

COMMENTS

EDITORIAL PAGE

OPINIONS

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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.

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..EDITORIALS..

Security and Freedom

"If you peer out on the world today, you will find that we really have a large measure of freedom. There is a place or two on this earth where economic security is more general and is government guaranteed—but in those countries, there is no freedom. We want both. We want both security and freedom. But we want them both as a product of our own achieving. We want security as a product of our work. We want freedom as the result of vigilance. We want neither as a gift." —George E. Sokolsky.

The Electric Age

The use of electricity is today 25 times what it was 35 years ago, according to W. C. Mullendore, executive vice president of the Southern California Edison Company. Its cost is only one third as much now as it was then. This remarkable reduction of cost has been achieved in spite of the fact that operating expenses of almost all kinds have risen, and the industry's tax bill is 94 times as great as it was in 1902.

Cold figures cannot adequately tell what this remarkable record of service means to the American people. Expressed in human terms, it means that where only a small proportion of homes enjoyed the blessings of electric power at the start of the century, more than 80 percent of all homes have electricity today. It means that we can use power to operate radios, refrigerators, stoves and other labor saving equipment for less than we used to pay for lighting alone. It means the average family's electric bill is actually less than its tobacco, and a great deal less than its theatre and amusement bill. It means that hundreds of thousands of farmers have been provided with power that performs swiftly, efficiently and cheaply, tasks of back breaking severity.

Private capital started the electric industry. Private initiative and energy developed it. Vision foresaw its magnificent potentialities. In other lands, where electric developments are dominated by government, progress has been nowhere near as great. There the dampening hand of politics has deprived people of electricity's maximum aids to a happier more comfortable life.

We are still in the beginning of the electric age. If we make sure the utility industry is left in the hands of private individuals, under suitable state regulation, and is kept free from politics and bureaucracy, the future will bring wonders that are undreamed of today.

The Indirect Cost of Fire

"Burned property cannot be replaced" says Paul B. Sommers, President of the National Board of Fire Underwriters. "It is gone forever, and the nation is poorer by that much in tangible wealth. Fire brings unemployment, loss of time and wages and buying power, sometimes checking the growth of communities and reaching out a detaining hand to dependent or allied industries." It is high time we got rid of the wide spread and completely erroneous idea that fire insurance gives complete protection. Fire insurance is essential to individuals and industry alike—but there are risks which no policy can cover. Cases are on record where the destruction of a factory has brought to a sudden stop a town's progress and caused it to start on the down grade. The factory in the case was undoubtedly covered by insurance, but the ultimate loss to the community was infinitely greater than the mere building and materials destroyed. When a fire closes a place of business, permanently or temporarily, it means the purchasing power of employees is reduced or eliminated entirely. Mortgages and rents go unpaid. Stores lose patronage. Taxes are lost. Families move away and search for employment elsewhere. Property values decline and the entire life of the community is affected.

The direct annual fire loss in this country can be tabulated—it amounts to several hundreds of millions of dollars. This is a gigantic sum, but the indirect loss which cannot be put down exactly in figures, is many times as great and perhaps runs into the billions. When we prevent a fire by simple precautions that eliminate most of the hazards in homes and places of business, we are safeguarding jobs, savings, earnings, security, thus putting dollars in our pockets.

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Economic Review

Every President, according to American political tradition, is given a "congressional honeymoon"—that is, for a certain period time, long or short as the case may be, his suggestion and requests of Congress are received with almost unanimous approval and are enacted into law. He is aided by no major defections from his party ranks, and his floor leaders need give but little effort to keeping "the boys in line."

In our recent history, the shortest honeymoon was that of President Hoover, who had to deal with a hostile Congress within two years after his election—a circumstance that had much to do with his crushing defeat when he ran for reelection.

The longest honeymoon has been that of President Roosevelt. For four years, every major policy he advocated was approved with a minimum of debate. He received no set-backs from Congress. In such matters as disbursement of government money, he was given almost a free hand. He had bills written by his advisors, sent them to Congress and saw them made into law within a few days. Never was the authority of the Executive so broadened.

