

Don't Read This Unless...

You strive for the betterment of your future and private freedom — are Civic-minded — are interested in the future well-being of your loved ones and your community of which you are a vital part. ARE YOU INTERESTED — YOU ARE! Then read this article — Read it again and YET Again — then clip it out for future reference.

Things, Mr. Reader, that you — yes you, need to know, The Omaha Guide, your servant invites you to read very carefully the following letters and statements of facts. Yes, it indeed concerns your present and future interests, doubly so. Knowledge is strength. Know the facts for yourself. If there is anything in these letters and statements that you don't thoroughly understand, Mr. C. C. Galloway, Publisher of The Omaha Guide, has made a special study of all letters and statements herein

and has held several conferences with all parties concerned in the above matters. Mr. Galloway will be in his office at 2426 Grant St., Omaha Guide Building, every Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on July 30, Aug. 6, 13 1943 for the purpose

of explaining any portion of the five letters and statements of facts that you do not thoroughly understand. Again we repeat, that knowledge is strength. Know the truth for yourself. Read the full contents of this article.

The Case of The Nebr. Power Co.

Legislative Speaker Writes Mayor

Hon Dan B. Butler, Mayor, City of Omaha, Executive Office, Omaha, Nebraska.

Dear Mayor Butler:

This will acknowledge your letter of June 14th, in which you state that some opposition to the appointment of a People's Power Commission is being expressed. You ask my views on the matter.

My purpose, in supporting Legislative Bill 204 in its final form, was to establish a process through which the will of the people of Omaha and surrounding territory, could be adequately expressed.

The immediate issue in the Omaha locality is whether the electric utility should be publicly owned, or whether it should continue to be privately operated. In Section 3 of the Bill, that choice is first given to the Mayor and Council of Omaha, they being the elected representatives of the people most directly affected. As such representatives it is their function to determine whether public ownership is for the best interests of the people at large, and whether a majority of the people desire public ownership.

I anticipated before the Bill was enacted into law that there might develop vigorous opposition to the creation of a People's Power Commission, and that this opposition might be sufficiently strong to dis-

suade the Mayor and Council from proceeding with necessary steps to accomplish public ownership. Such opposition, if it represents the will of a majority of the people affected, should prevail. But if the opposition is merely the expression of minority groups, seeking to subvert their private advantage contrary to the wishes of the public at large, then the opposition should fail.

In order to guard against the possibility that minority opposition might prevent public ownership of the electric utility in Omaha, I sponsored Section 4 of the Bill. That Section provides a simple method by which the voters of the city may require the People's Power Commission to be appointed, notwithstanding that the Mayor and Council have refused to act, and may further require that the electric utility be appropriated by condemnation proceedings in a Court of competent jurisdiction.

I call your attention to the fact that the Bill did not pass with the emergency clause attached, and therefore will not become effective until August 28th of this year.

With best personal regards, I am Very truly yours, "Signed" R. B. CROSBY, Speaker of the Unicameral Legislature.

A Question for the People of Omaha — Who Made the Deal?

Why all the fuss about L. B. 204? Why not leave Nebraska Power Company as it is? Nebraska Power Company does not have to be sold. And if the present owners should be sold in the future to sell, Omaha is under no obligation to buy.

The following telegram to Charles E. Starr of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers from the Securities and Exchange Commission proves the above statement:

May 31, 1943. "CHARES E. STARR, 5018 Lafayette Ave., Omaha, Nebraska

Relative wire May 29, 1943 concerning Nebraska Power Company. This Commission has entered no order specifically requiring American to dispose of its interest in Nebraska but did on August 22, 1942 enter an order under Section 11 (b) (2) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act requiring the dissolution of American Power and Light Co. parent holding company of Nebraska and Directing respondents to submit a plan for American's liquidation. This order has been appealed and American has not submitted a plan of liquidation. Any disposition in compliance with such dissolution order may be either by sale or by distribution to security holders or some other appropriate method. Neither the Act nor the order obligates the City of Omaha to purchase.

Milton H. Cohen, Securities and Exchange Commission.

WHO MADE THE DEAL?

And why this fictitious issue of breaking faith with the legislature? L. B. 204 was conceived in the first place to make it impossible for Consumers Public Power District (the State project) to buy Nebraska Power Company. The following paragraph from an editorial in the Omaha World-Herald, March 16, this year, stated the situation, in truth, and as the people understood it:

"The question is simple: Shall this great public service corporation come under the ownership and control of the community it serves, or shall it become an appanage of Consumers, and be operated from Col-

umbus, Nebraska? L. B. 204, the new law, makes it impossible for Consumers or any other State project to buy Nebraska Power Company and thus create a great State monopoly. Since the law keeps Consumers out, what else is wanted and by whom? *****

"City Is Protected"

SAID MAYOR and COUNCIL

The Mayor and city commission went on public record on May 22, 1942 with a formal resolution which said in part:

"The Mayor and city commissioners of the City of Omaha desire to go on record that they have full confidence in the contract which the city now has with the Nebraska Power Company and the American Power and Light Company regarding any sale of the local electric company.

