

The Birmingham Eccentric

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Con-Con Compromise Explained

In the past week news stories in the Detroit papers made much of a compromise among Republicans in the Constitutional Convention.

The stories seemed to imply that the settlement arrived at between the arch-conservatives led by former State Treasurer D. Hale Brake and the middle of the roaders led by our own delegate George Romney was such that it would destroy the document.

The stories further implied that the compromise was at the expense of the principles of our delegate.

LET US LOOK at the compromise briefly to see if it does prostitute the new document and then investigate why a compromise was necessary.

Reapportionment has been the biggest source of controversy since Con-Con began. Under the present Constitution the state Senate is apportioned by a constitutional amendment voted on by the people in 1952 based primarily on geographic representation.

The House of Representatives is based entirely on population and the seats are changed each 10 years after the federal census. The source of contention is that the House is not truly based on population because the constitution provides that any county that has one per cent of the state's population shall be entitled to a representative.

It also states that if a county or group of counties do not have one per cent but have more than one-half of one per cent they, too, are entitled to a representative. This was called a "moiety" district.

THE DEMOCRATS went into Con-Con demanding that both the Senate and House be apportioned on pure population basis, eliminating the moiety.

The people of the state, however, elected twice as many Republicans to the Convention as Democrats, indicating that not all people subscribed to the pure population theory.

The recent compromise arrived at among Republican delegates was to add four seats to the Senate from the more populated counties until 1970 when the Senate would be reapportioned on a geographic-population formula. The House would be apportioned on population again, any county

having one per cent of the state's population would get a representative, but the moiety would be increased to 70 percent of one per cent.

THE SECOND area of compromise was to settle for the continuation of election of secretary of state and attorney general with all other state administrative board members appointed by the governor. The middle of the roaders wanted all of the officials appointed, the conservatives wanted all of the officials elected.

The third area of compromise was the continuation of earmarking of funds and a prohibition against a graduated income tax. The middle of the roaders wanted to free the state funds from earmarking, and the farming element was not concerned about a graduated income tax since farmers are traditionally in the lower brackets.

THESE WERE the compromises. Do they destroy the effectiveness of a new Constitution? Why was a compromise necessary?

In Con-Con because the Democrats are a decided minority they have stuck very close together. The Republicans, on the other hand, because they represent a wide divergence of people from farmers to suburbanites are made up of several cliques.

If a document is to be written at all, these separate groups must come together and develop a program for the best interests of the state. This necessarily means that there must be some give and take.

THIS COMPROMISE actually is one of the healthiest things that could have happened because many people gave a little for the good of the whole.

There is no question that this is not to the best interests of the Democrat minority if they thought they would be able to play one Republican group against another and come up with a minority promoted document.

There is no question that the new document will not be perfect for everyone. Of course, nothing is.

However, the spirit to get together and compromise to solve the differences is the only hope for us to end up with a better document.

Precious Asset: Public Confidence

In mid-1960, Minnesota's attorney general charged mismanagement of millions of dollars of Sister Elizabeth Kenny Foundation funds. What followed, including the sentencing of the Foundation's executive director to 10 years in prison for grand larceny, nearly destroyed public confidence in this institution which had been founded by an Australian nurse with radical ideas about treatment of poliomyelitis.

Public contributions sagged to a fraction of their previous level. In the five-state area where the most intensive financial campaign is conducted, 180 United Funds and Community Chests dropped the Foundation. Some observers believed that the institution had been fatally crippled.

IT IS PLEASANT to report that the patient is staging a brisk recovery. The treatment has consisted mainly of two things: stern economics to trim operating costs without reducing the quality of medical care, and a "goldfish bowl" policy with respect to public disclosure of finances. The second is by far the most important.

There was a third ingredient, intensive "missionary" work by Dr. Frank Krusen, a highly respected practitioner of physical medicine who agreed to take over direction of the discredited institution. His efforts to persuade the public that though the corrupt regime had been swept out the Kenny legacy was still strong have done wonders to restore confidence—and to bolster the level of giving.

THE KENNY Foundation case bears classic witness to a truth that medical and charitable institutions dependent on public support dare not forget: Their most precious asset is public confidence that they can make the best use of donations prompted by compassion and concern. The Kenny Foundation's "goldfish bowl" financial policy is one of the most effective ways of maintaining this confidence.

Not All Critics 'Extremists'

We recall the meaning (if not the exact words) of the phrase "Patriotism is the last refuge of a tyrant," and to us this simply means that the "tyrant" (whether he be at a high place in government or at the pinnacle of some facet of the arts) is pretending dedicated devotion through the use of semantics to preserve his position.

Today, there are those "patriots" in our U.S. affairs who resent criticism. They often may rightly accuse some critics who use defenseless words and shiboleths to criticize, or be captious—but this does not mean that all critics are "extreme rightists."

