

THE OMAHA GUIDE

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00 PER YEAR

All News Copy of Churches and other organizations must be in our office not later than 5:00 p. m. Monday for current issue. All Advertising Copy or Paid Articles not later than Wednesday noon, preceding date of issue, to insure publication.

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.
James M. Williams & James E. Seay—Dinotype operators and Pressmen. Paul Barnett—Foreman.

Published Every Saturday at 2418-20 Grant St.
Omaha, Nebraska
Phone WEBster 1517

Entered as Second Class Matter March 15, 1927, at the Post Office at Omaha, Nebr., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

EDITORIALS

War Against the Little Fellow

The politicians don't call it socialism—but a politically originated program now in effect can be honestly described only as state socialism on a gigantic scale.

This is the federal state power program. Few of us yet realize its potentialities. We know something about the TVA and Bonneville and Grand Coulee dams. What we don't know is that a host of other, smaller projects, either completed, under construction or in the planning stage, will literally blanket the country with tax subsidized, politically managed power plans and transmission systems in the next five years.

Washington, Oregon, California, Nebraska, Wyoming, Texas, Tennessee, Alabama—these are but a few of the states which are being "blessed" with socialized power, at the expense of private savings, private investment, private opportunity, and private employment. In every case, the areas have been long and adequately served, at reasonable cost, by heavily taxed, state regulated private systems. In every case where possible deficiencies of power existed, the private companies were prepared to expand to make up for them—given assurance that they would be allowed to stay in business. In every case, all the taxpayers of the country have been taxed to pay for the unnecessary government projects—and the total bill of the projects planned runs past the \$2,000,000,000 point.

Furthermore, the "power socialists" aren't satisfied. They frankly want to destroy or absorb the entire private industry. Very recently rumors have been heard of a new political "war" against the utilities. And what that amounts to is a war against the taxpayers who pay the bills; against the armies of workers with good jobs in the private companies; against the tens of thousands of people of small means who own utility securities, bought out of savings; against a tremendous number of businesses, little and big, from which utilities buy, and which share directly or indirectly in utility spending. It's a war primarily against the "little fellow."

Such a program is insidious. It grows without our knowing it. And it leads us inexorably toward that totalitarianism the very politicians who are today promoting socialism in this country, profess to detest. The people of this country have long been asleep—and the future of democracy will be dark indeed if they don't awaken soon.

WHAT THE PRESS THINKS

Recently the annual meetings of the Associated Press, the American Newspaper Publishers Association and the American Society of Newspaper Editors were held.

A survey of the opinions of press leaders present showed an almost unanimous opposition to discriminatory

and punitive taxation or legislation against any legitimate business; general approval of mass merchandising, whether accomplished by chain stores or organized independents, and an appreciation of the immense importance of mass merchandising in promoting wider distribution of commodities particularly those of agricultural origin, to the benefit of agriculture and industry.

Other press organizations, state and national, and representing both large and small newspapers, have gone formally on record with similar views. The typical American newspaperman believes in fair play. He believes in progress. He knows what unhampered competitive business means to his town his state and his nation. And he knows the dangerous folly of any law or any tax designed to penalize or destroy any honest business.

WAGES FOR RED CAPS

No laborer is more worthy of his hire than the red cap. Yet he is the unfortunate victim of a controversy over a two dollar daily wage.

Passage of the minimum wage law some time ago fixed a twenty-five cents hourly wage for red caps. An eight hour day yields a minimum daily rate of two dollars. This will be raised when the hourly rate is increased soon to thirty cents and later to forty.

The Cruix of the present situation is the receipt of tips. The railroads and terminal companies contend that all tips should be reported and several terminals actually collect from the red caps a sum equal to two dollars daily and then pay it back as wages. In these cases it has been stated in testimony before the wage and hour administration that men who have not received two dollars daily in tips have been forced to report that sum to retain employment.

Many red caps received higher tips prior to the passage of the regulatory act they report. But a belief on the part of the public that the red caps receive a good living wage under the act has resulted in decreased revenue from that source.

The red caps have made a strong presentation of their case through capable counsel. A decision is expected July 15. No fair minded person who has ever witnessed the strenuous tasks which the red caps are constantly called upon to perform in return for a small tip, which is entirely gratuitous could fail to hope with them for a fixed wage and the exclusion of tips.

Here again the element of race is likely to be a strong determining factor as to whether railroads and terminals will pay about \$2,000,000 annually in red cap wages.

TUBERCULOSIS SURVEY

Members of the National Tuberculosis Association which has for several years conducted a campaign, national and international in scope, to educate the public about the cause and cure of the disease, have cause for encouragement in the latest Gallup poll.

Five questions put to a representative cross section of the people by the American Institute of Public Opinion, brought answers which indicated increasing public knowledge on the subject. While many attributed the disease to other causes than the tuberculosis bacillus, a decided majority of 76 per cent knew that it is contagious.

