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Reforms Long Overdue

THE NEED for a long range program to modernize Marion County's antiquated and cumbersome government functions for more efficient service at lower cost has been apparent for a long time.

We realize, of course, that a general overhauling of the whole government structure would involve complicated planning and would require amendments to the State's Constitution in order to eliminate the many costly, overlapping services that are now eating away large hunks of tax money needlessly.

But an important step is to curb some of these evils can be accomplished now. We refer to the need for creation by this year's legislature of a purchasing department for the county government.

SUPPLIES now are being purchased haphazardly by the various county departments through County Commissioners. It's the same century-old system the county has been using since the horse-and-buggy days. It was efficient enough 100 years ago when the county had only a few thousand residents. But use of the same system after the county has grown to half a million population becomes ridiculous.

A law creating a purchasing department for this and other larger counties in the state could save thousands of dollars annually through more modern methods of centralized buying in economy quantities.

ALSO the accounting systems of Indiana county governments long have been regarded as obsolete and cumbersome for auditing of increased county transactions.

The County Grand Jury warned taxpayers about this in its report recently when it said: "The reluctance of the county to appropriate sufficient funds to permit streamlined accounting procedures and hiring of qualified personnel opens the way for fraud and mismanagement."

In this we agree that some reforms in county government are long overdue.

So What?

THE President's comment that "certain leaders" in Moscow "are exceedingly anxious to have an agreement with us" is being inflated to the point of nonsense.

No informed person has supposed that the Politburo or other Communist bodies operate without disagreements. On the contrary, there is evidence that Red moves are hotly debated. But the evidence also shows—and this is the point—once a decision is made those who disagreed go along with it 100 per cent or lose their heads.

No informed person has ever assumed that the party line never changes. Notoriously the line in the past has shifted from north to south, from black to white, overnight—from anti-Hitler to pro-Hitler to anti-Hitler, from organizing to "disbanding" to reviving a comintern.

Like any general staff in war, the Kremlin, which is in perpetual war against democratic civilization, changes its tactics as a matter of course. Stalin practices the Lenin technique of switching from the offensive to strategic retreat and back to attack. But the objective remains the same.

THAT, as stated by Lenin and Stalin and as proved by the record, is to advance Red world dictatorship by any and all means. There have been repeated struggles for power within the dictatorship, with Stalin so far managing to purge his competitors before they purged him. But the rivalries for personal power, like the temporary conflicts, have never changed the basic purpose of destroying democracy as we know it.

It is probable that there are personal power struggles within the Kremlin and sharp debates on tactics. It is reasonable to suppose that when Stalin dies, a natural or a purged death, there will be a factional scramble for control of the police-state apparatus which is the dictatorship. And it is undoubtedly true that already the politburo is debating changes in method of attack. Because Wallace did not poll the expected votes, because the predicted 1948 American depression is not here, because Stalin has failed to take over France and Italy and to drive us out of Berlin, because the going is easier in Asia than in Western Europe for the moment, and for many other reasons.

BUT if "certain leaders" in Moscow "are exceedingly anxious to have an agreement with us" today, and if tomorrow the Kremlin makes that decision, this will mean merely that the Politburo again is resorting to the same tactics it used so effectively at Yalta and at Potsdam.

The important point President Truman made was that the Soviet government always breaks its agreements. The President did not say, and no man can prove on the record, that any of the Russian leaders—however they may divide on tactics and in personal ambitions—can be trusted.

The Soviet dictatorship, however you slice it, will continue to be a menace to peace and human decency until the democratic nations are too strong to be threatened by aggression or undermined by treachery. The day we put our trust in "certain leaders" in Moscow and their desired "agreements" with us, that day we are lost.

Apple Shortage

SCIENTISTS tell us we are going to have difficulty keeping the doctor away in the future. The reason is we won't have enough apples.

For 40 years, population had been increasing steadily while the apple crop was declining. It has fallen 50 per cent in those 40 years, Cornell University savants tell us. That means we are down to about one bushel of apples each for a year.

When you stop to think of apple sauce, apple pie, apples baked or fried, apple strudel and apple brown betty or pan dowdy, not to mention the crisp crunchiness of the raw fruit, that's not enough, at least for us.