To say that this honeymoon is now over is simply to state an obvious fact, apparent to both friends and opponents of the New Deal. Cause of the split was the Court Bill. Ultimate effects of the split are today the subject for guessing, forecasting and editorializing by everyone in the country who takes an interest in politics.

The death of Senator Robinson—who, through his great personal popularity, ability and mastery of the complicated parliamentary technique, was able to keep the Senate running like a well-oiled Administration machine for four years—was a serious blow to the President. But the seeds of discontent have been brewing for a long time. Even had Mr. Robinson secured passage of the Court Bill, which is extremely doubtful, the breach between Congress and the White House would inevitably have widened. Faced with no effective Republican opposition, the overwhelming Democratic majority has been gradually breaking into a number of opposed, restive factions.

The upshot of this, as the Washington columnists have been writing, is clear. The Court Bill—perhaps the most important piece of legislation proposed by the Administration—is definitely dead. There will be no increase in Supreme Court membership, no proctor, and no increase in the membership of the lower Federal courts unless a definite need for judges is shown. It is probable that bill will be referred whereby the progress of cases involving Constitutional questions from District court to the Supreme Court, will be expedited, and the Attorney General will be empowered to appear in lower court cases when the constitutionality of a Federal law is questioned. These minor reforms have long been advocated by conservatives and liberals alike, and will not stir opposition.

Furthermore, the other "must" bills on the Administration's five-point legislative program for this session are definitely in danger—the chances, say the experts, are against them passing. These bills would fix minimum wages and maximum hours for industry in interstate commerce; reorganize the government department and bureaus; provide for low cost housing; plug up loopholes in the tax laws, and set up a new farm plan, based on the "ever normal granary." Potent remarks came recently from Representative Woodrum, a strong White House adherent, who said that if the Administration insisted on passing an ambitious legislative program such as this, "Congress will still be here when the frost is on the pumpkin." The revolt, in brief, has reached a highly advanced stage.

The effects of this on the country is gradually becoming clear. First, the chances are strongly against any additional "experimental legislation" on a wide scale. Second, the possibility of a split in Democratic ranks, that will result in a new party, with the conservative Southern Democrats joining with the Republicans, becomes constantly greater. Third, the President's power and hold over Congress is waning. Fourth, as recent

Calvin's Digest

By Floyd J. Calvin

Dr. Work's Thesis

It is encouraging to note in the current Social Forces, an article by Dr. Monrot N. Work on "Adjustment of Race and Class in the South," which outlines an approaching change in the economic life of the South, out of which will come better racial relations. The article was presented at the southern Sociological Society in Birmingham, Ala. last April.

Dr. Work says: "As the new economy, agricultural industrial commercial comes more and more into the South, there will be greater and greater conformity between the economic order and the political and moral orders. The evils surrounding the production of cotton, both economic and social and growing out of ante-bellum folk ways and modes, will tend to be eliminated. There will be a new basis of relationship between land lord and tenant. This new economy will provide a situation in which there will be not only economic cooperation, but also cooperation between race and between class and class, so that the interests of all the people will be conserved."

Dr. Work explains the practical side of his prophecy as follows: "At the present time, agriculture has, in the main, a two fold emphasis: the production of food and clothing for man, and foodstuffs for animals. In this new economy there would be a three fold emphasis in agriculture—the two already mentioned and a third, the growing of products for use in industry. This new innovation calls for: (1) new uses of old products as sweet potato; (2) the use of waste products as okra stalks, cotton stalks and cotton linters, the latter now being used in the making of insulation boards; (3) the use of products growing in an area but not being used, as for example, the use of slash pine in the manufacturing of paper; (4) the introduction of new plants into an area, as for example, the introduction of the soy bean and the tung tree into sections of the South, the latter for manufacturing of tung oil now largely used in industry and in admiral imported. The former in addition to use as forage is also made into a lacquer for painting automobiles.

surveys, such as that made by Fortune, indicate, he New Deal is slipping in public esteem, even though Mr. Roosevelt, as a personality, still commands the admiration of millions of voters.

