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Give Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

A Time for Compromise

"ALL government—indeed, every human benefit and enjoyment, every virtue and every prudent act—is founded on compromise and barter."

Edmund Burke said that in his great speech of Mar. 22, 1775, pleading with the British Parliament to conciliate the American colonies. He could not win the stiff-necked parliament to his views. England went on to provoke a costly war, to meet defeat—and to lose the colonies.

In March, 1949, President Truman seems to abhor any thought of voluntary compromise with opponents of his program. That is understandable. It was, after all, by uncompromising battle that he won nomination and election against great odds.

But in winning he appealed to various groups of voters with sweeping promises—promises which many citizens and many members of his own party, in and out of Congress, never agreed to underwrite and do not believe were wise.

AND NOW Mr. Truman is deep in trouble with a Democratic Congress, just as he was for two years with a Republican Congress, and before that with another Democratic Congress. His whole program is endangered. The country faces a frightening prospect of strife and stalemate between its government's executive and legislative branches, at a time of urgent need for unity and co-operation.

It is possible to imagine fundamental principles upon which there could be no reasonable compromise. But it is difficult to believe that the issues of the present controversy involve such principles. As to most of them, certainly, there are honest opinions on both sides.

Mr. Truman's civil-rights measures are an example. Many sincere Americans, in the North as well as in the South, think those measures go too far, fear that they would do more harm than good, believe that the undeniably great problems at which they aim can and should be solved by a more moderate approach.

IN ANY event, it now seems certain that this Congress will not pass those measures. Mr. Truman's Senate leaders have been compelled to agree to an involuntary "compromise" which, in fact, is a defeat, since it makes the breaking of a filibuster harder than before.

The fate of America does not hang on whether Congress enacts all of Mr. Truman's program, or any part of it in the exact form he wants. But the fate of America and the world may hang on whether the President and Congress can work together through the next few years.

Working together, in our government of equal and coordinate powers, calls for give-and-take willingness to compromise on nonessential points in order to win essential ones. Too many men in Congress want Mr. Truman to do all the giving. Their attitude is unreasonable. A more reasonable attitude on his part would recognize that he cannot do all the taking—that, by demanding all, he risks getting nothing.

Slap-Happy Headline Hunters

MEMBERS of Congress are disturbed, and properly so, because of the loose talk and reported leaks of secret information by the Armed Services and the Atomic Energy Commission.

When newspapers are told this country has picked a specified number of prospective targets in Russia, it is time for somebody to call a halt, particularly since the Air Force insists it doesn't know who did the reckless talking. It is bad enough to be charged with warmongering, without having unknown headline-hunting officials plead us guilty to the indictment.

That sort of stuff leads to shooting wars. The Air Force has a job to do, but that job does not include the making of foreign policy. Its officials have no right to make provocative statements that could involve this nation in war. When they do, they should be punished.

THE ATOMIC Energy Commission also suffers from self-glorification. Its members appear to count that day lost when they do not have a full spread with pictures in some national publication. Almost every after-dinner speech by one of its officials is devoted to the need for more and better publicity. That isn't how secrets are kept. If this job cannot be done without press-agenting and sensationalism, we need new commissioners.

We don't want a war, and we aren't prepared to fight one. Above all, we shouldn't be talked into a war by the very people we are paying to keep us out of one. Nor do we want to be betrayed by slap-happy headline hunters.

We hope the inquiry being made by the House Armed Services Committee can put a stop to this hysterical talk by official spokesmen.

'Truman's Ride,' Coming Up

"I MAY even get on the train again and make another tour around the country"—President Truman.

Shades of little Phil Sheridan and his famous ride of 1864—when he galloped 20 miles up the Shenandoah Valley to stem the rout of his army by the special interests.

Sheridan, the doughty and likewise cocky union leader, had been in Key West—no, it must have been some other place—away from his troops. Taking advantage of his absence, a southern coalition under Gen. Jubal Early struck a sudden blow and the administration forces were in full retreat.

