

Editorials Letters To The Editor Comment Discussion

The Dallas Post

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THE DALLAS POST is a youthful weekly rural-suburban newspaper, owned, edited and operated by young men interested in the development of the great rural-suburban region of Luzerne County and in the attainment of the highest ideals of journalism. THE POST is truly "more than a newspaper, it is a community institution."  
 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.

EDITORIAL

A THOUGHT FOR THIS WEEK

The individual is foolish; the multitude, for the moment is foolish, when they act without deliberation; but the species is wise, and, when time is given to it, as a species, it always acts right.

—BURKE

Public Enemy No. 1

America is no longer at the mercy of the gangster, gunman and kidnaper. The Federal Department of Justice has seen to that. Only a few short years ago all of us were throwing up our hands and asking "what can be done?" Some of us believed that the size of the country, its vast spaces, prevented the apprehension of criminals here in contrast with the ease of their capture in England and France. The forces under J. Edgar Hoover have disproved all that. Criminals can be caught here the same as elsewhere and crime can be prevented too.

We have lived to learn that the real Public Enemies No. 1 are not the kidnapers and yellow rats sought by the Department of Justice, but the crooked politicians and those not so crooked whose highest code of ethics is one of patronage to the mob that put them in office.

Politics was the heavy hand that prevented capture of criminals before Chief G-man Hoover issued his famous ultimatum that he would head the Federal Department of Investigation on one consideration only: "Politics must be entirely eliminated." What he has accomplished every school boy knows. And every school boy knows that Hoover's job was half completed when politics was kicked out of the Bureau of Investigation.

But how the real Public Enemy and our oldest one is ever going to be caught is a problem not for the Department of Justice but for all of us. Politics of the type that feeds on patronage must be dethroned before the departments of the Federal government, State government and local government can function with any degree of efficiency and justify the vast sums spent annually for their maintenance.

Both political parties have retarded the advancement of civil service, with the Democrats currently destroying the little advance that has been made under previous administrations. We can expect little return for our money spent on taxes as long as our departments of government are filled by political appointment and not by merit. Other nations have been able to solve the problem. It can be solved here. But it won't be solved here until citizens have the brains to think for themselves and the intestinal fortitude to tell the cheap little office holder in their own communities that they, not he, are the real government of the United States. Then, and only then, will the oldest Public Enemies and the worst be given their sentences for life.

We Want Roads

There was a time when railroads governed a town's growth—when communities without railroads were doomed to stagnation. Today, a town prays for main highways, because along those arteries come the business that stimulates industry and promotes community growth.

The thought is especially important to Dallas and its neighboring communities. The fact that only one train now passes through Dallas in a day need have little significance if our civic groups awaken to the fact that highways—not railroads—are the real gauge of prosperity nowadays.

In the concrete highway to Harvey's Lake this section has one splendid artery directing traffic to its business places. There are a few other good, modern roads scattered through the Northern end of the county. But such stretches as the pave between Dallas and Tunkhannock and the road outside of Luzerne are costing the people of Dallas untold sums each year.

Community organizations have fought long and hard to secure improvement of such highways. On several occasions promises have been made and success seemed imminent. But always some one has passed the buck and the enthusiasm has died. In the meantime, motorists bump over the same spring-breaking, teeth-jarring potholes.

An election is coming. Politicians will have favors to ask. Always, at election time, the average voter has a weapon which is dull most months of the year. When you are approached by a candidate or a politician in the months before the General Election keep in mind that we want roads.

WASHINGTON LETTER

Natural wish of Congressmen in an election year is to wind up national business as soon as possible and return home to apply themselves to the serious game of politics. This year, with all forecasters holding that the warfare waged by the major parties will be unusually bitter and relentless, Congressmen have been more than eager to say goodbye to Capitol Hill. But a crowded legislative calendar long ago dissipated hopes for an April or May adjournment. At this writing, there is a reasonable expectancy that Congress will write "finis" by mid-June—but don't be at all surprised if the session continues into the sweltering weather. For little has been done in the way of law-making, and a large number of important bills will have to be either passed or rejected before quiet falls over our legislative halls.

Here is the status of major proposed legislation at present:

**CORPORATION SURPLUS TAX:** First forecast was that this tax would pass easily in just about the form asked by the President. However, there has been something of a shift of sentiment, and a number of leading Democratic representatives seem very cool to his ideas. Business is making felt its belief that such a tax would be ruinous. Upshot is that the House bill is likely to be relatively mild, though what the Senate will do to it is still in the realm of conjecture. One thing is certain: There will be a great deal of debate and plenty of hard feelings, before a bill goes to the White House.

