

EDITORIALS

The Omaha Guide

Published every Saturday at 2418-20 Grant St., Omaha, Neb.
Phone WEBster 1750
Entered as Second Class Matter March 15, 1927 at the Post Office at Omaha, Neb., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

Terms of Subscription \$2.00 per year.

Race prejudice must go. The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man must prevail. These are the only principles which will stand the acid test of good citizenship in time of peace, war and death.

Omaha, Nebraska, Saturday, May 11th, 1935

So This is Democracy

A large majority in Congress wants to enact a Federal anti-lynching law. A large majority of the citizens of the country favor such a law. This has been so for many years. Then why isn't there a law? Since this is democracy in which Congress is elected by popular majorities and in which Congress itself acts by majority rule, how could the Senate yesterday throw out the anti-lynching bill and prevent majority rule?

Well, it seems that ours is a democracy in text books and Fourth of July orations but not in the Senate. There, periodically it is possible to rule by minority dictatorship. The method is not the one of stuffing the ballot box, or of kidnapping or terrorizing the majority. The method is much simpler. The minority merely decrees that there shall be no vote at all. This is achieved under the rule of unlimited debate by which the minority talks a measure to death. It forces the majority to turn to other emergency legislation acceptable to the minority dictatorship; so that the minority can palm itself off as the majority.

While congratulating the southern senators on the effectiveness of their dictatorship, we venture to raise this question for their consideration. Is it wise, from their point of view, to kick democracy in the face quite so publicly at this particular time?

Granting that they have got away with it for many years, hasn't there been a recent change in the public temper which makes this sort of thing dangerous? Wouldn't it have been wise from their point of view, for instance, to give the Negro lynching victim the nominal protection of Federal law and then nullified the law as they nullify the Negro's constitutional right to vote?

We are interested in this question because we understand that these southern senators are very fearful of the spread of radicalism, especially among Negroes. The radicals are said to be telling the Negroes and the poor white share-croppers and mill hands of the South that democracy is a fake, that there is no such thing as representative government in this country, that democracy is only camouflage for dictatorship by their enemies. Aren't those radical agitators just mean enough to prove this point in the minds of ignorant Negroes and whites by citing the dictatorship of those few southern senators thwarting the mass democratic will of the American people and of the majority of Congress?

Admitting, from the point of view of these southern senators, that Negroes must continue to be ruled by constitutional rights, couldn't they find a safer method? After all, the Negroes are one-tenth of a majority. With all this talk of radicalism and some of the oppressed actually demanding their rights, perhaps it would be safer for the country to hold out enough hope of democracy to them to discourage more violent weapons.

Anyway, it may be a matter worth thinking about while these southern senators are patting themselves on the back, secure in their dictatorship; secure for the moment.

The Best Investment

How would this strike you as an investment opportunity?

You are offered a chance to place a share of your monthly or annual earnings; as much or as little as you like; in the hands of a concern which is operated under strict laws, which has survived half a dozen depressions without experiencing serious difficulties, and which has met every obligation to the letter. When you start placing your money with the concern you stipulate, in advance just how much "capital" you wish to purchase, over ten or twenty or more years, and your payments are arranged accordingly.

If you maintain your payments, as agreed in your contract with the concern, you or your estate will receive in the future not only what you paid in, but a good deal more. Should it become impossible for you to continue paying after several years, you can surrender your contract and receive back a large percentage of what you have paid in.

Should you become pressed for funds, you may borrow against the money you have paid in, at a low rate of interest, and pay your borrowing back on easy terms.

And, most important of all; should you die before your payments are completed, your dependents will receive at once the full amount you contracted for; even though it be \$100,000 and you yet have paid in as little as only one payment.

That sounds like a Utopian opportunity; and might say it doesn't exist. Yet that is precisely what life insurance offers; safety, stability, a reasonable profit, and invaluable protection for your family. And that's why life insurance has been justly called the "perfect investment for the man of small or average means."

Things One Remembers

By R. M. Hofer

The city council of Long Beach, Calif., jumped the rates of its municipal gas plant ten per cent. The additional revenue is not for the gas department, but for general city expense.

The Long Beach incident is of no importance except as it illustrates the freedom of tax-exempt municipal plans from state and federal regulation that applies to private plans.