On his way back to the front, Sheridan had reached Winchester when he heard sounds of the battle from afar. Leaping upon his trusty charger, he dug in his spurs and raced up the valley. To his disorganized soldiers he shouted, as he flashed by on thudding hoofs, these immortal words: "Face the other way, boys! We're going back!"

Thrilled by his dramatic appearance, the crestfallen troops rallied and re-formed. A few hours later Sheridan attacked brilliantly and swept Early's men from the field, recovering the ground that had been lost. Strong men wept, and poets wrote flaming verse to memorialize Sheridan's ride.

WELL, a man can dream, can't he—under that Florida sun?

In Tune With the Times

Barton Rees Pogue

I WATCHED A CITY THOROUGHFARE

A few days ago, I was sitting in the car in downtown Indianapolis, waiting for our Ruth to finish an errand. Watching the panorama which passed before my eyes, I wondered if perhaps it was not a cross section of all the cities in the land.

Heavy-duty trucks, light pick-ups, city buses, taxicabs, milk trucks, great inter-state buses, limousines of luxury and dilapidated cars of ancient vintage whirled past me. The roar of traffic and the whistle of policemen drowned out all other sounds.

People from all walks of life and from many nations hurried in the throngs. There were men in overalls carrying dinner pails, business or professional men with expensive-looking brief cases, and students with books and the light of high hope on their faces. Women strolled along in rich furs very near other women in cheap, skimpy, not-too-clean garments. There were people whose faces showed that they traveled the high road of life and those who plainly traveled the low. There were faces that denoted illness, unhappy faces, dirty faces, clean faces, black faces, white faces, peaceful faces and shifty-eyed faces.

And from where I sat I saw the American flag flying gloriously in the breeze, higher than the highest buildings, above them all. But what I knew also, was that the Almighty had created all of these peoples in His own image, and that He watches over them even as He notes the fall of every sparrow.

—BERNICE HARNESSE EZRA, Lafayette.

SMELLS

Sweet-scented lilacs like Maw Duncan used to grow . . . the perfume of new-mown hay . . . the tang of cider in the fall . . . fish frying in a pan over an open fire by Blue River . . . "Evening in Pearly" worn by milady . . . burning leaves . . . boiling coffee in the morning . . . the fetidness of mushrooms in the spring . . . funeral flowers in the mortuary chapel . . . maple syrup on my pancakes . . . freshly turned earth . . . barnyard odors on the farm . . . pine wood in the fireplace . . . salt air by the seashore . . . the acrid scent of hulled walnuts . . . the sooty air of the city . . . the incense of popped corn . . . thus we sniff our way through life.

—The Brown County Philosopher.

GOT A DATE

I'll be mighty busy

The first few days of spring, Watchin' buds aburstin' And hearin' robins sing.

At willows wearin' velvet I'm plannin' me a peek, Goin' to hear frogs croakin' Down by a little creek.

Got a date with nature The first few days of spring, Won't be doin' nothin' But listenin' to her sing.

—MARY L. JOHNSTON, Winchester.

THE COQUETTE

His unassuming love was like a toy To her—to drop and, when she wished, reclaim. His naivete amused her like a game. Although his love appeared without alloy, Her vanity was flattered to employ.

Enough of hope to fan his ardent flame, And though he would endow her with his name, She wed, instead, a far more worldly boy.

The lagged years that followed held no rhyme, And recollection goaded joy to death; Sophistication proved no match with time, And happiness was transient as a breath.

Too late to repossess the love unearned, A good man's love should not be lightly spurned.

—CASPER BUTLER, Kokomo.

GOSSIP

Hear no evil, See no evil,

Thy tongue guard even more, Loose words return, Misshapen things, To roost before thy door.

—F. HINCHMAN, North Vernon.

SEED CATALOG

The catalog man had a flourishing crop— The picture he sent me's a risk— And if he can dream such a beautiful scheme On paper, I'm willing to try it!

—ESTHER K. THOMAS, Terre Haute.

FILIBUSTER . . . By Charles T. Lucey

No Civil Rights Act

WASHINGTON, Mar. 18.—The biggest argument in town today was over who won the long and bitter Senate filibuster battle.

