

Cottage Grove Sentinel

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Talking about unconstitutionality—

A GREAT DEAL of criticism has been directed recently at the supreme court for its invalidation of congressional legislation. When we say a "great deal" we intend no reflection or pun on the New Deal, although most of the criticism comes from New Deal advocates.

The Sentinel will go part way with the New Dealers by agreeing that there should be no five-to-four invalidation of congressional laws. When the question of constitutionality comes up, the decision of one man or the court, there is good reason for dissatisfaction. A decision of that kind leaves room for belief that the constitutionality of a law may have been decided by the prejudices of one judge. The Sentinel would be pleased to join in a movement to require at least a six-to-three decision.

SPEAKING OF CONSTITUTIONALITY of the acts of congress, however, brings up the question: "How many important laws enacted under the New Deal have been congressional enactments?"

Even if we did away with the constitution, as some advocate, it would still be the duty of congress to enact laws without interference from either of the other branches of government.

Those who criticize the supreme court are doing so because it invalidated New Deal legislation.

But there are few who will dispute that the entire New Deal program was legislation that came from the White House and was rubber-stamped by the three-to-one administration majority in congress.

So we have the spectacle of criticism of majority decisions of the supreme court upon legislation which was enacted by one man telling the entire membership of congress what to do.

No one will dispute that it is unconstitutional for congress to turn its lawmaking prerogatives over to the president, regardless of how desirable may be the legislation that president may propose.

Even if the constitution were scrapped, as some propose, it still would be recognized that the law-making body should act without interference from the executive department.

So, if we are to take exception to invalidation of congressional enactment by the supreme court, what are we going to say about usurpation of congressional prerogatives by the executive department?

With the executive department doing what it will not itself claim to be constitutional, it is in no position to find fault with invalidation by the supreme court.

IT IS TIME to get down to sanity in government.

We should do away with five-to-four invalidation of congressional enactment, but we should at the same time insist that congress perform its functions in the manner it is expected to perform them, and would be expected to perform them even if there were no constitution.

Let us have three distinct departments, each liberally curbed and restricted to performance of its own duties.

Council to be complimented—

SERVING on a city council is a great deal like running a country newspaper. Complaints are many and compliments are comparatively few.

Last week the Sentinel recorded the splendid showing that has been made by Cottage Grove during the past five years in debt reduction.

If the same proportionate amount of money should be used for principal and interest during the next ten years as was used during the past five, the city's debt would be practically wiped out.

This splendid record was made in spite of the depression and in spite of the fact that levies had to be made on the general fund to care for assessment lien delinquencies.

Future councils will have a much easier time conducting city affairs because of the business-like administration of past years.

Future councils will have an easier time meeting the financial

requirements of the city because taxes which have become delinquent will be paid in large part during the coming years.

It is a real sacrifice to take time to serve on the city council.

Serving on the city council is a thankless job at best.

Why not each of us make it a point to tell members of the council how much is appreciated the work they have done?

They are deserving of that treatment.

Besides, if we are quick to compliment when compliments are due, we shall be in a better position to make suggestions when we believe they should be made.

The recorder's office should not be forgotten, for proper, efficient and business-like conduct of that office has meant much in assisting the council to do its stuff.

Give your city officers a hand, and make it a hearty one.

Newsstand magazines—

"I WISH something would be done about these INDECENT magazines that every newsstand carries."

This remark was made, not by a moral uplifter, but by one who sells these magazines.

"I DON'T LIKE TO SELL THE STUFF," he continued, "but every newsstand sells it and I have to sell it to remain in the business. Besides, it would do no good for me to take it out of my racks when every other newsstand is carrying it."

"Every day I see youngsters poring over pictures that couldn't be printed in any kind of a magazine exposed in a public place when I was a kid, but I don't know whether it is my place to do a lot of worrying when PARENTS DON'T SEEM TO GIVE A DARN about these youngsters getting an education that should be reserved for their later years."

When a newsstand operator would like to see our literature cleaned up, there MUST be a REAL need for such a clean-up. It would be good even for adults who enjoy "reading" the pictorials.

But Cottage Grove can't bring about such a clean-up. It will take a change in the mental attitude of a nation, or some action on the part of the national congress.

