

EDITORIALS

The Omaha Guide

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Race prejudice must go. The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man must prevail.

Omaha, Nebraska, Saturday, AUGUST 24, 1935

STATE REGULATION HAS WORKED

In addressing the public utility section of the American Bar Association, at its recent convention in Los Angeles, Leon O. Whitsell, president of the California Railroad Commission...

Mr. Whitsell pointed to definite and constructive achievements that state regulation has brought to the people of California. Under it, both household and industrial consumers have enjoyed adequate service at reasonable and declining rates.

Benefits have likewise accrued to the utilities themselves. They have been permitted to earn a fair and reasonable return upon the value of their property.

The history of state regulation in all parts of the country pretty well duplicates the record made in California State commissions, intimately in touch as they are with the needs and desires of the people of their commonwealths...

HOW QUICK CAN YOU STOP?

Some time ago a questionnaire was submitted to motorists by the city of Memphis concerning the distance necessary for stopping cars going at given speeds. The survey demonstrated that the average driver has an exceedingly poor conception of stopping distances...

For example, drivers were asked how many feet would be needed to stop a car with four-wheel brakes moving at a speed of 40 miles per hour on an ordinary highway. Two percent of the drivers answered ten feet or less...

The true answer is 80 feet—and it was given by less than 6 percent of the drivers. Only a minority of motorists realize that, no matter how good a car's brakes are, it is impossible to stop within fifty feet...

Memphis has provided a good example showing that we vitally need continuous and intensified "schooling" for drivers—and that the driver who has operated a car for twenty years should be given attention, as well as the beginner.

Adequate knowledge of the limitations and capabilities of the motor car is a fundamental of accident prevention.

IS ENGLAND SINCERE

England is making a great pretense of attempting to move heaven and earth to avert war between Italy and Ethiopia. But is England sincere? Some Negroes foolishly believe she is.

There is one sure way to prevent Italy, who is plainly the aggressor, from waging war. That way is to bar her ships from the Suez Canal.

True there is a 47-year-old treaty, the International Suez Convention of 1888, which declares that the canal is to be left open to the merchantile and naval ships of all nations in either peace or war.

England hesitates to close the canal to Italy because of Duce's assistance is needed to prevent Germany from seizing Austria and thus precipitating another World War.

Both of these great powers would rather see weak Ethiopia ravished than to incur the enmity at this time. The combination of Germany, Poland, Italy and Japan might well be too tough for France, England and Russia.

Were this all, England and France would have little to worry about. But unfortunately for them in this instance, they rule hundreds of millions of colored people who are more restive than ever as they view the impending partitions of Ethiopia.

And yet this is a minor stage compared to the complete loss of sovereignty that may result from another World War.

That is why no realist can believe that they are sincere about halting the rape of Ethiopia.

THE RETORT DISCOURTEOUS

Much as one may disapprove and condemn the German Nazi persecution, one must applaud nevertheless, the retort their newspapers are making to the charges of barbarism leveled against them by people in this country.

The German press is saying in effect. "Where do you get off criticising us for our persecution of the Jews when you are lynching Negroes almost every week or so?"

This is a rather discourteous remark for the German press to make, but for once, the German press is telling the truth.

Indignant white people in New York City held a great "trial" of Hitler about a year ago for persecuting Jews but they have staged no "trial" of the South for crucifying, robbing and degrading helpless Negro workers.

We do not object to the criticism of fiendish Nazi Germany, but we do wish that some of the critics would save a little of their breath to fight far worse evils right here in the United States.

We can understand how they can be excited by German Fascism but they should know that Negroes are confronted daily with worse Fascism.

AN APPALLING PICTURE

The latest release of the Bureau of Census on "Colored and White Births Per 100 Deaths (Exclusive of Stillbirths) in Selected Cities, 1931 and 1930", should make us all sit up and take notice.

The statistics from 85 selected cities and two boroughs of the City of New York reveal that only in Albany, Columbus, La Grange, Macon and Waycross, Ga.; Indianapolis, Indiana; Alexandria, La.; Asheville, N. C.; Florence, S. C., and Lynchburg and Roanoke, Va., is the colored population reproducing itself.