Administration Democrats said they had suffered almost mortally—that there could be no possibility ever, under new ground rules on Senate debate, of passing President Truman's civil-rights program.

Anti-administration southern Democrats, who kept the Senate tied in knots for two weeks, thought maybe they had traded away too much.

That group of Republicans which had tried to get an effective rule to choke off endless filibustering—the group that was thwarted by a coalition of their own GOP brethren and southern Democrats—thought they had managed to come off with about three-fourths of a loaf.

The apparently successful compromise provides that two-thirds of the Senate's 96 members, or 64, can vote at any time to cut off debate. Up to now the rule has been that debate could be stopped by only two-thirds of those present and voting.

Catch in Rule

BUT THE catch was that actually the rule couldn't be brought to bear on a filibuster at all because of a technical gimmick which said that cloture applied to a "measure" only and not to a "motion." It takes a motion to bring a measure to a floor, and so if a small minority didn't like the bill to be brought up, it could filibuster endlessly on the motion. In effect, there really was no cloture rule.

Under the new compromise there is an effective cloture rule—anytime 16 Senators sign a petition asking for a vote on the question of closing off debate. That vote automatically comes two days later. Thus, as pointed out by Sen. William F. Knowland (R. Cal.), one of the proponents of stricter filibuster control, Senators now will have to stand up and be counted on the issue.

Most filibusters in recent years have been staged by southerners against legislation on lynching, the poll tax or establishing fair employment practices machinery. The Dixie Democrats always have gone cheerfully and vigorously about the job of blocking all Senate business—and, incidentally, of splitting their party. In time so much Senate business would pile up the leadership would be forced to lay aside the bills the southerners don't like.

Field Day for GOP

THIS always has provided a field day for the Republicans. By speech and platform they would pledge themselves to civil-rights measures but in filibusters they'd be happy to see the Democrats tear themselves to pieces. Besides, when it was impossible to force a vote on cloture to quell the oratory, the Republicans didn't have to go on record. Under the compromise they will.

Why did the southerners accept a deal which now enables 16 Senators to force a debate-closing vote on all possible issues except a change of Senate rules? Some of them say because if they didn't they might get a rule

'Okay, Hold It'



MAN IN WHITE HOUSE . . . By Marquis Childs

Truman's Way of Doing His Job

KEY WEST, Fla., Mar. 18.—If President Truman is disturbed by the way in which his program has bogged down in the rebellious Senate, he gives no sign of it to those around him. He is his usual jaunty, equable self, determined chiefly during this respite to preserve a little of the privacy that is a luxury customarily denied to Presidents.

By a rough estimate at least a hundred would-be guests have been gently but nonetheless firmly dissuaded from joining the President at the modest white frame cottage that he has made available to him at the base here. Only two or three whom the President expressly wanted to see, Chief Justice Vinson among them, have come to Key West.

The four years Mr. Truman has been President have been crowded with events, crowded with problems, crowded with people pushing their troubles and their hopes and fears on him. It was one of things hardest for him to learn in the beginning—that he, personally, stood at the focus of power.

Extraordinary Memory

PERHAPS only he, the chief participant, is fully aware of how crowded with large events has been the era since Mr. Roosevelt's death. One of his qualities is an extraordinary memory.

A principal feature of the climate of opinion immediately after V-J Day was a rush to get demobilized and have it all over with. Part of that was Communist-inspired but most of it came from the pull of the old, contented, peacetime America.

Looking back, the President understands the handicap of that excessive haste. It was a denial of America's world responsibility; it left great vacuums where there was no power, no acceptance of responsibility.

Barbs—

STATISTICIAN says the average person is sick only eight days each year. He forgets that the first of the month costs 12 times.

A POSTMASTER in Kentucky has been on the job for 20 years. He should have postcarditis by this time.

WERE wondering if enough snazzy stockings were given at Christmas to bring short skirts back again.

WHO remembers when we lost our trouser cuffs—and were lucky we didn't lose our pants

What happens in the next 14 or 40 years will determine the judgement of history on Mr. Truman's first four years. But at this moment, on the eve of the signing of the Atlantic Pact, he must be credited with a strong, positive foreign policy that has brought western Europe into at least the beginnings of union which can mean independence.