Municipal utility plants are generally in politics up to their eyes. Rates are too often based on promises to attract votes, rather than on facts. If municipal tax-exempt plants do not fear the same public regulation and taxation that is applied to private plants, why do they fight it tooth and nail? on already tax oppressed industry.

The famous Tennessee Valley experiment in socialization of power resources of the South, has fought every move to apply the same regulation to its spectacle to see public officials ask one set of laws for highly-taxed privately operated business and demand exemption from those laws for untaxed publicly operated business.

A Thought for the Taxpayer

Those who believe that the eventual solution of the railroad problem must be government ownership of the lines, would do well to take a look across the Canadian border.

Canada is served by two large railroad systems, each of which provides good service, operates modern equipment and charges the same rates for freight and passenger transport.

One system, the Canadian Pacific, is privately owned, privately financed, and privately managed, and has generally earned a reasonable profit for its investors. During bad times, when profits have been small or temporarily non-existent, the owners have had to pay their own way; they have no public treasury behind them to foot the bill for losses.

The other system, the Canadian National, is publicly owned. It was financed by a great bond issue guaranteed by the Canadian government. In all the years of its existence it has continuously created deficits to be paid out of the public's tax money. Its total deficit runs into hundreds of millions of dollars; and is the direct cause of a substantial percentage of the total tax bill paid by the Canadian people.

There is no reason to believe that the American people would experience better fortune with government ownership of the railroads. The Canadian National system has apparently been freer from political influence than is the usual government venture in this country; its managers have been men of integrity, ability and position. In the United States, the chances are that the deficit would amount to many times that of Canada, due to political buck-passing, and to the fact that much more railroad mileage would be involved.

If the people are persuaded into believing that government ownership is the only way out of the vexatious railroad issue, heaven help the taxpayers.

It Must Be Done

Mechanically speaking, the automobile of today is infinitely safer than that of ten years ago. Brakes have reached perfection. Lights have been vastly improved. Steering mechanisms are fool proof. Car bodies can stand terrific punishment.

Similar progress has taken place in road building. The modern highway, with traffic lanes, banked turns and "skidless" surfaces, is a tribute to engineering science, which has done wonders in seeking to make driving safe and pleasant.

Yet automobile accidents continue to rise; both in number and severity. The motorist has no alibi. He can't blame the car or the road for mishaps, save in an infinitesimal percentage of instances. The human element; and the human element alone; is at fault in ninety odd accidents out of a hundred.

Most drivers are competent. Most are careful. Most realize that an automobile is a potential killer. But that minority of motorists which is either careless, incompetent, or plain reckless, menaces us all. Perhaps ten per cent of drivers fall into one of those categories; and the lives, health and property of the other ninety per cent is placed in peril because of them.

Last year saw 36,000 people killed; unnecessarily; in auto accidents. It is the duty of every citizen and every unit of government to see that a different record is made this year. Traffic laws must be modernized and enforced with the utmost strictness. The dangerous driver has been given every chance. He has been urged to change his ways, and has refused. Now he must be forced to drive safely; or be deprived of the right to drive on public streets and highways.

Toward a Sound Transportation Policy

In a recent address, John J. Pelley, President of the Association of American Railroads, proposed a plan that he believes will solve the major railroad problem. Two of his points are especially noteworthy.

First, Mr. Pelley proposes that no form of transportation be subsidized, and that all be regulated on an equitable and comparable basis. This is the key to solving the principal difficulties in our transportation policy; at the present time the railroads are stringently regulated, while other carriers are half-regulated or are not regulated at all. The railroads are not the only sufferers; responsible bus and truck operators, feared by fly-by-nights and irresponsible

sufferers within their industry, are likewise eager for fair and reasonable regulation. And every private carrier, whether rail or highway, is damaged by the fact that some forms of transport, notably state and government owned waterway systems, are subsidized from the public treasury.

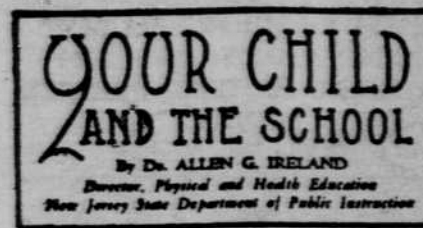
Second, Mr. Pelley says that no legislation should be enacted which will increase the costs of railroad operation. That is important at this time, when the "train limitations" law has been passed by one state and is up for consideration in others. Such laws as this, proposed in the mistaken belief that they will advance employment, simply add one more straw to the breaking back of the railroads. The industry is barely earning expenses now; and artificial increases in the cost of doing business

would force many lines into bankruptcy.

