedian's punch line on radio or TV."

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