

Editorials Letters To The Editor Comment Discussion

EDITORIAL

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Faith, there have been many great men that have flattered the people, who ne'er loved them; and there be many that they have loved, they know not wherefore; so that, if they love they know not why, they hate upon no better a ground.

War Or Arbitration

The confusion which characterizes this community's most recent difference with the company which supplies it with water seems to call for a little careful, cautious analysis.

We might preface such discussion with the assurance that this newspaper is concerned primarily with the interests of the consumers. Years ago, The Post was demanding that the company improve its services to assure an adequate supply of water to local homes.

There should be, then, no question concerning The Post's loyalty to the consumers, then or now.

If the relations between the company and the consumers are to be satisfactory three problems must be solved: 1. All local homes must have a satisfactory supply of water. 2. Consumers must not be asked to pay an exorbitant rate. 3. The water company must be assured a fair return on its investment.

Number three is one frequently overlooked. If it is true that the utility is carrying a sizable deficit every year it is justified in any effort to make its property return a fair profit. No one can deny that. Nor can anyone expect the Dallas Water Co. to improve a losing property.

So, in working for the solution of Numbers One and Two, we cannot overlook Number Three. If it is possible, arbitration toward an equitable rate, which would insure satisfactory service, should be the goal of the present effort.

We say that particularly in view of the progress already made by the Dallas Business Men's Association in discussing the differences of opinion frankly with the water company. More than eighty per cent of the new increase would be paid by the handful of business men in the town.

The company already has shown what seems to be a sincere intention to recognize and adjust the complaints of the business men. During the 150-day postponement of the meter rates some equitable fee may be established by arbitration.

In the meantime the Dallas Taxpayers' Association has proceeded to carry its complaint to the Public Service Commission, a process which will necessitate a long series of hearings and a certain amount of money, which the consumers will be called upon to supply.

What position the Taxpayers' Association will find itself in if the business men's method proves to be successful is not difficult to predict. The protest of the Taxpayers' Association will then rest upon the increase to domestic consumers, a rise of twenty-five cents a quarter.

Without presuming to predict any decision of the Public Service Commission, we can guess what the result of such a protest would be, especially since a State engineer suggested a year ago that the improvements he proposed would justify a flat increase of \$1.00 a year.

The mistake, we think, has been in the Taxpayers' insistence upon jumping into an involved legal battle before it has exhausted the possibilities for arbitration.

Robert Hall Craig of Harrisburg, manager of the company, has indicated his willingness to sit with any group of consumers to discuss the controversy. The business men have followed that plan and have at least a minor concession to their credit.

One point remains. There are some homes in Dallas where the water supply occasionally is completely shut off. Such cases must be remedied or explained satisfactorily before consumers agree to any increase.

If, however, a small increase assures this community of a successful solution to the problem which has handicapped it for more than ten years, then it will be cheaper than an involved controversy before the Public Service Commission.

Here Comes The Mail

The United States mail service in this benighted region has little to boast about except its petty-fogging ritual. It appears to be the only branch of government in which economy is practiced; in fact the only one that has had a taste of economy in a number of years, and it seems to have grown sick at its stomach, locally.

There is no real attempt to maintain mail schedules. Mails arrive anytime from nine fifteen in the morning until noon. The morning mail seldom arrives later than noon if it is going to arrive at all.

With mails arriving at any time of day the whole region is inconvenienced. Rural mail carriers are late with their deliveries and forced to loiter two or three hours more than necessary in postoffices that are so poorly heated that they are unfit for human habitation before noon.

Perhaps the answer to all this lies in the penny-wise and pound foolish economy of the postal department. The price now being paid for the delivery of the mails has been beaten down by competitive bidding to the point where no man can make any money, let alone render efficient service.

As to the condition of postoffice buildings; only lack of interest and in-lance can be the answer to the state in which they have fallen. We'd like to see the postal service give a little attention to these matters, adequate service in adequate buildings, instead of jumping to the typewriter as soon as this is printed to defend the mail service.

The Dallas Post

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Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech, or of Press.—From the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

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THE DALLAS POST PROGRAM

THE DALLAS POST will lend its support and offers the use of its columns to all projects which will help this community and the great rural suburban territory which it serves to attain the following major improvements:

- 1. Construction of more sidewalks for the protection of pedestrians in Kingston township and Dallas.
2. A free library located in the Dallas region.
3. Better and adequate street lighting in Trucksville, Shavertown, Fernbrook and Dallas.
4. Sanitary sewage disposal system for Dallas.
5. Closer co-operation between Dallas borough and surrounding townships.
6. Consolidated high schools and better co-operation between those that now exist.
7. Adequate water supply for fire protection.
8. The formation of a Back Mountain Club made up of business men and home owners interested in the development of a community consciousness in Dallas, Trucksville, Shavertown and Fernbrook.
9. A modern concrete highway leading from Dallas and connecting with the Sullivan Trail at Tunkhannock.

WITH OTHER EDITORS

"Business hasn't been as good in five years as it is today after Roosevelt has run up his seven-billion dollar debt increase. The real waster was Hoover. He wasted the nation's manpower, its homes, its shops, its businesses, its income, to 'save money'. And then, didn't save it."—THE BENTON ARGUS.

