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POLITICAL PAWNS

Charles V. Stanton

Political leaders opposed to the Eisenhower administration are doing their best to stir up anti-Republican sentiment in farm belts. The farm is about the only place the opposition can settle upon to raise political fodder. The Socialist wing, of course, is playing the public power issue for all it is worth, particularly here in Oregon, but the power issue isn't of much interest in the farm belt. However, the agricultural industry is about the only segment of our national economy that has not reached the upper levels, thus furnishing the best available material for propaganda purposes.

For many years political leadership has endeavored to divide the American people into classes. Whereas, in a government such as established under our Constitution, we are one people, the political effort is directed toward dividing us into groups of capitalists, industrialists, management, labor, agriculture, white, colored, etc. The strategy is to stir up dissatisfaction among groups containing the largest number of voters, and then, by coalition, to obtain victories at election.

While this strategy is as old as politics, and is not confined to one party, it has been particularly emphasized in recent years. Agriculture and labor have been given patronage, privilege and promises, all for political purposes.

Farm Plans Not Working

The farmer for too many years has been treated as a ward of the federal government. Because the farmer represents a large bloc of votes, he has been cultivated by political manipulators. We have developed a nationwide inferiority complex in our agricultural industry. Too many farmers believe they must rely on politicians for their future existence, and politicians certainly are doing nothing to disabuse the minds of the farmers.

We have spent billions of dollars to bolster the farm industry. We have a condition in which fewer farmers, through advanced methods are producing more food and raw materials than we can consume. We have, through a system of parity payments, added to these surpluses until the great volume of stored food and products serves to depress markets.

It is costing taxpayers more than one million dollars each day to subsidize the agricultural industry. This, in itself, is not serious, inasmuch as our farm economy is essential to general economy. But we can't continue such subsidies forever.

It is becoming obvious that the parity program, adopted to meet the emergencies of depression and war, is not the answer to the agricultural problems of peacetime.

Farmer Needs Freedom

Before the problems of the agricultural industry are solved, in my opinion, it will be necessary for farmers themselves to shake off the inferiority complex created by many years of political pampering. Farmers must realize that they are not to be treated as was our Indian population—placed on reservations, made wards of the government, and kept in a dependent status to furnish employment to politicians.

Statistics show that the great bulk of our overproduction is coming from big producers, not from the small and sub-marginal farmer who receives but little benefit from the parity payment program. It also is shown that many of these large producers are taking advantage of the tax-supported parity program to garner profits, rather than changing their production into other channels which would be open on a free market.

Until the farmer revolts against a system of handouts, asserts his independence and demands freedom, he will continue to be kicked around as a political football.

We should realize that we are all one people; that the problems of one segment of our population are the problems of all. At the same time, if we are to be a classless government, one segment cannot expect to depend upon the charity of other segments except in periods of emergency. It is foreign to the theories of a representative republic such as ours that we be divided into political privileged or politically dependent groups.

There is growing evidence that the farmer is becoming aware of the effort to use him as a political tool. Farmers are showing increasing realization of the fallacy of existing policies which keep them in dependent status. If this trend continues, the plot to organize the American farmer as a pawn for manipulation on the political chessboard is doomed to failure.

Hal Boyle

CLEARFIELD, Pa. — Al Rockwell lets others worry about international discord. But he can work himself up to a real pitch over the fact most of America's pianos are out of tune.

He is afraid we are rearing a generation of young piano players who won't know middle "C" from the sound of chipmunks scampering across a tin roof.

Rockwell, a professional musician for 35 years, has tuned more than 8,000 pianos himself. Fearing piano tuning was becoming a dying craft, he started a school to teach this skill 10 years ago. It is one of fewer than a dozen piano tuning schools in the country.

"A piano is the most expensive piece of furniture in most homes," he pointed out. "If something goes wrong with the television set, a repair man is called immediately. But if the piano is a little out of tune—oh, well, it's not worth bothering about."

This chronic apathy keeps Rockwell in a perpetual lather. He is launched on a one-man crusade to create a world in which all pianos are not only tuned properly—but kept tuned. He even writes letters to the editor on the subject.

Rockwell first became interested in piano tuning—or, rather, the lack of it—while playing reed instruments with a traveling band at the age of 17. On theater circuits he ran into every type piano

imaginable, most of them out of tune.