Neither does it mean that all critics of today's affairs oppose progress, or change. It does not mean that citizens are wrong who oppose the very definite and swift

move on the part of the Kennedy administration to bring about more socialism ... this does not preclude the right of such citizens to voice their disapproval of parts of the Kennedy program.

Nor, on the other hand, were a Republican administration in power, should the right of Democrats to criticize be ridiculed and opposed.

Never forget that it is human nature to protect and defend what you possess, be it riches or be it some pattern of intellectual belief.

What we all do need is the ability to distinguish the difference and meaning between honest, useful information and the slanted and biased utterances of the quack, the demagogue and the propagandist.



OSWEN 'I Hope 'May Flowers' Can Swim!'

PEOPLE'S COLUMN

Why Were Rates Raised At Springdale Course?

To the Editor: Here is a duplicate of a letter I have written to the Birmingham City Commission concerning its recent decision to increase the membership fees at the Springdale Golf Course:

We read in The Eccentric of March 8 of the action taken to increase the cost of season memberships at the Springdale Golf Course by almost 60 per cent, but the article did not furnish any clear reason for this increase.

We understand that the Springdale Golf Course more than offsets its operating costs each year; in addition, it is well patronized by the residents of the City. It seems unusual, therefore, for the commission to take action that will in effect penalize the users of this self-sufficient facility.

Perhaps we could better understand this decision if we had additional information.

For example: Is it anticipated that use of the golf course will increase because of the increased fees?

Offers 3 Reasons Not to Increase Springdale Rates

To the Editor: Last week (March 8) The Birmingham Eccentric carried a front page article stating that the city has increased rates to individuals and families who wish to buy seasonal memberships at Springdale Golf Course.

This is two rate increases in three years. The rate for individual memberships three years ago was \$25; today it is \$50, an increase of 100 per cent. I would like to voice my objection to any increase at all. It has always been the policy of the city to permit residents and taxpayers of Birmingham to buy Springdale seasonal memberships at nominal rates. I see no reason to discontinue this privilege.

THE FACTS that make me feel this way are: (1) The golf course has for the last seven years made a profit. (2) In three years paid for \$25,000 club house plus \$6,000 for a sewage connection. (3) Not one cent of tax money has been spent for the up-keep of the course.

Are there any other golfers of Birmingham who feel as I do about the rate increase? You can do something about it. Send your city commissioners a card, stating that you would still enjoy buying a seasonal membership at last year's rates.

VIRGIL HARTKOPF 1165 Hillside Birmingham

If utilization will remain at the present level, what is the estimated amount of increased revenues that will be obtained? How will the additional surplus from golf course operation be utilized? Is it necessary for the Springdale Golf Course to be competitive with other public golf courses? Does the fact that the residents of the city receive a bargain in their golf facility imply poor management on the part of the city commission?

We who live in Birmingham are proud of Springdale; it is a facility that sets us apart from other communities in the Detroit area. In the past we took pride in pointing out that as residents of the City of Birmingham our families could enjoy the golf course at a most reasonable fee.

The availability of Springdale plays a large part in making an annual city tax bill more palatable. Springdale is one of the few (and perhaps it's the only) Birmingham recreational facility limited exclusively to city residents. Now that its fees are more in line with other public courses, some of the incentive for living in the city is gone.

It is respectfully requested that the commission reconSIDER its decision of Monday, March 5, 1962, and restore the season membership fees at the Springdale Golf Course to their former level.

C. E. SHALVOY 1124 Dorchester Birmingham

Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric

50 YEARS AGO March 22, 1912

A Democratic town caucus will be held at 8 p.m. for the purpose of nominating officers for the coming township election and to transact other business. The Republican township caucus will be held at the town hall on March 23 at 2 p.m.

Mrs. W. B. Brown of Southfield entertained the boys' Youth Club of the Episcopal first of the week at a Victoria concert. On Thursday afternoon, the Ladies of the Birmingham First Presbyterian Church and teachers and officers of the Sunday School held a reception.

A want ad in the Birmingham Eccentric read: Wanted good girl or woman to do general housework on a small farm near Birmingham, 1.50 in family. Six dollars per week.

M. S. Leech returned from a visit south last evening and after telling what a fine time he had (and perhaps it's the only) Birmingham recreational facility limited exclusively to city residents. Now that its fees are more in line with other public courses, some of the incentive for living in the city is gone.

It is respectfully requested that the commission reconSIDER its decision of Monday, March 5, 1962, and restore the season membership fees at the Springdale Golf Course to their former level.

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30 YEARS AGO March 24, 1932

An appeal for funds with which to carry on the work of the Village Unemployment Relief Committee was issued today by Lloyd H. Reid, welfare director. Continuation of the committee's policy of furnishing milk to children of poor families is threatened unless contributions are forthcoming. Reid said. He attributed the shortage of funds to recent drains on money because of illness among people on the welfare of who are unable to provide themselves with proper care.

