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THE UNION PRESS-COURIER

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Time Off to Vote

There's never been a time within the recollection of any of us that such great stress has been placed on the idea of registering and voting as has been evidenced this year. It's been a theme and program of all types of organizations, civic groups, public officials, and even the politicians. However this thought hasn't been on how you are to vote, but rather seeks to impress upon each and everyone of us the importance of voting. There's every reason to believe that it will be reflected to a great degree on election day.

In this connection, there's another thought that recently has been entering the picture. That is the thesis that voters, the entering ones, be given time off from their employment to get to the polls. Twenty-six states have recognized the special problem of the worker who must leave his job during working hours if he is to exercise his citizenship right to vote. Pennsylvania isn't one of them. The thought is a mighty good one, not only for this year but for any election.

Thoughts At Random

With the coloring of the leaves, it won't be too long now before the Christmas season is upon us. Christmas, like Easter, both have a religious significance that is seems each year becomes more commercialized and the true meaning forgotten. Easter, with its pomp and parade and fashion revues in the larger cities, certainly hasn't any connection with the Risen Saviour. Christmas has not been free of over-exploitation and neglect of its religious aspects, and the public will do well to remember that each one of us has his own obligation to see that the spirit and dignity of religious holidays is preserved.

"Pennsylvania Week" is with us, and there's a lot of advertising going about, together with some programs, too, that remind us of the holidays, the opportunities and the accomplishments of our state. In past years Fatton has taken an active part in the spirit of the week, and a few years back when the first observance was held our community went really all-out and put on a week's show that we feel was not surpassed by any town of our size, or even larger, in the Commonwealth. We attracted folks each evening from all over this area, and from other counties. However, we didn't get much recognition for our efforts from the State Department of Commerce, or any other agency at Harrisburg, nor even from the daily newspapers of our area. But we surely did a good service for ourselves and our neighbors, even though we are lacking interest, it seems, this year.

Pennsylvania's super-highway is a legend all over the nation, something that other states some time hope to parallel. However, the super-highway, too, although it is built and devised for safety, is fast gaining a blackened eye all over the nation for the tragedies that occur on it. Maybe the idea of too much speed isn't so good after all. Deaths in groups are not uncommon. And speed, certainly, is the cause of most all of the tragedies.

If poor news could publish the national magazines, there wouldn't be a gripe such as a reader sent us during the past week, and we quote him: "Why in blazes do I have to be sucker enough to pay 20¢ for a copy of Life Magazine, and then, as a Democrat, have to gaze at six pages of Eisenhower and poor Mr. Nixon, and not see a single, solitary picture of Stevenson or Sparkman?"

It Is Important to You!

While the Republicans are yelling for a change at Washington, you don't hear anything being said by them about a change being needed at Harrisburg. Yet the Republicans, with the exception of a mere four years, have been entrenched in power in this state beyond the memory of most all of us. There have been many things in the past—and even in the not too recent past—that wouldn't stand too much scrutiny, at Harrisburg, we are sure.

While the Republican national campaigners are yelling about high taxes one doesn't hear anything from the G.O.P. brothers about lowering any taxes in Pennsylvania, where the varied number of taxes exceeds that of any other state in the union. Nor do they refer to what they intend to do if Governor Fine has a good healthy Republican House and Senate next year.

In the matter of taxes, let's not forget the obnoxious Flat Income Tax that the Republican Administration in Pennsylvania wanted to get on the books last year, but failed, even though the Legislature was continued in session from the beginning of the year until just a short time before Christmas, thanks to the Democratic members of the Senate plus 12 dissent members of the Republican Party who had the real interest of their constituents at heart and defeated the income tax.

There's a big difference between an income tax such as the federal government imposes and the kind that Pennsylvania was obligated to get from our Republican entrenched regime. A flat income tax takes a tax from every income, regardless of how little that income is needed. The man with a family of 12 or more dependents would have to pay exactly the same income tax on the same taxable salary as would a bachelor making the same money.

