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THE POST OFFICE AND POLITICS

THE important Senate Bill 2213, which would take the Post Office out of politics and place 20,000 postmasters under straight Civil Service, remains bottled up in the Senate Committee on Post Office & Civil Service. A full year has passed since this bill and a companion bill H. R. 5643 were sent to Congress by President Truman with the full backing of the Hoover Commission and Postmaster General Donaldson.

This measure in the Hoover Commission's nine-point program is designed to accomplish three objectives: (1) to modernize the Post Office; (2) to give its 400,000 hard-working employees a chance to do a better job; and (3), reduce the postal deficit by at least $200 millions a year. Enactment of Senate Bill 2213 would end Senate confirmation of the appointment of postmasters, making possible the removal of 20,000 jobs from the outmoded "spoils system" and putting them on a career basis. Such a step would greatly improve morale throughout the entire postal service and would increase efficiency in ways that we cannot measure even in millions of dollars.

Since the bill has the support of President Truman, former President Hoover, the entire Hoover Commission and Postmaster General Donaldson, it appears that the only point of obstruction and delay is in the Senate Post Office & Civil Service Committee.

To hasten action on this bill, it is strongly recommended that letters be sent not only to Senators Clyde R. Hoey and Frank P. Graham but also to members of the Committee. Senator Olin D. Johnston of South Carolina is Chairman of this committee and the other members include Harry Darby, Kansas; Henry C. Dworshak, Idaho; Zales N. Ecton, Montana; J. Allen Frear, Jr., Delaware; Hubert H. Humphrey, Minnesota; William Langer, North Dakota; Edward L. Leahy, Rhode Island; Russell B. Long, Louisiana; Kenneth McKellar, Tennessee; Matthew M. Neely, West Virginia; Edward J. Thye, Minnesota.

The Citizens Committee for the Hoover Report is realistic when it states that the recent drastic slash in Post Office service would never have been necessary if Congress had acted promptly on the recommendations of the Hoover Commission in connection with this proposed legislation. Every citizen certainly has a right to ask why this costly delay continues.

ANOTHER SENSIBLE VETO

AS IN THE CASE of the Kerr natural gas bill, President Truman's veto of the basing point bill was in the public interest, mainly because the effects of the measure were so uncertain and unpredictable as to jeopardize all of our anti-trust and anti-monopoly laws.

It is not necessary to understand the basing point system fully to see why the veto was in order. Back in 1936, eleven cement manufacturers submitted separate, independent bids for an Army project in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Those eleven bids were identical *down to the sixth decimal place.*

The Federal Trade Commission became curious. It appeared that something more than coincidence was involved. But twelve long years went by before the Supreme Court in April, 1948, got to upholding the FTC's contention that the basing-point system as used in the cement industry violated the antitrust laws.

This decision prompted the steel industry to abandon its basing point system. A good deal of confusion resulted in other big industries. Hence, pressure on Congress for legislative clarification began to build up. It resulted in the measure vetoed by Mr. Truman last week after it had passed the Senate by a vote of 42 to 27, with 30 Republicans and thirteen Democrats, mainly from the conservative wing, banding together in the majority.

Neither the FTC nor the Supreme Court held that the basing point system itself was illegal, only when it was used by collusion to eliminate price competition. The bill sought to legalize the system, and set up certain safeguards to prevent its abuse. Mr. Truman thought the measure would result in more confusion than at present and the bill's sponsor, Senator O'Mahoney, tacitly agreed with him after the veto message was made public.

We have ample evidence that the anti-trust and anti-monopoly laws need revision to eliminate some of the loopholes for business and labor which now exist. It is the wiser course to reject any piecemeal legislation in such an important area until a full, non-partisan study can be made of the whole.

NEW MENTAL PROCEDURE

A COMMENDABLE new procedure is now being used by the Mecklenburg Clerk of Court and the Mental Hygiene Clinic to determine the mental state of persons presented for admission to State Hospital.

It is only logical that a psychiatrist examine a person before he is sent to a mental hospital. Once a patient is sent to Morganton (white) or Goldsboro (Negro), the unravelling of much red tape is required before he can be released — if he is found not needful of confinement in an institution.

And there are many persons sent to State Hospitals who would be as well off — if not better off — at home. It is unfortunate but true that many families will send an aged relative to a State Hospital "to get shed of them."

Of course, no doctor will knowingly sign commitment papers for a mentally normal person. But State Hospital officials have indicated that many doctors will accept the common mental quirks of senility for genuine mental illness.

This has led to thousands of senile persons being admitted to State Hospitals while persons in more urgent need of treatment and/or confinement are unable to get in. Many of these persons must wait weeks and sometimes months in jail.

