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EDITORIALS

REALLY SHARING THE WEALTH!

Every radical attack on the American economic system is based on the old gag that, under capitalism, "the rich get richer and the poor get children." And every advocate of communism or any other totalitarian system argues that is offers the only road to a division of wealth and a higher standard of living for the masses of people.

One of the best answers to that all-important question was recently given by the Reverend Edward A. Keller, CSC, is director of the Bureau of Economic Research of the University of Notre Dame.

Father Keller's study is called, "The National Income and its Distribution," and is written in language any layman can understand. Here are some facts he has correlated:

First of all, the rich are not getting richer. In 1917, Americans with a personal annual income of \$25,000 or more got 7 per cent of the nation's entire income after taxes. By 1928 they were getting 11 percent. But in the latest year for which complete figures are available, 1944, they got only 1 per cent. Their dollar income was almost \$9,000,000,000 in 1928, while it was less than \$2,000,000,000 in 1944.

If that is true, where is the money going to? Father Keller answers that also. Americans make under \$5,000 a year, the group to which most families belong, have immensely improved their position. They received 87 per cent of our total personal income in 1917, 77 per cent in 1929—and 90 per cent in 1944. The dollar figures are still more impressive. The under-\$5,000 Americans received a total income of \$47,000,000,000 in 1917, and \$140,000,000,000 in 1944—a gain of nearly a hundred billions in one generation!

Another catch-phrase is that the owners of industry—the stockholders—get an inordinate share of earnings, while workers don't get enough. Here to the figures tell a remarkable story. In the 17 years from 1929 to 1946, national income rose 93 per cent. But corporate dividends went down 14 per cent! As Father Keller puts it, "Taking our economy as a whole . . . the main item of cost of production of all goods and services is labor cost (90 per cent), while cost for the use of tools is a relatively minor cost (6 per cent)."

Capitalism gives more people maximum economic progress with the largest possible degree of personal liberty for all. Americans can well be proud of their capitalist system. Most of the "ism" seek to live off of it while working to destroy it—then what would they have to divide? Nothing but their own poverty until new capital could be saved.

PLANNED CONFUSION

It is apparent that the restoration of price control will be a major political issue this year, and that it will cut across party lines.

To the uninitiated, the idea is obviously appealing. It suggests the economic Utopia of a low cost of living coupled with the highest family incomes we have ever earned.

It is difficult to puncture so pretty a balloon as this. Yet it is necessary to report that no economist of reputation thinks that price control would work, or that it would create anything except chaos. It has been an utter failure in Europe—even when the toughest police state methods have been used in an attempt to make it a success. Manufacturers and farmers refuse to produce foods and commodities on which an arbitrary low price deprives them of profit. Scarce items—including many basic necessities—can be purchased only in the black market at fantastic prices. The big money is earned by racketeers and gangsters. The shelves of legitimate stores are bare, and the living standards of workers decline.

High prices in this country are the result of irresistible economic and governmental forces. They aren't the fault of retailers, manufacturers, or any other of the special groups which are singled out for criticism. That will still be true whether they go up or down in the future. Price control here would mean our acceptance of a totalitarian device which has never succeeded, and has been a depressive influence wherever tried.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

TEN YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Twitchell of Seattle, Wash., were guests of Miss Amelia Martens . . . Nearly 100 relatives met in the twenty-fifth annual family gathering of the Cook family held at the home of Mrs. Caroline Cole on June 19 . . . Members of the congregation of Eight Mile Grove Lutheran church surprised their pastor Rev. and Mrs. A. Lentz on their 15th wedding anniversary . . . Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kingsley of Los Angeles were guests of the E. H. and C. C. Westcott homes; Mrs. Kingsley was the former Para Love.

Furse's Fresh Flashes

There is still a demand for scrap iron but that's no reason for motorists to try and cash in on it.

The sponger is a fellow with a proposition that won't hold water.

The later you turn in the less you turn out. A Connecticut man was hit by three autos

in succession. He should have signaled for a free catch.

Aren't husbands who rebel at the price of women's hats failing to consider their entertainment value

The only nice thing about a flood is that it makes you feel glad that you contributed to the Red Cross.

In the old days Indians prized corn for its color rather than its taste. In this day and age the white man goes by its kick.

The parole system is what lets a criminal pay his debt to society on the installment plan.

An eastern judge reports that most people can be trusted but we still prefer that a lot of them pay cash.

When we were younger about the worst thing you could call a political opponent was a "liar" and then you had to be pretty careful he wasn't a better shot than you were. With the present campaign still having six months to go, candidates have already been called a "Hitler," a "Communist Stogie," a "Hindenburg," and a "crackpot." At the present rate, by the first of August you'll have to forbid your children from listening to the political radio speeches.

