

## The Plattsmouth Journal

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## EDITORIALS

### ROBBING MISSOURI

One of the marks of a rising civilization is the ability of a people, by community action, to soften the blow for those who have been hit by economic adversity. The United States, in recent decades, has taken tremendous strides toward eliminating hardships. However, there is a point beyond which society cannot go. It is a tragic fact that human nature tends to take merciless advantage of humanitarian ideals. A startling example of this is shown in a report on the Missouri Unemployment Compensation Law.

For over ten years, the people of Missouri have been insured against unemployment. And yet during the past five years, while there have been for more jobs than workers, Missouri paid over fifteen million dollars to workers, not veterans, who claimed they could not find work. The report shows that these claims could not be valid, that payments were unwarranted if the law had been properly administered.

During the war, from July 1, 1942 to July 1, 1945, nearly fourteen million dollars was paid out of the unemployment fund. This was during a time when the entire country was begging for workers to man the country's industrial machine, and when the chairman of the War Manpower Commission stated, "We are at the bottom of the manpower barrel."

Figures show that in Missouri, between 1940 and 1945, there were two hundred thousand more jobs with three hundred thousand fewer workers available to take them! During October 1946, sixty-three thousand help wanted advertisements appeared in St. Louis papers. At the same time in St. Louis, there were over four thousand new claims filed for unemployment aid, and a weekly average of 13,741 persons on the "payroll" of the unemployment fund.

A state wide survey of 236 companies revealed that the Industrial Commission paid over a million dollars in unemployment compensation to former employees of these companies from July 1, 1946 to July 1, 1947. During this same period these 236 concerns reported that 42 per cent of the 15,000 former employees who were paid out of work benefits would have been rehired if they had applied for their old jobs. But they were paid unemployment compensation.

The tragedy of Missouri is that at a time when unemployment is at a minimum, unjustified claims are destroying the employment fund. The day may arrive when people legitimately out of work will be unable to get necessary assistance from the state. The humanitarian objective of unemployment laws will be defeated by the inherent tendency of human nature to get something for nothing while the getting is good, unless the people are awakened to the danger. And Missouri is not alone in this respect. The threat exists in every level government today.

### YOU CAN'T EAT GRASS

Close to half the land of this nation would be useless for food production if it weren't for the breeders and raisers of livestock and the packers who start meat along the channels that end at the dinner table.

You can't eat grass. By itself, it adds nothing whatever to the food supply. Meat animals, on the other hand, thrive and grow on it. Incalculable grass becomes edible meat that keeps the country's herds full.

Our meat animal population must be kept at a high level if we are to supply our own needs and maintain our foreign exports. We can't turn our meat supply on and off like a faucet. There's no miraculous assembly line that will produce an animal ready for the packers in a few minutes. It takes more than a year to grow a marketable hog, and two to three years to grow a beef steer. Any considerable decline in our animal population would take a long time to make up. The only sound policy for American agriculture, in the words of the Secretary of Agriculture, is "organized, sustained and realistic abundance."

Meat animals, which are the farmer's chief source of cash income, are also the backbone of a tremendous competitive industry which processes the product for a profit of only a fraction of a cent per pound. Meat is a staple item in the American diet, and the whole process of producing it begins on grass-land, a great portion of which is useless for anything save the feeding of livestock.

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

TEN YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Fred I. Rea attended graduation of their son Richard W. Rea at Great Lake, Ill., training station. . . . Lee Kinnaman delivered a

## Furse's Fresh Flashes

The CIO not only moves as fast as lightning but it has proven that it can strike more than once in the same place.

After a woman gets somewhere around forty, the most lingering handshake she will ever get is from the automobile salesman trying to sell her husband a new car.

The government will never dare to limit the employers to forty hours per week. It takes longer than that just to fill out the reports.

If some of the marriages we keep out of the paper were published at the time of the ceremony there would be less counting on the fingers.

