

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted
by William Bruckart

Washington.—Time after time since President Roosevelt entered the White House, many observers have insisted that he had reached a crossroads and that on those occasions he necessarily had to choose between the right and the left. They contended with considerable justification that he either had to be conservative or radical. But somehow the President arranged to follow both roads at once. At least that conclusion has been reached by those who classify themselves as liberals.

Now, observers are saying again that the President has reached the crossroads and must choose between the right and the left. With the convening of congress there has come forward the usual number—perhaps I should say more than the usual number—of proposals for radical or conservative legislation as the case may be. There are dozens, almost hundreds, of bills advocating nostrums and crackpot ideas which cannot possibly do more than take up time and keep the government printing office busy at the expense of the taxpayers in printing the bills themselves. There are in all of this mess as well many pieces of worthwhile legislation as well as the proposals bearing earmarks of drafting under White House guidance.

In addition there are close to six dozen presidential appointments upon which the senate must act. Some of these names are of individuals of known radical tendencies. Some others are recognized as equally conservative. It will be the senate's job to pass upon these nominations which, some observers insist, represent perhaps the widest variation in economic views that has ever been sent to the Capitol for confirmation of appointment.

As a corollary for this confused state, there are the growing differences of opinion, based on presidential policy proposals, as to whether the government should attempt to provide relief through work as Mr. Roosevelt desires or should turn to a plain, unadorned dole. There is the demand from the White House for legislation putting the federal government further into competition with business by expansion of publicly owned power facilities and the question of liquidating or continuing to expand such programs as that of loans to home owners and extension of NRA.

Summed up, it would appear, superficially at least, that Mr. Roosevelt is definitely at the crossroads. I am told by legislative leaders, however, that the administration program thus far advanced again does not commit Mr. Roosevelt definitely to follow either the radical or conservative pathways. They point out that there is an unusual admixture of two schools of economic thought represented in legislation bearing presidential approval and their thought seemed to be that Mr. Roosevelt will avoid being forced into either camp at this time.

It has been most interesting to observe the fluctuation of temperature among the various New Dealers. Prior to the last election they were very low in spirit. Many of them were saying, in private at least, that Mr. Roosevelt was getting out of hand as far as they were concerned and was turning certain toward the conservative school of thought. At the same time among conservative members of the administration and in congress and to a considerable extent among business leaders, there was a growing feeling that they had witnessed the phenomena of having their own ears pinned back just when they thought they were on the upgrade.

Following this change of trends, along comes the mass of White House legislation, some of which pleases the New Dealers and some of which pleases the conservatives. Each finds fault with that portion of the program that is reasonably satisfactory to the other. This contrariety of opinion extends into the ranks of members of the house and senate. Consequently, the question to which the observers are now seeking an answer is whether Majority Leader Robinson in the senate and the Democratic wheel-horses in the house are going to be able to keep their tremendous numbers in line. Thus far, there has been no word from the majority leaders either in the house or the senate indicating any doubt on their part that the administration whip will fall to drive recalcitrant members into the proper alleys. Unbiased observers are taking the position, however, that time alone will tell. And it may be added with some emphasis that if the wild horses break loose from the hitching post once, the current session of congress may provide much more action than results.

Present plans of the Republican leadership, if there are enough Republicans left to make their presence felt, indicate that the Democratic commanders need not expect any help from that quarter in pulling hot chestnuts out of the fire. For example, I understand that the soldiers' bonus question will be used by the Republicans as a sort of prod with which to disturb the majority party. It seems definite that the house and senate will pass legislation

for immediate payment of the bonus. It may not be a program for full payment of the sum that is not due until 1945, but the pressure is so strong that some action will be forthcoming.

If Mr. Roosevelt sticks to his guns and vetoes any bonus legislation excepting that proposing to care for the destitute ex-soldiers, sailors and marines, there is enough strength in congress to pass the legislation over his veto. The soldiers' lobby is strong; of that there can be no doubt. The members will be thinking of their political future, not Mr. Roosevelt's, when the question is put before them. Then is when the Republican minority could be of distinct help to the administration but, apparently, that is just the thing the Republican minority is not going to do.

The administration is now examining various avenues of a possible compromise on the bonus payments and it is through this course that a hope exists on the part of administration leaders to avoid the showdown mentioned above. Knowing that it cannot count on the Republican minority for any help to carry through its plans, the administration may make some concessions to the bonus advocates. These most certainly will be made unless a count of noses by the leadership shows a full later that the supporters of a full bonus payment can be whipped—and right now that is generally considered by observers as being impossible.

Here again the views of radicals and conservatives clash. There will be some radicals supporting the bonus payment in order to force the President into a position where he must inflate the currency further. That group thinks inflation of the currency will boost prices and provide the necessary hypodermic injection to get us out of the depression. Opposed to these are a considerable number of house and senate members who fear inflation and its results like they fear the poison fangs of a rattlesnake. So, when the bonus question is joined as an issue it seems to me we will see an interesting exposition of how politics makes strange bedfellows.