Too often, it seems to me, Mr. Truman's many critics remember the failures and ignore the achievements. China has the look of a colossal failure. But one thing to bear in mind about Mr. Truman's critics is that they speak almost always out of the council of perfectionists.

Long-Range Program

WITH those close to him the President tends to speak of the southern revolt as not too serious in terms of the long-range program. He believes the southern congressmen will get over their peeve, most of them, and line up eventually for the main features of social reform in the Truman program.

There are those who say Mr. Truman's conviction about civil rights is merely political. That wrongs the President. He has a simple sense of justice which is outraged by the cruel and wrong things done to the Negro.

He also has a sense of the position of the white race in a world almost entirely colored. If the white race is to provide leadership for independence and freedom, as opposed to collectivism and more recently, then there must be clear proof that the two races can live in harmony and equality.

Many will discount Mr. Truman because his virtues so often seem to be negative virtues. But in a time of alarms and excursions, of fear and hysteria, steadfastness or just plain stubbornness can have high value.

Harm of Witch Hunting

WITH his strong sense of American history, Mr. Truman is aware of the effect of the alien and sedition laws shortly after the birth of the republic and more recently of the harm done in the witch hunting that followed World War I. He has refused to be stampeded by the Communist scare, realizing that the morale of a whole people can be damaged by panic and hysteria.

The loyalty investigation of government employees may have been a necessity, both from the threat of disloyalty in key positions as well as politically. But it showed, as the President always believed it would, how very, very small is the disloyal element.

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 used will be edited but content will be preserved, for here the People Speak in Freedom.

'Why Stop Clocks?'

By A. J. Schneider, 504 West Drive, Woodruff Pl.
Gov. Schricker has just signed a bill reaffirming Central Standard Time for the state of Indiana, along with cries from the mayors of some Hoosier cities that they do not intend to respect this law—because it does not carry a penalty clause. Is this any the less a law of our state, merely because it carries no penalty for violation?

Mayor Feeney has said he will wait and see what the other cities do before he decides whether Indianapolis should violate the law. This is the same Mayor who holds himself out as the champion of the teen-agers and likes to have his picture taken with them. Is it not a fine example for him to set for them? Is it not a "go" sign for them to violate laws at their own whim? There is a curfew ordinance which the Mayor is trying to enforce; but he is challenging the kids to tell him that 10 o'clock on their own watches is not the same as the 10 o'clock on his watch. Just a little something for the Mayor to think about.

Law is law, whether it is a city or an individual involved. Also, law is law, whether there is a penalty for violation or not.

This also brings us to the actions of several recent legislatures which stopped their clocks until they had finished the business they wished to jam through. What would happen if tavern owners decided to stop their clocks at 11:30 p. m. until they had cleaned out the last possible nickel? Or what would happen on election day if certain politicians chose to stop clocks until they were sure their gang had been in to do their duty? There is no end to such tampering with time. And if it is legitimate for our legislatures and our mayors, it is equally legitimate for individuals.

Opposes Daylight Saving Time

By Frank Galloway, 4806 E. Washington

Some folks say daylight (saving?) will save lives. If that is true, why not move the clock up three or four more hours and save all the lives? Of course, this would put the undertakers, town-wreckers and all enforcement agencies out of work. Why not have daylight saving the year around? As most fires in the winter are supposed to start soon as folks get home from work, this would put the firemen out of work. What becomes of all this saved daylight? Doesn't make my light bill any cheaper. Don't these people realize that you can't go to bed an hour earlier but yet you must get up an hour earlier, and that is the best hour to sleep? So many people living in these crowded areas have very little ventilation, can't afford a fan and really suffer.

Of course, this daylight saving will give a lot of parents more time to spend away from home. As to driving out into the country, a lot of poor people are having a hard time paying street car fare.

If the cities can work around the state law just passed regarding Standard Time, why have legislative bodies meet to make and pass laws? I am of the opinion that a minor civil government can pass an ordinance that supersedes a higher branch of government. If so, why have any federal, state or county laws?