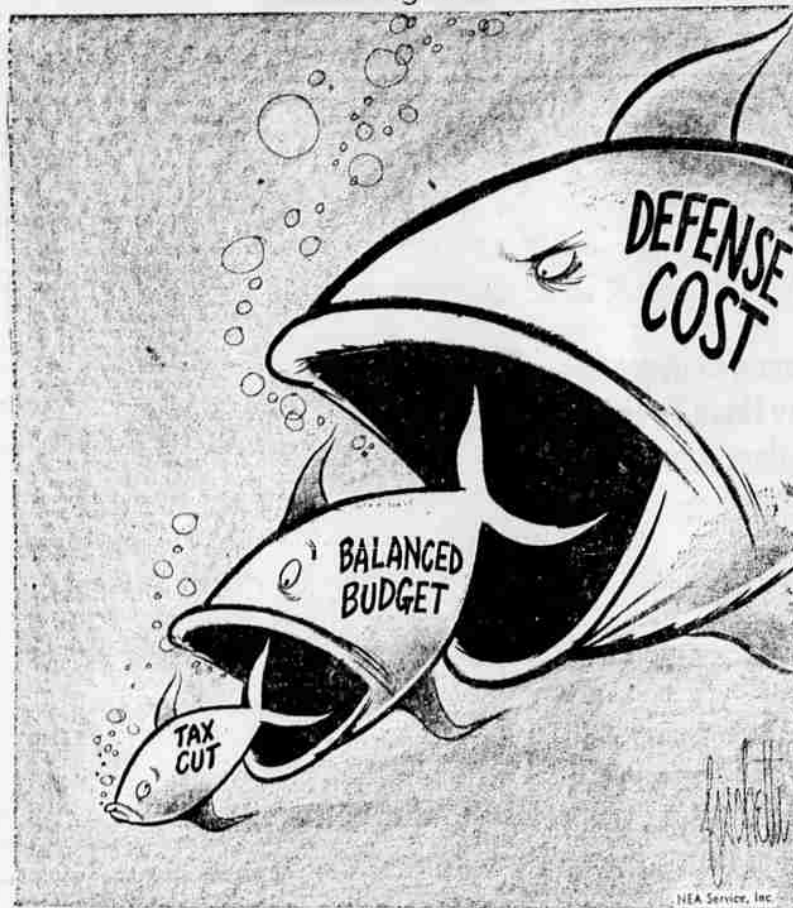
"When the band complained," he said, "the story was always the same: There was only one tuner in town, and he couldn't be found. The pianos went untuned year after year. They are probably still out of tune."

Rockwell said the situation was even worse in the average home. Parents start a child on piano lessons and the child gets all framed up after a few sessions on his teacher's piano. But when he goes home to practice on his own old out-of-tune instrument he can't get the same results, and loses interest. He quits taking lessons.

"This happens over and over," insisted Rockwell. "Parents think any old piano is good enough for a child to start on. They say that after they're sure the child is really interested in playing, they'll get a better piano or have the old one brought up to pitch. By then it may be too late. The child's musical ear may be completely ruined."

But Rockwell doesn't go along at all with many music store merchants who say half the nation's pianos are out of tune and should be junked and replaced by new ones. He loves pianos as other people love children and has put hundreds of aged and neglected instruments back into playing condition.

The Big Bite



Peter Edson

WASHINGTON — (NEA)—The National Federation of Republican Women—bless their simple hearts—do think up some of the darndest things to promote the cause of the Grand Old Party.

Their latest escapade in search of political pearls has put oysters on their bill of fare. But you wouldn't exactly say it has created a Republican oyster stew.

It's Oysters Rockefeller that interests them, and they mean Nelson Rockefeller—not his grandfather John D.

It all began when the G.O.P. ladies got the idea that they should do more organizing among the belles and flowers of southern womanhood.

UNDER THE PRESIDENCY of Mrs. Carroll D. Kearns, wife of the Pennsylvania Congressman, the National Federation of Republican Women scheduled a board of directors meeting right down in the heart of the Solid South of Democracy—New Orleans itself.

A number of Southern women bold enough to admit Republican sympathies were invited. Republican banners were flaunted over the portrait of Andy Jackson in the St. Charles hotel lobby. A dinner was arranged at Antoine's. And Nelson Rockefeller, special assistant to President Eisenhower, was invited to talk.

Now Antoine's, as most people know it where Oysters Rockefeller originated. This is a delectable concoction of oysters baked, broiled briefly, in the half shell with a sauce of butter, creamed onion juice, chopped parsley, minced fried bacon, pureed spinach and a few grains of cayenne.

As an appetizer for an Antoine banquet of Republican women to be addressed by a Rockefeller heir, it was a natural.

