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The Travesty In Georgia

We have frequently noted here the extreme dictations with which politicians look upon elections. Under our representative system it is necessary to allow the people to vote from time to time, but most office-holders seem to believe that this should happen as infrequently as possible, and then only when it can't be avoided.

When an elective office becomes vacant through the death of the holder his office there is always a hasty and undignified scramble to find some legal method of filling it without reference to the people, and due to the foresight of prior politicians, the constitution and established precedents, such as method is usually found.

Georgia is currently providing a classic example of political evasive action in the case of selecting a successor to the late Gene Talmadge as Governor. And there is no doubt that the fact that Georgia's next Governor will be named through some non-elective device is accepted without question by all concerned. The exact method remains to be seen. However, the opposing political factions have two opposing theories, and the new Georgia constitution provides no precedent for a case in which a duly-elected Governor dies before taking the oath of office.

The situation is sooth through with monumental truth, particularly the conduct of the late Talmadge and his associates. Herman's practical claim to his father's mantle, as outlined in a remarkable document issued from the Talmadge headquarters in Tallahassee, can be seen in the fact that he has long been regarded as heir-apparent by the Talmadge organization. Herman Talmadge wrote his father's platform and managed the campaign for the Governor. It is proclaimed: "It was Herman Talmadge who set up an organization and did the actual work. . . . He is in better position than any man in Georgia to carry on the work which his father has left behind. The demagogic appeal is not overlooked; it is also pointed out that "it is important that we have a Governor who really believes in the white primary and who in times of peril and stress in the past has openly stood for the white primary and the county unit system." Herman, it is

argued, is the only man who fills the bill. But even in Georgia the office of Governor is not generally regarded as hereditary, and it is therefore necessary for the heir-apparent to have some legal claim to it. Herman has such a claim, and it lies in the fact that the general election which largely due to his father's efforts, is only a legal fiction in Georgia. It seems that the new constitution provides, in a case like old Gene's death, that the Legislature may choose a new Governor from the two living candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the general election. The foresighted Herman, knowing that his father's death was killing, and that several hundred of his henchmen write in his name on the general election ballot, thus making him a theoretical candidate.

His election, therefore, is possible, for Gene got the great majority of the general election ballots cast and his Republican opponent, who has no prayer of being elected by the Legislature, stands next on the list. But the Atlanta Journal has advanced the theory that a canvass of the votes might reveal that another distinguished figure, namely Charles Talmadge, All-American football player at the University—may have received even more votes than Herman. The students at Athens, now able to vote under Georgia's new law, figures among a good many voters for their idol, Trippi, as a protest against Gene. It is trivial that the Legislature would be faced with a choice between a Republican and a half-back.

Governor Arnall is battling the Talmadge forces with a legal decision holding that Gene's heirs cannot be given a special qualification to resign in favor of the new Lieutenant-Governor, but apparently will not yield the office to Herman Talmadge, through the motion of "electing" him. The whole business is a travesty—a fitting inheritance from Gene Talmadge, who systematically perverted the democratic process in Georgia for more than twenty years. This is the bitter fruit of limited democracy; those other Southern states which pretend in playing fast and loose with the franchise should read a warning in the news from Atlanta.

Whistle Around The Bend

To a loyal Democrat there can be no more pleasant a sound on the crisp air than the whistle of a train in the camp of the victorious Republicans. Defeat at the polls has its compensations. The relaxed Democrats, having been forcibly removed from positions of influence and responsibility, are now free to devote their energies in connection with organization of the 80th Congress. The Republicans, on the other hand, and already engaged in a public struggle, and have something to say about the role of Mr. Macomber, that behind a single bill his the hopper.

There, for instance, is Representative Brown of Ohio, an aspirant for the post of Republican House Leader, who believes the Congressional supporters of Thomas E. Dewey are giving him the business. Brown, reports the cautious Associated Press, has "become the rallying point for all anti-Dewey Republicans in the House." He's even got a legislative program of his own, consisting primarily of an effort to repeal the Federal Reserve Act. At the earliest possible moment, and he's planning to call on those old allies, the Southern Dem-

ocrats, to join him in a coalition opposed to both the Democratic Administration and the Republican majority.

And there is Representative Hoffman of Michigan, also outraged at the Deweites, who is issuing public statements reading: "The people are tired of being bossed around. They are against being told what to do by bosses of the Republican Party just as much as they are by the Democrats and Henderson." How pleasant those words must have sounded in the White House!