"Some day the country, roused and completely angry, is going to spew dirty politics out of its mouth, and compel those legislating to regard public office with the like responsibility of a private business. To stop the graft, the wasting and stealing would bring balances to reason."—WILKES-BARRE TIMES LEADER.

"With New Deal sentiment waning, and since Pennsylvania normally is so overwhelmingly a Republican State, the chances of a sweep which would make the House Republican and return a Republican majority to the Senate would appear to be good."—WILKES-BARRE RECORD.

"It is doubtful if many merchants realize thoroughly what it means to them directly, to their town, and to all her institutions to withhold support, moral and financial, from newspapers who are anxious to co-operate with them in spreading news of their wares and efforts."—SHICKSHINNY ECHO.

"I believe the future of American agriculture has unlimited possibilities. But I also believe that its success depends upon raising larger crops rather than smaller."—Roger Babson in the SULLIVAN REVIEW.

"There are probably millions of old-time Democrats who will follow Al Smith if he takes a 'walk' and his speech has done more to crystallize sentiment against demagoguery and will-o-the-wisp policies than anything in the present national campaign."—MONTROSE INDEPENDENT.

"Al Smith's speech, built up in anticipation by the Liberty League as something above the average, was disappointing. It was not constructive, but emphasized in every utterance that the former Happy Warrior is still unhappy."—THE WYOMING DEMOCRAT.

Please, Mister



POLITICS

From the volume of political opinion sent to it by Republican and Democratic bodies The Post this week selects the following article from the Republican National Committee analyzing the Senate's defiance of President Roosevelt.

The Senate has shown itself sensitive to repeated rebukes from the United States Supreme Court, even if Secretary Wallace, the A.A.A. braintrusters, and the President himself are not. In refusing to accept the new Administration farm bill the Senate Agriculture Committee, reflecting prevalent Senate sentiment, served notice that it will not accept new farm legislation merely because it has the Presidential blessing, and the approval of Secretary Wallace, Professor Rex Tugwell and Chester Davis.

The best brains of the Senate confess humiliation over the fact that the Supreme Court, time after time, has been holding unconstitutional important New Deal legislation which Congress meekly enacted against the better judgment of its more capable members. Every act declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court during the past year was a part of President Roosevelt's "must" program.

The Senate seemingly has grown tired of being known as a rubber stamp, and at last has rebelled against taking orders from the White House. Both branches of Congress are as anxious as the President to find some workable substitute for A. A. A.; some law that will prove a real aid to agriculture.

The new Administration farm bill was hastily thrown together by the legal lights of the defunct A. A. A., following a brief conference between Secretary Wallace and a handpicked group of "farm leaders." Its objectives admittedly were the same as A. A. A.; its machinery was different. Like A. A. A.; it was built upon the theory of scarcity; it looked to further governmental regulation of crop production and crop reduction, but under new methods.

Under the new Administration bill there would be a job for every employee who had served A. A. A., either in Washington or in the field. The way was paved for even increasing the field forces, for under the new bill Secretary Wallace was given authority to make payments to farmers as he saw fit, meaning that in his discretion, benefits could be large or small as he and his subordinates might determine.

The Congress, being overwhelmingly Democratic, was not averse to this phase of the Administration farm bill. The trouble arose over those provisions which even Senator Norris of Nebraska held to be unconstitutional. The Senate balked at again deliberately following the admonition of the President, given when the Guffey coal bill was pending, to waive personal doubts as to the constitutionality of the bill and pass it anyway.

The Senate, it appears, has grown weary of accepting blindly the judgment of Secretary Wallace and Professor Tugwell, even though their influence with the President remains unimpaired. It is starting out to do its own thinking.

It's A "Farley Surplus"

(From The American Liberty League)

Washington correspondents have coined a new phrase out of the effort of Postmaster General Farley to make his latest annual budget show a surplus whereas a strict analysis shows a deficit. The same criticism of Mr. Farley's bookkeeping was made in 1934, when he claimed a surplus of \$12,161,415. It was pointed out at that time that his department actually had a deficit of \$52,003,295.62 in that year.

G. O. P. Opposes Townsend

Dr. Walter E. Spahr, a member of the National Advisor Council of the American Liberty League, says: "The Townsend Plan subscribes to the notion that organized society is under some obligation to pension people who are quite able to continue useful work and to take care of themselves. The whole plan is a blow aimed, wittingly or not, at prudent and useful living, at saving, at investment, at insurance."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Severe weather has stimulated many lines of business, particularly in the fuel field, where business volume was larger than the preceding and 1935 weeks.

Industrial employment slacked off slightly in Detroit. Pittsburgh continued to receive new orders for structural steel; most Philadelphia foundries were busier than since 1930; a million dollar real estate deal was negotiated in Atlanta for a bottling plant.

Corporation reports reflect substantial earnings, with General Motors' net profit reported at \$167,226,000, the largest since 1929, with the final quarter of 1935 the best in history.

Bethlem Steel reports a net income of \$4,291,253 for 1935 against \$550,571 for the preceding year.

Uncertainty continued to hover over wholesale markets as a repercussion from the AAA decision.