It is a demonstrable fact that the cause of national recovery is inextricably related to the welfare of the transportation industry, which is normally our greatest employer and purchaser of supplies. Aggressive and immediate steps should be taken to bring order out of the transportation chaos.

The state senate of Ohio refused the governor of Ohio and executive office expense budget including an item of \$1,000 for a new rug for his private office.

The prevailing style of private offices of industries today does not show \$1,000 rugs on the floor. Possibly a governor's office can worry along without one, especially as it has to be paid for by taxes on already taxoppressed industry.



Eating Habits

Consider these bits of common sense.

First of all, what you do the child imitates. Eating habits are contagious. If you say one thing but do something else, the value of what you say is lost. The child will do as you do. Don't expect anything else. You are the model. If you

don't eat carrots, don't wonder when your child doubts your assurance that "carrots are good for you." Children aren't that glib.

Avoid forcing. I mean that vigorous, stern insistence—"You shall eat it or I'll know the reason why." Rebellion, resentment, unhappiness are the only results. Your chance is lost. Do not discuss food values at length nor in technical terms, such as calories, vitamins, minerals and the like. You may understand them but children don't, and more, they don't want to.

It is decidedly bad to make children "food conscious." You can do so much more by casual, quiet suggestion in a conversational manner, saying, "this milk makes strength" or, "this cheese builds muscle" or, "this fruit keeps you well."

Summer camps—good or bad. Dr. Ireland will discuss them next week.

Editorial of the Week

The Pittsburgh Courier Joins Hearst.

Should William Randolph Hearst advise Negro Americans how to improve their condition, his advice could be no more pernicious than that given last week by the Pittsburgh Courier, a newspaper purportedly published in the interest of African Americans. Commenting editorially on three issues of vital significance to Negroes the Courier recommended policies of resignation, docility, and self jim crowism. We quote—

Appropos the Scottsboro Decision: "The opinion of the Supreme Court should be accepted as proof that the courts of this country are just, courageous and fair. . . . If the rest of the country will let Alabama go into serious conference with itself on this Scottsboro matter, we venture the assertion that the Scottsboro case will have not been tried in vain. . . . Let us all return to a quiet and sober introspection."

Two centuries ago, Uncle Tom's grandfather said the same thing in more picturesque language: "Hush, pore black boy, doan you cry. Yo-all'll get justice by-and-by."

Appropos of the Harlem riot: "Negroes will have to go about this unemployment problem another way. . . . We must learn to punish our enemies and reward our friends quietly and without ballyhoo or violence."

The Courier lies. . . . but even if the riot did not accomplish anything, nearly twenty centuries ago, the world's starving millions were told: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth."

Appropos of the Texas Vote decision: "If the Democrats can organize a party and define the qualifications of its members, the Negroes are not prevented from doing the very same thing."

In other words, we may now hopefully look forward to the great day when fifteen million Negro Americans form a black bloc and legally wrest control of the government from ninety-five million other Americans.

If W. R. Hearst should express these opinions, no Negro American would be surprised. But from a representative of the Negro press such views are incredible.

The Spokesman had expected Mr. Vann, in exchange for his New Deal appointment, to support the Administration. We were quite unprepared for this recent boot-licking betrayal of the Negro people.

(The above editorial was taken from the San Francisco Spokesman.)

To The Omaha Guide

Sometimes we think that it doesn't pay to be square and honest, but it certainly does. I am going to cite you one instance where this fact is truly demonstrated.

I walked into Carey's Grocery

Sunday morning, and there were so many people in their store that it looked like a mad house. They were packed in from both the front and back, but you know that I have reached the conclusion that the Careys have made great sacrifices trying to make this possible. I do not know of any time that the Careys did not fight on the side of the people. They are now organizing and asking for Teachers in the public schools. They have fought for Negro Representation on the School Board, and I believe it can be done if they were given support. I remember when a lady who lost \$10.00 in their place came back to their store seven days later and her \$10.00 was returned to her. I remember one time that one of the Careys put out 45 Christmas orders, for which he was never paid, and I am aware of hundreds of cases where they have materially assisted every worthy cause.

