

EDITORIALS

The Omaha Guide

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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, JUNE 15, 1935

The End of the NRA

By E. Hofer.

IT is doubtful if any law ever passed in this country stirred up so much discussion and dissent as the act creating the NRA.

Now, a year and a half after its birth, the argument has finally ended; and all the voices which fought about its legality are stilled.

The Supreme Court has decided that the NRA violates the Constitution. The decision is unanimous all nine justices agreeing with the opinion read by Mr. Hughes.

Briefly, the court has ruled that Congress exceeded its authority when it delegated the power to promulgate codes of fair competition to the President; that the Federal government lacks the power to regulate hours and wages in transactions affecting interstate commerce; that the NRA is, therefore, invalid.

A newspaper report on the day of the decision says that lawyers close to the Administration believed that the opinion doomed the NRA to complete and permanent extinction; that it would be impossible to redraw the act so as to make it constitutional in the light of the high court's lucidly expressed views.

It is possible that elimination of NRA will cause a certain amount of hardship in some industries. But, without criticizing the splendid intentions of those responsible for the act, the court's decision will be of great benefit to the country. It shows that the constitution is not dead; and that constitutional freedom still exists, and cannot be negated by legislative fiat. The NRA tended to set up government as a dictator over all business; and it is not difficult to believe that the founders of the country would be the first to approve of the Supreme Court's history-making decision.

Are We Headed For Chaos?

By E. Hofer.

Few financial commentators have so striking a record of accurate predictions as to the future, as Robert Babson; one of the handful of seers who forecast the great collapse of 1929.

Mr. Babson has lately been optimistic as to the course of recovery; but in a recent article, which he terms the most important message he has issued in a month, he presents the ominous question, "Is the United States Headed for Chaos?"

Mr. Babson's fear that chaos actually confronts us is based on the enormous increase in the public debt. So far this fiscal year the Treasury has spent the almost inconceivable sum of 130 million dollars per week; over half a billion a month. Forty-eight per cent of this was used for the ordinary running expenses of government, the balance going for relief, public works and similar "emergency" projects.

Treasury receipts have averaged about 283 million dollars a month. Consequently, in spite of the highest taxes in our history, the federal government is going in debt to the tune of 281 million dollars a month, 66 million dollars a week. In Mr. Babson's words, "Never before in the history of the world has any nation so deliberately unbalanced its budget."

The upshot of this spending, if it is long continued, is obvious. Currency inflation. There will be no other way for the government to pay the bill. It will be forced to issue unsound currency and the result doesn't require much acumen to guess at. There is no such a thing as controlled inflation; it invariably gets out of hand. And complete destruction of the nation's social and economic standards must follow.

Mr. Babson urges that the public write their representatives, demanding that increased expenditures be voted down. "Vox populi vox dei"—and this is no time for silence.

Checking The Human Element

By E. Hofer.

THE National Safety Council reports that the campaign for standard licensing laws for automobile drivers continues to gain power. The term "standard licensing" is used to include both the provisions of the law itself, and the machinery set up for its administration, in that poor enforcement could negate the benefit of the best drawn act.

Since the first of the year, three states have passed laws the Council considers standard in every respect. In one other state, new license legislation was also enacted, but the Council considers it wanting in some respect. Movements are underway in a number of other states to bring them into the fold.

In the light of America's tragic automobile death record, it is difficult to see how even the most stringent driver's licensing laws can be logically

opposed. The driver who is congenitally unable to learn to operate a car properly has no right to endanger the lives and property of others, even though his inadequacy is not his fault. And the deliberately reckless, chance-taking driver, is one of the most dangerous influences abroad in the land today.

Every state should have a license requirement law which makes it as certain as possible that the motorist, before he is permitted to drive, is capable of operating his car safely. And the law should provide that, after a number of accidents or arrests, licenses must be revoked for a definite length of time. The human element, rather than the mechanical element, is at fault in over 90 per cent of all accidents and a well prepared, strictly enforced license law would tend strongly to shrink that percentage.

A Fumble That Brings Disaster

IN an ancient religious rite, citizens stood at equal intervals, forming a chain. The one nearest the altar lighted a torch, then ran and gave it to the next, who in turn passed it on to the third, and so on. Each man ran without looking back. His sole interest was to pass on the flaming symbol.