You get exemptions for dependents in the federal income tax return. You get other exemptions for other legitimate expenses also. But on Governor Fine's proposed income tax there would be NO EXEMPTIONS for anyone on ANYTHING. And there would be no minimum that would be on the exempt list. Both employer and employee, under penalty of \$500 fine, would be responsible for reporting earnings of \$1.00 or more per month. That would include even the most menial help—even a school girl babysitter, a boy to cut the grass, or a maid hired by a housewife for a few hours a week.

Readers of this newspaper will know the vital part that State Senator John J. Haluska of Fatton played in the defeat of this flat income tax in the Senate last year, and it is perhaps the most important reason that he should be returned to Harrisburg for another term at the general election on November 6. Just as, too, it is important that Cambria County again send its solid delegation of Democratic assemblymen back to the State Capitol.

Every honest thinking Republican Governor of Pennsylvania into the history of our Commonwealth his administration has built up, unnecessary there doesn't seem to be any surplus at all once money Republican Governor takes over. It might be a mighty good idea with a Democratic Senate and House in this state in 1953, to see if some investigations might be accomplished. Moves made in the past few years, investigations made have been blocked by the Republican Party.

candidates for re-election, and the third member of the present delegation, Dennis L. Westrick, was elected county treasurer last year and wasn't a candidate. The Democratic voters at the primary last spring selected E. J. (Englebert) Farabaugh of Loretto R. D. as the third nominee on the ticket. Mr. Farabaugh is one of Cambria County's outstanding agriculturists, has been an active Democrat, and has always, been the forefront in farming organizations and circles. No better choice for a well-balanced ticket could have been made than in the selection of Mr. Farabaugh.

Voters must not overlook the importance of the state candidates and the members of both branches of the Legislature in this coming election. Don't let the national issues blot out the home issues. For goodness sake, don't elect representatives that will vote for a flat income tax to not only hamper your pocketbook, but also cause you inconvenience and embarrassment here at home. Elect the Democratic candidates who are pledged to oppose any such movement in the 1953 session. You may have a lot of reasons to regret it, if you don't.

You'll be electing a president of the United States on Nov. 4, but you also will vote on a Supreme Court Judge, a State Auditor General, and a State Treasurer—all important. And you'll be electing your State Senator and three members of the General Assembly. Give these men and what they mean to your daily mode of living, careful thought.

MORE ABOUT GOP BROKEN PROMISES

FROM THE CAMBRIA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE
 John R. Tonquato, Chairman

Milk Commission juggles prices—easing them up and up and up. Why No Reapportionment? There was another very important promise made to the people of Pennsylvania—an effort will be made to clear the decks of those offenses. There are sins of COMMISSION as well as OMISSION that deserve the attention of the voter.

Of course we can not cover all of the broken promises. In this series we are considering only the major offenses in the broken promise line. Those who review the record with us should bear in mind the fact we are not listing extravagant statements made by individual campaigners in the broken promise schedule. It might be a trifle unfair to hold the REPUBLICAN PARTY in Pennsylvania responsible for what some one Republican campaigner of the eager-beaver type might have said.

But the Republican Party can be and SHOULD be held responsible for what it said it would do when it wrote its 1950 platform. That was the platform Gov. Fine accepted—the platform Republican candidates for the GENERAL ASSEMBLY accepted when they were asking the people to elect them.

One of the platform promises GOP campaigners straddled during the 1950 campaign read as follows: "We advocate a state convention to bring the Constitution of our Commonwealth more in line with the needs of the day."

Republican candidates went up and down the state talking about a State Constitution they said dated back to horse-and-buggy days. They said the framework of our state government could not be modernized until the Constitution was rewritten. They also said a revised Constitution would promote economy and efficiency.