TWENTY ONE YEARS AGO

Miss Verla Becker was hostess to a number of school friends and members of Phi Beta Phi sorority at her home . . . Weeping Water and Union were visited by burglars entering the Chris Eigard hardware store at Weeping Water and Rhin and Green grocery and store of Mrs. Mable Reynolds at Union . . . Ladies Aid Society of Lewistown gave a birthday dinner at the country home of Mr. and Mrs. John Toman honoring Mrs. John Toman and Allen Vernon . . . Miss Grace Linder held recital of her piano and violin pupils at Murray.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

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DREW PEARSON SAYS:

GOP NATIONAL CHAIRMAN CARROLL REECE REBUFFED; WARTIME PROMISE BROKEN; MAJORITY OF REPUBLICANS REALIZE U. S. A. CANNOT LIVE ALONE; DEWEY AIDES BUCK PRECEDENT.

PHILADELPHIA—The sweet smell of victory is in the republican nostrils. Delegates are flushed with the air of impending triumph. The White House and 1,000,000 or so jobs seem just around the corner. They can almost stretch out their hands and touch the treasury department. And they can hardly wait.

The tension is something terrific. The city of brotherly love is seething with excitement. It's the liveliest convention the republicans have staged in three decades.

And if it were up to the 5,050 delegates, alternates and others assembled here, they'd vote right now to dispense with all the keynote speeches, yard and yards of old-fashioned oratory, and get right down to the job of nominating the candidate. They are on pins and needles waiting for the first balloting to get started tonight.

SALTY CARROLL REECE

Meanwhile the backstage fireworks have been popping. Salty GOP National Chairman Carroll Reece is a chivalrous southerner, but he lost his temper with a lady during the battle over Georgia.

The Taft-Dewey forces were arguing hot and heavy over which of the Georgia delegations would be seated. Reece, supposed to be neutral chairman, but openly a Taft man, vociferated that the Taft delegates were qualified. Col. R. B. Creager of Texas backed him up.

Mrs. Dudley C. Hay, Michigan's gracious national committeewoman and secretary of the GOP national committee, didn't agree. She made a speech favoring Dewey.

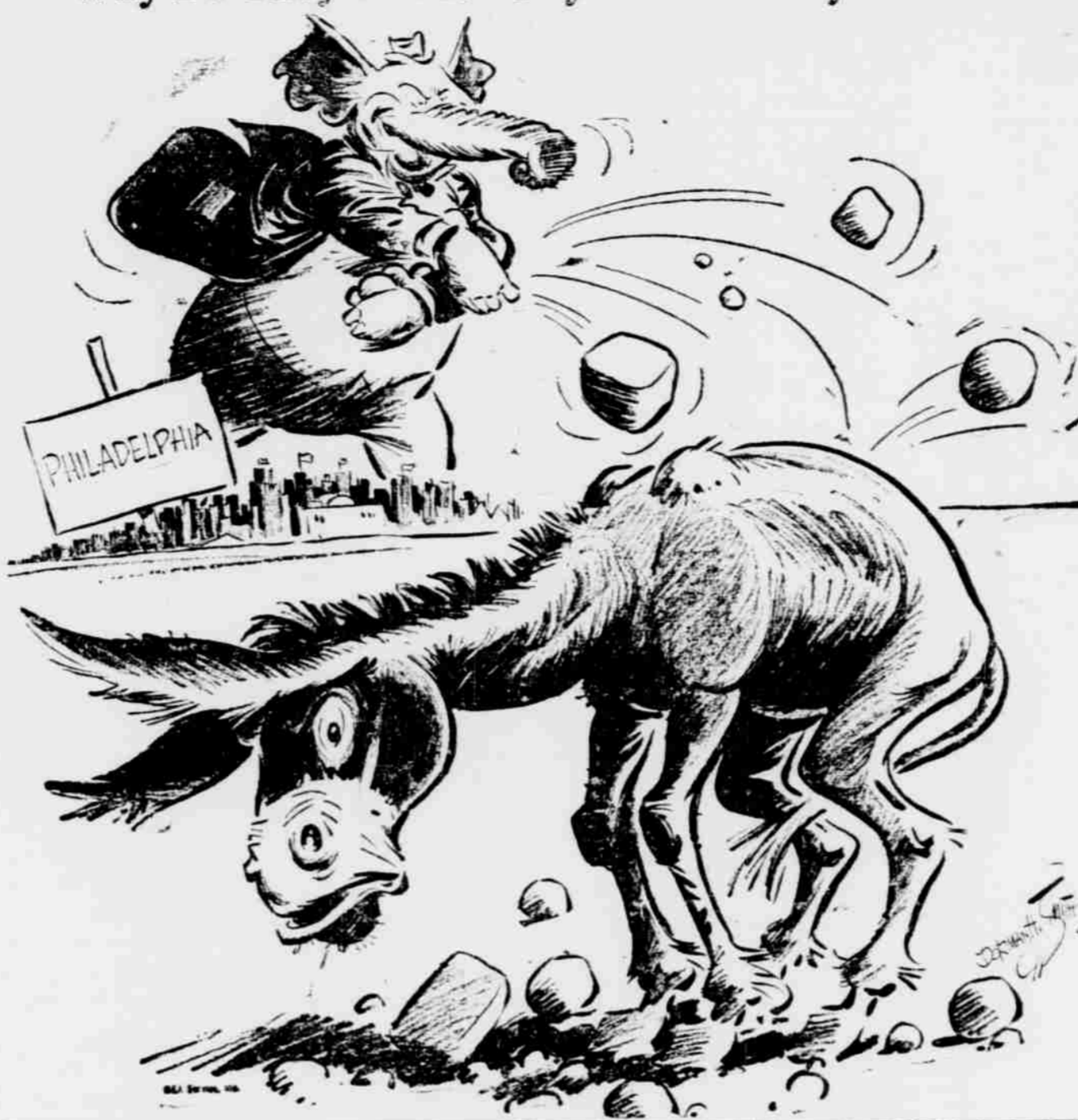
Whereupon Reece hit the ceiling, charged the Dewey forces were trying to browbeat the national committee, claimed Dewey people had threatened him in his office. If he hadn't known how to control his temper, proclaimed Reece, who comes from the Tennessee mountains, he would have pulled a gun on the Deweyite.

