

Capital Journal

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BERNARD MAINWARING, Editor and Publisher
GEORGE PUTNAM, Editor Emeritus
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LIBERAL OR CONSERVATIVE?

Liberal and conservative are two great words, supposedly meaning opposites in thinking. Two great political parties developed under these names in England and alternated in ruling that country for some two centuries, until in our own time so many Liberals became Socialists as to reduce the Liberal party to a shadow of its former self.

Americans habitually classify themselves along these lines, but our people like to think of themselves as liberals. So you will find at least 10 people calling themselves such to on who will admit he is a conservative, although probably an outright majority of our people actually are conservative.

But are the two mutually antagonistic? We have never thought they were, but that the same person might take the liberal view on one issue, the conservative on another. One of the most conservative men we ever knew, in politics, was an extreme liberal in religion and proud of it.

These thoughts are prompted by President Eisenhower's comment when asked if his administration is liberal or conservative. Eisenhower is more of a philosopher than most people realize, an original thinker as well as a man of affairs.

Said Eisenhower, in effect, "we are liberal in our attitude toward people and we are conservative in handling economic affairs." We expect a good many to take issue with this and to point out that economic affairs relate closely to people, that no line can be drawn.

Another way of saying the same thing would be that "we are progressive, we are constantly exploring to find new ways of promoting the people's interests, but we rely on orthodox, time tried methods. In short, that one can be progressive and conservative at the same time. A political party in Canada calls itself that, and there is no inconsistency.

Americans who love slogans and do not wish to think very deeply will continue to pin them on their breasts and to chant them, often with little realization of what they mean. Those who think things through will continue to be puzzled about whether they are really liberals or conservatives when they find themselves repeatedly getting into the other camp as individual issues unfold.

If we are wise we will see the value in each line of thinking, the progressive or liberal to seek changes, the conservative to see that they work successfully. With only conservatives progress would be too slow, with only liberals we might find ourselves in hopeless confusion.

Eisenhower is on the right track in trying to be both liberal and conservative. It is not an easy road to follow. It is a course subject to attack from extremists on both sides. But it is more nearly right than any other and it best suits the present temper of our people if we read this rightly.

THE OLD STRUGGLE FOR POWER

Back of the Bricker amendment to the constitution to limit power of the president in treaty making is the renewed congressional effort to wrest power from the president in the field of foreign relations, a continuation of an old and recurring struggle for power between congress and the executive.

Bricker first offered his idea in the senate in 1951. In 1952 the American Bar Association's house of delegates, but not by a unanimous vote, approved one of its own, tougher than Bricker's who immediately supported it. Both were products of long-time criticism and fears.

The criticism was aimed at the abuse of power by Presidents Roosevelt and Truman with Stalin and were the immediate cause of the cold war and communist expansion throughout the world. The contents of these secret treaties were not known to congress until long afterwards and never approved by the senate.

Bricker proposed that the constitution should have some safeguard written into it specifically giving both houses of congress authority to regulate executive agreements. Its opponents say it would do more damage than good and destroys the president's power and the separation of power provided by the Constitution and give the 48 states a vote over treaties and the handling of foreign affairs.

When Bricker introduced his amendment in 1951, 64 senators pledged their support, but with the president's open opposition, it is doubtful if he could now get two-thirds of the senate to vote for it, as his support has melted under White House heat and close study of the inevitable results. Compromise has been attempted but is not likely to succeed.

Those who originally favored the amendment have an out, for since they signed the measure it has been altered to include its most controversial provisions.

The vote on the amendment will be a test of Eisenhower's strength in congress, the most conclusive yet offered. —G. P.

THE COFFEE PRICE SQUEEZE

The Federal Trade Commission is going to investigate the coffee price boost, and this is well, for most Americans use coffee and can be rooked about as neatly by a coffee corner as in any way we know.

But in advance of the study we suggest that two principal facts will be found. Fact No. 1 is that sharp coffee experts are constantly watching for an opportunity to corner the market. They get advance information on the condition of the crop in the coffee producing countries, together with consumption trends, etc. When they think they see an opportunity they buy and tie up stocks in amounts sufficient to create a threat of shortage.

Fact No. 2 is that this sort of thing would not succeed without the cooperation of the very public that gets bilked in the deal. As soon as publicity begins to appear on a shortage threat the buyers throng to the stores to buy ahead of immediate needs. The law of supply and demand then takes its normal course. Demand exceeds supply and the price shoots up. This frightens buyers, there is more and scarier buying and the price goes up some more.

Then the reverse takes place. Irrate housewives quit buying until prices come down. Those who have bought ahead cease buying. Supply exceeds demand. The price falls back. But in the meantime the sharp speculators "get theirs."

If there is a way to head off these periodic coffee corners by government action, by all means let's have it. But the most effective way will always be for housewives to refuse to get excited when they hear of a "shortage." There'll always be coffee, and there's no record of anyone ever having died if he quit for a week or two—just in case the supply ever did run out, briefly.

Smart boys are playing us for suckers.

THE SEANCE



WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Commodity Credit Corp. Okayed Reds' Butter Deal

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON — Here is what happened inside the Eisenhower cabinet regarding the controversial, dynamite-laden but very tempting Russian offer to buy 44,000,000 pounds of surplus American butter.

Actually, the Commodity Credit Corporation, the Agriculture Department subsidiary which buys and stores butter, had OK'd the butter deal. They felt that even if the Russian price was a little low, it would be wise to get part of our butter surplus out of warehouses before it spoiled.

This was the general line, therefore, that sincere, much-criticized Secretary of Agriculture Benson took at the cabinet meeting. He pointed out that butter was accumulating in American warehouses at the rate of over 1,000,000 pounds a day and that getting rid of it was a very real problem.