These citizens were warned against fumbling the torch. And "Don't fumble the torch" is a good axiom to apply to modern times. The "torch" in this connection, is very small; a match, but what terrible havoc is wrought when it is fumbled. Tall buildings are razed, homes destroyed, virgin forests laid waste, and worst of all, hundreds of human lives are lost by fire from the careless use of matches, and from smoking; in 1932 was almost 30 million dollars according to figures compiled by the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

And yet; what a simple matter it is to be careful. The extra seconds required to make certain that butts or matches are completely extinguished are well spent when you consider what may happen if the torch is fumbled. Just place your heel on the butt and crush out every spark, or if it is a match, break it between your fingers. You fumble only when you toss them away carelessly. Don't do it!

\$7,500,000,000 For Equipment

By E. Hofer.

IN normal times, the railroads constitute the greatest single industrial market for supplies and commodities of many kind. Statistics show how vast and how important to the general welfare that market is.

Between 1923 and 1934, inclusive, the railroads' capital expenditures alone came to the gigantic total of \$7,587,481,000 and this includes the years following 1930 when such spending was at an extremely low level. In 1923, their capital expenditures were more than a billion; and in 1930, the last normal year, they were close to 900 million dollars.

That money went for locomotives, freight cars, passenger cars, roadways, machinery and other equipment. Every basic industry felt the stimulus, steel, lumber, cement, chemicals. And a substantial proportion of each dollar spent went directly and indirectly into pay envelopes, and kept millions of men at work.

In 1931, railroad capital expenditures totaled but 362 million and a half billion dollar drop from the preceding year, and in 1933 they went to the abysmal low of 104 million dollars. The decline in railroad spending is one of the principal reasons for the lag in employment, and the decline of industrial operations.

Last year railroad capital expenditures started up reaching 213 million dollars. But that was 417 million dollars under the twelve-year average. Anything that can be done to further aid the railroads, so that they will again improve, develop and expand their properties, will give the strongest possible impetus to recovery.

Trend of The Metal Market

THE trend of the metal market, according to the Mining Journal, is now upward.

Zinc has recently advanced in price, and stocks on hand have shown a drop.

Lead producers report a steady flow of business in practically unvarying volume.

Domestic copper buying is at a moderate level, averaging about 1,000 tons per day, and the price is holding firmly to 9 cents per pound. Copper buying abroad has improved and export prices have risen.

Silver is at 77.57 cents per ounce, and the treasury has apparently determined to keep around that level for some time to come. Opinion still holds that the government eventually will bring the value of silver to \$1.29 per ounce; but that it will take its time about it, and will attempt to keep silver speculation at the lowest possible level. The silver situation is somewhat confused at this time, due to the action of American policy on foreign governments. Mexico, for example, has found it necessary to abruptly switch from silver to paper, as it became profitable to melt down the silver coins and sell them in this country as bullion.

The future of the base metals, of course is inextricably related to the future of industry in general; a perceptible increase in industrial production of almost any kind will produce stimulated demand for copper, lead and the rest. And the outlook for that seems better than at any time since 1930.

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

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

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It was long rumored that lawyers close to the Administration; as well as those associated with industrial and business organizations; felt the NRA was partly unconstitutional.

It was likewise believed that an NRA supreme court test case would result in a split decision; probably 5 to 4; as in the railroad pension and gold seizure cases. NRA friends were certain that the liberal justices; Hughes, Cardozo, Brandies and Stone, would uphold the law. They were almost equally certain that the conservatives; McReynolds, Butler, Vandevanter and Sutherland would vote against it. Their principal worry was what side Justice Roberts would take.

As a result, when the Supreme Court, by a unanimous decision, threw out the NRA in entirety, the Administration was staggered.

In the week following the decision, many wild rumors filled the air. NRA friends said that the Supreme Court's act meant the return of the sweat shop, child labor, industrial peonage. NRA opponents said that the way was now cleared for business to go ahead full blast. Democratic leaders in Congress spoke vaguely of framing new laws which would attain the purpose of the dead NRA, and still be constitutional. President Roosevelt, in a startling press interview, intimated that he might seek a Constitutional amendment giving Congress the powers the Supreme Court has said it does not now possess.