This is all true, whether Congress adjourns tomorrow or next year. The attitude of the President, apparently, is that he will continue to insist on approval of his plans and will oppose, indirectly, the renomination of Democrats who are against him, such as Van Nuys and Wheeler. Not since the war has the political situation been so chaotic and so full of dynamite.

NNIA Report

One of the new rules adopted at the last meeting of the National Negro Insurance Association in Augusta, Ga., in May was that the proceedings of the organization be published within ninety days. After a whirl wind of effort on the part of the publication committee, the job is complete and the attractively printed 182 page booklet is in the hands of interested persons. The bringing out of the book so soon after the meeting gives the membership of the organization a chance to study from the record and put into practice some of the plans, methods and ideas brought to the insurance fraternity at great sacrifice of time from routine business for special study and investigation. Formerly, publication was too late for this opportunity. According to Cyrus Campfield, stationer of the Association, the insurance business among Negroes in America, at the beginning of this year, was \$320,000,000 with over 18 million policies in force.

According to G. W. Cox, chairman of the National Negro Insurance Week program last May 17 to 22, the goal of 10 million dollars in new business for all the companies together was over produced by nearly two million dollars, by nearly 8 thousand colored insurance salesmen of the country and that "the new income, as a result of the strong conservative program, will exceed six hundred thousand dollars a year."

The papers read before the body now published by the Association, reuter credit upon the organization upon the companies represented by the writers, and upon the authors themselves. Among these are "The Scientific Approach to Modern Trends in Life Insurance Practices" by Miss E. O. Tibbs, actuary of the Afro-American Life Insurance Company, Jacksonville, Fla.; "Some of the Local Aspects of Life Insurance from the Claims Point of View," by S. B. Thomas of Pilgrim Health and Life of Augusta; and "Immediate Problems Facing Our Companies," by G. D. Rogers of Central Life of Tampa, Fla., who is the new president of the Association.

Free Speech In Nazi Germany

By DR. HARRY A. ROSITZKE,

Assistant Professor of English, University of Omaha

(Editor's Note: Dr. Rositzke has traveled extensively in Europe and recently spent nine months in the Hamburg experimental phonetic laboratory in Germany.)

The National Socialist government in Germany is founded on a complete negation of all liberal principles. It not only opposes the democratic principle in politics as well as economics, but in the radical muzzling of all free expression it most sharply violates basic liberal doctrines.

The Nazi policy not only insists on the throttling of political opposition, but rigorously looks upon even the most minor and casual criticisms of the existent regime as good ground for membership in its numerous concentration camps.



Two farmers in a country tavern are discussing the price of pork. One complains that his returns aren't sufficient to pay his feed-bill, is overheard by a conscientious Nazi at the next table, and gets three months in a concentration camp.

Phones Are Checked A Hamburg importer, during a telephone call to Berlin, criticizes the practicality of the new restrictions on fat imports. He is overheard and reported by his office-boy and ends up in the same place.

These are concrete indications of a policy that not only violates the basic right of the individual to put into words his private thoughts and his reactions to his environment, but, considered practically, makes mountains out of extremely small mole-hills.

An interesting by-product of this official mouth-taping is the rapid growth and steady flourishing of a vast number of jokes making sport of government figures and policies to work off the intellectual steam bottled up by the Nazi dictatorship.

Hitler Anecdote

One of the commonest, though not one of the best, of these jokes is the one about Hitler attending a moving-picture theatre. During the new reel Hitler's picture appeared on the screen, and everyone stood up and cheered—everyone but Hitler. His neighbor turned to

him and said: "You'd better stand up, my friend. We all feel about it the way you do, but it's not safe to show it."