President Roosevelt is about to open up the federal treasury for loans to cities to provide funds for construction of municipal light and power plants. He has announced definitely that he favors this procedure and, therefore, in effect has invited cities to join the march on Washington for more federal loans.

The newest development in the administration program of loaning money here and there seems to have resulted in repercussions of a more important nature than objections voiced to other types of federal loans. Here in Washington considerable discussion has developed as to the wisdom of this policy and this has been followed by speculation as to the ultimate end of a program of this kind. Opinion throughout the country apparently has not been definitely crystallized yet but from all indications it appears we are due to hear much debate on the newest New Deal idea.

Objectors to the program of providing loans to cities for construction of municipal light and power plants insist that Mr. Roosevelt has taken the longest step toward state socialism thus far to be made a part of his New Deal. They contend that Mr. Roosevelt has gone beyond his recovery program and has embarked upon a plan representing part and parcel of his scheme for public ownership of all industries impressed with a public interest through service of a monopolistic character.

Opponents also argue that the President is placing privately owned industries under a severe handicap by forcing them to compete with what should be private industry but what actually is their own government.

In some quarters also I hear expressions of a fear that if any substantial number of cities borrow federal money to build their own light and power plants, the federal government will have expanded to that extent its domination over those cities. Through loans to banks, to agriculture and to many other lines, federal influence daily is being exerted upon the private life of the country until, some observers declare, states, counties and municipalities are gradually sinking into oblivion insofar as their own self-government is concerned.

On the other hand, such advocates of public ownership as Senator Norris of Nebraska, are elated over Mr. Roosevelt's decision to proceed along public ownership lines. Senator Norris believes Mr. Roosevelt has authority now under public works and recovery act provisions to promote publicly owned light and power plants about any place he pleases. The Nebraska senator, it will be remembered, was the spearhead of the movement that resulted in creation of the Tennessee Valley authority and the program for development of electrical energy from the Muscle Shoals dams in the Tennessee river. Already, privately owned light and power companies in many sections contiguous to the Tennessee river plant have been virtually forced to sell their properties to the TVA.

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Let Our Motto Be
GOOD HEALTH
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HEARTS OF THE TEN-TO-TWENTY-YEAR GROUP

The ten to twenty year group of young people show up remarkably well in the mortality tables of heart disease. Of every hundred persons who die of heart disease only two are in the second decade of life. These are the statistics for Illinois, and they hold true for the country generally.



This does not mean that no attention need be paid to the physical condition of the hearts of this group—the emotional sufferings of the heart common to this period are of course beyond the scope of this article. But physically this decade is the most important in the life history of the heart. It is so very easy to do damage to this organ in the adolescent years—damage that is not particularly felt then, but that will later manifest itself as serious heart disease.

If a boy or girl can go through the adolescent years without impairing the health of the cardiac region through either infections or overstraining, then he or she has a very good chance of not becoming a "heart case" later on.

The adolescent years are the heart's growth period. It begins growing when a child is twelve or thirteen years old; in some children it starts growing even earlier. By the time the boy or girl is twenty, the size of the heart has increased two and one-half times.

At the same time that the heart is growing, the bones and muscles are also growing. In quite a few young people, the growth is so rapid between the ages of twelve and fifteen that the body seems out of proportion—it looks gangling, and the youth is awkward and clumsy; he has poor posture and a slovenly gait. His or her body features are taking on the distinctive pattern they will carry through life.

Inside the body just as important changes and growths are going on. The sex glands are developing, and the heart, liver, kidneys and other organs are assuming their different patterns. If we could look through the skin, we would see that the insides of bodies differ from each other just as much as the outsides do. The pattern of one person's heart or kidneys is as certain to show weakness in early life as the pattern of another person's eyes is certain to require glasses at an early age. The shape of the heart in a child will follow the family pattern as often as the shape of his nose will.

But whether the pattern of the heart is weak or strong, there is an increased burden on it during the growing period, as great, if not greater, than there is in adult life, for, remember, the body attains its growth at about sixteen years, while the heart does not attain its growth until four years later. Sports and physical activity are very good for the normally healthy young person, but too strenuous exercise can develop what is known as "athlete's heart." This is not so serious in itself, if the person learns how to live with it in his later years. But parents should insist that the grueling physical training that often accompanies participation in competitive sports, such as football, track and rowing, should be done only under the supervision of competent coaches.

The injury done the heart by infectious diseases is far more frequent than the injury done by over-exertion. The heart beats normally 72 times a minute. After each beat it has a moment of rest when Nature intends that it shall recuperate from its preceding moment of work. So when a rise in temperature makes it beat 90 to 100 or 120 times a minute, then necessarily the rest periods are shortened. This is why everything be done to rest the heart while the disease is in progress, and also why it is important that the patient should remain quiet for several days after recovering from a disease. Every one has heard of children who have come back to school after a week's absence due to some feverish illness, and who, though apparently well, have died suddenly after participating in some athletic exercise. These fatalities result because the heart has not yet had sufficient rest to endure the extra strain.

