

THE FRONTIER

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MR. ROOSEVELT AS A PROPHET

From the Chicago Daily News

No man, in 1932, was more vehement than Franklin D. Roosevelt in his warnings against the encroachments of bureaucracy. No man was more opposed to the excessive interference of government in business. No man perceived more clearly the perils of an unstable currency and an unbalanced budget due to administrative extravagance.

Government was attempting too many things, he said in Sioux City, in 1932. It "has piled bureau on bureau, commission on commission . . . Bureaus and bureaucrats have been retained at the expense of the taxpayer . . . That burden is a brake on any return to normal, business activity." Mr. Roosevelt thought at the time that he was attacking Mr. Hoover. Actually, as it turned out, he was attacking his future self.

A nation which did not carefully safeguard its credit, he said in Pittsburgh in 1932, was headed for bankruptcy. "The credit of the family depends chiefly on whether the family is living within its income. And this is so of the nation . . . If, like a spendthrift, it throws discretion to the winds, is willing to make no sacrifice at all in spending, extends its taxing to the limit of the people's power to pay and continues to pile up deficits, it is on the road to bankruptcy." Viewed in the light of today, were not those words prophetic?

"At the very top of the credit structure of the country," Mr. Roosevelt explained in 1932, "stand the obligations of the federal government. . . They suffer if the federal budget is not balanced, and particularly where the deficit on one year is not cleared up in the succeeding year." If this thought was true then, is it not doubly true today?

It is the banks, he pointed out in 1932, "which are financing these stupendous deficits, and that burden is absorbing their resources. All this . . . arises from one cause only, and that is the unbalanced budget and the continued failure . . . to take effective steps to balance it." But since then the banks have been crammed literally full of government paper, the national debt has been increased from \$22,000,000,000 to nearly \$33,000,000,000, and the budget is more heavily out of balance than ever.

"Let us have the courage to stop borrowing to meet continued deficits," pleaded Mr. Roosevelt in 1932. "Let us also . . . insist on a sound currency. Muddled government finance creates a general uncertainty concerning the value of national currencies. This uncertainty has a way of spreading from country to country. The world is tormented with it now." If the world was tormented with currency uncertainties in 1932, is it not even more tormented in 1935?

"It is my pledge and promise," said Mr. Roosevelt in St. Louis in 1932, "that this dangerous kind of financing shall be stopped and that rigid governmental economy shall be forced by a stern and unremitting administration policy of living within our income." Admirable pledge! Admirable promise! Would it had been kept!

The Mr. Roosevelt of 1933 evidently did not think much of the Mr. Roosevelt of 1932. To the one the other must have seemed indeed a tory. The Mr. Roosevelt of 1933 proceeded promptly to depreciate the dollar, build up an unparalleled bureaucracy, extend the government into business on an unprecedented scale, spend billions of borrowed money and plunge headlong into a series of recklessly unbalanced budgets.

"Well, old man, and what do you suggest?" smiled the president to his critics in a radio talk last year.

We suggest, Mr. Roosevelt, that the Franklin D. Roosevelt of 1935,

whose plans and experiments for recovery and reform are generally admitted to have failed, should now hark back to the wisdom of 1932. We suggest that you stabilize the dollar, abolish the new bureaucracy, take the government out of business, stop borrowing and begin to balance the budget. If these were sound measures in 1932, and would have brought recovery, as we believe, they are still sound in 1935. We suggest, Mr. President, that you keep your own promises, that you remain true to your own ideas. It is not yet too late.

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WHAT'S DOING IN THE LEGISLATURE

By James R. Lowell

The primary law bogey promises to get the legislature into more hot water in the near future, what with a bill up for consideration to change the method of selecting candidates for political office and to make the party convention have some significance.

Under the present system a man chooses his own label and may be a democrat one year and a republican the next. If he is lucky, and the party has no power to prevent it, he may achieve the nomination of a party with which he has nothing in common. After the primary, in which almost anyone who pays the filing fee may participate, the party platform is drafted and the nominees are usually endorsed.

The new proposal calls for precinct caucuses of party members. Those caucuses would elect county delegates who, in convention, would nominate two candidates for each office as well as select delegates for the state convention which in turn nominate two candidates for each state and national office, along the same line as the present Colorado setup.

The names thus chosen would go on the ballot followed by the statement, "nominated by party convention." Other names could be added where independent candidates filed their names and a petition containing a certain number of names.

A revision along the lines suggested has the merits of keeping the advantages of the primary and eliminating some of its drawbacks, nor would the old convention system be brought back in toto. Most legislators consider the present primary law superior to the old convention system where lobbyists named candidates of both parties.

No one expected anything like the Grocer Norris case to bob up in Nebraska within the memory span of those conversant with political conditions in recent years. Nevertheless in the last election we had a case somewhat resembling the Grocer Norris case.