Mr. Hoffman also promises to serve during the coming session "as a sort of steam whistle to warn my Republican colleagues when they are getting off the track." We can think of many other ways in which a service Mr. Hoffman can render to his Party and his country. It's a mighty rough road from mid-term to election, and we expect to hear Mr. Hoffman's whistle break into a scream frequently in the months ahead.

As a matter of fact we seem to hear a faint hooting around the bend right this minute.

A Man Who Lived Up To His Nose

W. C. FIELDS grew a monstrous nose, red and laced with veon veins, early in his career as a vaudevillean, long before he discovered that alcohol could be applied liberally. It is said that he had the village drunk, and it made people laugh. He spent the rest of his life living up to it.

Some historian, we suppose, will eventually establish the truth of the legends that grew out of his private life. (We would suggest, however, that Mr. Fields had valuable experience in writing the biography of John Barrymore, another public rum-dum.) But actually Fields' devotion to the bottle, whether real or fancied, is a matter of only passing interest here. It can be demonstrated that Mr. Macomber, who died in Hollywood on Christmas Day, was drunk or sober, one of the funniest men who ever lived.

Humor—at least the sort of comedy that W. C. Fields perfected—is a great art. As a matter of only passing interest here, it can be demonstrated that Mr. Macomber, who died in Hollywood, with one of its rare strokes of genius, once assigned him.

It has been said that he was totally innocent of an infamy act. At the moment of his death he was wearing his nurses—in pantomime—and he made his last exit to their laughter.

His was a great art, and W. C. Fields was a great artist. Nowhere in the tiny, commercialized comedy of stage, screen, or radio, is there a comedian who now approaches his stature, or seems likely to in the future.

The 10-cent tip is back; also sales resistance, and other signs of thrift. It is weeks since we last saw the type that takes \$50 bills as if they were expiration dates.



Taxes And Inflation Middle Class Liquidation?

THIS chart tells a story calculated to gall every person in the U. S. making \$5,000 or more a year. The story is not new. It is based solely on a few columns of figures assembled by William E. Dugan, chief investment analyst for the venerable Wall Street house of Laidlaw & Co. But it reveals what many salaried Americans have suspected for some time; because of high Federal income taxes and the decline in the value of the dollar they are worse off today than they were in 1940, even though their pay checks have increased.

Table with 5 columns: Income before taxes, Income after taxes, Income before taxes, Income after taxes, Adjusted Income. Rows show data for 1940 and 1946 for various income levels from \$2,000 to \$100,000.

(NOTE: Income after taxes were figured for a married person with other dependents, all income earned, no capital gains or losses. The adjusted income in the last column allows for a 20 per cent reduction in purchasing power of the dollar between 1940 and 1946.)

This, for instance, is what has happened to the man with a net taxable income of \$5,000 a year: not only has his taxes increased almost 50 per cent since 1940, chopping disposable income from \$4,800 to \$4,200, but the drop in value of the dollar (which Mr. Dugan estimates conservatively at 20 per cent) has cut the \$4,200 to \$3,360. In order to get back the purchasing power of 1940 he would have to earn a year's man would have to earn about \$7,500 a year—half again as much as he is making. In an even worse position relatively is the individual with a net taxable income of \$10,000 a year. Taxes—also his disposable income—fell further to \$6,255—34 per cent total cut. To restore his 1940 purchasing power he would need about \$17,225 a year—more than twice as much as he is making.

need \$70,000 to stay roughly at his 1940 purchasing-power level. The squeeze is by no means confined to the 8 per cent of the country's families of single consumers who enjoy incomes of \$5,000 a year and up, but has state of mind even in the upper income brackets is a peculiarly important factor in the U. S. economy. As Mr. Dugan points out, "the pessimism of the average corporate executive resulting from the important stock-market factor. During the war he maintained his 1940 living standard by investing savings in the rising stock market and spending capital gains, taxed at a maximum of 25 per cent, as he would have spent income. Today there is no liquid bull market for him to ride and the fact is that he and many others are technically insolvent. Insolvent in terms of a 1940 expenditure level.

Out off from the market as a dependable source of revenue the man in the upper brackets is further depressed when he looks at his bank deposit book. For instead of increasing the proportion of his savings out of income during the war years, he and others with incomes of \$5,000 a year and up actually saved 40 per cent less in 1945 than they did in 1941. According to a recent Federal Reserve Board survey, he moodily expected to have done no better by the end of 1946. Of course, the savings of large corporations are protected against privation in old age by company-sponsored profit-sharing and pension plans. As their present value is high, however, these men become less and less inclined to invest in the stock market. They are more likely to invest in the real estate market, and take on the usual risks of financial "independence." Professional men who have purchased their own homes and have no other investments find themselves more hamstrung.

