

# THE VOICE

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"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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**EDITORIALS**  
 The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.

## Economic Highlights

"We know now that Dwight Eisenhower was speaking with some conscious exactness when he used the word 'crusade' to describe his career as soldier, candidate and President," wrote columnist Holmes Alexander recently. "The emphasis on militant morality or conquest for righteousness, already noted by Mr. Eisenhower's friends, is now being remarked upon by his opponents."

It is this crusading spirit which, more than any particular and specific issue, distinguishes the Eisenhower Administration from its immediate predecessors. And it is the crusading spirit which is giving substance, unity and direction to the policies, aims and actions of both the President and the men who are close to him.

The new President is a deeply religious man, and ancient religious principles heavily influence his thinking. To quote Mr. Alexander again, "His own ancestors were members of a minority sect which migrated from Pennsylvania into Texas and Kansas, believing in the dignity of toil and never whimpering for the cold charity which governments often give in return for subservience. . . . Much of the President's hatred of Nazism and Communism seem to stem from the godlessness of those systems."

Here, certainly, is a key to what we expect of the Eisenhower leadership in both domestic and world affairs. And it does much to explain what the administration is now doing or trying to do in widely varied fields.

The President, for example, wants economical government, thrifty government. And this is not only because it would save the taxpayers' money, important as that is. Going beyond the realm of dollars and cents, the President is convinced that the attitude of mind which encourages or fails to prevent waste and prodigality is the attitude of mind that could lead to a breakdown of the national fiber and result in national ruin. He looks on graft and corruption in government—whether it be represented by the gift of a fur coat or a deal involving millions—in much the same way.

The President is also, it is clear, a firm believer in the idea that the Lord helps those who help themselves. He is 100 per cent opposed to the "give-away" philosophy.

We have seen some very significant examples of that since the administration took office. One is in the Department of Agriculture. Secretary Benson made it plain that, in his estimation, price supports for farm products should be regarded as emergency measures, not as something farmers have coming as a matter of course. Some loud howls greeted

this, but the secretary got many a pat on the back as well.

Another is in the State Department. Nobody has a stronger desire to cement and strengthen the anti-Communist countries than Mr. Dulles. Nobody is more certain that the existence of the free world depends on this. But he has made it abundantly clear that the Western European powers must do much more than has been the case so far, both to reconcile their differences and to build their military strength. The American Treasury, he pointed out in effect, is not a bottomless well.

Finally, the general principle back of the Eisenhower program as a whole is that government should not do what private enterprise or local government or individuals themselves can do. He wants less centralized government not more. He wants the people to be self-reliant instead of dependent. It looks now as if this idea will be the hallmark of his administration.

## Achievement Award To Beatrice Resident

Mr. Lyman Bartlett, of Beatrice, Nebraska, received W. G. Skelly Agricultural Achievement Award on Saturday, March 14, at a breakfast celebration of neighbors and friends. Mr. Bartlett and his entire family are well-known in Gage County, not only for their fine job of farming but also for their interest in community activities. The Skelly award, which consists of a \$100.00 U. S. Savings Bond, a gold lapel pin and a handsome scroll, was presented by personal representatives of Mr. W. G. Skelly.

The Bartlett farm consists of 920 acres, 600 of which are owned and 320 rented. Chief products are wheat, pork and beef. To maintain a high level of production, soil improvement and conservation methods are carefully followed.

In addition to his farming, Mr. Bartlett is very active in community affairs. He holds membership and office in many civic and agricultural organizations and is an active member of the Methodist Church in Ellis. Mr. Bartlett, too, is an active church member, in addition to taking care of her home and four children.

The children are: Charlene, 17; Edward, 15; Cora Jane, 12; and Joyce, 8.

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# Capitol News

By Melvin Paul  
 Statehouse Correspondent  
**The Nebraska Press Association**  
**LINCOLN**—Roads moved back into the legislative spotlight this week as two committees sent out bills to setup an advisory highway commission and to re-enact the penny-a-gallon gas tax increase voted down in the 1950 referendum.

Because the Nebraska Constitution requires certain state officers to live in Lincoln, sponsors of a full-time, "board of directors" commission bill last week gave up on their attempts to create an executive commission and settled for the advisory group provided for in the measure sponsored by Sen. Karl Vogel of Omaha.

The gas tax bill, which would bring an estimated \$4½ million in state funds came out of the Revenue Committee with only one dissenting vote and was given a good chance of passage.

The proposal raises the state tax on gasoline from five to six cents a gallon. If it passes with the emergency clause, it will become effective upon signature by the governor and the Highway Department could take advantage of the heavy spring and summer travel in the state.

By the time the money is matched with federal funds, the prospective additional revenue of nearly \$10 million.

The public will have to remain in the dark on how senators vote on bills being considered by legislative committees. That became evident last week when the lawmakers, by a vote of 23 to 18 turned down a motion to repudiate the "unwritten rule" against reporting individual votes in committee.