By urging relatives to submit supposedly mentally ill persons to examination by a competent psychiatrist before sending them to Morganton or Goldsboro, Clerk of Court J. Lester Wolfe and Mental Hygiene Clinic Director Dr. Vernon Kinross-Wright are helping to solve two problems: 1) the overcrowding of hospitals and (2) the confining of mental patients in jails for undue lengths of time.

BEAT - POUNDING

WE WILL hazard the guess that the constant presence of an officer in the vicinity of Howell's Arcade will reduce to insignificance the traffic in stolen goods and other assorted crimes against which a group of local businessmen complained last week.

All over the nation, greater emphasis is being given to that well-worn slogan, "Put the cop back on the beat". The advocates of beat-pounding don't get very excited about all the new-fangled prowl cars with fast radio communication, scientific crime detection, social work and rehabilitation, and the like. They have the old-fashioned notion that the officer who pounds the neighborhood on foot, swinging his nightstick and keeping his eyes and ears open, is more apt to restrain would-be criminals than all the other devices put together.

Just recently *Collier's*, in the latest of its series of articles on crime in big cities, covered the bad situation in Washington, D. C. The article admitted that the capital city has a fine, elaborate detective force that has compiled a splendid record of nabbing offenders *after* they have committed their crimes. That's like locking the barn door after the horse is stolen, the magazine opined, adding that it would be better to put the cops back on the beat in Washington and stop some of the crime *before* it happens.

The Charlotte situation is not dissimilar. The City has a fine detective division, master-minded by the fory Frank Littlejohn, who'd rather be tracking murderers any day in the week than fooling with the messy details of department administration. The detective division catches a lot of criminals. But we wonder if Charlotte, like Washington, might not be better off if a little more attention were paid to old-fashioned beat-pounding.

From The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

18 WAYS TO SPELL APPALACTION

IN taking steps because his students spelled Appalachian 18 different wrong ways, Dr. Lawrence Whitcomb of Lehigh University may be unduly exercised. Appleichean is, after all, an unusually hard word to spell. A student who spelled Applischian in some such way as Apalatian, say, would not need to be deemed a failure at all academic pursuits.

One of the most illustrous precedents for misspelling names is that of Shakespeare. In writing his own name Shakspir spelled it any number of ways, every one of which may have been wrong, for all we know, since every individual is the sole authority on how to spell his name, and Shkspare never established an official version.

Havelock Ellis gives still another brilliant example to show that orthography and scholarship are not always inseparable. Ellis tells about a learned chap who wrote a biography of some eminent man he admired as James Boswell admired Samuel Johnson (not Ben Jonson, Samuel Jonson) and spelled his name a different way almost every time, none of them the official way.

It was Havilock Elles' conclusion that over-preoccupation with spelling was the mark of a small mind. So we wonder if Dr. Whitcum may not be making a mountain out of a molehill. To be specific, an Appalachant mountain.

People's Platform

News Editorial Stand Praised

CHARLOTTE

Editors, THE NEWS:

I WANT to congratulate The News on your impartial coverage of the Senatorial campaign news and to further congratulate you on taking a definite stand on the candidates. I disagree with you on your selection of a candidate, but I think you did a very rational job in justifying your choice which many Smith supporters can do, but far too many others are basing their choice on ignorance and prejudice.

I have especially enjoyed the letters to the editor and nominate Elmer Simkins as the top writer.

I ask you to please not use my name if you publish this letter. I write it only to convey my views to you. School teachers and doctors should watch their actions in politics for obvious reasons; so I limit my action to my vote and some quiet work among my friends.

I read the News regularly and like your straightforward editorial page.

—ARDENT GRAHAM MAN

Dark Period In History

HAMLET

Editors, THE NEWS:

WILLIS SMITH stated that we must achieve a balanced budget and live within our means in years of peace.

What he meant was just this: Realizing that America is facing the darkest period of its history, much worse than either World War or the Civil War, Mr. Smith knows that in America today over 60 million men are working at the highest wages ever received, and at the same time paying the highest taxes ever paid in America.

Yet with more men working at the highest wages in the history of this nation, we still are going in the hole every 12 months at the rate of six billion dollars.

Do you honestly believe that a man who said he was for the Truman Administration all the way would help balance the budget in Washington, when his record, his actions, his very words have proven him to be a Socialist of the rankest sort?

The theory of all Socialists is to control all the people. They care nothing about a sound economy.

Government spending has already cut in half the real value of the dollars of benefits which it has promised to pay you when you are too old to work. It has also cut in half the value of your life insurance, or any other holdings you may possess.