**CHAIN STORE BILLS:** A number of these are pending in one branch of Congress or the other, and some have been entirely lost to view. Bills dealing with "price discrimination," rebates, etc., have met the opposition of powerful groups.

**THIRTY-HOUR WEEK:** A bill to force this on business has been pending for several Congressional sessions, has a certain amount of support. But, unless all signs are wrong, it has no chance to pass, may not even come up for a vote. It's a ticklish subject, either way Congressmen vote they will offend powerful interests. They'd rather just forget it.

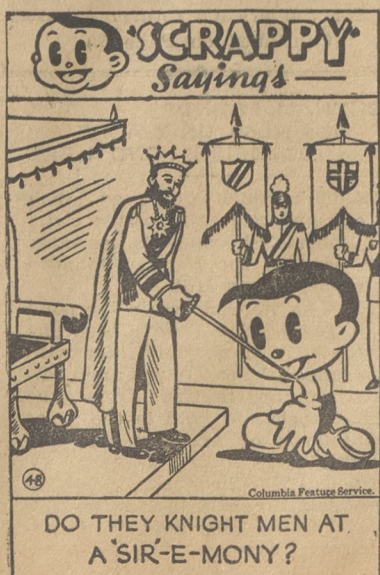
**WHEELER-CROSSER BILL:** This act would make it just about impossible for the railroads to dismiss any employes without large compensation. It has the unified support of labor, the unified opposition of railroad managements. Outlook for passage highly uncertain.

**SHIP SUBSIDY:** The merchant marine is vitally interested in regaining lost mail subsidies, claims they are essential to operation. But many Congressmen are on the other side of the fence, and it is doubtful if shipping lines will get pay in line with old levels.

**RURAL ELECTRIFICATION:** This, like all power legislation, is close to the heart of the President. Seems sure to pass both houses. Some of the points business thought objectionable in the original bill will probably be eliminated or changed.

**BETTER HOUSING:** Chaos seems to have struck the housing movement, and the proposed bill to carry on isn't given much chance of becoming law. Odd fact is that Federal backing of more and better homes was one New Deal idea that had wide support, and was criticized to a much smaller extent than most other controversial proposals.

Congress is going to have to move if it covers its calendar and is home in June. About the only thing completed so far has been the Senate's impeachment and removal from office of a Federal judge—one of the very few impeachments on record where an official has been found guilty by the necessary two-thirds vote. So, the newspapers of the next few weeks should carry considerable volume of important news from the Capitol.



THE MAIL BAG

In this department The Post presents letters from its readers on current problems—suggestions, criticisms, bouquets. The Post need not indorse any sentiment or criticism expressed here, nor can it vouch for the accuracy of any sentiment. It recognizes only that in this country people have, within reason, the right to express themselves.

Dear Editor:

I am an enthusiastic believer in the League of Nations, brought into being by our wonderful President, Woodrow Wilson. Had we joined it as he expected, I believe the entire world would be in much happier and prosperous condition. Japan would never have gone into Manchuria or left the League. Germany would have remained in Italy would never have gone into Ethiopia, and the present armament race would not have been brought into being. If the English-speaking people do not unite their battle plans, no one knows what will happen in the next ten years.

D. S. R.

Dear Editor:

If an individual could not prosper by spending far more than his income, how can the government expect to?

E. B.

Dear Editor:

It is said that the Greeks debated for generations over the question of the number of teeth in a horse's mouth. Finally an iconoclast actually went to a horse and counted its teeth. If members of the Federation of Women's Clubs really wish to solve important problems of society, it would be modern to temper the findings of reason with some empiricism. I suggest they hold their debate on the child labor amendment again, but change the locale to a noisy factory where "demo-

cratic" child labor is used. Perhaps a little "communism" for the tired kiddies holding down a man's job would not be so distasteful.

H. J. M.

Dear Editor:

Owing to widespread dissatisfaction with the policies and extravagances of the present administration, the time would seem ripe for the conservatives of all parties to get together and establish a nationalist conservative party, to consist of the independent voters of both of the old parties who still have faith in the Constitution and the Supreme Court, and who are desirous of putting an end to the vagaries of the crack-brained theorists who appear at present to be endeavoring not to run but to ruin the United States. The platform: Balance the budget, eliminate bureaucracy, take care of the needy in a rational way. The watchword to be: The Constitution, the Supreme Court, conservation in expenditures, and wake up, Americans.