I believe this accounts for their tremendous volume of business. This is the biggest thing I have seen since leaving Chicago. Sincerely,
Morris Phillips
2209 N. 27th Ave.

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Happenings That Affect the Dinner Pails, Dividend Checks and Tax Bills of Every Individual. National and International Problems Inseparable from Local Welfare.

The average citizen has a vague knowledge of the fact that the Federal government is levying processing taxes on farm commodities in order to produce the wherewithal for pursuing the Agricultural Adjustment program. What he doesn't know is that these taxes are now one of the largest revenue producers the government has; and that a bitter war is slowly getting underway between the friends and opponents of the tax.

During the past 21 months, income taxes brought \$760,000,000 into the Federal till. Processing taxes brought in \$793,000,000. And, whether the tax is good or evil, it is an undeniable fact that every cent of that three-quarter billion came from the pocket-books of American housewives. In theory, of course, the tax falls upon the food middlemen of the nation; producers of smoked meat, the handlers of sugar, the bankers, the cigarette manufacturers. In actual practice, the cost of the tax is simply added to the selling price of the product. Example: On April 1, 1933, Mrs. America paid, on the average, 6.4 cents for a pound loaf of bread. In 1934, she paid 7.9 cents and today she is paying 8.3 cents. Not all of the increase can be laid to the processing tax on wheat, but a substantial part of it can.

Two hundred million dollars of the \$792,000,000 the processing tax has raised, according to the United States News, came from hogs. Two hundred million more came from cotton. A little came from wheat. The remainder came from sugar, corn, tobacco, rice and peanuts.

Of the 792 million dollars, 700 million has been paid to the farmer. It is paid to him in fulfillment of a contract, not to produce more or better food, but to produce less. He gets so much an acre for not producing cotton, so much for not raising hogs. And therein lies one of the grounds for the battle that's getting underway. A great many people think it not only unwise, but actually criminal, for the government to pay out good money to "bribe" producers to cut down their production. This group is now engaging with the group which says that non-production is essential in order to raise the prices of farm products to a profitable level.

That debate is largely theoretical. But there is much warfare to anticipate over purely practical issues. In the past much of the past much of the American cotton production has gone into export trade. But, as processing taxes are added to the cost of cotton, prices must rise, and foreign buyers don't like that. Production abroad is stepped up, as other nations seek sources of

cheaper cotton. The result is that farmers find that, while prices are better, they are unable to sell; and they begin to doubt the wisdom of the tax.

Housewives discover that the tax forces up the price of bread and pork chops, amount to a sales tax on the basic necessity of life, food. The result of that is a gathering of consumers, bent on eliminating the tax.

Even hog farmers, who are generally supposed to be among the greatest beneficiaries of the tax, are dubious. They think that pork processors are cutting down the price they pay for livestock in order to compensate for the tax, and so are taking it out of the farmer instead of the consumer and middleman.

All of this is felt back in Washington, where Senators and Representatives keep their ears to the ground. Result is a growing feeling on the part of many Congressmen that the tax should be repealed. Some of them are beginning to talk about it; others will line up behind them when the future of the tax comes up for Congressional consideration.

In a recent article, able publicist Walter Lippman pointed to a strange anomaly. He said that business is getting better, almost all lines are up, and some are at their best level since the depression began; but that confidence on the part of business men is conspicuous by its absence. Cash registers tinkle, but industrial leaders still refuse to show much optimism.

The reason for that, according to Mr. Lippman is two fold. First, the New Deal program is running in circles, and no one knows what is going to happen next. Business men are afraid of new and strange legislation, that will wipe out the gains made.

Second, the Administration is deliberately incurring the largest government deficit in history, without showing how or when it will be met. That creates a fear of excessive taxes that will make business progress and profits impossible.

Mr. Lippman, who is certainly not an enemy of the New Deal, and is the first to praise its achievements, thinks that the Administration should immediately settle the doubts as to the future of legislation and the deficit. Business says fervent "Amen" to that.

The Way Out

By Loren Miller
WHAT, A LETTER?

This column is on its road to success. It finally got a letter and nothing warms the heart of a columnist so much as to get a letter, whether he is bawled out or praised. What is chilling is a heavy blanket of silence and a refusal of the readers to consider the weekly offering important enough to warrant the wasting of a stamp.