Will this straw vote be like the one conducted in another city where one man's name was voted 17 times. Another who voted against daylight saving found his name voted twice, and there were two meetings and two countings of votes, with the final being better than three to one against daylight saving time.

What Others Say—

LARGE regional units are the necessary elements in any scheme of world government. . . . I believe that the creation of regional organizations is an inseparable part of any structure of world security. Unless and until this is done the United Nations organization will be a failure and even a mockery.—Winston Churchill.

THERE never was a time in the history of the world when we needed more states and people of energy as we need them now. There is more room at the top now than ever in the history of the world—President Truman, to visiting high school students.

AMERICA is not finished any more than the automobile is finished. Great advances are always possible. . . . There is a big job for young men to do. Progress is always unfinished in America.—Benson Ford, vice president, Ford Motor Co.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"No, ma'am! If this is your first ride, I wouldn't go galloping over hill and dale—the ground is a little hard to the touch this time of the year!"

change even tougher on them. Maybe not this year—but the pressure would keep up. Taking the compromise they pick up three or four votes in strength. That is, it will be harder for those wishing to curb debate to get 64 votes than to get the ordinary two-thirds of the Senators present, for there nearly always are a few absent.

But Sen. Knowland sees an important gain in being able to force cloture votes in time of national emergencies—such as war, for example. As it has been in the past a mere handful of men could lead action to the limit of their ability to talk. He believes the new rules will eliminate that.

Despite solemn pledges by both parties to the contrary, just about everyone concedes civil rights is a dead issue in this Congress.

UNION LEGISLATION . . . By Fred W. Perkins

Odds Against Labor

WASHINGTON, Mar. 18.—Wallpapers just inflicted on the administration in both branches of Congress have swept away the confidence of pro-union forces that they can bring about repeal of the Taft-Hartley law.

Now they know the odds are against them, according to Rep. Augustine B. Kelley (D. Pa.), chairman of the House Labor Subcommittee preparing to write substitute legislation.

"I'm convinced, from what I've learned today," Mr. Kelley said, "that the coalition of Republicans and Southern Democrats which gutted the rent-control bill is getting set to work out in the same way on the new labor law and also on our proposal to extend the coverage of the Wagner Act."

The labor forces will be "licked," he said, "unless the House leadership can break the coalition." He anticipated many amendments would be offered when his committee bill reaches the House floor. If they cannot be beaten off the House bill will greatly resemble the Taft-Hartley law, he forecast.

Pattern Is Set

FROM the Republican side came this comment from Rep. Charles A. Halleck (R. Ind.): "This (rent-control) sets the pattern for what is going to happen now on. The administration will find its plans for a minimum-wage increase, Taft-Hartley law revision and similar measures will be much changed when they reach the House floor."

When this session of Congress opened in January, the hopes of Taft-Hartley foes were centered in the House. They realized that the Senate was likely to stay close to the Taft-Hartley Act, but they thought a product acceptable to union leaders could be produced by the conference method if the House would pass something like the pending administration bill.

Mr. Kelley has other troubles. Rep. Andrew Jacobs (D. Ind.), a labor lawyer from Indianapolis and a strong union supporter, wants to rejoin some Taft-Hartley features, and also to strengthen it to produce more democracy in local unions.

Rep. Jacobs in Picture

MR. JACOBS has said he will propose amendments to the measure the committee is considering. Mr. Kelley said he would oppose them, because one amendment may lead to many more, "and then we'll really be in bad shape on the floor."

The House Labor Committee is divided almost evenly between friends and foes of Taft-Hartley. Mr. Jacobs is one of the foes, in general. His own vote can swing the committee to his amendments.

Mr. Kelley expects the House bill to reach the floor about the middle of April, "at the earliest."

The Senate situation shows no improvement for the opponents of the Taft-Hartley Act. The filibuster outcome has encouraged the forces of Sen. Robert A. Taft (R. O.). The anti-Taft Senators hope to pick up some support for Taft-Hartley law repeal, or drastic modification, from some of the Southern Democrats who supported the filibuster.

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