What did Gov. Fine and his legislative henchmen do about revising it. They didn't do anything. Democratic members of the Assembly were committed to a Constitutional Convention, and sponsored bills providing for one. They tried to get these bills out of committee—but the bills were smothered and the order to smother them came from the "front office."

There may be grounds for a difference of opinion as to whether this state needs a new Constitution. The GOP in its 1950 platform said it does. This was just what the Democrats said in their platform. But even so, the GOP Constitutional Convention plank was just another broken promise.

Rate By Milk Commission
 As every homemaker knows, milk figures prominently in the budget—prices are fixed by a COMMISSION—made up of men appointed by the governor. The Milk Commission can reduce prices or can boost them. If a producer or distributor sells milk for less than the price fixed by the Commission he would either be fined or sent to jail. The Milk Commission rules with a heavy hand.

The Milk Commission makes some funny moves. The charge has been made that it plays politics with milk prices. Higher prices for distributors—who are organized—could mean campaign contributions. Higher prices for producers would mean VOTES in the dairy belt. The milk consumers are not organized. They just say the milk prices fixed by the Commission and wonder "how come?"

The GOP in its 1950 platform recognized that it was "time for a change" in Milk Commission practices and that the Commission needed overhauling. It was under fire in 1950 just as it is now. Because of a desire upon a part of GOP leaders to still the clamor and fool the people a plank was written into the Republican platform that read as follows:

"The Republican Party recommends that the Joint State Government Commission make a thorough study of the whole problem of milk control for the purpose of making corrective recommendations to be presented to the General Assembly of 1951."

Note the words "corrective recommendations." It is never necessary to treat out "corrective recommendations" unless there's something that needs correcting.

Were any "corrective recommendations" dealing with the problem of milk control—recommendations that had the backing of Gov. Fine and his spokesmen in the House and Senate—submitted to the Assembly?

PURELY POLITICAL . . .

BY TOM OWENS, SE.

The other night we spent some time delving through some clippings and some daily newspapers we had saved from four years ago. Somehow it was no surprise at all to re-read the editorial propaganda, the predictions, the polls of the so-called "Gallups" and others. Why, dear reader, the newspapers of this year are following the same line as then.

But they are just a bit more cautious. They are making at least a slight attempt to have an "out" the day after election, in case Mr. Eisenhower misses the boat. Four years ago they were so sure of the defeat of Mr. Truman that there just simply wasn't anything to it. A Republican 80th Congress already had appropriated a nice healthy lump of money for the inauguration ceremony the following January (for Mr. Dewey). Harry Truman used the facilities.

Talk about your "iron curtains," the "daily newspaper curtain" that confronts an intelligent public today is just along the same lines. The Independent, the best newspaper in California recently simply ignored the fact that the President of the United States was in the state. For many weeks the editorial comment in some dailies in our own state became so glaringly partisan that it's quite likely very many folks would have been better off even bother to read their articles. Noticeably, in some of them, there has been some slow-up and other editorial subjects are being covered besides the good qualities of the Republican candidates, and the cussedness of the Democrats.

There isn't any Henry Wallace party this year, neither are there any Dixie-Crats really organized. Even Texas, most doubtful of the Dixie states, isn't regarded by politicians as being in the Eisenhower column. Right here in our own state, most doubtful of the Dixie states, isn't regarded by politicians as being in the Eisenhower column. Right here in our own state, most doubtful of the Dixie states, isn't regarded by politicians as being in the Eisenhower column.

Such was the promise. What about the performance? Congressional districts were reapportioned because if no such action had been taken it would have been necessary to elect all of Pennsylvania's congressmen at large. But Legislative Districts were NOT reapportioned. There are "PARTISAN" arguments for and against legislative reapportionment. For example, there are now 20 members of the Senate who represent city districts and 30 who represent rural districts. There are MORE PEOPLE in the 20 districts represented by Democrats than there are in the 30 districts represented by Republicans.

