

Sen. Humphrey Defines Monopoly

When Minnesota's Democratic U. S. Senator Hubert H. Humphrey visited Oakland County a few weeks ago, he held a press conference, during which numerous questions were asked of him.

Aware of the Senator's extreme partiality to labor unions, plus his extolling of the virtues of many of its leaders, we asked Senator Humphrey this question: "Do you believe that U.S. labor unions now constitute, or come close to being a monopoly?"

Quickly, he exclaimed: "No! Labor has unionized only about 15 million of the total U.S. work force of about 60 million... so how can you call 15 million a monopoly, when it represents only about 25 percent of the work force?"

Isn't that modern reasoning... with a strong political tincture? Does the Senator think the American public is naive enough to assume that at least more than 50 per cent of the total U.S. working force, must be organized to constitute a "labor monopoly"?

DOESN'T THE Senator realize that already organized labor openly boasts of its control of many Senators and Representa-

tives in the Congress... and that it has shouted (since passage of the Landrum-Griffin Bill (that it will increase its political activities next year? Doesn't Hubert want to admit that active organized minorities always out-manuever unorganized inactive majorities in the environment of a self-governing State?

If the Senator's position is defensive in regard to labor, how about his attitude toward "big business"? There isn't a single man or corporation in the United States that controls anything like 51 per cent (or even close to that figure) of any business... yet Hubert approves of anti-monopoly investigations of some of them.

HUBERT, WHY NOT straighten yourself out on this subject? We'll go along with you if you'll admit that a monopoly, insofar as it relates to injury to the general public security and welfare, is any minority group, in labor or in business, so organized that it can dominate the course of an election or the course of an important segment of a nation's economy. (At least, Senator, between us, let's be honest in discussing political and economic truth and practices.)

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

The looseness with which TV quiz shows have been conducted has raised an official and public demand for more self-policing, self-restraint in making wild, and often untruthful, claims by certain segments of U.S. business and professional life. Unless each segment does exercise more control on these subjects, it is inevitable that some form of governmental policing will take place—and most everybody knows that such a move is alien to the basic pattern of a free enterprise system.

If ever some way is found that bridges the space between the earth man and his celestial after-life, depend upon some politician to campaign on the pledge: "I stand for unbounded security and happiness for all! Not only from the cradle to the grave—but equally right into, even beyond, Eternity! Vote for me and I'll promise that you and your ancestors—wherever they are—will be taken care of if I'm elected to office!"

Failure by enough American labor leaders to direct their members' productive efforts better is resulting in an ever-ascending increase in the cost of U.S. goods. This condition finally shows that U.S. prices are being undercut by foreign industry—as inevitably always does happen, whether the competitive market be foreign or domestic. When will economic statesmanship influence the thinking of more of our union leaders? Perhaps not

until more of the rank and file dues-payers demand it.

It is reported that only about 30 per cent of the students who enroll in colleges or universities ever graduate. At the University of Michigan 65 per cent are said to graduate. What causes the great student "campus mortality"? Intellectual unfitness? Lack of finances? Too easy to get in? Failure of earlier schooling to develop academic interest? The answers to these questions are of great importance to the basic support of higher education.

Many years ago Horace Greeley, a New York newspaper editor, became famous for saying: "Go west, young man, GO WEST!" And that's exactly what Nelson A. Rockefeller did a few weeks ago. He went... he did go... he came back, without making too large a dent in the political armor of V-P Richard Nixon, who also is running for the Republican nomination to succeed Ike.

There once was a nation that boasted of its freedoms. "This is a free country," declared its founders. Up to a generation or so ago the word "free" meant that people were free to think, speak, write, worship, etc., "in the pursuit of happiness." Nowadays, more and more "free" is being accepted as the great give-away, give-away not only on TV programs, but at the hands of the Welfare State.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

If more people would only do things their way, and let you do them your way, there'd be less friction and more progress in this world.

Methodist Minister William Hughes of Chatham, Ont., tells of the experience that happened to him and his wife at a recent Rotary International orientation for incoming district governors the world over.

At dinner one night, he and Mrs. Hughes sat across from a Japanese and his wife. The Japanese wife saw that her husband was served ahead of herself as the food went up and down the table.

The Hughes' noted this. Finally Mrs. Hughes spoke: "Over here, we Americans help ourselves first."

"I have observed that," replied the Japanese woman.

"Then why don't you do it that way, too?" Mrs. Hughes questioned.

"No thank you, I'm happy doing it my way and seeing my husband is served first," the Japanese woman smiled.

Two Roman playboys lounged at a sidewalk table along the Appian Way Colosseum.

way to her Roman Senate secretarial job.

Exclaimed one youth: "Wow! What a beauty!"