What is nicer on a cold winter afternoon than to sink one's teeth—they had better be originals—into a crackling Delicious or Snow Apple. Or for us, what ever could be more flavorful than a plump Northern Spy. Doctor, we are for more apples!

DEAR BOSS . . . By Dan Kidney

GOP Losers Get Farewell Note

Retiring Republicans in House Will Be Missed

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1—Dear Boss: While we are ringing in the new Democratic 81st Congress here tomorrow, I should like to ring out our old Republicans.

Instead of following the seniority system of the House of Representatives, I'll deal with them by the districts they represented and in which they met defeat in 1948.

The second district comes first. There Rep. Robert A. Grant of South Bend was defeated after a full decade of service in the House. Next to Majority Leader Charles A. Halleck of Rensselaer, whose Third District remains traditionally Republican, Mr. Grant had made himself into the most effective Congressman from Indiana within his party. He was universally respected by his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

At 43 he is a lawyer with a deep knowledge of the complicated problems of federal taxation. For he worked and studied hard as a member of the top-ranking House Ways and Means Committee which drafts all revenue raising bills.

Spoke With Authority

MILD-MANNERED and able, "Bob" Grant leaves here with the regrets of many made in Washington friends.

His Fourth District colleague, Rep. George W. Gillette of Ft. Wayne, falls into the same category. Born in Scotland in 1880, "Doc" Gillette came to Congress at the same time that Mr. Grant did. He had won his political spurs as Allen County sheriff. The only veterinarian in Congress, "Doc" was a man who spoke with authority on numerous livestock problems which confronted the House Committee on Agriculture of which he was a member.

Accompanied by his jolly wife, big "Doc" had a fine time here and his defeat leaves the void of a lively social couple.

Defeated Fifth District Rep. Forest A. Harness also was first elected in November, 1938. He came here highly publicized because the Democrats let him carry on the prosecution of the late utility magnate, Samuel Insull, as a hold-over assistant attorney general in the Hoover administration.

Bitter Partisan

THIS courtesy was not reciprocated, however. Mr. Harness became one of the most bitter partisans in Congress. He seemed to take the attitude that if a measure was instituted by a Democrat it was no good automatically. He constantly carried on a sharp-shooting contest against the administration of President Truman.

As chairman of one of the special committees he had established for this purpose, he fired a parting shot just before the 80th Congress folded for keeps on Friday.

While this attitude was applauded by some members of the GOP, it won little praise from persons more interested in good government than partisanship.

Retiring Rep. Gerald W. Landis of Linton also began his congressional career in 1938. He got a leg up from the Townsend planners and tub-thumpers for "adequate pensions for our senior citizens" throughout his 10 years here. Had he been re-elected and the Republicans remained in majority party, Mr. Landis would have become chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee.

Looks to 1950

FAR more pro-labor than Chairman Fred A. Hartley (R., N. J.), who co-authored the Taft-Hartley law, but didn't seek re-election, Mr. Landis often sought in vain to tone down the anti-union assaults on his committee and even on the House floor. But he voted for the Taft-Hartley law and against President Truman's veto of it. Thus, despite his claim that he "used to be a miler," the miners and the farmers in his district retired him this time. Always optimistic, Mr. Landis already has predicted that he will run and win in 1950.

"One-term-Eddie" is the title that kidding friends coined for Rep. Edward A. Mitchell of Evansville. The hearty half-fellow-well-met, who had no political experience, but a fine record of heroic service as a World War II naval officer, made quite an impression here. His fight to repeal the penal taxes on margarine gave him national-wide fame. A fighter, he went down slugging and a good fighter always is missed around here.

Three Survivors

REPUBLICAN survivors are Mr. Halleck, who will always do all right for himself, Rep. Earl Wilson of Bedford, who was elected from the Ninth District in 1946 and Rep. Ralph Harvey of New Castle, who will be serving his second term from the Tenth District.

Mr. Wilson expected to win by a far larger majority than he did, but is thankful to be here again, all things considered. Mr. Harvey is a seasoned graduate of the Indiana Legislature and will likely make good as a minority man, as he did during his first term with the Republicans in power.