A. E. I.

Dear Editor:

After spending a few hundred dollars to be taught how to fly, then buying an airplane that cost nearly \$1,000, then to have a friend pilot accidentally wash it out, all my hope of being able to fly at a minimum cost is gone. If the government appropriated a fund to pay for the ten hours required yearly, many of us would be able to maintain

our licenses. I am not a pessimist, but if war did come to this country, would it not be better to have an adequate air force ready than to spend months of training at a great cost?

Dear Editor:

Thousands of persons give not only time and energy but also financial aid to charitable and social organizations whose one aim is to alleviate or remove the social or physical ills of a small part of the community. These people seem to derive the greatest joy from giving what they can to the cause. Yet when almost any one is asked to participate in political or civic activities in order to help alleviate or remove the economic ills and to strive for the betterment of the general welfare of the entire community the one question and requisite seems to be, What can I get out of it?

M. W.

Dear Editor:

Two hundred and twelve Congressmen voted for a new navy bill. May I suggest the need for having some one direct the attention of these gentlemen to their responsibility involved in such decisions? When our youth, the backbone of our future civilization, will be led through another blood bath on newly built battleships, will it occur to our legislative body concerned to think of the causes of international conflicts which invariably follow armament races?

G. L. L.

The Kaleidoscope

Baying at the Moon or a Dog's Eye View of Dallas

By TYKE, The Canine Philosopher

From where I lie here on the sidewalk in front of the A & P and close to Chief O'Kane's car it seems to me that Spring was never warmer and the girls were never prettier than they are this year.

At first I thought Spring would never get here—it took the chief so long to get the old bus limbered up. Why the snow drifts never left Dallas heights until a week or so ago, but now that things are pretty well settled it looks like a breezy summer for me on the running board.

Lately I've been getting up early and the first man I see on Main street is Corey Frantz. I always liked C. A. but I think his wife might have it in a little for me because I gnaw the bones I get at the A & P store on her front yard. I'm not getting along so well with the A & P either since the day that they had to move that bag of onions inside.

Speaking of Mr. Frantz reminds me of that front door of their's which is the quickest shutting thing I've ever negotiated. Twice now I've nearly lost my tail getting inside with the boss.

Well there goes Wash Spencer, pert and spry just in from Dallas township. And here comes John Hayden to sit in the sun in front of his place of business. Pete Oberst will be out pretty soon after he gets John Sullivan's hair

trimmed. Seems like John gets a trimming every time he enters politics. I heard John Yapple say that Dr. Swartz, John Sullivan, and Bernie McNelis are the only Democrats left in the borough. If that's so, John ought to have broken even for the nomination in the election.

Zip, there goes another funeral procession—with seven cemeteries close by Dallas is rapidly becoming the burial center of Pennsylvania. Funny some body doesn't suggest that as the town slogan.

Here comes a new dog down the street—well I'll be seeing you next week I'll tell you some of the things I see nights on my travels—you'd be surprised.

Here's wagging at you, TYKE

A month or so ago, the Patriotic Order Sons of America sent questionnaires to Pennsylvania Congressional and Legislative candidates. There were twelve questions and they could be answered with a mere "yes" or "no". Some of the candidates carried the thing a little farther and commented on the issues.

Question No. 12 on the Congressmen's questionnaire was "Do You believe that this Government should refuse to protest against the action of other sovereign countries toward their own citizens?" Some one has sent us a list of some of the off-the-record answers—indicative of how difficult it will be for Congressmen to get together on the problem.

One man answered: "America stands for liberty and justice and if some nations violate these high human ideals we should not hesitate to express our disapproval." The other extreme is represented by a candidate who offered: "What other countries do to their own citizens is none of our business." One even advocated immediate rescinding of the action in recognizing the Soviet Republics. Probably the most modest answer came from the man who said "We have not succeeded in producing brains enough and intelligent planning enough in our own country sufficient to solve our own difficulties; and who are we to attempt to advise some other nation? Charity begins at home."

One of the most pertinent responses came in the answer to Question 6, "Are you opposed to Communist efforts to undermine this Government?" One man said "Yes, but I know that some rich Republicans and Democrats are worse threats to true Americanism than any Communists."

Wyoming Valley's Twin Floods are history now but as a matter of record the statistics on the losses, which have finally been completed, may be of interest. The total cost of the floods was \$8,951,742. Kingston Borough suffered most, with 3,255 homes effected, and \$1,626,310 damage to homes, public property and schools. Wilkes-Barre city was second, with \$1,548,609 damage. The mines suffered a loss of \$1,760,000 and 991 stores were hit for \$1,251,399.