"If the Nebraska Power Company is going to be sold, the city will have every opportunity to protect the interests of the people of the city.

"There is no general demand in Omaha for the sale of the Nebraska Power Company. This company has furnished our city with splendid service an a fine citizen.

"The City of Omaha has an enviable record in financial circles. We must be careful not to jeopardize Omaha's fine credit standing."

"If anyone promised the legislature that Omaha would buy the Nebraska Power Company and put it into political operation even though it DOES NOT have to be sold and even though the state project (Consumers) CANNOT buy it, who made the deal?... Who assumed the authority to make the deal?... The people of Omaha didn't vote on it... the people's only representatives, the City Council, didn't make any promises. In fact, the City Council and the Mayor last summer, signed a public statement in which they said they didn't want the Nebraska Power Company sold.

What is it all about anyway? LET'S LEAVE NEBRASKA POWER AS IT IS.

"Iowa-Nebraska Light and Power Company operates electric and gas properties in the Southwestern portion of the State of Iowa and gas properties in eastern Nebraska. Recently it sold to a public power district substantially all the electric properties which it formerly operated in the State of Nebraska. Through a subsidiary, Marysville Electric Light and Power Company, it conducts electric and gas operations in northwestern Missouri in a service area adjoining the territory served in Iowa.

"We do not at this time attempt to determine how many integrated public utility systems are comprised by the utility assets of Iowa-Nebraska Light and Power Company. Neither do we believe it necessary at this time to determine the extent to which, under the standards of clauses (A) and (C) of Section 11 (b) (1), such systems may be retained under common control together with whatever system is determined to be the 'single' integrated public utility system. We believe it sufficient for the present to indicate our tentative views as to the character of the major action required to be taken by the respondents, leaving this question for further determination, particularly in the light of whatever dispositions may voluntarily be made on the interim by Iowa-Nebraska Light and Power Company."

On August 6, 1941, the Commission issued its findings and opinions under Sections 11 (b) (1) and 11 (b) (2) in the subject proceedings, directing four of the holding companies of this system to dispose of their interests in certain of their subsidiary companies but reserving for further determination at an appropriate time, among other things, questions as to the retainability of the Iowa-Nebraska properties, under clauses (A) and (C) of Section 11 (b) (1). There has been no change in that status since that date.

I trust that I have been of assistance to you in this matter. Please feel free to communicate with me again at any time.

Very truly yours, Signed, RALPH T. McELVENNY, Assistant Director.

Council Stand on Power Deal Put in Record

SAYS CITY'S INTERESTS WILL BE PROTECTED IN ANY EVENTUALITY

Statements issued Friday by city commissioners, assuring the public that the city council will protect Omaha's best interests in connection with moves of the Consumers Public Power district of Columbus to purchase the Nebraska Power Company, were made to formal record today.

The text of the statement signed by Mayor Dan Butler and all commissioners except Park Commissioner Roy Towl, follows: "The mayor and city commissioners of the City of Omaha desire to go on record that they have full confidence in the contract which the city now has with the Nebraska Power Company and the American Power and Light Company regarding any sale of the local electric company.

PRaises NPC SERVICE

"If the Nebraska Power company is going to be sold, the city will have every opportunity to protect the interests of the people of

both, of one or more of the subsidiary registered holding companies of United Light and Power unduly and unnecessarily complicate the corporate structure of the holding company system." After considerable testimony adduced at the public hearing subsequently held in the matter, the Commission on March 20, 1941 issued an order requiring the liquidation and dissolution of United Light and Power itself and of United American Company, and the Commission reserved jurisdiction with respect to the remaining issues in the proceedings and particularly for the purpose of considering what action should be ordered to be taken by the holding companies of the system with the further requirements of Section 11 (b) (2). This reservation applied to Iowa-Nebraska, among others.

"City's Credit Cited"

"The City of Omaha has an enviable record in financial circles. We must be careful not to jeopardize Omaha's fine credit standing.

"The people can rest assured that any action that is taken will be in their best interests."

Towl issued a separate statement voicing virtually the same sentiments except that it contained no reference to the question of local demand for sale of Nebraska Power and carried an additional paragraph which read:

"We desire to have the legal adjustments of our home rule charter to safeguard the interests of the city of Omaha in all of its departments, regardless of the disposition of the property."