In some cities the figures are appalling. In Little Rock and Hot Springs, Ark., for instance, there were only 27 and 47 births respectively, to 100 deaths. In Hopkinsville, Lexington and Paducah, the births per 100 deaths were, respectively, 41, 49 and 30.

Only in Hot Springs and Little Rock, Ark.; Sairo, Ill.; Lexington, Ky., and Columbia, S. C., are the white deaths greater than the white births, and there the showing is much better than that of the Negroes by from 50 to 100 percent.

These disturbing figures may be due, as the release suggests, to failure of Negro parents to register births, but there seems some doubt about that. Here is a big job for Negroes. Before the race can be saved, it must survive. At this rate, there will not be any race pretty soon.

WHY DOES ITALY WANT ETHIOPIA?

By George W. Harvey

BECAUSE: The African continent is three times the size of Europe.

BECAUSE: The nations of Europe already control most of the vast area of Africa and they are now jockeying for a position to control the rest.

BECAUSE: As it now stands, Great Britain and France are the great African land holders, with other European countries trailing far behind.

BECAUSE: Italy now controls only 946,734 square miles of the African continent compared with France's 3,967,610 and Great Britain's 2,340,692 square miles.

BECAUSE: Italy by annexation of Ethiopia, would add land three times the size of Italy to its own colonial possessions.

BECAUSE: Ethiopia has hidden in its territory, vast resources that the other countries, especially Italy, wants to develop, use and cash in on for their own use, greed, expansion and glorification.

ECONOMIC HIGHLIGHTS

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

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Seven major pieces of legislation have, at this writing, passed both houses of Congress—yet none of them have gone to the White House for Executive veto or approval.

Reason: All the bills are in conference. These conferences are something that the general public hears little about—but they probably have more influence on the actual fate of disputed legislation than all the dramatic and fiery speeches made on the floors of House or Senate.

Necessity for conferences is obvious. One branch of Congress will pass a bill. It then goes to the other branch. If, as often happens when really important laws are involved, amendments or changes are made in bills by this second branch, some way must be found to reconcile the differences.

One important bill in conference involves amendments to the TVA act. As passed by the House version of the bill permitted only \$50,000,000. Similar differences, mostly of minor importance, are keeping the AAA Amendment bill, the Social Security Act, the Rivers and Harbors Act and the \$300,000,000 Deficiency Act in conference.

In some cases, conferences must attempt to iron out basic differences. That is true, for example, of the Public Utilities Act of 1935 and the Banking Act of 1935.

In the Senate cession of the Public Utilities Act, holding companies were given a "death sentence" which all of them, with a few possible exceptions, would have to liquidate and go out of business by 1934.

A similar situation is holding up the Banking Act. The Administration wants an act providing for centralized banking, under which the Federal Reserve Board would take over the country's banks in major particulars.

As a matter of fact, presidents often have better success in their pet projects in conference than on the floor of either House.

Reason: Committees are smaller, more responsive to pressure. If a president has all the conferences of one branch with him, he can often secure the necessary compromise to come over to his side.

At any rate, the conference has assumed an importance that is increasing. It is the place where the bills of Congress are usually passed by either house. And conference committees are likely to have to meet some more often than they have passed, such as the "Share the Wealth" tax measure.

view of most political experts, is yes.

Will he be re-elected in 1936? The answer is Probably—but not by anywhere near the margin of his 1932 victory.

Have the Republicans a chance in 1936? A fair one—if Mr. Roosevelt keeps on slipping.

Areal test of New Deal power recently occurred in a Rhode Island congressional by-election. The district was carried by the Democrats last time, by a 30,000 majority. This time the Republican candidate took the plume by a 20,000 majority.

It is true that Republican leaders are more optimistic now than they were even a few months ago—and their attitude has changed entirely from the bitter defeat feeling they had after the Congressional rout of 1934, in which Republican Congressional representation dropped to one of the lowest points in history.

No outstanding candidate has appeared in spite of talk about a dozen different men. Chances are that the candidate will be a middle-of-the-road man, with liberal tendencies.

Under any circumstances, the other will burn when Mr. Roosevelt and his opponent step before the microphones. Unless all are wrong, it will be the bitterest and the hardest fought campaign in generations.