Coming to the new minority side is Mrs. Cecil M. Harden of Covington. She has had long service as the Republican national committee woman from Indiana, so will have little difficulty in finding her way around among the GOP politicians.

We wish them all, plus the incoming Democrats, a Happy New Year.

NATIONAL POLITICS . . . By Charles T. Lucey

GOP Changes Remote

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1—The "new faces" in Republican leadership which party progressives began shouting for after the election seem likely to wind up on the political cutting-room floor.

There may be lively rows and indignant oratory before the roll is called on party organization, but unless the rebels muster more force than they have up to now, the GOP high command in Senate, House and National Committee will change little.

Serious talk of change never touched the House but centered on the Senate leadership and the National Committee chairmanship now held by Rep. Hugh Scott. The scurrying about accompanying the "rebellion" talk has emphasized the party power of one man—Sen. Robert A. Taft.

Taft Is Key Figure

"WHAT does Taft think?" is a key question on all intra-party differences. Before he returned recently from Europe everyone agreed that decisions must wait on him. When he returned and Capitol Hill discussed which top party post he might take in the Senate, his friends remarked that it didn't matter because "where McGregors sits is the head of the table."

The best chance of an intra-party row may be at the National Committee meeting called for Omaha in late January. There has been much churning about Rep. Scott as chairman, but there are no signs yet that his critics can agree on a successor. The Dewey forces planted Mr. Scott where he is. He had little part in the campaign and he was an unknown in the party. But he likes the job, wants to hang on to it—and mere possession gives him an advantage.

Gov. Dewey's friends have indicated they will ride with Mr. Scott. Some of Harold Stassen's friends have been lighting the bonfire for Theodore G. Gamble, who helped run the war bond drives and who helped starve the unsuccessful Stassen primary campaign in Oregon. Carroll Reece, one-time chairman, has been holding a finger in the wind.

Scott May Hold Job

THE chief hope of some insurgents was built around Everett Dirksen of Illinois, retiring from Congress, but so far it has been only a hope.

Sen. Taft hasn't tipped his hand on the national chairmanship, but there still are numerous "Taft men" on the National Committee.

Today's odds are that Mr. Scott will hold his job. Victor Johnston, an able organizer with experience in both Dewey and Stassen camps, has been mentioned for a full-time executive job under Mr. Scott's chairmanship.

High Pressure Salesmanship



OUR TOWN . . . By Anton Scherrer

Prophets Overlook 1949 'Events'

THE PREDICTIONS handed out over the week end by professional prophets proved not only disappointing but something of a bust, or so it seemed to those of us who move in deep-thinking circles.

Indeed, the messages of even the cockiest ones (like Drew Pearson, for instance, who I had every reason to believe was pretty sure of himself) ended on a series of sour notes—notes which, strangely enough, were sung to the same tune, the general refrain of which was that nobody knows what the new year has in store for us.

Shucks! I know of at least a dozen big events, every one of which will be significant enough to make the front page of all three Indianapolis newspapers in 1949. And, indeed, every paper in the country. I'll go even further and predict that every forecast of mine will be good enough to merit a front page picture at least three columns wide.

Among the big events scheduled for 1949, about which the professional prophets appear to be ignorant, will be the front page account of two sisters who haven't seen each other for 35 years, followed by the discovery that they have been living right around the corner from each other all that time. This will be good for a group picture together with a caption prepared for tidy comprehension but which, nonetheless, will leave a lot to the imagination.

A Bewildered Look

WHEN it comes time to spring my prediction—like as not sometime around May 8, which this year happens to be Mother's Day—of a group picture together with a caption prepared for tidy comprehension but which, nonetheless, will leave a lot to the imagination.

It's in the cards, too, that sometime towards the end of 1949—like as not the week of Nov. 8-15 when it behooves one to don his woolies—

Barbs—

A GROWN UP usually means about half he says and a youngster says about half he means.

EIGHT hours of sleep, eight hours of play and eight hours of work is one of the oldest fairy tales.

WHAT to pick out for the whole family for Christmas this year? Leave your hat—and after you pick it out, flatter!