A Plattsmouth man says he has done his best to give his children a religious education in their habits around home, but somehow whenever he finished saying "grace" at the table they always at least had one knife in the butter and a hand on the biscuits.

The government has set aside a million dollars this year to spend on grasshoppers. The idea is good, but the money won't last long because we have earned you can spend a million dollars on grasshoppers almost as quickly as you can on blonds.

fine sixteen foot skiff of his own design and making to a group of Malvern, Ia., sportsmen. . . . J. M. Quackenbush, newly appointed county agent appeared before Chamber of Commerce. . . . Breakfast was served at the Country Club to members and their guests with a flag tournament as part of the program.

### TWENTY ONE YEARS AGO

Plattsmouth girls were honored at Wesleyan. Helen Wescott was named by the sophomore girls as the most representative girl student of the class. . . . Miss Marguerite Wiles, senior, was selected for a part in the annual class play. . . . Miss Nora Soennichsen arrived from her home in the northern part of Schleswig, Germany to make her home with her sister, Mrs. Claus Jorgensen. . . . Mrs. Philip Fornoff departed for Brooklyn, New York to reside. . . . Joe Thomson and sister, Miss Anna departed for Oklahoma to make their home. "Joe" was toll keeper at the Platte bridge for the past ten years.

## The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

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DREW PEARSON SAYS:

MURDER OF AMERICAN COMMENTATOR IN GREECE LINKED TO RIGHTWING GREEK GOVERNMENT FRACTIONS; GEORGE POLK WAS SEVERE CRITIC OF GREEK RIGHTISTS; POLK WROTE THAT GREEKS WERE TRYING TO REMOVE HIM.

WASHINGTON—George Polk, the American news commentator, whose bullet-pierced, bound-up body was found in Salonika bay, wrote me a letter before his death about his troubles with the Greek Government. Based on this letter and otherwise, evidence points to the probability that rightist forces within the Government were responsible for Polk's murder.

In the first place, only the Greek Government had access to his broadcasts. Only they knew how critical he had been of Greek Rightist attempts to sabotage the American reconstruction program. The Greek Guerrillas, on the other hand, had everything to gain from the interview with Polk which he sought.

In addition, all sorts of obstacles had been placed in Polk's path. The Greek Government did not want him in Greece and did everything possible to get him out. Here is a sample of Greek obstruction:

"During the past four days, I've been trying to make arrangements for flying to Salonika," Polk wrote. "I've been to the foreign ministry press section, to the Greek Air Force headquarters, to the Greek commercial air line, and to the Government air travel priority department. Today, after four days of leg work and innumerable telephone calls, I have not succeeded in making any arrangements.

"Everything is tied up in red tape. The airlines will not say whether they have a seat or not. First, I've got to produce a priority, but I can't get the priority until I give the seat number and flight number and date of the plane I will take. So, back and forth I've been like a tennis ball. The plan is to make me fret myself into a tizzy—or perhaps give up the trip. Yet if I made an issue of all this red tape, everybody would bludge say that Polk is simply 'impatient.'"

### POLK WAS A BATTLER

George Polk was a fighter, whether as newspaperman or in the service of his country. During the war as a navy pilot he was in the thick of the battle of Guadalcanal, broke his back in a crash landing, came home to fight for unification of the Army and Navy. One of the things that griped him was his memory of an Army pilot sinking in the water with the Navy refusing to rescue him until it cleared with the Army.

In Greece, George fought the grafters and the Rightwing extremists. An article in Harper's magazine told a revealing story. In writing to me, he told how reactionaries in the Government sought to discredit American newsmen who were critical. Apparently he had some premonition of trouble, for he said: "The rightwing is trying to get a number of us discredited or removed from Greece."