When the vote, 48 to 44, showed Dewey the victor, Reece proceeded to bowl out Mrs. Hay, said he was going to try to defeat Mrs. Hay for re-election as national committeewoman from Michigan.

"Don't worry Mr. Reece," sweetly retorted Mrs. Hay, "when this convention is over you won't be national chairman."

Four years ago this convention met in an atmosphere of unreality. The greatest invasion arm in all history had crossed the English Channel 21 days before, stormed up the coast of France.

Why Do They Call It "City of Brotherly Love?"



Across another ocean, the U. S. Navy was edging closer to Japan. Even the CFlicago hotels in which the republicans met were haunted by the ghosts of air force trainees who had lived there a few months before.

There were those who had said Franklin Roosevelt would never hold an election in wartime, that the U. S. A. would simulate the dictatorships it was trying to defeat. But despite the sombre atmosphere, the conventions and the elections were held.

Today—three short years after the war's end—the old time political vaudeville is back. The war is pretty much forgotten. The promises of new homes for veterans made so glibly when the boys were overseas, have been sidetracked by one triumphant wing of the republican party. Post-war profits are zooming, also prices and inflation. Income, especially for white-collar workers and lower-bracket groups, is proportionately down.

A lot of wartime promises have been forgotten.

One GOP Lesson
But not forgotten is one all-important lesson learned by the majority of the party—namely that the U. S. A. cannot live alone.

In 1940 on the eve of the republican convention, Arthur Vandenberg denounced president Roosevelt's action of putting American military supplies at the disposal of England and France. Next day Thomas E. Dewey criticized FDR's "stab in the back" speech against Mussolini after he invaded stricken France.

Today at Philadelphia, is Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge, jr., chairman of the GOP platform committee. He is the grandson of the Massachusetts Senator who defeated Woodrow Wilson and the league of nations. Young Senator Lodge, however, no more thinks like his grandfather than his grandfather thought of flying the Atlantic. Appearing before young Lodge's platform committee the other day was a Cleveland lawyer, John Putman, with what the elder Lodge would have called a revolutionary proposal. With him was Nat Howard, editor of the Cleveland news.

Neither are crackpots. Both represent strong, conservative interests. They proposed that the republican party go on record in favor of planting the seeds of world government. Specifically, they proposed a formula for world law and world law enforcement.

Their idea, put forward by a group of Cleveland businessmen, educators and others calling themselves "workers for world security," would make old Henry Cabot turn over in his austere grave.

However, 300,000 people have signed their petition endorsing the broad principles of world government, and young Senator Lodge, listening gravely to the plan, didn't seem to consider it revolutionary.

