

Business Can Engage In Politics

Much bewilderment is expressed that labor unions can do so much in political campaigns and corporations "can do so little." Why?

It will surprise many businessmen to know that everything a labor union can legally do in politics, a corporation can also legally do.

Business companies, as such, do little or nothing in political campaigns. But this is for "practical" reasons, not legal reasons.

The Federal Corrupt Practices Act treats "any corporation" or "any labor organization" exactly alike. What one can legally do, the other can legally do. What is forbidden to one, is forbidden to the other, in politics.

DECISIONS OF THE U. S. Supreme

Court also place both on an equal plane. Businessmen, shareowners and others who think business must take a greater part in politics should know what the law is on this subject.

Read it in a 61-page pamphlet entitled "ANALYSIS OF THE FEDERAL LAW GOVERNING POLITICAL EXPENDITURES BY LABOR UNIONS." It was prepared by the law firm of Gall, Lane and Howe, Commonwealth Building, Washington 6, D. C. Copies can be secured from them.

It will be an eye-opener to many to read this pamphlet through. There is a lot of free speech still life in this country. The BILL OF RIGHTS has not been repealed. State law, governing State and local elections, should be studied also.

But a good start is to know what Federal law permits.

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Sometimes we wonder what unuttered thoughts now and then run through the thoughts of a college president whose Board of Governors (or by-what-other-name) seeks to put over a pet notion with which the prexy disagrees. To be sure, some of these ideas may be good ones, some not so good, some outright anti-educational. To whom can such a president appeal in order to win victory for his own ideas? (Answer: to his conscience... and may it be loud enough for him to be heard!)

Let the cynics cynic, the critics critic, the skeptics skip, the pessimists be unlike the optimists... still the world of human society will linger on. More than it needs a "more valuable nickel" society needs a better sense of humor. We ought to have scholastic courses on the subject of humor—what it is, how to create and use it... "Would prevent much human ills... 't would save many friendships... 't would help one toward humility, providing he can now and then laugh at himself.

A Brown University professor, Wade Thompson, in a recent article declared that football is the only outdoor sport that would cease to be, in the event such games failed to get spectators. It's also reported that some philosophers believe that some day football will disappear, just as medieval tournaments were fought with lances, maces and swords. Remember that a celtic saying, "This, too, shall pass?"

Today's hi fi and stereo music offers people more and better harmony than any generation ever enjoyed. This especially is true if you own the equipment and use it in your own home. Just to sit and listen to good music is to enter a world where, at least for the moment, one is able to forget his trials and tribulations... to cease creating negative thoughts about others or anything... in brief, to be transported quite high Heaven's portal. Ah, what melodious magic is imparted on the waves of sound!

So often, these current years, one reads that our contemporary living is surfeited with trivia; that we adults are interested chiefly with pleasures of the flesh; that we set extremely poor examples of righteousness for our youth; that we are fast becoming incapable of protecting and defending freedom itself... and a host of similar negatives. Self-searching suggests that there is some truth in this reading.

We can't reveal our news source, but it's been whispered to us that more women than you may imagine go about their homes in bare feet. Whether this is because of needed relief from tight shoes, or just because women want to allow their heels to level off with their soles... well, nobody has the answer.

Want to get an idea of the over-all moral standards of the U.S.A.? FBI Director Hoover reports that Crime now costs every person in the nation approximately \$125 annually, or about \$506 per family. That's quite an amount of tribute that we all pay to maintain Ole Man Debbil.

"We are fortunate to live in a country where we can say that we think without thinking." This quote was made recently by John C. Vivian. Indeed, it is worth thinking about, too.

It is rumored that about 15 per cent of the pre-Christmas purchases made are exchanged after they are opened by the recipients. One tiny form of relieving the unemployment situation, perhaps.

'Tis said that one of the strongest of earthly scents is that released by the skunk. Contrariwise, no doubt one of the weakest of (s)cents is that contained in inflation's monetary system.

Some authorities assert that women are more vain than men... basing the claim on the belief that women are vain in order to please men's vanity.

When a person seems to be too old to dream, is it because he has acquired some form of insomnia?

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Carl F. Ingraham is fighting a battle with the Oakland county board of supervisors, a battle which he already has resigned himself to losing soon.

In fact, he figures he alone is arrayed against the other 83 board members over the effects of the forthcoming 1960 census upon board membership.

UNDER PRESENT STATE LAW, the board would have 16 new members, all from cities. The board's legislative committee, of which Ingraham is a member, is about ready to go to Lansing for another amendment to keep the board's size to 86 members. (This procedure was followed successfully a few years ago.)

But Ingraham—who also is a Birmingham

city commissioner—believes county government would be improved if county supervisors were reduced in number to 54. "Make county business much easier to handle," Ingraham argues.

HE WOULD APPORTION representation to each 25,000 population or fraction thereof.

"I don't think my proposal has a chance of going through," says Ingraham. "About half the supervisors would be voting themselves out of a job."

Well, Carl, that's politics for you.