We Think of Nebraska as the "White Spot"

The name white spot, and the very conservative reasons therefor, are known throughout the country. But suppose Nebraska Power Company becomes a municipal or governmental enterprise, managed politically.

If that happens, Nebraska will quickly become known as a state where "state socialism" is being tried out with one important industry, unanimously, 100 percent. There won't be a kilowatt of electricity generated or distributed in the state which is not generated or distributed by the public; one great important business controlled by the state and politicians.

And then, what of the "white spot" reputation? Nebraska will be hailed by the socialists, the honest ones and the dishonest ones, the schemers and the dreamers, the teachers, the professors, the philosophers, as a proving ground for state socialism.

If socialized medicine is to be attempted on a grand scale, "let's see if it won't work in Nebraska." If the food business, which is a truly vital business to the state, is to be placed in the hands of the states or municipalities, let's all of us center on Nebraska.

(Many people, and some of them in fairly high places, are now thinking of having the food business designated as a public utility. The next step will be state control.) And why not "try it out in Nebraska?" Nebraska will be the perfect example.

I don't know what kind of a spot we will be once a basic industry becomes state controlled, but I say to you the COLOR will no longer be WHITE.

Mississippi Stirred by Race Issue

(continued from page 1)

not going to pay the new 20 percent withholding tax, that they will work up to the amount of their exemption and quit work the balance of the week. This is a situation that will lead to trouble.

"Grenada county in the last draft call (June) sent about 80 percent married men, and I understand the July call will be about 100 percent married men. The June call for Negroes was 60 odd, and the army retained only 17, sending the rest of them back.

"The feeling among white people here is that the army does not want any more Negro soldiers. That married men with families in the home are being sent back to the States.

REAL SHOE MAN FONTENELLE SHOE REPAIR CASH & CARRY CLEARER 1410 North 24th St. —CARL CRIVERA—

THE OMAHA GUIDE

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will soon be going out, NECESSARY TO FILL OUR QUOTA BECAUSE THE WHITE MAN MUST TAKE THE NEGROES' PLACE.

"Now if we strip the county of white men, leave Negroes here, who are not interested in working, there is going to be trouble.

"Why should we permit this idleness, when our boys are giving their lives on battle fronts all over the world?"

"The thought has occurred to me, that if you, as governor of the state, could issue a work or fight proclamation, to be followed by each mayor over the state, all done at the same time with plenty of publicity, it would have a good effect. Law enforcement officers could then follow it up, and make them work, or go to jail.

"At least, let me urge that you carefully look into this situation, for in my opinion, unless something is done, we are headed for trouble.

Haven for 9,000 Negro Maritime Seamen

More than 9,000 Negroes sailed the seas on the ships of the United States Merchant Marine, carrying supplies to the war fronts of the a survey made by the War Ship-

United Nations, it was revealed in a survey made by the War Shipping Administration. This number constituted one tenth of the entire merchant marine force.

Our merchant seamen are at work on the most grueling front of the war. The ratio of their losses is 400 percent higher than for our armed forces.

They wear no uniforms, march in no parades, take no bows; but they are braving torpedoes, aerial bombs, seas of flaming oil, machine gun fire and cunningly placed mines, days and weeks in flimsy life rafts—racked with hunger, cold and maddening thirst.

Realizing that these men, indispensable to victory, must be accorded recognition and benefits equal to those in uniform, the War Shipping Administration took the lead in the launching of the United Seaman's Service in 1942 to administer to the needs and morale of marine workers.

The USS provides for American merchant seamen, both in home and foreign ports, medical service, rest and recuperation centers and recreation clubs. It is the one agency born of the war which does not countenance discrimination in any form. It is generally conceded that the merchant marine service is one of the most democratic institutions now taking part in the war.

In every seaman's center wherever possible, democracy is practiced and officials go as far as they can in their attempts to see to it that all merchant seamen, regardless of color, enjoy the same the South where segregation is a

benefits of the service. Even in part of the constituted law, it is now without reluctance and protest that the USS permits its men to be separated.

The United Seaman's Service is one of the agencies composing the National War Fund, which will soon launch its nation wide drive in cooperation with local War Fund campaigns. The fund consists of 15 other war relief and service agencies. Among other agencies included in the drive are the USO, War Prisoners Aid, United China Relief, Russian War Relief, Refugees Relief and others.

The National War Fund was conceived to economize time and over funds for the various war agencies which have heretofore been conducting their individual fund raising campaigns. Winthrop W. Aldrich is the president of the board of directors and Dr. Channing H. Tobias is a member of the board.

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