

Mr. Ford's Page



THERE has been an interesting evolution in the questions which the people have put to office-seekers. Years ago we asked candidates what they were seeking office for. This was the consequence of a period of school instruction by which the American boy was taught to admire the fame and glory of public office. Merely to achieve an office and a title was considered to be "success," and naturally men did not scruple as to the methods by which the success was achieved. Their principal occupation after election was to repay at public expense the political trainers who groomed them for the race and counted them in. In the general disgust which has followed this seeking of office for glory's sake, the people are beginning to ask candidates for *what* they were working. The people exalted the standard of Fame Through Service rather than fame through office.

There is now, however, a new question. It doesn't go directly or exclusively to the *motives* a candidate might think he has, but to the *masters* he has. The question to ask of candidates today is not only, "Why do you want this office? What do you think your motives are in seeking it?" but rather, "Who specially wants you to have it? Who is your master? For whom are you working?" The basis of the new question is this: Power goes with office, regardless of the strength or weakness of the incumbent. There are concealed interests whose whole existence depends on such a hold of the higher offices. Indeed, it is the higher offices of our government that are most necessary to the continuance of certain interests and privileges. It is therefore of vital importance to them that they retain their control, and there is no surer way of doing this than by guarding all the approaches to our highest offices so that only a certain kind of men are permitted to arrive there.

The question, "For whom are you working?" is therefore a most important one for every electorate to ask and every candidate to consider.

But here is the amazing thing—some candidates don't know who it is they are working for! They fancy they are working for themselves. They sometimes believe they are working for the people. But they do not always know who their real masters are. There are lawyers in America who do not know who their ultimate clients are: they know the person with whom they do business, they do not know in whose ultimate interest the business is done.

Likewise there are financial institutions in America and elsewhere which apparently are independent concerns, managed by and in the interests of the men whose names appear as officers and directors. But sometimes even these men do not know *whose* game they are playing. They are but the "fronts" of interests which are never known to the public, and which keep their identity concealed that they may the better play interest against interest.

STRANGE as it may seem, not every man knows for whom he is working. There are highly placed men in these United States who would get the surprise of their lives if they followed back the clues which would lead them to their real masters.

When a man is in honest business he wants his name to appear at the front of the business. The young man opens a shop or a store and he is proud to have his name in front. He puts out a useful and honestly made product and he is proud to have his name known in connection with it. But the biggest business interests in the world, those who play back and forth with the riches and the destiny of nations, never want their names to be known, nor their organization, nor their power. They break themselves up into numerous corporations in each of which only a trusted agent will appear, while the remainder of the men will apparently be the real masters of the business, and sometimes actually think they are.

That is why it is said that not every man knows who his master is. And it behooves every man to find out; especially those men who commit their lives to the searching test of public service.

This concealed international control of the world flourishes because people do not believe it exists. They don't see how it can exist. They imagine no selfish group could hold together strongly enough to manage the world. But if they knew the special international elements involved they would readily see how possible it is. Some day a world-wide exposure will be made and many things explained which have always puzzled the plain people, and we shall see that much which we have charged up to the "mystery of life" has really been the deliberate effect of a deep-wrought, unified international but private program.

In politics the effect of this control has been to take out the local and human element. That is, candidates are no longer selected for their individual attitude with reference to public problems, but for their relationship to this invisible hierarchy.

Few states select their own senators any longer, save in very exceptional instances. The national group, taking care of its end of the international group's business, knows the kind of man it wants, chooses in each state one of the men it has kept in training, and creates the conditions under which the people elect him. It appears that senators no longer represent their states; they seem to represent "interests" which are interstate and international.

The same is true of almost every office. Representatives to the state legislature are becoming less and less district representatives, and more and more the representatives of state and national "interests" in their districts. Representatives in Congress also tend to become less than formerly the representatives of the people who voted for them, and more the representatives of the interests who groomed them and nominated them. Even governorships are going the same way.

IT SIMPLY indicates that instead of Government rooting down into the people, it is heading up into an international control that picks out of the midst of the people the men who will serve it.

And some men serve it unconsciously. They do not always know the source of the business that has been thrown their way. They do not always know the source of the interest which is shown in them. They do not always see the vision which others have of their future usability in office. And so they go on, fancying they are being carried on the pleasant crest of cumulative success, when really they are being picked out because their inclinations or obligations may render them useful at some time. It is a wonderful system and its ramifications have no end. Cities are networks, states are networks, nations are networks, and the whole net is drawn by interests who have no nationalistic interests whatever. They are apart from the world, living upon the world, using the world as their counting

table. The whole system is founded on self-interest. Everyone allied with it gets something out of it. The little fellow gets a little, the big fellows get more. Usually the little fellows get an income and a taste of public honor. The big fellows get the big public honors. It is what the public has within its gift that keeps the system going. The system never sacrifices anything for principle; it has no inspired reformers; seldom are its servants big enough to be called Statesmen; the whole system exists to curb and destroy the wisdom and foresight of true States Men.

Who is master of all these men who want the high offices within your gift. Do you know? Do they know?

Who has chosen them? Who has groomed them? Who is supplying the means by which the bait of their personality is dangled before the public?

Is there any difference in them? Can you see in the lot of them one man who really stands out in all his records and ideas as a free man, untangled by any favors?

That is the mark of distinction. Where all candidates are equally acceptable to the concealed interests, it simply is proof that they own the field.

HE IS a wise candidate who knows his own master. Many a man who is being groomed for public office is working, perhaps without knowing it, for concealed interests who know how he can be influenced in office. That is why candidates are usually so much alike—they have been picked by the same interests. The interests are represented not only in legislative halls but in every voting district. Elections are often only a transfer of the representative from field work to legislative work. Electorates ought to inquire, candidates ought to consider, who the real master is. You may know the candidate; do you know who selected him?