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Step in Right Direction

Adoption by the District government of a one-package charity fund drive this year amounts to an official protest against the multiplicity of money-raising campaigns here. The public generally already has expressed its dissatisfaction. There is a growing sentiment for an all-inclusive solicitation of the "united fund" type. The District plan is a step in the right direction.

Federal as well as District government officials long have been concerned over the time and effort devoted to many sorts of fund drives. A bill to authorize Federal agencies to use a payroll-deduction method for charity contributions failed to pass during the recent session of Congress. Such authority is considered a prerequisite to consolidation of charity drives in the Government departments. This legislation is important and should be passed at the next session. There is not much chance of a successful unified-fund program in Washington until all governmental agencies are in position to join with private industry in a once-for-all campaign.

Elections and Korea

With the full support of Peiping, the North Korean Communists have come out in favor of a Far Eastern conference that would have as its main objective the unification of partitioned Korea. But Secretary of State Dulles has made clear that he takes a very dim view of their idea, and he does so for an excellent reason. The reason is this: That they apparently are as opposed as ever to holding genuinely free country-wide elections under the strict supervision of the United Nations.

Last December, when the General Assembly—by a vote of 50 to 5 (the Soviet bloc alone dissenting)—formally urged that such elections be staged, the Communists countered with a proposal of their own. The proposal, turning thumbs down on the idea of having the balloting thoroughly policed by the U. N., called for supervision by a special "international commission" so rigged as to enable its Red members to veto any measures designed to prevent fraud and terrorism at the polls. Needless to say, the Assembly promptly and overwhelmingly rejected this plan as one whose adoption would doom all of Korea to being dragged in due course behind the Iron Curtain.

And now, in their new call for a Far Eastern conference, the Communists have offered no sign of having retreated from their past position on this issue of holding a really free and strictly policed vote throughout the divided country. As Mr. Dulles has said, "I can't detect, so far, any evidence that they are willing to change in that respect"—change in a manner that might "rather readily" result in reuniting Korea. Hence, the outlook for such a result continues to seem about as unpromising as ever. At any rate, there can be no disputing Mr. Dulles' view that "so long as the North Koreans are not willing to have properly supervised nation-wide elections, I do not see any very practical way of bringing the unification about."

In these circumstances, the United States has every reason to turn a cold shoulder to the proposal for a Far Eastern conference on Korea. Of course, if the Communists would reverse themselves and accept the U. N.'s call for truly free elections, then such a conference might be able to achieve valuable peace-promoting results. As matters stand, however, it could hardly be much more than a waste of time or a propaganda suggestion.

Things Are Not So Bad

Things are bad, what with hurricanes, the heat, the Communists and hay fever. But they are not all bad, as witness the case of Blackie, the cocker spaniel, in nearby Edmonston, Maryland. All is not wrong with the world when men—notorious for their inhumanity to men—can devote hours of sweat and toil to the rescue from a storm sewer of a trapped dog. Blackie needed but to make his plight known to passersby to get action. Things soon began to buzz in Edmonston. Firemen, policemen, plain citizens and others tried various schemes for getting the dog out, in vain. There was only one way left—the hard way. Would the high-way authorities co-operate? They would and did, without hesitation. So men with picks and shovels and air drills went to work digging up a perfectly good street, while traffic stopped and bystanders cheered. It cost Maryland's taxpayers \$850 to retrieve Blackie from the sewer.

But somehow the taxpayers over in Maryland seemed to feel good about it all. So did a lot of other humans who read the news accounts and saw the pictures of Operation Dig That Dog at Edmonston.

Mr. Truman Sounds Well

Former President Truman sounds like his old self. If there has been any reason for concern about the former President's health or spirit he has dispelled the doubts in announcing his personal plans for the next few weeks. And not surprisingly, his plans are predominantly political.

"I'm going to tear into the Republicans," Mr. Truman told the Associated Press in discussing a schedule of speeches that begins in Indiana next week and extends to California in mid-September. It is a promise, certainly, that one may rely on, for no occupation is more to the taste of the first citizen of Kansas City, Missouri. Neither was it unexpected to hear the former Democratic President predicting a rousing victory for his party in 1956. Mr. Truman is not inclined to suffer from lack of confidence in these matters. And, finally, it was fully in keeping with his doctrine of party loyalty that he pledged: "I'm in this fight for the duration, and behind the Democratic nominee, whoever he may be."