In the states in the Great Lakes basin, it is common to encounter goiter in adolescent girls. These girls are usually very intelligent, making high grades, and they are usually thin and nervous. They have rapid pulses.

Parents and teachers should see to it that girls with adolescent goiter should not exercise too strenuously. They should be out in the open air, but they should not engage in hard play.

Nature meant that all young animals should be active and frolicsome as they pass through the period from childhood to physical maturity. When young people are healthy and do not overtax themselves in competitive sports during too long a space of time, they come out of the adolescent period with strong hearts.

But guard against exercising too soon after recovering from an infectious disease, or any condition that causes a rapid pulse. The heart may receive permanent injury.

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Greatest of Life's Joys Found in Helping Others

"Oh, my G—d—now Conrad can retire!" That was the first response of a winner in the Irish Sweepstakes lottery when told that she was richer by \$150,000.

"Conrad" is her husband, a laborer for a chemical company. Their name is Lenz, and they were married when they came over from Germany together 32 years ago. They have children and grandchildren. "He has worked so hard all his life," she says, "I'm so happy that now he can rest."

We may be impelled to the thought that being the wife of a laborer, bringing up a family on a laborer's wage, was not exactly a cinch, either. There must have been a good many things Mrs. Lenz might have wished for in those 32 years, that \$150,000 could bring her now. But her only thought is that "Conrad can retire."

Another winner was Angie Graffeo, a girl working in a factory as a dress operator. She won \$75,000. And what was her first thought? "I'm going to take my mother and my stepfather on a trip to Europe, and build a house for them!"

Perhaps the accusation is true that we women lead "contingent lives," that we live in the lives of those we care for. Certainly to one who knows women there is nothing unusual about the wife who thought first of what her good fortune would mean to her husband, or the daughter whose joy was in terms of what it would do for her parents.

Does anybody feel sorry for them? Are you wondering whether their sacrifice is appreciated, and thinking how they might be enjoying the fulfillment of dreams for themselves?

Then consider if that wife would really get more satisfaction out of the jewels and fine clothes and motor cars that she might enjoy on the money she won than she is actually getting out of the realization of her husband being freed from the need to labor in his old age. Or the daughter who thought first of her parents—would her life be really richer if her new fortune meant chiefly the attainment of the luxuries and pleasures which young people so often confuse with happiness?

I don't believe women are to be pitied because they think first of those they love. For despite the bad

repute of the thought for its frequency in sermons and preachments, it is true that there is no richer joy, no more glowing realization or fulfillment in this life than that which comes of being able to give to those we love.

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Canadian Stonehenge

Indications of similarity in primitive religious cults have been discovered in every continent, and it is now accepted that what is called the New world contains some of the world's most ancient relics of dead civilizations. A recent archeological find is reported from Canada. A museum curator was on a canoe trip with a friend in the Whitesheet for

est preserve 100 miles east of Winnipeg, when they stumbled on a sacred area which they compare with Stonehenge. They found a number of large upright stones and monuments in weird formation, covering an area of several acres, which are thought to have been erected by members of a snake cult of Cree or Chipewyan Indians many centuries ago.—London Tit-Bits.

Time
Most of us think of Time as the fleeting present, plus the days and years that are to come. This is the reason we lose out. Time is now. It makes little difference what we are going to do some time, but it does matter what we are doing now.—Grit.

Hadn't Time
Husband—Why did that woman keep you standing at the door for half an hour?
Wife—She said she hadn't time to come in.

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JACK—WE SCRIMPED AND SAVED TO BUY THIS STORE ...AND NOW YOUR BAD TEMPER IS DRIVING CUSTOMERS AWAY!
AW, TELL HER THAT LONG FACE OF HERS IS WHAT'S DRIVING THE CUSTOMERS AWAY!

JACK'S GOT ME SO WORRIED... HE HAS HEADACHES AND INDIGESTION...AND CAN'T SLEEP WELL!
MY JIM USED TO HAVE THOSE TROUBLES, BUT HE HAD COFFEE—NERVES!
HEY—I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THIS CONVERSATION'S GOING!

HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO GET THE MONEY TO MEET THE LAST TWO PAYMENTS ON OUR LOAN?
TELL HER IF SHE'LL WAIT ON THAT CUSTOMER THAT JUST CAME IN, INSTEAD OF BAWLING YOU OUT, IT MIGHT HELP!

GODDNESS! THAT'S AN IDEA... I'LL SEE THAT HE STARTS ON POSTUM TONIGHT! JACK DOES DRINK A LOT OF COFFEE.
CURSES! JIM'S WIFE KNOWS THAT POSTUM ALWAYS DRIVES ME AWAY!

LATER
I'M COMING OVER TO PAY OFF THAT LOAN TODAY, MR. GARNEY. BUSINESS HAS BEEN GREAT!
MY, BUT JACK HAS CHANGED. I'D RATHER HAVE HIM WAIT ON ME NOW THAN ANY ONE IN TOWN!
I'LL TELL YOU A SECRET—SINCE HE SWITCHED TO POSTUM HE'S FELT LIKE A NEW MAN!

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