Some of the debate on the proposal shocked even the hardened lobbyists, who ironically, are among the first to know how members vote in committee.

A sample comment by one senator: "I don't think a bill killed in committee concerns the public a great deal" and "It's inconsequential whether the public knows a vote in committee."

This is what is possible under the gag rule:

Sen. X of Anytown is a member of the Revenue Committee. Anytown is proud of the fact that it has no chain stores. Its residents believe that chain stores should be taxed more heavily than local business, both to produce revenue and to encourage local enterprise. Sen. X knows this.

Sen. Z introduces a bill to levy a 2 per cent on chain stores. It is referred to the Revenue Committee.

Now Sen. X has received considerable mail from his constituents heavily in favor of the bill. But the senator also knows the lobbyist for a group of chain stores. He's a real fine fellow, well-informed on his subject and quite pleasant, besides. Also, he wines and dines Sen. X, whose annual legislative salary of \$872 doesn't cover many steak dinners. Sen. X appreciates this.

The senator from Anytown

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listens attentively during the hearing on the bill before the Revenue Committee. After the testimony is over, the chairman announces, "That concludes the hearing. The committee will now go into executive session."

The sergeant-at-arms clears the room of spectators, leaving the committee alone with reporters in the room. In a sense this is funny because the reporters can't write what they see and hear. They can only report the total vote.

Sen. X remembers that the folks of Anytown are for the bill, but he also remembers that his lobbyist friend is against it, so he votes to kill it. The rest of the committee is evenly split, 4 to 4, so the bill is killed.

But nobody knows who voted how.

Next day, Sen. Z the sponsor of the bill, attempts to have it revived on the floor. This requires 22 votes if he acts within three days, 29 if he waits longer.

Many senators are not familiar with the bill. They are willing to accept the committee's judgment or they don't vote at all.

But Sen. X of Anytown votes. You bet, he votes to raise the measure! He does this because he knows his vote will be published in Anytown and the people there will be grateful for fighting for a bill of which they approve.

But the attempt to raise the bill fails despite X's vote. Which vote was more important, the one he cast in committee against the bill or the one on the floor for it?

## Good Controls Are Dead Controls

Michael DiSalle, who took over again as price control administrator during the closing weeks of the Truman Administration, said that under economic and international conditions existing now or likely to exist in the near future "there is no possibility of safely eliminating direct controls. Even if matters improve to the extent where direct controls can be eliminated, he went on, standby controls, which could be instantly put into effect without Congressional action, would still be necessary."

Of this an association\* representing thousands of retail stores observed, "We can't buy any of that. Direct controls of themselves serve no purpose whatsoever. They are meaningless today; and in the event of any new emergency, inflation should be curbed by using tested fiscal measures. Thereafter direct controls should be included in the program only if absolutely necessary. Putting the power to impose direct controls on a standby basis might prove too tempting long before the effective weapons were even tried."

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## Gleanings:

By Burt F. Newton  
**DELBERT V. GORDON**, 60, director of internal revenue for the state of Nebraska, died last week of a heart attack at an Omaha hospital. A long-time employee for internal revenue, Gordon was promoted to director from his post of agent-in-charge during reorganization of the bureau last October. Since taking over the post he had made extensive changes in office procedure and personnel. He was one of the highest Negro government officials in the United States.

Mrs. George W. Brown was selected to represent Ohio in the Golden Rule Foundation's national competition to select the United States "Mother of the Year." Mrs. Brown is a 52-year-old Sidney, Ohio, mother of seven children.

Harvard University track team has withdrawn from the Birmingham, Ala., relay carnival slated for April 4 because a Negro star, Alan Howe, was barred from competition by a Birmingham city Jim Crow law. The law prevents whites and Negroes from competing with each other.

Harlem is all excited about a 38-year old postal clerk, Willis Hanks, who will try to swim the English Channel in August. The uptowners are currently raising a fund for his expenses.

Hottest attraction in Chicago is Harry Belafonte, the folk singer who opened at the Black Orchid last week. He had the first-nighters screaming for more.

Otto Bettag, Illinois state director of public welfare, out for a drive in Springfield, ordered his family chauffeur to "take me to the best restaurant in town." When they arrived minutes later, Bettag invited the elderly Negro inside to lunch with him. Embarrassed, the chauffeur explained: "They don't serve colored folks in there."

"Then it's the worst restaurant in town," exclaimed the irate Bettag. "Let's go some place else."

## FORGOTTEN DAUGHTER—

An Ashland family, arriving home from an out-of-town visit, discovered their 10-year-old daughter was not with them. The mother insisted she had to be there. When the telephone rang and the father's brother asked if they were missing a little girl, the family found what had happened. They had stopped at a Tescumseh service station and, unknown to them, the girl had slipped out of the car to buy a candy bar, only to be left behind.

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