In short, it was the old "give-em-hell" victorious campaigner of 1948 speaking. It may be argued, of course, that Mr. Truman's aggressive participation in the forthcoming campaign is not necessarily an unmixed blessing to his party. There were indications in 1952 that some States were voting as much against Mr. Truman as for Dwight Eisenhower. It has happened, too, in our political history that the intervention of "elder statesmen" is not uniformly popular within partisan circles. However that may be, Mr. Truman has made his own plans. Obviously, he intends to be in the middle of things politically in the forthcoming months. And it will seem like old times to find him there.

Prison Rioters

A prison riot in Nebraska has been put down because the authorities were ready and willing to use the force necessary to suppress it.

The trouble began when the convicts demanded that Warden Joseph Bovey come to the dining room to confer with them about releasing two inmates who had been placed in solitary confinement after they had refused to work. Mr. Bovey rejected the demand, saying it was time the warden told the prisoners what to do instead of letting the prisoners tell the warden what to do.

More than 200 prisoners responded with a riot, in the course of which fires were set which destroyed four buildings. Three convicts, apparently unwilling to join the riot, were badly beaten.

By morning all the State police in southeast Nebraska had been brought in. Governor Victor Anderson arrived on the scene and announced that the troops were going in with shotguns. The warden sent a dozen armed men into the cell block with orders to shoot any prisoner who refused to go to his cell. As it happened no one was shot, because the rioters gave up when the shoot-to-kill order was issued.

The prospect of opening fire on rioting prisoners is not a pretty one. But neither is the prospect—and it is more than a prospect—that the penitentiaries are going to be taken over, through violence, by the convicts. If the authority of the warden is not going to be maintained, by force if necessary, we might as well stop sending criminals to prison.

A Poor Time for Beards

In an impromptu survey carried out at the atoms-for-peace conference in Geneva, an enterprising reporter has discovered that many scientists wear beards only for the most frivolous reasons. Few and far between are those who do it seriously, with deliberation, in order to avoid the tedium of shaving and to save time for work in their laboratories. As for the rest, some do it just for the fun of it, or because it's become a habit that they're too lazy to change, or simply because their wives think they look cute that way.

Actually, whiskers of all types have long since fallen upon evil days. Once upon a time they were a mark of distinction and sagacity, and the Bible itself has good things to say about them. Even so, opposition to them dates back to the long, long ago. In old Greece, for example, Lucian mocked them with biting satire. He put it this way: "If you think that to grow a beard is to acquire wisdom, a goat is at once a complete Plato." And as the centuries passed, and the razor business became bigger and bigger, more and more men grew self-conscious and began to feel that they could not wear facial bushes without being regarded by the rest of the world as unhygienic eccentrics. So today what have we got? We have the most learned of our scientists and philosophers going around clean-shaven, with lots of them wearing college-boy crew-cut heads of hair. In a way, all this seems very sad. And it seems foolish, too, when one thinks of these lines from Byron:

Men for their sins
Have shaving, too, entailed upon
their chins—
A daily plague.

Plague though it is, however, a man must put up with it unless he has the gumption and fiber—or a wife who prods him on to do and dare—to grow whiskers and snap his finger at a staring and smirking world ready to ridicule and condemn him as an odd one who must have rocks in the head. Alas, in a climate of this sort, how can the beard be expected ever to flourish again?



Something to Remember Him By

LETTERS TO THE STAR

Soft Answer

I am 70 years old and ask permission to reply to the recent letter, "Storms at Men," signed "Not Pleased," an 80-year-old lady, who resents men naming hurricanes for women.

A page has two sides, so we should read both sides of the page. The Great Designer of the Universe created girls not only beautiful but live magnets, to attract men and to keep the chain of life going. Consequently their magnetic attraction and angel-like beauty create storms, typhoons, hurricanes, and even volcanoes in the hearts and minds of men, much more strong than "Connie" and "Diane." Had it been otherwise, Jupiter, the great god of Olympia, would not take the form of a bull and would not lick the foot of Europa. And Odin, the great god of Norse, would not kiss the foot of Frig.

Consequently we should be grateful to the Great Creator of the Universe, for the magnetic and beautiful developers of hurricanes in the hearts of men, and should admit that giving girls' names to the natural hurricanes is not wrong but very deserving.

H. Touty.

'Reassured' by Wolfson

You have no idea how reassuring it is to learn from William Hines' story that Mr. Wolfson considers it his "civic duty" to sell for \$15 a share the stock which has recently been purchased by his family for \$10 a share.