"Royalist 'Ethmos' has denounced irrespon-

## "Arise, Anoint Him: For This Is He."—Samuel 1:16



## Stamp Honors Swedish Pioneers



A new 5-cent commemorative postage stamp will go on sale June 4, honoring the 100th anniversary of the coming of the Swedish pioneers to the middle west. Blue in color, the stamp has 12 stars, representing the midwestern states settled by the Swedes. It will be placed on sale first in Chicago.

sible correspondents' who write "unfavorable and misleading stories about the Greek Government," George continued. "The attack upon correspondents is being made by the Royalist political group known as the Populist party. Under leadership of deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Constantine Tsaldaris, key Populist members throughout the government appear to be implementing a carefully devised offensive.

### Greek Ambassador Criticizes

"As an illustration of the method of attack, consider a letter concerning me written by Greek Ambassador Vassili Dendramis, an ultra-rightist supporter of the Tsaldaris clique. Strangely enough, Dendramis wrote to CBS president Frank Stanton complaining about my article on Greece in the December 'Harper's Magazine.' Dendramis is smart enough not to write to 'Harper's' because he knows the magazine probably would publish the letter, thereby enabling me to answer his charges in print.

"However, my case up to the present is rather mild compared with the attack being made against other out-spoken reports on the scene. The ministry of foreign affairs has just written to the 'Christian Science Monitor' complaining that their correspondent in Greece, Constantine Argyris, is guilty of using offensive language in dealing with Greek Government officials and also is guilty of drunkenness at interviews. Knowing Argyris as well as I do—and having the highest respect for his professional and personal attributes—I know this charge is a lie.

"Another correspondent who has drawn Greek rightwing fire is Ray Daniel of the 'New York Times.' He arrived in Greece unaccompanied by his wife and when his articles proved displeasing for the rightwing politicians, they spread malicious slander about Daniel.

"Yet another reporter who had provoked the Greek rightwing is Homer Bigart, of the New York Herald Tribune. At the moment, being a newcomer in Greece, Bi-

troubles is Fred Sparks, of the 'Chicago Daily News.' In fact, Sparks has written a bitter story about his experiences at being denied routine press privileges while trying to cover the Konitsa battle.

"The pattern of the rightwing's attack on the other American correspondents here is clever—public denunciation plus official obfuscation. There is nothing so tangible as censorship or blunt refusal to allow a reporter to visit the civil war areas; instead, there is a clever plan of making news work in Greece as difficult as possible for critical correspondents.

"In addition, now that so many correspondents are writing such critical stories on the dominant rightwing faction of the government, there are a number of vague hints that 'somebody is likely to get hurt.'"

"Poor George didn't know, when he wrote these prophetic lines, that he was to be the man who would get 'hurt.' His murder, however, may be the cause celebre which will bring to the surface the ugly scandals of Greece—scandals which the American people very much need to know about. To that end, this column will soon publish further revelations regarding dynamite-Laden Greece.

A new elevator control system developed by Westinghouse gives button-pushers on all floors of a building an even break. Called selectomatic, the control provides uniform service to all floors—even during rush hours.

Installation of modern street lighting reduces fatal traffic accidents after dark by more than 50 per cent, according to the Street and Traffic Safety Lighting Bureau.

"Another correspondent who has encountered news gathering

Use Journal Want Ads

## OUT OUR WAY By A. R. Williams



## ★ WASHINGTON COLUMN ★

### Private Power Lobby Tries To Thwart TVA Expansion

BY PETER EDSON

NEA Washington Correspondent



WASHINGTON—(NEA)—The private industry electric power lobby thinks it has won a big victory. It has succeeded in persuading the House Appropriations Committee to knock out an item of \$4,000,000 to start construction on a Tennessee Valley Authority steam generating plant at New Johnsonville, Tenn.

If both House and Senate uphold this action, further development of the TVA project—admittedly one of the greatest of New Deal accomplishments—will have been dealt an irreparable blow.

The issue is not as local as it may sound. If TVA is stopped in its tracks, every other public power project in the country will be set back. The all-important question is, therefore, what the private power industry has to offer as a substitute? Are there any private utility companies with plans all drawn, ready and waiting to go in and do what they don't want TVA to do?