"I'm not too fond of sea food," confessed Mrs. Kearns on her return to Washington. "So the night before I went out to dinner by myself and ordered Oysters Rockefeller—just to see what I would have to feed next day."

TO HER SURPRISE AND DELIGHT she found them delicious. And they didn't disagree with her. And this oyster Rockefeller headdress could really conquer the South, and not be conquered by it. Mrs. Kearns went to her dinner.

As head of NFRW, Mrs. Kearns naturally sat next to Mr. Rockefeller. As the first course was served, she told him that she had never eaten Oysters Rockefeller before, and that she had tried some the night before to make sure they wouldn't give her a tummy-ache. And then—oh the shame of it for history to record—Mr. Rockefeller made his confession.

"You know," he said to Mrs. Kearns in that demure way he has, "I've never eaten Oysters Rockefeller before, either."

It is a relief to report that he liked them and that they did not disagree with him, either.

In the course of the dinner, Mrs. Kearns inquired how Oysters Rockefeller got their name. More disgrace—Nelson said he didn't know.

BUT TO DETERMINE the answer, the thorough young grandson

"If the frame and plate are in good shape and the piano is all right mechanically, there's no piano that can't be tuned," he said. "For \$25 or \$30 an old piano can be turned into an instrument quite satisfactory for a child just starting to play. The families that own such pianos can afford to have them tuned, but they can't afford to buy new ones."

Students come from all over the country to attend Rockwell's school in this small mountain town. The course, based on a technical system developed by Oliver Faust, a German musician, takes six months. Rockwell has turned out some 300 graduates, but sees no end to the present shortage of competent piano tuners.

He isn't happy about the situation, and won't be so long as he thinks even one child is learning to play on an out-of-tune piano. "Only tone-deaf musicians can play tone-deaf instruments," he said gloomily.

Nelson called in the chef at Antoine's.

But when they asked the chef how Oysters Rockefeller got their name, he looked askance, says Mrs. Kearns. He didn't seem to want to answer. But finally he did, and now the Republican ladies can take credit for uncovering the real reason on why this usually high-priced item on the menu is named after one of the greatest multimillionaire philanthropists of all times.

Said the chef at Antoine's: "It's because the sauce is so rich."

Farm Adjustment Is Completed, Says Sec. Benson

BEILSVILLE, Md. — Secretary of Agriculture Benson said here that most of the American farmer's postwar adjustment problems are "now behind him."

"The farmer has faith in the future," Benson said in a speech prepared for a Farm City Week luncheon at the Agriculture Department's research center here.

"He has reason to believe that another 25 million customers will be added to his list in the next 10 years."

"He has reason to believe that his present troubles will be resolved..."

Benson made only brief mention of the "severe cost-price squeeze" and an "overproduction" problem in which he said the farmer is caught.

He devoted most of his talk to a discussion of the great progress, technological and otherwise, which he said American agriculture has made in recent years. He also sought to show how city dwellers and farmers are interdependent.

Benson said the farmer's "present difficulties stem in part from the miracles of production he was inspired to achieve during World War II and the years immediately following, when much of the free world depended on him for food and clothing."

The Agriculture secretary said the American farmer is making the war-to-peace adjustment "with less hardship than ever before," adding:

"Most of that adjustment is now behind him."

Klamath Rancher Named Grassman

PORTLAND — Lloyd Gift, a Klamath County rancher who transformed a rocky stretch of sagebrush into pasture land, became Oregon's "Grassman of the Year" Tuesday.

He was named by the Portland Chamber of Commerce to compete in the regional finals against state winners from Idaho and Washington.

Gift, who receives \$300 for winning the state contest, has his ranch in the Langell Valley. Its 6,000 acres were considered largely worthless.

Some 700 acres of the ranch were acquired from a defunct irrigation district several years ago, but additional water storage and drainage were needed to correct a waterlogged condition.

Gift dug five miles of drainage ditches, increased the storage reservoir, levelled the land and seeded it to a grass-legume mixture.

Then he went to work on 1,000 acres of rock, sagebrush and juniper. He put in an irrigation system and seeded the land by airplane with grass. In seven years the land has been transformed.

Where it once took 40 acres to support a cow, it now takes only 1 1/2 acres.

TIME IS RIPE

TOKYO — Peiping Radio said Tuesday the "time is ripe" for Red China and Italy to establish diplomatic relations. The broadcast, quoting the Tientsin newspaper Ta Kung Pao, said, "extension of economic and cultural exchange must be based on normal relations between the two countries."