It is such selfless interest and civic responsibility that prove a real inspiration to work-a-day Washingtonians.

Albert Yeatman.

The Constitution

Secretary of Commerce Weeks has made the same error in interpreting the Constitution that was made by Presidents Truman and Roosevelt. It is an error born from a desire for autocracy or dictatorship; a desire to raise to equality a subordinate division of Government—subordinated by the intention and writing of those wise men who wrote the Constitution.

The fallacy common to Messrs. Weeks, Truman and Roosevelt is the stating that the three branches of Government, judicial, executive and legislative, have equal powers under the Constitution.

Were this fallacy a truism, there could be created within the United States a complete stalemate, a complete impossibility of government, any such a stalemate the Chief Executive would naturally emerge as a dictator.

Our so-wise forefathers were not mouse-trapped into permitting such an outcome. It must be recalled that throughout the Constitutional Convention, it was the aim of those who fought the War of the Revolution to escape from dictatorship, that no dictatorship could be established in the United States.

Throughout the convention the aim was to curb the power of the Chief Executive.

To safeguard from dictatorship, they established:

(1) A judiciary, appointed by the Chief Executive, requiring the approval of the legislative branch. The judiciary was given no power of approval or disapproval or removal of those elected to Federal office.

(2) A Chief Executive elected by the people with much power, but without the right to remove members of Congress or the Supreme Court.

(3) A Congress elected by the people and in whose hands were placed the power to remove members of the Supreme Court and the Chief Executive himself.

In the event of a stalemate between the three branches of Government, the solution was placed in Congress by giving it the right to remove those who would obstruct or dictate.

And so those wise men of 1787 safeguard this country from dictatorship.

Douglas Lawson.

Montgomery's Million

President Eisenhower's signing of H.R. 7245 marks the successful conclusion of a widespread community effort to restore Montgomery County's "missing million dollars."

It began with the discovery by the Education Committee of the Allied Civic Group early last February of an HEW ruling depriving the county of this large sum of money. The Allied Civic Group was then joined by many organizations in impressing the county's representatives in Congress and congressional committees considering this legislation with the merits of the case. These included the Montgomery County Council and Board of Education, the Silver Spring Board of Trade, the Montgomery County Civic Federation, the County Council of PTAs, and many other groups.

Senators Butler and Beall and Representative Hyde responded promptly and effectively to initial inquiries. Each subsequently introduced a bill to rectify the situation, and continued to follow closely the progress of the legislation. Special credit should go to Senator Butler and his staff for their careful analysis of various proposed bills, which had an important influence on the language finally adopted.

Through these combined efforts, Montgomery County and 26 other communities will receive almost \$6 million for school construction for which they had been qualified. The \$1,193,000 restored to Montgomery County will help materially in keeping down the county's debt. It will further help to compensate for the provision of essential community services required as a result of Federal activities from which—in contrast to private business enterprises—no tax revenues are received.

More important from the national point of view, the amended law clearly recognizes the importance of preserving local initiative in school building programs. No longer will school boards throughout the country be haunted by the ghost of deadlines, when qualifying for assistance under P.L. 815. They can build vitally needed classrooms with the assurance that their communities will not be penalized for going ahead with their own programs.

Clarke L. Fauver,
President, Allied Civic Group, Inc.

POW Rules

I agree with our President and his six rules of behavior to all our armed forces when taken prisoners of war, but I do feel that the sixth paragraph, "I should obey God and my country," should have been Rule Number One instead of Rule Number Six.

May God ever bless our President.

Emma N. Elliott.

"St. Peter Reads Proof"

"Fourscore and five," St. Peter checked him in.

"Newspaperman? Welcome inside the gate."

The Soul would go but St. Peter bade him wait

And searched the impatient face from brow to chin.

"Satin, cut some sleeves in this new robe of white, And bring my visored cap and printer's ink!"

A world's greed spawns while we sit here and think— I've got some editorials to write."

"How much of life did your crusade engage?"

"Three generations. Grand-sire deemed it wise To forgo no period among his dies;

'To be continued' followed every page."

The candidate saw the saint lay life's page bare, And, instead of "Finis," place a corah there.

Sarah Jackson Harvey

Frank Horne's Case

Ancient wrongs are not easily righted. Self-justification on one side, frustration and resentment on the other, obstruct understanding. Frank S. Horne is a symbol of the uneven progress toward the righting of an ancient wrong.

