

# The Carnegie Presidential Subsidy

Hearst's New York American: Without the least reflection upon the motives of Mr. Carnegie—without in any way disparaging his generosity or public spirit—The American, therefore, thinks his offer to pension future ex-presidents is a mistake. That it will be unacceptable to the nation, and that it should be withdrawn.

Omaha World-Herald: Out of the immense fortune which you piled up, Mr. Carnegie, because the laborer did not receive a just share of the wealth his muscle assisted in creating, there are lots of people who might be pensioned.

Pension struggling widows. Pension the incapacitated or aged workman. Seek out and pension the sick whose means will not permit them to secure the medical and the common care that they need. Pension the crippled and the blind. Feed some of the world's hungry. Clothe some of the world's naked. You might spend your whole pile of wealth and still there would be need.

But take your mind off the ex-presidents. They do not need pensions. Take it from us, you can do

something better with your money. Do not even pension the widows of presidents or ex-presidents. The country has always taken good care of them.

Pittsburgh Leader: Andrew Carnegie's proposition to pension former presidents of the United States is the worst insult that could be offered to the American people.

If Carnegie, instead of swearing off the taxes that were assessed against him in New York, should pay these just claims he would be doing a greater public service than tendering alms to our former presidents.

If the workmen of Homestead and Braddock who suffered privation while Carnegie was being enriched had received their just dues Carnegie could not now be flaunting his exaggerated fortune and his abnormal ideas in their faces.

For a former president of the United States to take alms from a man who, under this nation's unjust laws, was allowed to accumulate more than his share would be a degrading spectacle.

It is worse than alms—it is a bribe.

The insulting insolence of wealth and the depths of degraded servitude can go no further than this Carnegie pension.

St. Louis Republic: The Republic does not believe that there ever was a president of the United States who would avail himself of Andrew Carnegie's proffered gratuity, nor does it believe that any man of less mountainous self-satisfaction than Mr. Carnegie would have offered it. Mr. Carnegie's gifts to libraries are a worthy public benefaction. His pension fund for teachers insures a competence for a class of men who devote exceptional talent to work that is not well paid. It would be better if the public built its own libraries and paid its teachers what they are worth instead of looking to Mr. Carnegie for the money, even though his money was mostly a tariff gratuity. Still one may praise Mr. Carnegie for the wise way in which he has disposed of so many of his millions. But when the people have asked, "What shall we do with our ex-presidents?" they said "we" and meant what they said. If that question presents a real problem it is certainly a public problem and if Mr. Carnegie's offer does any good it will be because it accentuates that fact.

San Francisco Star: Former presidents of the United States are to be pensioned in the sum of \$25,000 annually by the action of the Carnegie corporation of New York. The grant is provided for with the idea of enabling former executives of the nation to devote their knowledge gained in public affairs to the "public good," free from pecuniary care. A similar amount is to be paid to the widows of former presidents as long as they remain unmarried.

Of course, no president would think of favoring legislation desired by Carnegie because, after his term of office expired, he would be a pensioner upon Carnegie's bounty; and yet we do not like the idea. We would not like it even if the money was honestly acquired, and came from a real philanthropist, instead of from Carnegie, every dollar of whose vast wealth came from underpaid workers and special privileges granted by the government.

Washington (D. C.) Post: All the criticism aimed at Mr. Carnegie is beside the point, as we see it. He is

not on trial. He has been guilty of nothing more than coming forward to relieve a situation that reflects discredit upon congress and indirectly upon the people. He is the only man in the United States who has gone down in his pocket to accomplish something which it is the duty of all the people to accomplish. There ought to be no delay in such

action by congress as will fittingly provide for former presidents. Justices of the supreme court and army and navy officers are retired with pay. Why should not the president be provided for? The presidency is an extremely exacting office, tasking the mental and physical strength of its occupant to the uttermost. When a president retires he finds himself

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