An offer of the Detroit Edison Co. to turn off 40 street lights now burning in the village and erect 33 new ones in badly lighted places was approved by commissioners Monday. The changes to be effected as soon as possible, will mean a saving to the village of \$80 per month.

The proposed free dental clinic for school children is to be established in the Barham School under the sponsorship of the local exchange club received a \$50 check from the daughter of Sen. James Couzens, Mrs. William R. Yaw.

15 YEARS AGO March 20, 1917

Climaxing a brilliant high school career as a student-athlete, Charles Murray was awarded two scholarships to the University of Michigan at the annual Baldwin High School basketball banquet. Just last Sunday (see HAPPENINGS, 7-B)

(MORE PEOPLE'S COLUMN LETTERS, 4-B)

Talk of the Towns

By DENI SCANLON

Three of them last week decided to revive the days of the Wild West. A la laramie stand fashion, they built a Last Chance Saloon.

With one young hombre behind the bar tending to the day's business, the other two were set to begin the big deal.

Tough Guy No. 1 strolled up to the bar, and demanded, "I'll have a rye!"

"Tough Guy No. 2 followed suit, strolled up and shouted, "I'll have whole wheat!"

Another funny far week comes from a Bloomfield Hills case with a sense of humor. Seems he came home from work one night looking more beat than usual. "What's the trouble?" his pretty wife inquired. "Did you have a bad day?" "I'll say," he answered. "I took our efficiency expert's aptitude tests for fun today. Believe me, it's a good thing I own the company."

Suburban Sidelights

By HANK HOGAN

I'm a little behind in my correspondence so if you bear with me I'll try to catch up.

THE PRESIDENT of the United States White House Washington, D. C.

Dear Jack: My wife and I would like to take a trip around the world and stop off to visit the capitals of the more important countries. Could you kindly arrange this as a government-sponsored "good-will" mission? We feel we are as qualified as some of the other people who have recently done this.

Very truly yours, A. Suburbanite

The Governor of the State of Michigan State Capitol Lansing, Michigan

Dear Johnny: I read in a recent issue of the AFL-CIO news that your job-producing program was being thwarted by the Republican-controlled legislature. Are you keeping this program a secret? The only job-effecting program of which I have heard is the elimination of tolls on the Beauregard bridge in Port Huron which put the toll collectors out of work. I sincerely hope that your father, who was one of the toll collectors, finds new employment soon.

Very truly yours, A. Suburbanite

Edward M. Kennedy, Esq. District Attorney's Office Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Ted: I read with excitement your recent surprise announcement of your candidacy for the U. S. Senate. Is it your vast experience as a part-time assistant district attorney this last year that makes you qualified for one of the highest posts in this country? I hope the voters of Massachusetts will do as you have requested and try to blot out the fact that one of your brothers is President, the other is Attorney General and your brother-in-law is head of the Peace Corps. By the way, what is the rest of the family doing these days?

Very truly yours, A. Suburbanite

Mrs. John F. Kennedy Somewhere Across the Seas

Dear Jackie: Now that we all know that you wear a size 10-A shoe, we will have to look at you more closely. I never realized before that half of you is "tucked under."

Very truly yours, A. Suburbanite

Mayor, City of Birmingham City Hall Birmingham, Michigan

Dear Twink: Very recently I tried to promote a campaign to encourage a more friendly atmosphere in your town. To this date my idea has not exactly caught on like wild fire. Do you suppose I might be able to secure some funds from your Michigan Week budget so that I might be able to hire a brass band?

Very truly yours, A. Suburbanite

City Beat

Rollie Reese, the man in charge of the Birmingham Post Office, was rifling through official files the other day and came across some interesting information. He discovered that the post office actually was established as Bloomfield on March 24, 1821. It was changed to Birmingham on April 6, 1838.

Table listing Birmingham postmasters and their dates of appointment, including names like Sidney Dole, Ezra S. Parke, Sullivan R. Kelsey, etc.

A WISE MAN once said to me: If it's true that a fool and his money are soon parted—then let us how they get together in the first place! Paradise is not a locality—it's a state of mind. Safety is as simple as ABC—Always Be Careful! Isn't it peculiar that middle age always starts a few years earlier for the other fellow? Women like to look into a mirror, except when pulling away from a parking place. Remember when you used to go to bed with the curfew? Today they just blow it to wake you up. If you can't get behind a movement for the good of the community, the least you can do is get out from in front of it. Make it a habit to keep your feet on the ground and you'll never have far to fall.

THE TROUBLE with the chronic borrower is that he always keeps everything but his word. Those things that come to the man who waits seldom turn out to be the things he's waiting for. If you wish to be perfect, follow the advise that you give to others. Trouble that looks like a mountain from a distance, usually is only a hill when you get to it. Temptation may be strong, but it seldom overtakes the man who runs from it. Some orators don't seem to understand the difference between eloquence and endurance. Today's youngsters don't leave footprints on the sands of time—just tire tracks.