When, more than 300 years ago, a Dutch slave ship brought a cargo of Negroes to Jamestown and the English settlers bought that cargo, they did a wrong that still is not righted.

With such exceptions as the Hessian soldiers in our Revolutionary days and some of the indentured servants in our Colonial days, these slaves and the thousands who followed them have been the only immigrants to our shores who did not come of their own will. For a time, quite a long time as young America measures time, they were profitable to us. Because they were profitable, we rationalized that we were benefiting them. But our conscience never has been easy. And it never will be easy until their descendants share as equals in our heritage.

We have come a long way since 1619, and much of that way has been very bitter. For generations our children's teeth have been set on edge because our forefathers ate that sour grape. Yet, while much of the way has been bitter, some has been glorious because of victories over ourselves. We are blessed by being a people who support far-sighted and magnanimous leaders. But our inherited task is not yet completed; the ancient wrong is not yet wholly righted. We still have much to do.

In 1808 we stopped the importation of slaves. In 1862-65 we emancipated the slaves. But we did not give them equal opportunity. Years later we decreed that in public education, at least, the Negro should have equal opportunity, but it might be separate. Now the Supreme Court has found that "separate" is not equivalent to "equal." So it has decreed that the child of Negro ancestry shall have the same educational opportunity as has the child of white ancestry. A result is that Montgomery County, one of the richest counties in the United States and immediately adjacent to the National Capital, is abandoning two substantial school buildings that had been assigned to Negro children.

We recognize that freedom cannot be given, it must be won; that opportunity must be offered, but it must be used. The American Negro is winning his freedom, he is using opportunity. Before and since emancipation, he has produced leaders who have compelled respect and admiration, spokesmen who have recruited a dedicated following. The list is too long for recitation here. But in that list is one for whom we of our generation have an especial concern. He is carrying the torch of the past to the future. He is Frank S. Horne, assistant to the Administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency. He is a spokesman for those who believe that American Negroes are primarily American. Yet Frank Horne is to be dismissed because he does not belong to the political party which won the last presidential election.

John Hilder.

Sabbath Laws

R. King Burgoyne says in a letter that "only God can change his own laws," with respect to Sunday observance. Who denies that any worldly government would be sinfully presumptuous to do so?

It is not God's sabbath laws that need repealing, but those made and enforced by mere man. The sinfully presumptuous ones were those blue-nosed pre-Revolutionary politicians who first adopted them. God's laws were not enough, they thought; they had to make their own as well.

James E. Curry.

THE POLITICAL MILL

By GOULD LINCOLN

A Republican Rhubarb

GREENWICH, Conn.—Democrats in Connecticut are getting considerable satisfaction out of the broadcasting of Republican factional troubles, due to a report alleged to have been made by a "survey team" sent out by the Republican National Committee.

This report is said to have recommended a reorganization of the G. O. P. setup in the State, particularly in Hartford. It also is reported to have expressed some anxiety over the situation, with the 1956 elections coming up. The Hartford Courant published the fact the report had been made—with some details. The Bridgeport Post later said that the report had recommended a new State chairman be chosen to succeed Clarence F. "Cappy" Baldwin, the incumbent. If the Republican National Committee is going into the business of telling Republicans in various States who should and who should not be State chairman—it's looking for trouble.

The fact that Republican National Chairman Leonard W. Hall has refused to make public the controversial report is not calculated to ease the situation—although Mr. Hall denied some of the reported details.

Bush to Face Voters

Victory in Connecticut next year is essential to the G. O. P. if the party is to retain its present strength in Congress or take over control. Senator Bush, Republican, comes up for election. So do all six of the State's members of the House. The Republicans here are not too worried, however, over the reports of ructions in the party. In the first place, Republican factions have warred for a long time. In the second place, the G. O. P. did well in the 1954 elections in Connecticut. They elected five of the six members of the House, and carried all the State offices except Governor. With President Eisenhower at the head of the ticket, as the Republicans hope and believe he will be, they should do much better in 1956. In 1952, Mr. Eisenhower carried Connecticut by 100,000 votes, and Senator Bush was elected with a 30,000 lead over his Democratic opponent.