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

During the last few years there has been a steady and encouraging decrease in the average annual fire loss. However, figures for the last year, issued by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, show that a decided slow-up has occurred in the rate of decline.

The 1934 loss amounted to \$2.08 per capita. That may not seem a large amount—but, looked at in the light of the fact that it amounted to utter and unnecessary waste, it is important.

Further, the true size of the fire waste cannot be shown in figures. A fire, for example, may destroy a \$100,000 factory. Yet the factory's destruction may mean that several hundred men are thrown out of employment.

Fire is everybody's business. We all pay for fire waste—we all benefit when it is eradicated. And the best friend of the public apathy, that permits hazards to grow and multiply, and the commonest risks to multiply and get out of hand.

Fire prevention should not be regarded as somebody else's business. Foresight and action impose the same responsibility upon us all.

In the face of depression, tremendous progress has been made by the electric utility industry in increasing the uses of electricity in the home.

This progress is remarkable and is outstanding in comparison to that of any nation in the world.

—yet household power development is still in its infancy. Only a relatively few homes are adequately lighted, or have labor-saving appliances of importance—electric refrigerators, stoves, ironers, washing machines and a thousand other devices still strangers to the average American household.

The electric utilities are doing a fine work in attempting to stimulate household power consumption. They are doing it in two ways—first, by effecting steady reductions in the cost of power, and second, by selling better electric appliances for lower prices and on more favorable terms.

Electricity is the housewife's most efficient servant—and it is gradually and quietly effecting a revolution in American domestic life.

THE NEW BREAD AND BUTTER TAX

There are two particularly important points of public interest involved in the special chain store tax laws such as enacted in several states and proposed in many others.

First, is special or class taxation to penalize size in a specific industry, either desirable or in conformity with our constitutional ideas of government? Second, is it wise or consistent to use an argument for class taxation, the statement that it can be passed on to the consumer?

The whole proposition is unsound because it seeks to establish a punitive system of taxation that limits initiative, limits size, raises prices, discourages low cost service to the consumer and subsidizes inefficiency.

The punitive tax system, once established, will be extended to other group businesses such as banks, newspapers, gas stations, etc. In each case the tax can be passed on to the consumer.

It is difficult to understand just where the consumer's interest can be served by driving up total food prices.

Not only should the public oppose all new tax-increasing schemes, but it should emphatically demand tax reduction in substantial amounts.

There is no justifiable excuse for special punitive taxes of any kind.

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ROOSEVELT SIGNS SECURITY BILL

Provides U. S. Pension, Jobless Insurance For First Time

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15—President Roosevelt Wednesday signed the long awaited social security bill, which he hailed as "historic for all time" and for the first time, the United States has a federal system of old age pensions and unemployment insurance.

President Roosevelt predicted its benefits will be felt by 30 million Americans and that it will provide at least partial protection against the shock of future economic depression.

Present for the signing ceremony were Secretary of Labor Perkins and almost the entire membership of the Senate finance committee and the House ways and means committee.

The bill provides a maximum federal pension grant of \$15 a month for individuals of 65 years and over, to be matched by like contributions by various states. A payroll tax of 3 percent is also provided to defray the basic cost of unemployment compensation.

Fifty North Carolinians Enlist For Ethiopian Service

Asheville, N. C., Aug. 14, (ANP)—That more than 50 North Carolinians had enlisted for service in the Ethiopian army, was disclosed here Monday by E. W. Pearson, who is working in behalf of the Ethiopian movement here.

White Man Rapes Step-Daughter; No Lynching Occurs

Raurinburg, N. C., Aug. 14, (ANP)—Charged with raping his 14-year-old step-daughter, Cliff Chavis, 27-year-old white man was arrested here Thursday and is in jail awaiting trial. Although the crime was described as the most heinous ever committed in these parts there was neither any lynching nor talk of lynching.

South Carolina Town Quiet After

Abbeville, S. C., Aug. 14, (ANP)—After being lynched by the nearly lynching here last week, which was a result of the appearance on the scene of National Guardsmen, the town here has again quiet. The Negroes have been demoralized and the Negro to lynch the 11 men, held in jail charged with beating up a white man, has apparently subsided and the victim of the assault has been pronounced the way to recovery.