The Sentinel ventures the prediction that a federal law creating a censorship for literature would be found constitutional.

Man's friend; his enemy,

man—

A dog is man's best friend. To have a man's best friend taken away by a method which could only be conceived by a person of low mentality and of no heart is something to think about regardless of your fondness for dogs.

There have been so many cases of dog poisoning in Cottage Grove in the last year that I feel it is my duty to expose my ideas of a person who in my mind is a low form of humanity. This practice seems to be an enjoyable pastime.

There are several very good reasons why a dog should not be poisoned, regardless of the breed or conditions under which the dog has to survive. He may be an expensive pure-bred dog, a fine pet, watch dog, hunting dog or may have grown to maturity as a member and close friend of a family, and last, but not least, the agony of dying by poisoning.

To my mind there can be only three types of persons who could destroy a dog by poisoning. One is the person who is past middle age and has forgotten the thrill and pleasant company of a dog regardless of his qualities, who has risen to a point of hatred for dogs probably from being irritated by the dog's actions, over which the dog has no control, just simply because he is a dog. This person would be well justified in calling the owner's attention to the dog's actions.

Another person is one, shall we say, who thrills to the thought of bringing torture to animals and, may I add, this class of person is larger than the average person would suspect. The third person would be one who would poison for the money paid by the real heartless person to do his "dirty work." Money is very hard to get and many have been denied the use of money the past few years more than usual. They might be easy targets for persons with the idea of destroying animal life.

Which one of these three cases is responsible for the large number of dog poisoning cases in the last year?

If the dog is molesting property, let the person who has the grievance report to the owner of the dog. I'll venture the person who poisons a dog has never heard the cry and heartache sob of children who have found their pet dead or the wrath of a man whose fine hunting dog died in agony.

A person who poisons a dog is an out and out coward, he works in the dark, alone and behind your back. A dog's life means nothing to this person, while it may mean so much to its owner. They seem to forget the first principles of human nature and animal kindness. I will admit some dogs are not much benefit to mankind, but

let these dogs die a painless death if they must die.

In trying to poison certain dogs the poisoner takes a chance on poisoning all dogs and in a particular case it has been found a small child suffered the effects of poison intended for dogs. I was just thinking how this person would feel about destroying human life.

You never heard of a person who has poisoned a dog telling or boasting of his deed. He is ashamed, he can't help but be. He cannot be classed as a criminal because a person of this nature is in a class by himself, cruel, heartless and an enemy of man, woman and child.

It has been my experience that when a person grows older he feels and lives life in a different way. Most persons look to the better and happier side with a thought of preserving life as long as possible. This side of life cannot possibly be thought of by the person who is cruel and inhuman to animals.

I could write a complete story of my views and ideas of a person who is cruel to animals and someday I hope to meet a person of this nature face to face with the facts where he will have to answer to me personally for his actions.

I have written this article in very simple form so there will be no doubt but what it will be understood even by a person who is so ignorant as to torture animals. The only punishment I can see for a person who does this thing, provided he is not found out by his fellow men, is that his conscience will bear down on him the undi-

missable thoughts of his known wrong.

I will end this article the same as I started. A dog is man's best friend but it seems that a dog's worst enemy is man. Quite an honorable distinction I must say.

A LOCAL CITIZEN, TAX-PAYER AND SENTINEL READER.

Saginaw

Feb. 18. — The Saginaw school had a valentine party Fri. afternoon. The children exchanged valentines and played games. Sandwiches, cake and candy were served.

The Townsend club gave a basket social at the school house Fri. night. A quilt, made by the women of the club, was given away.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Benston were dinner guests Wed. evening of last week at the Marvin Harpole home in C.G. Other guests were, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Olsen, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Beach and Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Scott.

Shirley Andrews spent the week end in C.G. visiting her sisters.

Mary Bryant returned to high school at Walker Mon., after being absent a week on account of the flu.

Nearly all the pupils from Walker high school attended the show, "A Mid-Summer Night's Dream," at Eugene Fri. John Hohman furnished transportation with his truck.

The Claude Willey family of C.G. spent Sun. at the Lowell Benston home.

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