Charles Bryan Morearty, of Omaha was a candidate for the democratic nomination for United States senator. Charles Wayland Bryan had announced candidacy for this office long before Morearty filed. Such incidents as the Norris

case and the Morearty case have not added in any degree to the popularity of the primary law. Naturally every man has a right to the use of his own name. The genuineness of his candidacy, however, ought to be subject to investigation where facts seem to warrant such inquiry, Nebraska legislators agree.

A word of cheer for the defeated candidate is expressed in H. R. 221, providing that the man counted out at the primaries may become the candidate of his party for the same office at the general election if selected by his county central committee to fill vacancy. It is intended to meet the situation where a nominee at the primaries dies before the general election.

Under the proposed primary change, the state convention would meet six weeks before a primary election in October.

The question of whether the state should go into the liquor distilling business has been a stickler for the legislature during the past week. The house liquor committee finally endorsed a state wholesaling plan but the state distillery fund was limited to \$100,000 and trading profit.

Legislators backing the entrance of the state into the liquor business say that the idea is to control the liquor traffic better than could be done if it were all left to private enterprise. Opponents of the plan are accused of being influenced by Omaha men interested in going into the wholesale liquor business.

L. C. Nuernberger, of Wakefield, says he isn't in favor of either the Wright bill, which does not put the state into the liquor business, or the Havekost-Cone bill which does. "I am opposed to starting the state in a business which eventually might result in an investment of several million dollars," he declared. "I want liquor to be kept as a moral question, and when and if prohibition is resubmitted, I want the people to vote on the moral issues and not on property issues. On that day I don't want the state to be interested in saving a large investment."

Cromer, of Scottsbluff, suggests that the state should build a distillery in view of making commercial alcohol from corn after the present liquor law is repealed.

The principal contest in the house is over state versus private wholesaling of liquor and the demands of drys for immediate local option. The argument has been advanced that state wholesaling would help put the bootlegger out of business by holding down the prices.

The most important law yet passed by the 1935 legislature, with the possible exception of the \$4,000,000 relief bill, is S. F. 14, the pari-mutuel betting bill. While this measure carried the emergency clause and is now in force, members of the state racing commission are not expected to be appointed by Governor Cochran until late this week or next.

Officers of the Ak-Sar-Ben exposition which sponsored the bill hope to have a 30-day racing meet in June.

Another proposition which smacks of gambling has been put up to the senate in the shape of proposed legalization of slot machines such as have been taking the country by storm during the past

nine months. This bill would place a license fee on the machines.

These machines are ingenious contrivances and if located in a beer parlor, or pool hall where "sports" hang out, have been known to take in as high as \$75 per machine each week. The nickles roll in the fastest when a number of persons are gambling, each putting up a dime or twobits with the high score winner taking all.

Return of approximately \$130,000 excess corn inspection fees to Nebraska farmers is provided in a bill signed recently by the governor. Farmers will receive any amount paid over \$3.80 for inspections of cribs under the corn-loan deal.

Both houses last week adopted resolutions calling on the president to halt further importations of wheat, corn and oats from foreign countries. Higher tariff barriers were recommended to protect the domestic level.

Another new law is one extending the retirement age for the adjutant general from 64 to 70 years. This gives Adjutant General Paul seven more years to serve.

Additional bills signed recently by the governor include a law authorizing the state board of control to accept from the federal government and operate the former Genoa Indian school, and an act providing for state inspection and registration of jacks and stallions. The former bill is now in force while the latter will not become ef-

fective until 90 days after the legislature adjourns.

A day after the senate voted to appropriate \$20,000 to investigate the state banking department, the same body turned down a measure to appropriate \$10,000 for a legislative audit of the state treasury. "Let the bonding companies pay for the audit if they want it," the solons said.

After a bitterly fought contest the legislature again turned thumbs down on the federal child labor amendment. The bill was defeated by a vote of 68 to 27 in the house, making the fourth time that this proposal has been turned down in Nebraska in the past 10 years.

A resolution for ratification responses in a senate committee, but in view of the overwhelming defeat administered by the house, there is little prospect that ratificationists will seek to press the issue in the upper chamber.

Judging from remarks made by members of the house, the defeat of the measure was based on the theory that "control of child labor is particularly a state function inasmuch as the legislature of any state is more apt to adapt those laws and regulations that are peculiarly applicable to the state."

It was felt that this amendment is an undue interference on the part of the federal government, with domestic matters of the state.

Harsh words and physical com-

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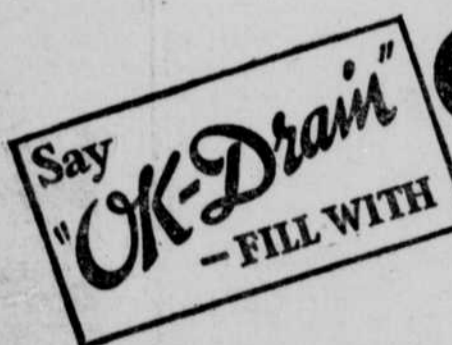
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