What socio-political conclusions may be drawn from the above facts? Not more than a year ago income group remains to be seen. Some upper-bracketers speculate gloomily about the imminent liquidation of their class. Others, however, are Americans of all income groups, according to the Fortune Survey for February, 1946, is their firm conviction that the middle class is being squeezed. Others see no such danger. The middle class is already in evidence: expense accounts and entertainment budgets have increased, and the "middle class" is still dark, anxious and confused. Winston Churchill.

Quote, Unquote

THEE fact remains that eighteen months after the surrender of Germany and more than a year after that of Japan and in spite of the helpful attitude of the United States based on the bipartisan action of their two House of Representatives, the situation of their two House of Representatives is still dark, anxious and confused. Winston Churchill.

One reason they failed to make a solemn weapon was the fact that they had been told by the Bureau of Investigation that they would have to pay for their own defense. The Bureau of Investigation, however, had already been told by the Bureau of Investigation that they would have to pay for their own defense. The Bureau of Investigation, however, had already been told by the Bureau of Investigation that they would have to pay for their own defense.

Ku Klux Klan Minutes

NOTES taken in the inner sanctum of the Ku Klux Klan: There was considerable talk among the robes brethren the other night at Atlanta's Klan No. 1 that Drew Pearson had been told by the Klan that he had finally been caught and banished. The white-clad gentlemen were delighted.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The beginning of the new year, the Atomic Energy Commission will have control of the vast atomic energy plants built during the war. The commission, all of the paraphernalia of secrecy and will have to conduct a remarkable experiment in man's long history.

The five members of the new commission will have to weigh the weight of their responsibility. No Government official will be allowed to say anything like this burden.

It would be different, of course, if new members from outside to direct the development of the atomic project. But they are taking over after some years of wartime development and a year and a half under the control of the War Relocation Authority. The commission is paying the penalty for the long delay by Congress in passing legislation to end enemy legislation.

One of the tasks the five men have been assigned is to prepare a report in the next few weeks. This has been greatly complicated by the fact that the commission will have to consider the new AEC. While this type of investigation is essential, it does tend to drag up a great deal of irrelevant information.

The members of the commission are having their own records combed over by the FBI. One of the men included in his dossier the fact that he had written a magazine article for the Outlook, a respectable and rather solemn journal of opinion which is now defunct.

This kind of scrutiny tends to end up anyone who has ever done any kind of thinking. The perfect employee would be an efficient robot, one that has been thought of an idea. Or, failing to find a robot, an idiot. Or failing to find a robot, an idiot. Or failing to find a robot, an idiot.

The search for a fitting candidate for general manager is proving to be a difficult one. The man fitted for such a responsible and

Samuel Grafton

A Decade Of Change

NEW YORK (UPI)—A decade of change on the grass-roots: did I mean to say that the decade of change was a choice of going left, far left, or right? Or, failing to find a robot, an idiot. Or failing to find a robot, an idiot.

One wonders whether the typical American citizen is likely to be gladly for a few strikes instead of what he now has. As for the Communist, or the Italian, or the Czechoslovak, or the Russian, if any of these are still alive the question rather answers itself. And it seems to me that the most serious reflection on the American strike situation as a sudden, erratic, pointless happening, like a fire in a night club.

MEAN TACTIC I know it is infuriating to take the Klansmen as they are, but the meanest things one can do in an argument. But maybe you've got to be a little bit of a minority in the National Association of Manufacturers, for example, because there have been three times as many strikes since 1940 as there were before.

THEY have won through to 1947, with most of their goods, possessions, chattels and relationships intact; they have won through to 1947, with most of their goods, possessions, chattels and relationships intact; they have won through to 1947, with most of their goods, possessions, chattels and relationships intact.

Drew Pearson's New Expediter Put Brewery Above Homes

THOSE who sat on the inside of the veterans housing picture in Washington. One project was the Burger-Brewing Co. of Cincinnati. Its case sheds interesting light on the outlook of the new housing chief.

ON the coal and oil trade, John L. Lewis is sometimes called "The greatest salesman in history." Here is the reason why.

It was a day when the railroads, during the war, were in the hands of the coal operators and the oil men in opposing oil. But not now.