Some partisan-minded Republican might be inclined to argue that the figure cited are good reason why there shouldn't be any reapportionment of Senate Districts. However, there are some Republican who represent city districts with populations ranging from 150,000 to 300,000. On the other hand there are GOP senators who represent rural districts with 75,000 to 100,000 population. Thus a GOP senator who may represent only 75,000 is as powerful as a GOP senator who may represent 300,000. There are more people in some of our senatorial districts than there are in some of our congressional districts.

West's Follow Constitution
 The districts in which members of the State House of Representatives are elected are just as lopsided. There are some that have less than 12,000 people and others with populations in excess of 250,000. Of course, some of the small districts are created by the State Constitution, which provides that every county shall have at least one member of the House. And so a rural member who represents less than 12,000 has just as much say as a city member who represents 250,000 plus.

While, under present constitution, every county will always have at least one member of the House, it is possible to equalize legislative districts, which means various counties. The formula for determining the size of legislative districts is interesting. It is provided in Sec. 17, Art. II of the State Constitution, which reads in part as follows:

"The members of the House of Representatives shall be apportioned among the several counties on a ratio obtained by dividing the population of the state as ascertained by the most recent United Census by 50."

Every county containing less than five ratios shall have one representative for every full ratio—and an additional representative when the surplus exceeds half a ratio. Every county shall have at least one representative.

And then the section goes on to state that every city containing at least one ratio shall "select approximately its proportion of the representatives allotted to the county in which it is located."

Johnstown is a separate legislative district with five members of the House. Under the Constitution the city is entitled to only one member. Pennsylvania's legislative districts have not been reapportioned since 1921.

Sec. 18, Art. II of the State Constitution reads: "The General Assembly, at its first session after the adoption of this Constitution, and immediately after each United States decennial census, shall apportion the state into electoral and representative districts agreeably to provisions of the two next preceding sections."

Those two sections deal with the reapportionment of the Assembly. At every session of the Assembly since 1931 the members of that body have taken an oath of office which obligates them to protect, defend and obey the Constitution. And then quite likely the Assembly proceeds to enact legislation requiring other people to take such oaths and providing penalties if they refuse to do so.

At least that seems to be Republican Party policy. When the Democrats were in power at Harrisburg they enacted

years ago was the prime cause of the great embarrassing Republican "debacle." Is there any reason to really believe it will be different this year? Well, Nov. 6 will tell the story. However, the same line of attack, the same line of newspaper, magazine, radio and other propaganda as that of four years ago is prevalent today—and likely it's falling off in lack of interest.

As of today, we wouldn't make any absolute prediction as to whom the next President will be, but we are sure that whatever might happen if the election were held today, will be the same thing that's going to happen on Nov. 6 regardless of all the campaign oratory, all the writing, all the reading, all the advertising of every nature that will come forth in the next few weeks.

"As I See It" STATE SENATOR JOHN J. HALUSKA

During the past several weeks, the Press of our Commonwealth has been playing up the action of the State Police wherein the Clubs of Erie, Chester and various other Counties have been raided and many hundreds of slot machines seized. Governor Pine takes credit for this action, but, for some unknown reason the Governor has not seen fit to have his own County of Leasne placed in the same category as the Counties which were visited by the State Police.

We are now informed that establishments where bingo is being investigated are next in line for investigation and possible raids. Slot machines and bingo have been an issue for many years in Pennsylvania, along with pari mutual horse racing and, while it takes a great deal of courage for any public official to disclose his view points on these subjects, it is our intention, here and now, to make our position clear for the benefit of those who many wonder how we feel about this matter.