Senator Bush, made a target by some of the political gossip who hope to unseat him next year, has made an excellent record in the upper house. The Republicans, some of them, talk about substituting another candidate for Senator Bush, but they are much in the minority. Senator Bush seems assured of re-election. Former Gov. John Lodge and former Representative Clare Boothe Luce are both

ambassadors for the United States abroad. Their names are occasionally mentioned as potential nominees for the Senate. It is no secret that Mr. Lodge wanted to run for the Senate instead of for Governor. His brother, Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., United States Ambassador to the United Nations, was a Senator from Massachusetts at the time. John Lodge, a member of the House, was sidetracked to the gubernatorial nomination.

No Big Candidates

When it comes to the general election, the Democrats have no outstanding candidate to run against Senator Bush. Two names are suggested. Former Gov. Chester Bowles and Representative Thomas J. Dodd. Mr. Bowles was defeated for re-election as Governor by John Lodge in 1950. It is rumored he would like to make a political comeback, if he can. Mr. Bowles, however, made enemies in a number of groups when he was Governor and it is questionable how strong he would be if he enters the lists. Mr. Dodd is the sole Connecticut Democrat in the House. He represents the Hartford district, where the Republicans have had most of their troubles. It does not appear that the Democrats have much of a chance of winning the Bush seat, certainly at this writing. The most popular Democrat in the State today is Gov. Ribicoff. He defeated Mr. Lodge for Governor last year, but by a narrow margin. Mr. Lodge, like Mr. Bowles, had aroused antagonism during his term as Governor. Gov. Ribicoff would probably be the strongest candidate the Democrats could put up for Senator. He, however, has not yet served one year of a four-year term as Governor. If he ran against Senator Bush next year and was elected, the Democrats would lose a chief executive of the State.

Mr. Eisenhower, according to leading politicians here, is still exceedingly popular in Connecticut. Indeed, Gov. Ribicoff, while he was attending the Governors' conference in Chicago earlier this month, expressed serious doubt that the Democrats could carry Connecticut against Mr. Eisenhower should he be the Republican candidate. Gov. Ribicoff, who was defeated in a try for the Senate in 1952 when Mr. Eisenhower headed the Republican ticket, might not relish running against an Eisenhower-Bush ticket next year. In 1958, however, he would be serving his last year as Governor and could then make a race for Senator against Republican Senator Purtell, who comes up that year.

THIS AND THAT

By CHARLES E. TRACEWELL

"HYATTSVILLE, Md.

"Dear Sir: "Isn't Mr. Brown's snail on a thorn tree or thorn bush?"

"That strikes me as the natural reading."

"If he had been allowed another syllable, he could have said hawthorn, which would have nailed it down, but thorn is good, too."

"There are numerous varieties."

"Remember Puck of Pook's Hill and his favorite oath, 'By oak, ash and thorn?' No doubt he was swearing by three trees rather than by two trees and one sharp-pointed excrement. 'With oak, ash and thorn came I into England,' says he."

"Yours truly and constantly, R. E."

"CHEVY CHASE, Md.

"Dear Sir: "About that 'snail on the thorn'—I have always understood that the creature's perch refers to the hawthorn, a shrub or small tree."

"My encyclopedia confides that this is valuable as a hedge plant and widely used for this purpose in Great Britain. One of its varieties is the Glastonbury thorn—so called because supposed to have originated at the Abbey."

"The hawthorn has white, rose-colored or deep crimson flowers, succeeded by a small red fruit which gives birds winter food."

"Possibly Mr. Brown's snail was muscling in on his feathered friends' diet—but no, the mornings was at spring, so we'll have to try to find another explanation for his presence."

"Maybe he liked looking at flowers, or maybe it just comes back to your statement that there is nothing odder than a snail."

"Abandoning the snail for the nonce, please tell your friend Templeton Jones that I enjoy his references to the Washington of days-gone-by. I am a native, though it is only lately I have returned after many years' absence."

"Sincerely yours, "I. S. S."

Questions and Answers

By THE HASKIN SERVICE

A reader can get the answer to any question of fact by writing The Haskin Service, Bureau 1500 Eye St. N.W., Washington 5, D. C. Enclose 5¢ for return postage.

Q. Do canaries molt every two years? I have been told both—O. O. L.

A. A healthy canary molts yearly, but the molt is usually heavy one summer and light the next. If a canary loses feathers at other times of the year this may be due to faulty diet, stale or rancid seeds, parasites, or being caged in a room that is too warm.

Q. I have been told that neither a cat nor a dog should be kept in a room with a television set. Is this true?

A. A television set does not emit any harmful rays, and neither a cat nor a dog should be kept in a room with a television set. It is not true.

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