Reader Opinions

Citizens Draw Thanks For Support Of Sale

ROSEBURG — We sincerely express our thanks and appreciation to the people of Roseburg and surrounding communities for the whole-hearted support given the Disabled American Veterans in their Forged-Me-Not sale. You may be assured that your contribution will help to brighten the day for some disabled veteran who must spend many months and maybe years inside the four walls of the several veterans hospitals. This money will be spent directly and entirely at our Roseburg Veterans Hospital.

CLARENCE R. BARTLETT
Chairman of Sale
Dean-Perrine Chapter 9
HAZEL LAZARUS
Commander
Ladies Auxiliary

Portland State College President Inaugurated

PORTLAND — Dr. John F. Cramer was inaugurated as president of Portland State College and the new downtown school was officially dedicated in ceremonies here early this week.

Cramer predicted that the college enrollment would grow to at least 5,500 students by 1961.

He said that the college facilities would be expanded as the enrollment increased. But "until that time comes, we intend to achieve as high quality as possible under the allocations given us," he said.

Other speakers at the ceremony included Dr. R. E. Kleinsorge, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, and Gov. Paul Patterson.

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

which COULD threaten their political future, they could have claimed they didn't do any such thing.

And— We must keep in mind the fact that our federal government has become so immense and sprawling that no human mind can handle all its details. Someone among the tens of thousands who work in the Pentagon building could have pulled an unintentional boner.

Market news note: Cotton futures prices broke sharply on the New York cotton exchange this morning, with some contracts down more than \$7 a bale in early trading.

Brokers said the severe break followed a wave of selling on the Liverpool (England) cotton exchange, triggered by authoritative forecasts of rising cotton production in areas other than the United States.

The International Cotton Advisory Committee said that if foreign cotton production maintains its present rising trend THE WORLD IN A FEW YEARS MAY BECOME WHOLLY INDEPENDENT OF U. S. COTTON.

That is to say: Continued high parity support has kept American cotton prices so HIGH that foreign nations have increased their cotton production to the point where in a few years more they will be SUPPLYING ALL THE COTTON THE WORLD NEEDS.

In that event, all that would be left to do with our cotton surplus (above our domestic needs) would be to pile it up in government warehouses.

I hate to keep harping on this farm price support string. But it is so TERRIBLY important to the future of American agriculture.

If the political farmers succeed in doing what they so obviously have in mind—which is to buy farm state votes by the process of pledging themselves to continued high price support for American farm products, regardless of supply and demand—they will destroy our agricultural economy.

We can't go on FOREVER piling up surplus crops in government warehouses at taxpayer expense.

It isn't just a political issue in which the Republicans line up on one side and the Democrats on the other. Unfortunately, there are Republican politicians who are not above dabbling their toes in this business of selling the long-term agricultural economy of their country down the river for a mess of political pottage.

Top Grade Hogs Bring Price Of Only \$15.75

PORTLAND — Top grade hogs brought only \$15.75 a hundredweight at the Portland livestock market this week. That is the lowest price since December, 1944, when OPA ceilings were in effect.

Monday's drop of \$1 to \$12.50 a hundredweight lowered the price to \$5.25 below that of a year ago.

Prices have been declining the past two months as the result of a big crop of spring pigs.

More than 4,000 hogs passed through the North Portland yards Monday, including 46 carloads from the Midwest. Most of the hogs went directly to packers. However, 1,900 were offered on the market.

Wholesale pork prices are expected to decline another cent or two. Some fresh pork cuts sell at wholesale as much as 15 cents a pound under prices of last summer.

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DUCHESSE ARRIVES
NEW YORK — The Duchess of Windsor arrived from Europe Tuesday on the liner United States and declined comment on either England's current royal romance or her own rift with author Cleveland Amory over the writing of her autobiography.

The Duchess plans to remain three weeks, during which she will confer with her publisher. The Duke was not with her. He remained at their home near Paris.

Navy Icebreaker Leaves For Antarctic Waters

BOSTON — The Navy's newest icebreaker, the USS Glacier, left Boston Tuesday on the first leg of a trip to the antarctic where she will help spearhead Operation Deepfreeze. She will load last minute supplies at Norfolk, Va., and leave Sea.

Oct. 31 to join the icebreakers Edisto and Eastwind in the antarctic. Seven ships and more than 1,800 men will take part in Operation Deepfreeze, which will build two key bases in antarctica's Ross Sea.



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