"WOULD keep dad busy from now going the kids all the spankings mother has promised they're going to get."

SOME little folks would even like to get their hands into a traffic jam—if it were possible.

the police of Indianapolis will pick up a wretched ragged beggar with \$2000 (in \$20 bills) sewed on the inside of her dress. Sure, this year it's going to be a her dress. Sure, for the reason that last year it was a man. Apparently, the professional prophets know nothing of which is that the crop of crackpots is subject to annual rotations—one year to the advantage of males, and the next year to the advantage of females, and so on throughout eternity. It represents a compensating factor in the divine scheme of things which, when figured over the years, supports my theory that the fantastic behavior of the two sexes is in a constant and exquisite state of equilibrium.

Chances are, too, that sometime around St. Valentine's Day, somebody will produce a letter just delivered by the postman which bears a postmark of 30 years ago. It's going to embarrass Postmaster George J. Rees no end because, this time, the long-delayed letter will turn out to be a marriage proposal which, for want of an answer, wrecked the future of an Indianapolis girl.

Picture of Girl About 22

IT'S GOING to be the most poignant story of the year—good for at least a week. It will achieve its climax when the papers publish a recent photograph of the man who wrote the letter back in 1919. The picture will portray a worn-out old male with six grown-up children grouped around him. As for the suffering woman whose life was wrecked, the papers will publish the picture of a girl somewhere around 22 years old—for the reason that she stopped patronizing photographers some 30 years ago.

My predictions for 1949 also include the return of 30 cents (plus compound interest for 24 years) to some corporation, church or circus (but more likely to the U. S. Treasury) by some conscience-stricken citizen of Indianapolis. This year I entertain high hopes that it may turn out to be a local banker who suddenly remembers that something in his past needs fixing up. It's not expecting too much; certainly not after what a conscience-stricken preacher did last year. Because of the inherent modesty of Indianapolis bankers, this event will be handled without pictures. The most propitious time to look for this story is in the Sunday editions of June 19 which, this year happens to be Father's Day.

A Weeping Widow

LIKE as not, too, there will be a front-page account (and picture) of a weeping widow looking out from behind bars in the Marion County Jail. Asked why she used an ax to kill her husband, she will sob: "Because I loved him so much." This event will be staged on June 20, a day which this year also happens to be the 56th anniversary of Lizzie Borden's acquittal. Moreover, Venus will be in perihelion that night. From the look of things, 1949 will be the year women have everything their own way.

Hoosier Forum

"I do not agree with a word that you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Keep letters 200 words or less on any subject with which you are familiar. Some letters need will be edited but content will be preserved, for here the People Speak in Freedom.

'Intense Opinions Win'

By Claude Braddock, 614 S. Meridian

The "miracle" of Mr. Truman's election, it seems to me, has not yet been adequately explained. The earlier explanations savored of snap judgment, the more seasoned ones lacked validity in that they failed to account for all the phenomena connected with that event.

First, it has been assumed, without warrant, that the pre-election polls were "way off." The fact that these "independent" polls were almost unanimous in their findings is ample evidence that this is not true. Their fault was, and is, that they lack the ability to measure intensities of public opinions. When two opposite opinions are held by nearly equal masses of people, then the one that is most intense will win at the polls every time. The reason should be obvious.

To come down to cases, the reason the Democrats won was that too many western and midwestern Republicans, unenthusiastic about Dewey, didn't bother to vote. So many, in fact, that they overcame the considerable number of Democrats who, feeling as did these Republicans that Mr. Dewey was in fact a younger and abler replica of a New Dealer, voted for him instead of for Mr. Truman.

As for the 80th Congress, it had run on the slogan: "Had enough?" And the Republican landslide of that year seemed to indicate clearly enough that the people had indeed had enough. However, the slogan didn't go quite far enough. There was considerable confusion among members of Congress as to just what it was that the people had had enough of. This caused that body to behave as a whole as if we had enough of everything. Thus it contributed to its own dissolution.

'It's Crime to Sell Eyes'

By Mrs. M. B.

I am a partial-sighted reader who thinks it's a crime and an insult against the intelligence of mankind to permit small time heroes to sell their eyes.