This gang in Washington has already spent your Social Security taxes which you have paid, and when the time comes for you to draw this benefit, the people will all be taxed again to pay for what you have already been taxed.

If you do not care for a sound dollar, the future of your children, the waste of public funds, your money being used against free enterprise; if you do not care about how your property will eventually be seized or confiscated; if you do not care about politicians buying votes by promising socialized education, socialized medicine and socialized farming, also if you have no respect for your freedom or the freedom of your children—then by all means vote for Frank Graham and you'll not be disappointed in the least.

We in America are the only people left on this earth who still cling to the one hope of freedom—to work, to earn and to be let alone—and especially we pray for the southern part of the United States, that are certainly the most American.

Did you know that the whole world is watching and awaiting the outcome of this election in North Carolina?

We in North Carolina have always been conservatives. I hope with all my heart that the people of North Carolina will prove to the nation, and to Russia, that we want no part of this socialistic trend. The time is getting short; these planners have been eating away our freedom for 18 years.

It is the darkest period in American history.

Please, for the sake of mankind, let's stop this monster that is eating away our freedom and taxing us down into the earth.

Let Frank Graham go to England, where they believe in Socialism.

—BRYANT THOMPSON.

Understanding Dr. Graham

PINEHURST

Editors, THE NEWS:

A SECOND primary may bring the voters of the Old North State to grips with issues as well as political realities. In "The Road Ahead", John T. Flynn has masterfully presented the most important question that confronts our nation. Mr. Flynn is tireless and thorough in his research work, but he does not always arrive at a correct conclusion in his evaluation of men. He wrote on page 79 in "The Road Ahead" that Graham was "not merely an innocent victim in one or two such Communist-front organizations, but a member of eighteen different movements and causes organized and promoted and run by the Communists before the war, during the war and since. You will find him the active head of one of the most sinister of these Communist-front organizations, publicly denounced as such and admitted by the Communists to be such."

Then he goes on to say, "The simple truth is that Dr. Graham is a national socialist planner."

That, the people of North Carolina don't believe, and I think we come to realize that they are right in their judgment. Graham is a sincere man, he is vastly more intelligent than the average so-called economist who has strolled along in the public view since 1932, but he is a menace, because he contended that "it didn't make any difference how much we owed as long as we owed it to ourselves."

Mr. Flynn has a logical mind to such an extent that a man should be satisfied along joining most anything he was asked to, simply because the movement was attractively named, and some of the "right kind of people" were connected with it, would be absolutely impossible for anyone, except Mr. Flynn, to either understand or evaluate. He, Flynn, is a man of facts and figures and lacks to a marked degree the "otherness" that Rufus M. Jones, the famous Quaker mystic, mentions in his book "The Inner Life".

Dr. Graham reminds me in some ways of an interesting character, Mr. Thourlobee, in Boston many years ago, the Hon. Michael McKeever, who was elected to the legislature and finally ran independently and beat a machine candidate for Congress. He attained the soubriquet of "Honest" Mike, strictly as far as I know by voting for every labor bill so-called. Without any regard for its content, he voted for them by the label. After a while, I came to understand "Honest" Mike and I believe as the years have passed I have finally acquired enough "otherness", though only recently, to comprehend Dr. Graham.

Mr. Smith might well have hesitated to ask for a run-off. The amount of money that was spent in connection with the recent primary must have been staggering, and he might well have figured where can enough money be obtained to make even a decent showing in a second primary? Mr. Smith and his representatives can't take to "the roads" or the C. I. O. treasury.

How many of those who realize the danger that even an exalted social service worker might cause by just one vote on a matter that might appeal to him as desirable, even if it resulted in upsetting our national economy, are ready to help out financially in order to place an able and level headed man in a position where he can defend us in this time of the greatest peril and danger that our country has ever faced? It won't be long before the tariff will become a vital issue for the Representatives of North Carolina to consider. If the bids are lowered to admit textiles from Germany, Italy, and Japan there will be many North Carolina mills close their doors and thousands of workers will be walking the streets.

Mr. Graham stated that Scott "Smith is a man of character and ability" but he objected to him on the ground that he was a "corporation lawyer". Were Smith so noted a surgeon that he was able to command large fees, would Graham refuse to engage him if he were seriously injured or would he prefer some man of lesser skill? Does the greatest authority on how to plunge North Carolina into debt think that the mountaineers who went into foreign lands and fought for our country have learned nothing and that to run a "blockade" business is the height of their ambition?

Talking about his love for the farmer won't get Scott as far as it used to. It is generally felt now that what the Governor loves even more than the farmer is what it takes to buy a good farm. After all the farm