Purcell L. Smith, Washington representative of the National Association of Electric Companies, admits there are not. They have no plans. But they also want TVA to have no plans.

He says that, if any private industries in the Tennessee valley need more power, or if any towns or cities in the area need any more power, they should either go build those power plants themselves or else make a contract with some private utility company to build and operate them. In short, private industry in this case has no ready substitute for public power.

THERE are good reasons why private utilities are not ready to jump in and do this job. Any private power company that would go into the valley and try to sell electric current at TVA rates would find itself in trouble—it just couldn't compete.

What the issue boils down to is that private utilities don't want to go into an area and build electric generating capacity too far ahead of actual demand. The private power industry must wait until it has an assured market before it builds new generating plants.

The TVA power development has been built on just the opposite theory. It has built new dams and power plants well ahead of immediate demand, anticipating future growth.

The Oak Ridge atomic energy plant, Monsanto chemicals, Reynolds metals and other big industry and war plants were located in this region because cheap TVA power was available. Aluminum Company of America, which was in the area even before TVA, was able to expand its plants because excess power was waiting. Many smaller industries and farm co-ops have developed for the same reason.

THESE industries are now anticipating that they will need more power, says TVA chairman Gordon Clapp. It is to meet these new demands that TVA wants to build the New Johnsonville plant.

One of the arguments used by the power lobby to defeat the steam plant project is that TVA already has ample generating capacity to take care of its "preferred" customers for years to come. These preference customers are the government war plants, municipalities and farmers' co-ops, which use 40 per cent of TVA power.

The power lobby does not claim that TVA has enough capacity to meet the future demands of all its customers, including the big industries like Alcoa, Reynolds and Monsanto, which are perfectly satisfied with TVA power because it's cheaper than power they could generate themselves or buy from private utilities.

What the private power lobby wants is to reduce TVA power operations to a mere by-product of navigation and flood-control developments, or else require that all public power be sold wholesale "at the bus bar" to private utilities, so they could then sell it to retail customers at a profit.

This would admittedly be a nice business for the private power companies, if they could get away with it.

## Coffee Comes To State by Water Route

The port of Nebraska City was the scene of much activity the past week when a cargo of coffee, shipped from Costa Rica, Central America, arrived there to be transferred to rail transportation for Omaha, the final destination.

There was more than 100 tons of the coffee in the shipment, it being packed in 150-pound bags.

This coffee unloaded for Nebraska City made the entire journey from Costa Rica by the water route. It was hauled to New Orleans by steamer and then loaded on the barges for the journey up the Mississippi river to St. Louis and thence up the Missouri river to the final destination.

The coffee at Nebraska City was unloaded from Inland Waterway barges in to three railroad cars for the journey to Omaha for delivery at the Paxton and Gallagher wholesale house for roasting. The final steps of the journey was over the Missouri Pacific railroad.

The reason for the unloading at Nebraska City was due to the fact that Omaha so far has no

unloading facilities until the new dock is built, while Nebraska City has a dock and is making good use of the water facilities.

The tugboat Franklin D. Roosevelt that brought the barges loaded with the coffee from New Orleans, on return trip will stop at Nebraska City to load on 30 thousand bushel of wheat that will be taken on down the river for shipment abroad.

## Examination For Postmaster

The civil service commission is announcing the holding of examinations for the position of postmaster at Nelawka. The receipt of application is to close on June 3, 1948.

The examinations will be held at the American Legion hall at Weeping Water.

The position of postmaster pays the salary of \$2,500 per year.

The date for the assembling of the competitors will be stated on the admission cards sent applicants after the date for the close of receipt of applications.

### Lays 4-Yolk Egg

PELHAM, N. H. (AP)—A hen owned by Bruno J. Tibbault of Pelham made a local reputation for itself by laying an egg with four yolks. The egg weighed 6 1/2 ounces and was 1 1/2 inches in circumference.

## FUNNY BUSINESS By Hershberger



"He said it was monotonous, so we traded places!"