My correspondent took me to task for an indiscriminate use of racial designations. It is his contention that I give the impression that our problems are purely and simply those of color and that in some references to "whites" I had issued a blanket indictment of white people. Although I am not certain just what article he had in mind, I must plead guilty to having done so at times. My correspondent is quite right in protesting against the practice.

The Real Division

It is obvious on the face of it that whites cannot be lumped together any more than Negroes. Certainly I would feel mightily insulted if I were tossed in the same category as, for example, Professor Kelley Miller of Howard. More fundamental than individual differences are those differences that spring out of the class to which men belong. Some white men, and a few Negroes, own vast holdings out of which they make profits. Most white men, and an overwhelming proportion of Negroes, are workers.

Quite naturally, the interests of those who own and those who differ. The owners want to pay low wages, the workers want high wages; landlords want high rents, tenants want low rents. So it goes all along the line. It is this conflict between those who have and those who have not, to paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, that breeds strife that infests the

world today.

Keep 'Em Apart

On the one hand the owners strive to keep the workers divided in order to insure their positions and on the other the more farseeing workers strive to unite all workmen in order to gain decent living standards. It happens in America that most of the owners, those whose control of wealth deprives the rest of us of enough to eat and wear, are white and it is pretty easy to believe that our troubles are an outgrowth of differences in color. Quite naturally, there grows up a distrust of all whites.

And that's what the wealthy want. While we fight among ourselves they live in luxury. What is necessary is for poor Negroes and poor whites to see the situation in its real light. Both groups have got to understand that they must unite on the basis of the class to which they belong and forswear old color antagonism or be reduced to a worse than starvation standard of living.

Kicks in the Pants

When I write an article tilting at all whites I am guilty of hindering worker unity and by all means I should be brought to book for such an error. A verbal kick in the pants is light punishment considering the gravity of the crime.

The struggles of the next few years are going to call for far more united action than has obtained in the past and the very fact that readers of newspapers are beginning to check up on those who fail to fight for it is a healthy sign. What this country needs is about 13 million Negroes who, like my critic, are no longer content to take seriously the easy explanation that all white folks are evil.

Inter-racial Group

Favors Federal

Anti-Lynch Law

(Continued from Page 1)

editorial or other communication of any character whatever against the bill was put into the record by the filibusters, indicating that none had been received. So damaging to the cause of the lynching was the great volume of favoring communications read into the record by Senator Coston that Senator Connally of Texas, towards the end of the fight objected to any more being put in.

Try to Bribe Union Labor
Desperate Southern filibusters resorted to every conceivable trick and treachery. Senator Black of Alabama tried to shift responsibility by asserting on the sixth day of the fight that it was a filibuster of Republicans against the bill. This patent falsehood was laughed at.

Someone inspired telegrams to some of the western senators from farmer-labor groups demanding that these senators stop voting against adjournment as it was holding up bills these groups wanted passed. This pressure caused several defections which helped break the deadlock.

It is also rumored that certain representatives of organized labor were approached by southerners and promised a blockmetyty five southern votes for any bill Labor might designate if only Labor would help get the anti-lynching bill withdrawn. Numerous trades were made to pull off senators from continuing to vote against adjournment, but in spite of this Senator Robinson, the Administration Whip was unable for seven days to win.

The labor threat was halted by the receipt of a telegram from prominent New York Labor leaders to William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, urging support of the bill. Among the signers were A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Frank Crosswaith, general organizer, International Ladies' Garment Workers Union; Rose Schneiderman, president, Women's Trade Union League; Nathan Margolis, president of the I. L. G. James Bambrick, Greater New York Council Building Service Employees International Union, and other prominent laborites.

Roosevelt Criticized for Silence.
President Roosevelt was bitterly criticized by friends of the bill for his failure to send a message to Congress demanding a vote on the bill or to refer to the measure in his so-called "fireside chat" which he made over the radio in the middle of the filibuster. It was reported however, that he urged individual senators to support the bill. A prominent mid-western Democrat senator declared bitterly that failure to pass the bill at this session would cost the Democratic Party at least eight pivotal states.

The day following the fight, Senator M. M. Neely; Democrat, W. Va., strongly condemned the filibuster and accused the filibusters of "poor sportsmanship" and of responsibility for blocking action on important legislation. "So far as I know," he said, "every one of my constituents; Democrats, Republicans and Socialists, are 100 per cent for the anti-lynching bill."