That is the biggest change that has occurred among the top leaders of the republican party. It is still a point of big controversy with the John Taber-Chicago Tribune wing of the party. And it is

Rural School Costs in State Has Increased

Cost of operating rural schools in Nebraska has increased 98 per cent during the past ten years while the expenditures of city schools have risen only 56 per cent, State Superintendent Wayne O. Reed said today.

During the same ten years, enrollment of the rural schools has dropped 46 per cent while that of city schools has declined but 26 per cent.

The period used for the study, Reed said, was the 1936-37 school year as compared with the 1946-47 school year, the latest available.

During this period the per pupil cost of rural schools based on average daily attendance increased from \$62.69 to \$182.33. The city schools, which includes high school pupils as well as those in the elementary grades, have increased from \$68.94 to \$156.08 and for all schools it has gone from \$67.28 to \$162.47.

In the 1936 school year the rural districts spent a total of \$4,536,551, but in 1946 spent \$8,977,011. The city schools in 1936 spent \$15,988,316 against \$25,006,105 in 1946.

In the last decade the number of rural schools has shrunk from 47,922 to 4,551, a drop of 1,371, favorable cost ratio between city and rural schools is even greater because expenditures of high schools are included in the operation costs of city schools.

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WASHINGTON COLUMN

Without Criticism, Congress' Record Would Be Far Worse

BY PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent



WASHINGTON—(NEA)—The spectacle of Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio—co-author of the Taft-Hartley Labor Relations Law—telling Congress in effect that it ought to go home on strike in protest against President Truman's criticisms, is really one for the books.

Taft accuses Truman of wanting to suppress the democratic process of American government. But wait a minute. Isn't the right to criticize in free speech the very basis of democracy? It's as much Taft's right as it is Truman's, and vice versa.

It is regrettable that there is no evidence of teamwork in the mud-slinging match now going on between President and Congress. But when the scores are added up at the end of the session, it will be interesting to note how much good this brawl may have accomplished. The President isn't the only one who has been pasting Congress. The nation's press and radio newsmen have been logging it on pretty thick, just by giving a factual record of what's been going on down here in Washington. And they're getting results.

If the President had remained silent and if the newspapers and radio had been asleep at the switch, the wreckage of this Congress would be far worse than it's going to be. By continually hammering at Congress in the best traditions of free-speech democracy, a lot of changes are being made in these final weeks of the session.

For instance: A thoughtless resolution to sabotage the present United Nations organization and set up a weak rival might have been approved by Congress if it had not been criticized by the State Department and an alert press, and if more rational substitute measures had not been brought forward by Senate and House Foreign Affairs Committees under Chairman Arthur Vandenberg and Charles Eaton.

The Reciprocal Trade Agreements program might have been completely crippled by the House if the President, the State Department, the press and radio had not aroused the Senate to corrective action. The same forces have been hard at work to modify House slashes in Marshall Plan recovery funds. Even GOP Presidential Candidates Dewey, Stassen and Warren joined this criticism of Congress.

Aid to Fascist Franco Spain might have been included in the European aid program by the House if an aroused public opinion had not protested and if the Senate had not corrected the error.

There would have been no aid for displaced persons and other anti-Communist refugees if Congress had not been criticized into legislating after sitting on this issue all last year.

There would have been no selective service legislation this year if there had not been repeated pleas from the President for universal military training, backed by demands from the press.

A highly discriminatory and unfair tax cut might have been made law last year if it had not been checked by a Presidential veto. The long fight to repeal federal taxes on oleomargarine would never have got any place if there had not been constant prodding of Congress.

Senator Taft's own long-range housing bill would have been buried and forgotten by the House this year if public pressure and criticism had not been put on Congress from every direction to do something. Many another measure well deserving congressional attention this year will be pigeonholed unless Presidential and other needling forces Congress to come back after the GOP convention. Whatever gets crowded through before the convention will be an offset to the general criticism that this has been "the worst" Congress. And it will be a dividend well paid off on Truman's western speaking tour.

Take away the right to criticize Congress or the President, and the country will be sunk, good. If Senator Taft should by chance ever become President, he'd probably find out the other half of that fact in a hurry.

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Shown Here—Setting Pole Structure on Consumers' new 115,000 volt transmission line in northeast Nebraska, typical of construction under way throughout Consumers' state-wide system.

Symbolic of Nebraska's progress since the organization of Consumers Public Power District are the massive transmission lines and other electrical facilities now under construction throughout the state.

Low electric rates and greater electrical advantages, made possible by state-wide public power, have encouraged greater industrial expansion and increased use of electricity in homes and on farms until the once existing power surplus has been absorbed.

With an extensive construction program of over fifteen million dollars, Consumers Public Power District is rapidly building new facilities to bring more power to the communities it serves and greater benefits to Nebraskans.