Now that sufficient time has passed to review events calmly, it seems safe to say that no new NRA law will be attempted; most Administration lawyers have admitted that the decision leaves no room for further effort along that line; and that the most extreme NRA friends and enemies were wrong. Employers are not cutting wages and increasing hours, and the fact that the NRA no longer exists has not given rise to a major boom in business overnight.

So far as the public was concerned, the NRA did three things: It artificially raised wages, shortened the working week and increased prices. Industry in general was, and still is, in favor of fair hours and wages. Since the decision, the heads of literally hundreds of major corporations have announced that they will not change existing wage and working conditions, and in only a handful of relatively unimportant cases have concerns gone back to pre-NRA standards.

Prices are another matter. Once the codes were thrown out, industry was at liberty to operate on a competitive basis. First break came in cigarette prices, which, held by the code to minimum of 13 cents, dropped at once to 10 and 11 cents. And in many lines of business, jobbers canceled future orders, believing that they would soon be able to buy the same products for much less money.

Responsible industrialists were largely opposed to NRA price-fixing; but they also know the disastrous possibilities of uncontrolled price-cutting. As a result, various groups which were under codes have announced that they plan to voluntarily continue them, even though it is no longer legally obligatory. This is pleasing to the Administration, which still believes that stabilized price levels are essential to the recovery program.

Thus, the upshot of the Supreme Court's decision is likely to result in the best phases of the NRA idea being continued voluntarily; while its worst phases, compulsion, price boosting and overriding of constitutional rights will be dropped. It is obvious that a lessening of bureaucratic control over business, which NRA immeasurably increased, will stimulate private initiative. It is equally obvious that the psychological effect of the decision; which said, by intimation: "State's rights still exist, and the Federal power does not include dictatorship over private endeavors not within interstate commerce; will be a spur to industrial expansion. And those who gravely feared that the decision would cause an immediate drop in the worker's income are wrong.

On the same day as the NRA decision, the Supreme Court handed down another opinion which, while not so well publicized, is of equal importance.

The Frazier-Lemke farm mortgage moratorium law provided that when a farmer was threatened with foreclosure he could apply to a Federal court for aid. The court was empowered to issue a stay against the foreclosure

Edgar G. Brown Discusses Emergency Conservation Work

Emergency Conservation Work, the organization which operates the nation wide system of Civilian Conservation Corps camps in the forest and parks of the country, is on the threshold of an expansion program which will increase the Corps to approximately twice its present size. Under the plan of expansion, to which President Roosevelt gave his final approval on April 25th, a total of 60,000 men will be participating in the CCC program by August 31, 1935. Between June 15 and August 31, more than 300,000 new men, including replacements for enrollees who drop out of the Corps prior to that time, will be enrolled in the CCC. Robert Fechner, Director of Emergency Conservation Work, has just authorized the construction of more than a thousand additional CCC camps to be ready for the occupancy of the CCC enrollees as soon as possible.

Something of the life at camp for these thousands of America's young men is a revealing and heartening story for the folks back home.

The most casual observer cannot help but be impressed with the commendable habits, appearance and spirit of these young men who have voluntarily enrolled in this character-building venture. Here you see these citizens of tomorrow intent on doing their bit in the conservation of our national resources and in developing the historical and esthetic values of our national parks and monuments.

To get a first-hand picture of the life in the camps, the writer recently made a personal visit to the sacred shrine of the Gettysburg National Park, where two CCC companies of 200 colored men each are encamped on the hallowed ground where President Lincoln delivered his memorable Gettysburg address. What I saw there will long live in my memory.

The enrollees answer to call of reveille at 6 a. m. Beds are made up, clothes and belongings arranged and secured in individual trunks, showers are taken all in an atmosphere of good fellowship and then a piping hot breakfast of cereal, meat, potatoes, bread and a beverage is heartily enjoyed by all. A half hour or so is spent in getting the odds and ends cleared away while the leaders, who are selected from among the boys themselves, and who are directly in charge of each of the seven barracks, confer with the supervisory force of the National Park Service on the schedule of work for the day. Shortly before eight a. m. the boys mount the half dozen waiting trucks and off they go to four hours on the job in the field before noontime. Landscaping, seeding and resodding, construction of guard rails, road repair, removing fire hazards, building of bridges and truck trails, resetting headstones in the National Cemetery, and brightening up the monuments erected everywhere on the Gettysburg Battlefield by the States and Federal Government to the honored dead, are the tasks they set themselves to conforming to the specifications set forth in the blueprints of the master plans for Gettysburg National Park.

