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"With or without offense to friends or foes I sketch your world exactly as it goes."

—Byron

The Black Case

Commenting on the law's breakdown the Capital Journal Wednesday cited the case of Hugh Black, former clerk of Polk county who was convicted last May and will not be sentenced until next July. The case deserves further mention because this procrastination in the enforcement of the law is as unusual as it is inexcusable in this locality.

Black was county clerk for two terms. He was a Sunday school superintendent and a leader in lodge and social affairs. He confessed to having feloniously appropriated county funds to his own use, yet entered a plea of not guilty, forcing the state to expense of a trial. He was convicted of embezzling \$2211.21 on May 26, 1933.

Judge George R. Bagley of Hillsboro, who presided over the trial, has not passed sentence upon Black as yet. The court first fixed May 31 as date for sentence. When that day was reached, time for passing sentence was deferred to December 2. On November 29, Judge Bagley at McMinnville, on petition of District Attorney Barnhart and Oscar Hayter, attorney for the defense, deferred sentence until July 14, 1934.

If a judge can thus suspend sentence for over a year, why not for 5 or 10 years? Then if the culprit is not actually brought into court, an astute criminal lawyer will probably contend that the court has lost jurisdiction over the case and has no power to pass sentence.

Such court procedure, which Judge Bagley has foisted on the people of Polk county undoubtedly brings courts and the administration of criminal law into disrepute. Is criminal procedure merely a judicial cobweb which catches the small fly but lets the wasps and hornets get through? Are those with power and influence, who betray public trust and steal from the people, to escape with a slap on the wrist, while those poor devils who steal under stress of circumstances, get the limit?

The Black case, however, reflects no discredit upon the criminal procedure as provided by statute. It is not so much the fault of the law as it is of those who administer the law. The most efficient set of rules which the human mind can devise, if administered by incompetents, will produce poor results. After all the human element is the most important factor in the administration of justice.

The Difference

Commenting on the fear of some observers that the extension of government control over American economic life is placing the nation on the road to a planned economy in the Russian style, Walter Lipman, the publicist says:

The difference is that the Russian planning is a gigantic collective effort to increase production in a country which does not have enough of anything, whereas the American regimentation is a collective effort to curtail production in a country which believes it has too much of everything. Stalin is concerned with five-year plans to grow larger crops and build more factories and turn out more goods. Secretary Wallace and General Johnson make their plans with the conviction that we must grow smaller crops and discourage the building of new factories and turn out less goods. Russia is attempting to solve the problem of scarcity; America, at the moment, is attempting to solve the problem of a temporary glut.

The AAA he points out derives its vital force from the fact that it offers to raise farm prices by paying farmers to reduce their crops; the NRA derives its vital force from the desire of established industries to "stabilize" themselves through cooperation by relaxing the anti-trust laws and the purpose is to keep production down to the effective demand.

When recovery comes, and prices rise through scarcity of supply, a revolution in public opinion will come and a rebellion against restrictions will follow as the day the night. Regimentation will last only as long as the emergency that created it by the breakdown in exchange of goods.

As Mr. Lipman concludes "while we have been appalled at the paradox of poverty in the midst of plenty, we are in some danger of embracing the greater paradox that we can become rich by creating scarcity." That's what we are trying to do.

Taxing the Exempts

A strong effort is already underway at Washington to plug the income tax loopholes afforded by tax-exempt bonds. Senator Lonergan of Connecticut will lead the fight. He introduced measures to that end at the recent session, the one a bill and the other a constitutional amendment.

The bill provides that income from federal securities issued in the future shall be taxed. The government can tax its own securities under such legislation but it cannot tax those of a state. Hence, a constitutional amendment, giving it power to tax all securities. Under his plan, only federal securities issued in the future could be taxed until ratification of the proposed amendment, which means a delay of several years.

It is also proposed to reach tax exempt securities without waiting for ratification by a special excise tax, which would be by imposing a tax upon the doing of business by corporations and by individuals and by a net income tax upon those not subject to excise taxes, reach most of the exempt securities.

Tax exempt securities reached a grand total of nearly \$35 millions as follows at the end of 1931:

Totally tax-exempt federal securities \$6,953,000,000. In addition, there were \$12,125,000,000 exempt from the normal tax, making a total of \$19,078,000,000. To this is added \$15,583,000,000, state, county and city bonds, totally exempt from all taxes. The grand total for all classes was \$34,661,000,000, of which \$22,536,000,000 are totally exempt.

Legion of Honor Won By Paris Decorator

Paris (AP)—M. Menester has been given the Legion of Honor, for which he waited all of his life. For more than half a century his name has been associated with Paris theatrical life as a decorator. A short time ago he amused himself by sending a picture to the Paris Salon and to his great delight it was refused with the notation "too immature." Menester began his career by decorating a dance hall. Since then he has decorated nearly all the theaters and music halls in Paris.