I'm not an overly pious person, but when I think that God, in His mercy, has given eyes for sale and trade, then I'm ashamed. Not even four-legged animals would do that.

There must be something terribly wanting in anyone who would sell one part of any of his senses. THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE—why not enjoy them?

Frankly speaking, I suggest the 21-year-old Cincinnati woman who made the latest offer should forego the pleasures of a large family and keep her eyes. After all, like most of you folks, this lady has only two eyes to begin with and you can't raise a very large family on selling eyes.

Why not stop making heroes of these buyers and sellers of human bodies and begin to educate them in hygiene clinics in every part of the country.

'Union Not Intolerable'

By Edward J. Perkins, 3330 Nicholas

In answer to Oscar W. Cooley: I am a member of a closed shop. I do not find it "intolerable" or "monstrous" as you claim. I might add, I wasn't in the union until I got back from the Navy after the war. I don't believe from your letter you are a member, so I can't understand how you can claim to know all about it.

You were talking about rent controls and said they kept veterans in garages. To my notion, if it hadn't been for rent controls, even garages would be too high for most of our veterans.

If I were you, or thought as you do, I would advocate another party too, but I'm glad I don't.

What Others Say—

I HOPE . . . and pray earnestly that we may gain sufficient foresight through the lessons taught us in the past to save the civilization of the future.

—Mme. Chiang Kai-shek.

FOREIGN policy has taken a seat at the dinner table.

—Secretary of State Marshall.

THE Republican Party is a long way from becoming extinct. It will continue to be a force in Congress and in the nation—Rep. Charles Halleck (R.) of Indiana.

LIBERALISM is the most effective antidote for communism. We mean business on civil rights, and intend to go through with it.—Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D.) of Illinois.

AS recently as September, the book ("Crusade in Europe") was still in manuscript, for I still wasn't sure it was worth bringing out. Now it's out and I'm still not dead sure. I'm no critic. I've been a soldier all my life, and when you come right down to it it's simply an old soldier's story.

—General Eisenhower.

Resolved to Be Solved



The chance of a "new face" emerging in the GOP Senate leadership lineup seems remote. There was much talk of advancing Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts or Sen. William T. Knowland of California to the minority leadership, but it is unlikely.

CONGRESS . . . By Tony Smith

New Spy Probers?

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1—A move to clip the wings of the House Un-American Activities Committee by turning the Communist spy investigations over to another committee is under discussion by Democratic leaders.

Despite some parliamentary obstacles, they believe the move can be accomplished. The seniority rule for selection of committee chairmen will not be bypassed but efforts will be made to insure that the committee which handles the espionage investigations is kept under closer control.

Democratic leaders are not favorably disposed toward the Wood-Rankin leadership, to which the Un-American Activities Committee shifts under the seniority system.

Work May Be Shifted

REP. JOHN S. WOOD (D., Ga.) becomes chairman because he has the longest continuous tenure in office of all the Democrats on the committee. Rep. John E. Rankin (D., Miss.) will be senior assistant. Both have performed in the past as members of the committee, in a manner the administration did not approve.

Under the plan now being discussed the committee would continue to exist, at least in name. But its work would be handed over to another committee—one headed by members of the type the Democrats want. One suggestion is that it be the House Administration Committee, to be headed by Rep. Mary T. Norton (D., N. J.).

Another step would be adoption of a resolution giving some particular committee the authority to handle funds for all investigations by the standing committees, thus putting a financial check rein on the Un-American Committee.

Ceased to Be Important

THERE is precedent for such a shift. It was recalled that when Mrs. Norton headed the House Labor Committee, illness kept her away from Washington much of the time. Many important labor bills in that period were handled by the Military Affairs Committee. The Labor Committee ceased to be the important body that it previously had been or is today.

Something similar is being set up by Democrats in the Senate. Here, the functions of the present executive expenditures subcommittee headed by Sen. Homer Ferguson (R., Mich.) are to be taken over by a subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee headed by Sen. Clyde R. Hoey (R., N. C.).

Sen. Hoey is not presently a member of the Armed Services Committee. He would have to resign his present membership on the Executive Expenditures Committee and be reappointed.



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