Why do they call it "rush hour" when traffic merely crawls?

"Who Says You Can't Lift Yourself by Your Own Bootstraps?"



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

Naturalist Sees Life In Winter Landscape

Winter is nature's resting period. Much of life is hidden and silent but it does not die.

For the naturalist there is no off-season. He is equally at home in a winter woods or a summer meadow. Each habitat brings its own moods and gifts to him who sees through the obvious sights, sounds and colors of any season to an understanding of the slow-moving cycle which holds all life in its grasp.

It is evident on any drive in the country or walk afield that winter has a way of obliterating some objects and emphasizing others, often revealing the true contours which summer hides or softens.

HERE AND THERE an oak or an elm stands alone against the winter horizon, its barren shape revealing its name and its kind. Where there are evergreens they embellish the landscape; their green branches hanging heavy with a weight of snow. Here and there their spires mark an empty lane or lend a warm and friendly air to a forgotten roadside.

It is safe to say that the animals at this season are more plentiful than we suppose. The winter travels of our four-footed friends are largely nocturnal, their general wariness greater when the natural protection of summer foliage is erased. Now their safety must lie in their elusive habits and the extreme keenness of their senses.

"THE SNOW" says John Burroughs, "is a great tell-tale. I cross the field and if only a mouse has visited its neighbors, the event is chronicled." The common field or meadow mouse is the most lively tenant of our winter domain. He is also the most abundant and prolific of our North American rodents.

The species vary greatly and are adaptable to a wide range of living conditions. In winter the mouse hides his movements under cover of the snow. In warmer weather his trail can be traced as a network of tunnels in the dry grass, and in re-growing grainfields, orchards, lawns and gardens. Everywhere he leaves mute evidence of the injury he

has caused by their voracious appetite.

IT IS ESTIMATED that each acre of meadow supports ten million mice. These spread over sixty-five million acres, eat an average of five million tons of hay per year.

Their summer nests where they rear as many as six litters per season are generally made in meadows or marshes, in little hollows on the surface or in tussocks of grass. The meadows look to the water-logged marshes where broken cattails stand guard over the frozen shallows. Here, we stopped to see the cozy winter nest of a deer mouse held high in the ripe fluff of a cattail.

FLOCKS OF CROWS and plovers rise and fall over the corn fields feeding in late afternoon before they find a safe roosting place for the night. In a small wooded hollow bordering a stream the junco, cardinal, chickadee and downy woodpecker were all in evidence.

Along the roadside and open fields such birds as mullein, teal, burdock and Queen Anne's lace defy the wind and weather. We saw a stand of the latter resembling nothing so much as a patch of ripe cotton, each dried seed-head holding a neatly rounded fluff of wool.

INTENDED FENCE rows mark the landscape into geometrical designs. These are a boon to wildlife here such shrubs as sumac, elderberry, hawthorne and wild grape give year round sanctuary to a host of ground and low-nesting birds and to many small mammals such as rabbits and woodchucks.

As we pass the silent fields and woods, two large flocks of starlings circle low assembling and re-assembling against the winter sky. Twilight is gray and threatening. Soon night closes in, bringing with it a soft fall of winter snow to further seal the land.

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO
January 14, 1910
"We had a nice long chat with our old friend, Mr. Charles Gierke, all the way from South Haven, Kan., who is having a happy time among his many old friends. His story of the opening of the Oklahoma strip is very interesting, he being right on the spot at the time."

"The telephone building is approaching a finish. A classy group of competent assistants... [is] putting on the finishing coat of straight sawed red oak after the plastering."

"Never in our life as a kid did we ever have better skating on the pond, lake or creek than our boys and girls have had the past two weeks on our sidewalks. It certainly has been fine for the skaters—but oh! ye who are too old and have to foot it. The sidewalks certainly have been fiercer than the fiercest."

30 YEARS AGO
January 16, 1930
City commissioners at a 2 1/2-hour public meeting tentatively approved a proposed 1930-31 budget of \$443,176, a cut of \$8430 from the one first considered.

The Birmingham YMCA has leased for its use the former Community house building at the corner of Maple and Bates, St. James church owns the building. The Community house expects to move into its new building at Bates and Woodward by March 1.

In its first 10 months of existence, the Bloomfield Hills fire department averaged little more than one call a week. It was reported this week.

15 YEARS AGO
January 11, 1945
Sixty-seven Lions members from this district had a zone meeting at the Birmingham Community house. Local Lions were hosts.

City of Birmingham is going to refund \$116,000 in general obligation bonds and save \$38,845 in interest charges.

Two girls took top scholarship honors in this year's January graduating class at Baldwin high school. Jean Brown will be valedictorian, Jean Blinn, salutatorian.

STRICTLY FRESH

People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw parties.
Business with the most ups and downs is undoubtedly elevator manufacturing.



Now that they're making liquor in solid form, they'll have to say what they mean when asking "One or two lumps?"

Who says movies aren't educational? Some of those late movie ads are old enough to pass as history lessons.

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