Oklahoma Hunters Not Severe On Deer

Oklahoma City (AP)—Only 225 bucks—one for about every 10 hunters—were killed during Oklahoma's first open season on deer in 11 years. Not a single hunter was slain, and none was wounded. State Game Warden Robert Chandler estimated the number of bucks killed at about four per cent of those in the woods in the seven counties where hunting was allowed. All hunters were forced to wear red jackets so other hunters would not mistake them for deer.

DAVE ACCUSED BY AIMEE IN COUNTER SUIT

Los Angeles, Dec. 21 (AP)—A primrose path lined with pretty chorus girls who carressed and kissed her errant husband was described today by Aimee Semple McPherson Hutton as grounds for divorce from her husband, David L. Hutton, Jr. Striking back at her husband, who instituted divorce proceedings last summer, the evangelist accused him of cruelty in moving to bring to an end the two-year-old romance in a counter-suit.

The counter-suit was filed only a few hours before she returned home from a nationwide evangelistic and vaudeville tour. Hutton was accused in the cross-complaint of stooping to "cheap" publicity stunts in furthering his stage career. He allowed himself to be photographed with "scantly-dressed girls whom he permitted to caress and kiss him" in "utter disregard to the marital status of the parties and disclosing a marked attitude of indifference toward her (his wife's) ideals, wishes and desires," according to the complaint.

Aimee, who herself drew \$4,000 a week for several vaudeville appearances, described herself as "an internationally known evangelist who... has been devoting all of her time and energy in promulgating by the preached and written word, at home and abroad, the fourfold message of full gospel evangelism, the Bible... the second coming of Jesus Christ and the return of the apostolic power of healing." All these "ideals" were utterly disregarded by her husband in embarking on a stage career, Mrs. Hutton alleged.

Hutton's "career" at present has been reduced from that of a vaudeville headliner to that of an entertainer at a small, local night club.



(Copyright, 1933, by Paul Mallon)

Washington, Dec. 21—Calamity howlers are yodeling in despair about the federal budget. They think it is in bad shape. They say it will not be unbalanced but so far as it is to disturb confidence in government bonds. They see no prospect of performing the spring refinancing successfully. They do not say these things openly, but that is what they are driving at.

Their trouble is that they assume the government needs money to balance the budget. As a matter of practical fact, all the government needs is a good sharp pencil.

Fundamentals—No well-informed people use the phrase "balancing the budget" anymore. It is obsolete. It does not mean anything under the existing treasury book-keeping system.

Everyone knows these alphabetical super-relief agencies are costing more money than the government can take it. They will possibly cost ten billions during the next three years. But these expenses are NOT in the budget. They are segregated outside.

The budget contains only the ordinary running expenses of the government. The inside estimate is that it will show a surplus of a billion dollars at the end of this fiscal year (June 30).

So the question is NOT whether the budget is balanced, but whether the whole scheme of income and out-go is on a sane basis. The real problem is not to make the books balance but to maintain the confidence of bondholders in the government's ability to pay off its excess current expenditures in the end.

At least that is the principle upon which Mr. Roosevelt is proceeding. He believes it can and will be done that way.

Mr. Roosevelt's theory is that business will be better. If it is,

government revenues will be better. He can pay off in years of plenty the obligations incurred in the years of want. Some experts doubt his ability to do that.

But what it all boils down to is a question whether you think business is going to be sufficiently better to meet the expenses within a reasonable time. If you do not believe it will, then you do not want government bonds or money or anything else except a storm cellar full of food.

The administration men here think it cannot help but work out satisfactorily. They say that if Mr. Roosevelt keeps spending within reason and keeps congress from going off on a ten billion dollar public works spree and other things like that, he will be all right.

They know the existing budget system is a trick bookkeeping. They also know that it is a practical necessity.

Therefore all they want to do is to keep excess expenditures within reason, and they will not worry about "balancing the budget."

Voice—Mr. Hoover himself concurs in the republican declaration to lay off Roosevelt in the coming congressional session. At least his unofficial Washington spokesman, Larry Richey, has joined in the move. Richey has told all republican senate and house leaders who asked him that he thinks it would be unwise to use obstruction tactics. He thinks the welfare of the country should be considered first.

Richey would hardly have taken such a step without having heard from Palo Alto.

Effect—The decision means that Senator Fess can keep on saying the country is going to hell, if he wants to. Senator Schall will be permitted to characterize General Johnson as a scorpion or worse. The republican national committee can lambast the money policy. These will be considered purely personal and routine political matters.

The general basic policy of the nominal republican leaders in congress will be to go along with the administration whenever they can. How much the decision means will depend on how it works out in practice on the floor of each house.

Candidates—The big shot republicans reached another decision which was NOT made public. They agreed to soft pedal talk about presidential candidacies for 1936.

To talk about or work for McNary, Snell, Mills, Reed, or Hoover again, at this time, would be foolish. The only immediate political problem from their standpoint is the congressional election next November. They decided to concentrate on that in an individual rather than a national way.

These decisions merely apply a little common sense to the situation. After all, that is the best politics. Republicans do not have to go out and seek issues or candidates. They will have plenty of both when the time comes.