This suppression of free speech, however, is not taken simply as evidence of an emotional fanaticism gone hay-wire, but illustrates a basic tenet of the Nazi philosophy that Das Volk—the people—come first, and that the individual's rights and interests are subordinate to those of the society as a whole. The people must be taught the Nazi doctrines as unquestioned standards of conduct. All hostile criticism would naturally tend to weaken this popular solidarity. Accordingly, the man on the street, the newspaper reporter, the teacher, are compelled to get into line and sacrifice their individual opinions and rights of expression to the cause of the national unity and advancement of national interest.

This line of reasoning, of course, rests the assumption that the Nazi doctrines are in the best interests of the German people. Such an assumption can be satisfactorily tested only by the future.

In the meantime, for the sake of the potential creations of a people that has already displayed its real abilities in the past, one hopes that they will achieve some sort of liberal basis for their governing, and that such policies as the suppression of free speech, the anti-Semitic program, and the excessive social regimentation of individual living be gradually modified and eventually eliminated.

Another column of discussion by a member of the University of Omaha faculty will appear in this space next week.

An Echo From My Den

By S. E. Gilbert

As I sit here in my den with pen in hand meditating as it were, I am thinking of the great orientation of the world today; and thus I write. During the prehistoric days there roamed the world an animal that is now to be found only in the museums of natural history in its skeleton form. The huge animals were provided by nature with an armored body, huge shells, small front legs and tiny heads containing about 1/2 pint of brains. The huge lizards were once monarchs of all they surveyed, but as time marched on the 70 foot beast known as dinosauria vanished.

The dinosauria had one track minds and very small minds at that. As long as the world in which they lived, remained as they found it they prospered.

The dinosauria perished because the world around them changed its form and they being unable to change due to their one track mind, couldn't survive and thus they perished.

Like unto the fate that befell the dinosauria will come a similar fate to black America unless we as a group learn the value of cooperation and of adapting ourselves to changes taking place constantly in society. Let us as a group get away from prewar training handed down to us by the unscrupulous slave owners, that one is better than the other simply because of color, educational opportunity or parental

connections, but instead let us present a solid united front of mass' action, get away from the one track mind of class distinction unless we perish, and fight forward for our own economic and social freedom, remembering the time has come that Black America cannot let things slide along in the hope everything will turn out all right in the end without any effort on our part. This is indeed an age of militant action, when all must fight in order to receive, else all may perish as did the once powerful dinosauria.

NOTE:—Each week your correspondent takes his pen in hand and writes on local issues as he sees it. Written comments on these Echoes will be welcomed. Just address your letters to "An Echo From My Den" Omaha Guide, 2418 Grant Street, Omaha, Nebr.

Illinois Mayor Asks Courtesies for Negro Labor Delegates

(Continued from Page 1)

But Mayor Orr, in his address of welcome at the convention's opening meeting, made more specific his demand that the colored delegates be fairly treated. He prefaced his speech as follows:

"Before I begin my address of welcome, there is something which I wish to get off my chest. There has been a lot of propaganda about the ill treatment of Negroes by citizens of LaSalle. Any Negro coming into the city of LaSalle to attend the Illinois State Federation of Labor convention, are going to receive the same kind of treatment, receive the same accommodations and the same courteous consideration that white men are going to receive. I have instructed the police department to arrest and fine heavily anybody who is discourteous to any Negro during his stay in this town."

Advertisement for Bronze Standouts featuring Dixie Kenney, Madeline Jackson, and Clarence Muse. Text includes: "DIXIE KENNEY HAS OPENED A LONG RUN AT DIXON'S CAFE IN SHARON HILL, PHILA.", "MADIE JACOBSON COMELY STAGE STAR WHOSE RAPID RISE TO STARDOM HAS SET THE EAST AGOG.", "CLARENCE MUSE WHOSE FINE VOICE AND CHARACTER ACTING HAS WON FOR HIM MANY OUTSTANDING MOVIE PARTS." Includes a small portrait of Clarence Muse.