As to the best way to cure tuberculosis, 53 per cent answered rest; 36 per cent, proper diet, and 26 per cent, fresh air. These responses echo the appeals of lecturers and slogans which urge rest and building up the body reserve through nutritious diet. The affir-

mative vote of 86 per cent showed that the public generally realize the disease is curable, but 52 per cent err in believing it hereditary.

On the whole, the education campaign of those who would stamp out the white plague is making headway.

The stock market has been going down in the face of little change in business. One reason is the fear of war—the day Italy invaded Albania shares took a tremendous drop, and the ticker couldn't keep up with sales. Another reason is the belief that European holders of American securities have been dumping them in quantities too large for the market to absorb in orderly fashion.

As for actual business it doesn't give cause for any great optimism—but neither does it give cause for the bleak pessimism now current in some quarters. Retail sales have been good. So have automobile sales. The expected seasonal upturn in industrial buying has set in, though not to much extent. And the agricultural outlook is not as bad as it seemed a while back.

You'll know more about it by the middle of Aug. If the forecasters are right, substantial progress should be in evidence then, and should continue to the end of the year.

"WINGS OVER JORDAN"

In the last issue of the Washington Tribune there appeared a letter from E. B. Henderson of Falls Church on the subject of the discontinuance of the "Wings Over Jordan" program over a local radio station.

Mr. Henderson has for years consistently resented practice of intolerance here and elsewhere. He takes the time and trouble not only to correspond privately with those responsible for such acts, but frequently addresses himself to the reading public of the local palies.

In his communication he regrets the action of Station WJSV in discontinuing the radio feature. He goes further. He deplores the fact that only two letters of protest reach the radio station "from 15,000 Negroes in Omaha."

He suggests that "some of the money spent for cigarettes, chewing gum, liquor, the numbers or for other luxuries" could be intelligently used through various Negro organizations to combat discrimination.

Too, there is the specific suggestion that intelligent Negroes spare a few pennies and minutes to protest to WJSV by postcard or telephone calls and to ask the restoration of "Wings Over Jordan" to the station program.

The Omaha Guide is in complete accord with Mr. Henderson's views and we appeal to every one not to let the day pass without making a protest directly to radio station WJSV.

"POWER SOCIALISM" REJECTED

For a number of years politicians promoting socialism in the United States, have tried to convince the American people that government ownership of the electric power industry should take the place of private ownership publicly regulated. But American voters seem to be increasingly dubious about thus Europeanizing our theory of government and destroying private enterprise in favor of bureaucratically controlled industries.

The most recent example of rejection of the socialistic doctrine was in San Francisco where at a special election the people were asked to vote \$55,000,000 in bonds to start financing a municipal system to distribute electricity generated by the city at its Hetch Hetchy water supply dam. This

electricity has long been purchased and distributed to San Francisco citizens, by a highly taxed private electric company.

At six previous elections the voters were asked to supplant private ownership with public ownership in San Francisco's electric supply, increase the city debt and destroy one of its greatest tax paying assets, met one of the worst lickings the proposal has yet taken. There was an unusually large vote, for a special election—122,517 "no's"—49,801 "yes's."

This setback for "power socialism" is heartening. It shows that the citizens of a typical large American city are not deluded by unprovable political claims and ultimatums. It shows healthy opposition to government ownership of business, and it shows a desire for economy and reduced public debt, instead of uncontrolled expenditures and tax-exempt public business. At scores of elections in other cities and towns, citizens have registered this same opinion.

OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH

One phase of chain store development that deserves more attention than it has received is the influence of these modern low cost merchandisers on employment.

According to an Institute of Distribution survey, the chain stores of the nation employ 1,300,000 local men and women scattered throughout all the states. This army of workers have steady jobs, a high standard of living and a rate of pay tending higher than the retail average. And, of equal importance, the chains offer the intelligent, ambitious worker, excellent opportunities for advancement.

Of the 537 executives of one large chain system, according to a study presented to a New York University Conference on Business Education, 531 started in as clerks. And almost every large chain is staffed by executives of whom the great bulk began in lowly positions. Practically all of the chains have definite programs to expedite their employees' advancement. Free courses are offered, and special training given to ambitious young men and women.

The chains offer a definite opportunity to young people lacking special training, who could not possibly find a job in those many industries which require specialized education and aptitudes. The untrained worker can learn as he goes—and he can go as far as his abilities and ambitions direct.

Practically all the chains, even the largest began as single unit independent stores, owned and operated by men with ideas and the burning urge to get ahead. Today some little store owner you never heard of is planning and dreaming and working—and is laying groundwork for a prosperous multiple unit distribution system of the future. The chains are simply an example of what can stem from honest open competitive business. They are the result of opportunity under our American system—and, in return they offer splendid opportunity to young people who are today starting business careers.

AN OBJECT LESSON

"Private business has been primarily responsible for every dollar of wealth that has been created in the United States and for every job that exists," says the Mansfield, Ohio, News-Journal.

Ignorance or deliberate disregard of that fact has been a prime cause of prolonged depression. Private business has been attacked and reviled and the result has been less earnings and fewer jobs.