The objective of the National Park Service, according to Supt. James R. McConaghie, is the restoration of the battle area to its original state. When the work began many of the stone fences that are so common to the battlefield had been all but destroyed. Many of them were obscured by brush, fallen trees, briars and honeysuckle. A large portion of the fences had disintegrated to such a degree, that they no longer served their purpose as fences. Many of the farms within the boundary of the park have these stone walls serving as fences to confine their fields. Most of the stone fences were used as shelter for both the Union and Confederate forces during the battle and have important historical value. Under the supervision of the technician for the park, Dr. Lee Jones, and his assistants, William Allison and Dr. Louis E. King, the first Negro historical foreman in the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, the work of repairing and general

and have the property revalued by local appraisers. Thereafter, the law provided, the farmer could remain on the property for five years for a small annual rental. At any time during that period he could again regain title to the property by paying the appraised value; which, as the appraisal was made on the basis of depression values, was bound to be much less than the original mortgage.

The Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision read by famed liberal Justice Brandies, declared this law unconstitutional, as it deprived a mortgage holder of property without just compensation as provided for in the Constitution.

restoration has progressed rapidly. The Lincoln Memorial in the National Cemetery at Gettysburg was prepared for the Memorial Day Service on May 30th, at which time Governor George H. Earle of Pennsylvania was the principal speaker. Last year President Roosevelt spoke here on Memorial Day.

To Be Continued Next Week.

52,000 Thirty-two Page Booster Edition

A committee of representatives of Omaha citizens met Sunday, June 9th, for the second time with the acting Editor of The Omaha Guide, Mr. C. C. Galloway, to work out a plan for a large graduation edition of The Omaha Guide. The purpose, primarily, is to boost education among the youth of our race and to carry a message of good will to the 52,000 homes in Omaha about the good points of Negro life.

It was suggested by Mr. J. Harvey Kerns that we portray in this edition thirty-two outstanding Negro acts of achievement, and the lives of thirty-two of our neighbors, who have been outstanding in race relations activities.

Mr. Charles Davis, president of the Critics Club, suggested that we portray in pictures and facts a large number of Negro places of business.

Mr. Oscar Washington suggested that we carry a Youth Page, or perhaps two pages of youthful activities.

Mr. Leroy Robbins said that since we all know that the only side of Negro life, that the average white citizen knows is the criminal element, of which they read in the daily papers, it would be a good thing to give our white neighbors a view of our better side. He felt that to distribute 52,000 thirty-two page papers in every white home in Omaha would be well worth the effort expended. Mr. Robbins, also, said that there was no doubt in his mind that every line would be read by every member of the family and that this edition would be given a permanent place into the library of each intellectual home.

Messrs Thomas Jones and Julian McPherson also present during the discussion.

There will be another meeting at The Omaha Guide concerning this matter on Sunday, June 16th, at 5 p. m. Public spirited citizens are invited to participate in this discussion at The Omaha Guide Office, 2418 Grant Street.

Pacific Movement of the Eastern World Inc., of the State of Missouri.

On the 31st, day of May, 1935, a temporary "restraining order" was granted Wm. Edgerton and others against David D. Erwin, the pretended "national President" of the above named organization, in the Circuit Court of Jackson County, Kansas City, Mo., Division No. 1, Judge Wright presiding.

This attitude taken by members is due to the violation of the Constitutional Principles of the or-

ganization, and of the State laws of Missouri to eject members of the organization without having a fair trial.

Also, many other false methods applied by David D. Erwin to acquire office.

All members and officers throughout the jurisdiction are requested to write for information to the First National vice-President, R. R. Walker, 1509 Euclid Ave., Kansas City, Missouri, or Attorney W. F. Clark, No. 1509 E. 18th, St. Kansas City, Missouri.

Gee Gee James



Photo by Roy Lee Jackson

OVER the kilocycle waves, she is the light-hearted Mignonette, one of the bright lights of radio's original musical comedy, *The Gibson Family*, heard Sundays at 10:00 p.m., E.S.T. over an NBC-WEAF network. Off the air, she is the equally pert and lively Gee Gee James.