First, pari mutual horse racing, in our opinion, should be legalized in Pennsylvania. Millions of dollars are being carried across State lines into West Virginia, Maryland and New Jersey by our Pennsylvanians. Horse racing is a large industry and, while it appears to be a sin to wager on it in our Commonwealth, it seems to us to be a sin if we are to impose upon the public an income tax, we wonder why he does not have the courage of his convictions and ask for legislation legalizing pari mutual horse racing in Pennsylvania? In addition to the millions of dollars of taxes which we derive from this source, we could create thousands of additional jobs for the citizens of our Commonwealth. Therefore, we go on record as supporting such legislation if we are sent

back to Harrisburg next January. Second, our position on the bingo situation: We find, after a thorough investigation, that millions of our citizens find this game to be one of the best entertainment features in our country. One needs to look locally at the Mid-way of our Cambria County Fair to see the type of people who engage in this type of entertainment. To be further convincing, look into the activities of some of our fraternal and civic clubs along with our many churches who sponsor this entertainment. Have we found any professional racketeers profiting from this sort of entertainment? We have not! In our opinion, the game of bingo is one of the cleanest sports in America; it is accepted by most of the people and especially those who are on the elderly side of life. We believe this entertainment, if like this entertainment, and again, we state that, if given the opportunity, we shall vote to legalize bingo.

That last but not least, we come to the subject which appears to be a hot issue and that is the permitting of slot machines to be placed in the club rooms throughout the Commonwealth. While it is true that there are isolated cases where some men would drop their entire pay into one of these machines, it is also true that 95 percent of our people who play these machines play them purely for the entertainment, having the feeling with in themselves that the contribution they make is going for a good cause.

We definitely state, without any fear of contradiction, that the fraternal and civic clubs of Cambria County have given hundreds of thousands of dollars from the proceeds of these machines for the betterment of our communities. We have definite knowledge that many thousands of dollars were given to the Cambria County War Memorial, to Red Cross Drives, to the Salvation Army, the Community Chests, youth movements of all kinds, to the advancement of athletics, the promotion of bigger and better bands in local communities and, last but not least, to any number of churches, of all denominations, in Cambria County.

It is fortunate that in Cambria County at least 98 percent

of the officers and trustees who have charge of these machines are men of integrity—sincere in their contributions—and men who have been successful.

In some states, slot machines have been legalized and a huge tax has been derived from this source. It is our opinion that legislation should be provided to give the people of the Commonwealth a referendum at the polls to decide whether or not this item is not worthy of legalization. Under the present system of hide and go seek, each as you can, we must admit that life is being made miserable for all the clubs, mostly so, because of several gentlemen who have taken upon themselves the authority to tell the various clubs what day of the week machines can be played and operated, which they term legal, and then, what day they must be placed under cover and termed illegal.

One of these gentlemen, who recently sought an office County-wide, within one of the largest organizations in the County, and who was elected to this office, now takes it upon himself to instruct officers of various clubs as to when and where machines can be used. This gentleman, who lives in the Northern part of Cambria County, through political chicanery defeated an outstanding young man who sought the same office—defeated him by telling members of his organization that, if he were elected he would give them the authority to operate their machines. Now, it is about time that the hand of this gentleman should be called and that members be informed that he is only blowing hot air! He, nor no one else has the legal authority to issue such orders only to make such statements. We have brought this matter to the attention of the present District Attorney and we were definitely told by Mr. D. A. that he did not authorize that man to speak for him nor for his Office and, that he would like to have definite information, from club members, pertaining to this gentleman's trickery and fraud. So, we suggest to the club members of Cambria County, to those who like the game of bingo and those who like the sport of horse racing, to contact the various members, on both tickets, who are seeking election to the General Assembly and have them go on record, once and for all, as to how they stand on these three important issues which affect not only Cambria County but the entire Commonwealth.

This writer believes that the people as a whole, should have the opportunity to decide whether or not such entertainment should be legalized and taken out of the hands of racketeers and be free from the threat of cheap political henchmen.

SEN. JOHN J. HALUSKA
NEW CABBAGE ANNOUNCED
 A new cabbage, resistant to yellows disease, has been developed by Dr. Martin Odland, of the Pennsylvania State College horticulture department. It has been named Pennvalley, and it has the same ballhead shape and type as the famous old Penn State Ballhead. The seed is now being multiplied.