Agreed the second youth: "A perfect XXXVI, XXIV, XXXVII!"

If you believe local historical mementos should be preserved, you may be interested to learn that the Oakland county historical society's current project is the preservation and interior restoration of the old gubernatorial mansion in Pontiac.

You didn't know there was one in Oakland county? It's on Oakland avenue and was built in the 1840's by Moses Wisner, who was governor from 1859-61.

In those early days, the governor spent more time at home. There simply wasn't much state business to keep him in Lansing all the time.

There is the legend, according to the historical association's Richard Cooke, that Lincoln spent a night at Wisner's home. It is a fact that the two men were good friends.

If you'd care to donate time and/or money to this Wisner project, the historical society'd be only too happy to hear from you.

Cooling Off Period?



NATURE NOW

by Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Winter Spotlight On Evergreens

Now winter turns the spotlight of nature's stage on the evergreens. At every other season they have had as their rivals the deciduous trees who have stolen the show with their flowers, their fragrance, their fruit and their flaming colors. But now these stand bare and empty while the evergreens lift their snowy branches over farmhouse and lane, over valley and mountainside.

The majority of evergreen trees reproduce by cones, hence the name conifer which is frequently used to designate this group. However, a few, such as the red cedar, and the live oak and magnolia of the south do not follow this pattern. The term evergreen is also used to describe those trees which retain their leaves throughout the year. Exceptions to this include the tamarac and the bald cypress which shed their leaves each autumn.

OF THESE two great groups the deciduous trees are far more numerous in species, but the evergreens out-rank them in abundance and economic importance. In the United States, the former predominate between the Mississippi river and the Atlantic Coastal plain, but in the higher and cooler temperate regions the latter come into their own.

Here on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevada stand the great Sequoias, the largest and most ancient of living trees. They were old at the time of Charlemagne, and will live when our warring present has grown dim and far away.



Mrs. Frehe

A CONIFER is more primitive in structure than a deciduous tree. An approximate million years of nature's experiments lie between these two great groups of plants. The evergreens have needles or flat scales instead of leaves. This makes them less sensitive to drought or climatic changes.

Their habit of growth is more economical of root and branch than is that of the deciduous trees and their straight boles are protected by heavy bark. Their seeds are naked and their flowers so rudimentary as to be scarcely worthy of the name except in the eyes of the botanist who sees in their inconspicuous pattern all the necessary flower parts. They appear as male and female catkins which grow separately on the same tree.

THE FORMER are so abundant that if one shakes a pine branch in Maytime he will soon be showered with a countless billion grains of yellow pollen dust.

The immature female cone opens briefly to receive this pollen and then closes until the winged seed begins to bud at the base of each scale ripens. The name "conifer" comes from these variously shaped and sized cones which also serve well as identification tags for the tree. They require one to three seasons for ripening.

Next week we will consider the evergreens which are native to Michigan.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
Dec. 10, 1909
"A regular winter's day came in on Wednesday of this week. The mercury took a drop Tuesday night and loaded round 8 degrees above zero. Ouch! 'Twas cold."

"There was more fall plowing this fall and winter than any other previous fall and winter for many years back."

30 YEARS AGO
Dec. 12, 1929
"Representatives of the Eastern Michigan Railways and the Eastern Michigan Motorbuses were to appear before the Village Commission Monday night for an explanation and discussion of the recent change in fares."

"Ground was broken last week on the Wabeek property on West Maple avenue, Birmingham, for one of the largest single stores ever leased in the village."

"H. J. Busch has announced the opening of the New Bloomfield forges, 237 Purdy street, where he will cast ornamental works in iron."

15 YEARS AGO
Dec. 11, 1944
"Old Man Winter with his snow and cold winds, slippery roads, frozen water pipes and stalled automobiles hit Birmingham Sunday evening almost without any warning."

"Announcement is made by Snyder, Buck and Bennett, local real-

tors that the Hanna building, situated on the southeast corner of Woodward and Maple has been sold to the Birmingham Savings and Loan association."

STRICTLY FRESH

You know that winter is here when the store windows feature spring fashions.



The closest some people get to cutting down on cigarettes is moving the ashtrays out of the rooms.

The Claus must husbands meet at Christmas is the one that reads, "payments due on the first of each month."

You know you're growing old when "I plan to" changes to "I remember."

It's remarkable how much funnier a story becomes when the boss tells it.

The Light Touch by Jeanne Westerdale

PITY THE COOK

I drown it in butter, or cream it, or fry it. For Father's embarked on a weight gaining diet. So far, he reports, his weight remains steady. While, darn it, I've put on five pounds already!

MOTHER'S CAR

The brakes need adjusting, I am sure; The battery's low, the mileage, poor; It's always ailing, 'cause I'm below par In the care and feeding of a car!

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