First as a chorus girl, then as a soubrette, she followed her star. Radio fans first heard Gee Gee over a local station in Philadelphia, and shortly thereafter she was signed by Ivory Soap for her first network commercial—*The Gibson Family*. Miss James is determined to become a headliner. A top-notch voice, pluck, persistence, and constitutional good humor combine to further her ambition.

Ernest Whitman



Photo by White Studio, N. Y. C.

ERNEST Whitman, radio's versatile singing actor with the golden voice, who so delights Sunday night kilocycle fans as the easy-going, musical Theophilus of *The Gibson Family*, Ivory Soap's musical comedy, heard at 10:00 p.m., E.S.T. over an NBC-WEAF network.

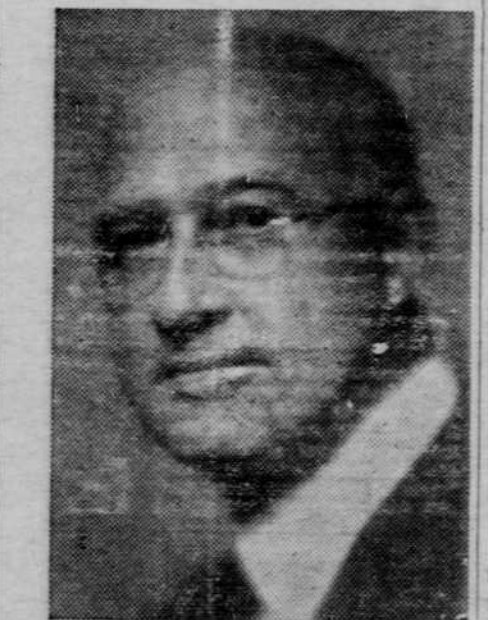
Born in Oklahoma of a musical family, Ernie scored success after success in such plays as "Harlem," "Savage Rhythm," and "Blood Stream." His most famous Broadway role was "Sunny Jackson" in "The Last Mile."

Quiet spoken, and thoughtful, Mr. Whitman thinks nothing can equal his own home where he can take his ease with his radio and his crossword puzzles.

Edison Institute Honors Omahan

J. E. Davidson, president of the Nebraska Power company and mid-west civic and business leader, was elected vice-president of the Edison Electric Institute at the annual convention held in Atlantic City.

The Edison Electric Institute is the national trade association of the power industry in such matters as standardization, technical coordination, sales, and research in making electricity of greater use, at lower rates, in home, shop and



J. E. Davidson

factory. As vice-president Davidson holds one of the key positions of the group.

Davidson's selection to an important post in the front ranks of the nation's power industry climaxes a close association with the industry since its infancy. As a boy he started his career in the plant of the Port Huron, Mich., Light and Power company as a wiper in the engine room. Through successive steps he rose to the position of a national figure in the electric industry, and is widely known as a speaker and writer on utility subjects.

In 1917 he came to Omaha as vice-president and general manager of the Nebraska Power company, being elected to his present position of president of the company in 1928. He has also been vice president and general manager of the Citizens Power and Light company of Council Bluffs, Iowa since 1917.

Davidson early became prominent nationally in the power industry through his policy of taking the public into his confidence. He was the first to advance the principle that the public utility operators of America are only the custodians of the nation's electric service for the people of America.

In 1925-1926 he served as president of the National Electric Light Association. From 1931 to 1933 he headed a National Refrigeration Bureau for the electric industry. Davidson has also been active in civic affairs. He was chosen king of Ak-Sar-Ben in 1923; was chairman of the Nebraska state bureau personnel of the Red Cross during the World War; elected Omaha's "First Citizen" in 1929; headed the first Omaha Community Chest drive and another chest drive since.

At the present time he is chairman of the Greater Omaha Association; president of the board of regents of the Omaha Municipal University; a director of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce and of the Union Stockyards Company, the Chicago, Great Western Railroad and the Occidental Building and Loan Association.

Coming as it does at a time when the entire electric industry is uniting to safeguard the interests of its investors and its customers, the election of Davidson to his new post is a signal honor. In the course of the controversy over the Wheeler-Rayburn public utility bill, now in Congress, Davidson has gained national recognition for his presentation of the utilities' side of the case.