Any policies or men they might concentrate on now will be forgotten or dead before 1936.

Censorship—The new federal reserve bulletin (published today) may not have been censored, but it was certainly written cautiously.

The survey of business is included after having been omitted last month. The bulletin contains no mention of the gold policy or the NRA.

One thing is clear. The White House will not be displeased at this month's issue.

Notes—The present day standing of the treasury books means nothing because the real outflow of money has only started. For instance, on December 16 only \$153,000,000 of the three billions allotted to public works had then been disbursed. The only significant figure in the statement issued was the one showing that the public debt had been increased \$100,000,000 since July 1. That is where they get the money by refinancing and adding it on the debt.

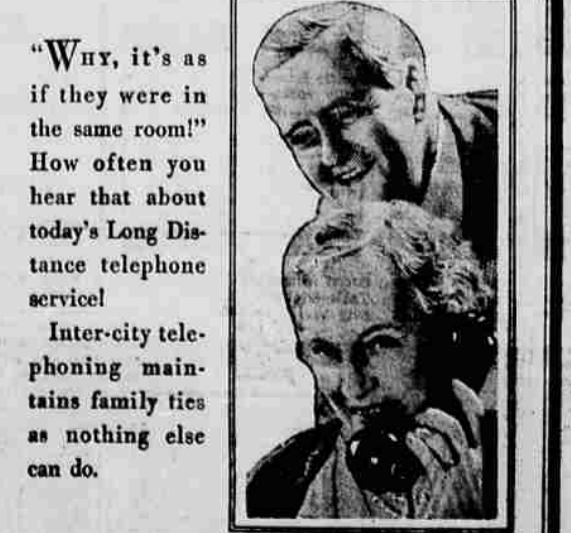
Apparently some one told Jesse Jones about the treasury press room cartoon showing himself and Morgenthau shooting dice to determine the gold price. He never mentions the gold program without some reference to dice and seems quite proud of his crap-shooting vocabulary.

Most of those trying to get foreign service appointments in Russia are out of luck, as the state department is moving men from

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Every Public School In Salem Presenting Christmas Programs

Every public school in Salem is observing Christmas this week. No two schools are celebrating the event in exactly the same way, and several programs, remarkable for originality,

have been prepared. Nearly every school boy and girl in the city has an opportunity during the week to participate in a program of some kind. In addition to the Christmas features all the schools participated in the sale of Christmas seals sponsored by the Oregon Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis.

Grant school prepared two programs which are being presented at various times during the week. One of these is by the pupils of the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades and the other by the first and second grades.

At McKinley school will be an all-school program for the children this afternoon and for the parents at 8 o'clock this evening. The Christmas story will be told by readings and the singing of carols. A cast of 30 children from the fifth and sixth grades comprises the main chorus. In addition there is a small chorus from the primary grades and 10 other characters from other grades. The main hall at McKinley school has been made attractive with built-in scenes. All of the children have taken part in the fruit drive of the Salvation army for the benefit of the poor.

Richmond school will observe Christmas by an assembly Friday afternoon for the singing of carols. After that each grade will give a program in its own room.

Park school will give its annual Christmas concert Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The Christmas story will be depicted by Biblical readings and songs. Gifts wrapped in white paper and tied with green ribbon will be offered by the children for distribution by the Salvation Army.

At Lincoln school Christmas has been observed throughout the week by brief ensembles in the main hall each morning. Each room has charge of this program one morning. Carols are sung and the room in charge gives a special number. The children bring toys for the Salvation army, and "Silent Night" is sung as the gifts are placed about the tree. On Friday afternoon each grade at Lincoln will have its own program in its own room.

Englewood school has prepared a program for Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The Christmas story will be depicted by shadow pictures and the singing of carols. Every child in the school will have a part.

At Garfield school several programs are to be given in the various rooms Friday. Programs by the individual rooms during the week and an all-school program Friday in the order at Highland school. The Friday program will be by the sixth grade and will be entitled "The Message of the An-

gel." The border states into Russia, figuring they know more about current Russian problems.

When young Robert Strauss, the ambassador's son, left the NRA, it was explained he was nervous from overwork. It now develops that Strauss' nervous condition first became apparent to General Johnson when Strauss overruled him in a dispute which came before the policy board.

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STONE REVEALS VIKINGS' VISIT

Winnipeg, Man (AP)—That Norseman had penetrated the interior of Canada 150 years before Columbus discovered America may be proven by characters carved on a stone near Sandy resort, 45 miles north of Winnipeg.

An Icelandic scholar has read on its face inscriptions identified as Scandinavian runic. The stone is believed to be evidence that Manitobas and the Hudson bay area were explored in 1302 A.D.

The runic rock is of gray stone, badly weathered, five feet long and three feet thick. It is about one and a half miles back from the present shore line.

The importance of the find is emphasized by the finding of what is now called the "Kensington Stone" at Kensington, Minn., in 1898. One stone, it is said, will confirm the evidence of the other. Both point, it is claimed, to the unmistakable conclusion that the Vikings explored America long before Columbus.

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