He also pointed out that the United States was already selling tallow to Soviet Russia, and butter was no more strategic than tallow.

Another argument was that Russia didn't have to have the butter from us. She could buy it elsewhere if she couldn't purchase it on the American market.

Finally Benson pointed out that by stopping the butter sale, the administration would lose money for the American taxpayers, since the butter would not keep indefinitely. While the butter would be sold a little cheaper than the U. S. support price, even so, it was argued, this was better than a total loss.

Benson Overruled
No one at the cabinet meeting disagreed with Benson on any of the points he raised. The only point where they differed was regarding the reaction of the American public. And almost every member of the cabinet who expressed himself said that to sell butter to Russia at a cheaper price than to the American housewife would create a nation-wide furor.

The support price for butter paid by the Department of Agriculture today is around 67 cents a pound. The world price for butter, offered by Russia, is around 46 cents a pound. This difference of 21 cents a pound, the cabinet finally decided, would bring a "very sour reaction from American housewives."

Lower Butter Prices
However, the sale was not entirely killed—as Harold Stassen indicated later. And here is the strategy being discussed for the future.

By April 1, Secretary Benson has to make up his mind whether he will support dairy prices during the coming year. And according to present tentative thinking inside the administration, he will reduce support prices. Benson himself has been a great friend of the dairymen, but administration policies are to reduce farm prices somewhat and he will go along with that policy.

This will put the new price of butter nearer the Russian offer of 46 cents a pound, in which case, it's argued, the Soviet sale would be much more favorably received by the public. Actually the butter already accumulated, and which

Pre-Mature "Obit"

Boise Statesman
Having been missing and considered dead for two days, the novelist Ernest Hemingway will have the rare privilege of reading his own obituary in newspapers from all parts of the world. A man who has survived two plane crashes in the African jungle within two days has earned some sort of special privilege.

"The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated," Mark Twain cabled from Europe in a somewhat similar situation. Since his day Hemingway has added a new style to American literature, a style of blunt rough words. It will be interesting to see what he has to say about his obituary.

UNKINDEST CUT!

Pendleton East Oregonian
Eleanor Holm is divorcing Billy Rose. That's too bad. Rose probably will marry again, and we doubt that any girl deserves such a fate.

reason why Rhee is willing to pull his punches, and it's the same reason why the United Nations is not likely to resume ground warfare in Korea ever again. If war is resumed it will be via the air and with atom bombs.

The reason is the steel-and-concrete "Maginot Line" which the Chinese have built across the Korean peninsula. No army could possibly storm it without devastating loss of life, and it's no secret that even the U. S. army has given up any thought of wasting lives on its labyrinth of underground defenses. Instead, if it ever becomes necessary, we will do what the Germans did with the French Maginot Line and circumvent it.

Rhee, therefore, will march his troops up to the Communist Maginot Line and then stop.
NOTE—As far as the U. N. is concerned, Allied intelligence does not expect any resumption of Korean fighting except possibly for intermittent local flare-ups along the battle line.

APPROPRIATELY NAMED

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma City YMCA announced its new aquatic committee today. Included were Lee Fish and Al Whale.

Agreements Short Cut to Socialism

By RAYMOND MOLEY

While much of the controversy that has developed over the Randall report on foreign economic policy centers upon the tariff recommendations, a more vital immediate matter is its condemnation of the surreptitious process of bringing controls into our domestic economy by international commodity agreements negotiated by the State Department with little attention by congress or by the public. One example of a most unfortunate and costly operation of that kind is the international wheat agreement, which was renewed last summer under rather strange circumstances.

This, however, is only the beginning of a long series of such cartelizations which have been under negotiation or are contemplated in many other lines of raw materials. The affinity of the State Department with that sort of thing is undoubtedly the reason why there is so much opposition to section 3 of the Bricker amendment, which would bring such matters under the control of Congress.

The Randall report says: "The commission does not believe that extensive resort to commodity agreements will solve the problem of price instability; and it believes that such agreements introduce rigidities and restraints that impair the elasticity of economic adjustment and the freedom of individual initiative, which are fundamental to economic progress."

Thus this commission selected by President Eisenhower characterizes a procedure which the president himself was persuaded to favor last July and which the senate approved. This at least gives the president, if he will examine the facts carefully, an opportunity to alter his attitude on this vitally important matter.

The wheat agreement had cost this country at least \$600,000,000 by the time it was renewed in July. What it will cost beyond that is conjectural.

It is fantastic that the State Department, which has for many years favored what Secretary Hull called "more liberal trade policies," would also favor such policies of fastening upon economic life a much more rigid and restrictive method of regulating not only international trade but the domestic economy. The answer is obvious, however. Cutting out tariffs and locking ourselves in international compacts both help nations abroad at our expense. That is apparently the fixed purpose of the State Department bureaucracy, however illogical it may be.

In July the wheat agreement was rushed through the senate without a record vote. Only one voice was raised against it—that of the Democratic Senator Frear of Delaware. Even The New York Times, which is strongly internationalist and seeks now to defeat the Bricker proposal, said editorially at the time:

"Thus at a time when we are pledging ourselves to a continuance of liberal foreign trade policy by extending the Trade Agreements Act without crippling amendments we are riding off in the opposite direction in a manner of speaking, by continuing as a member of an international commodity cartel which is the antithesis of trade liberalism."

The Randall report shows consistency by its condemnation of the wheat agreement. It points out not only the violation of principle involved in it, but the fact that it is silly to establish inflexible price supports which stimulate overproduction at home and by international agreement the dumping of the product abroad. The end results will be the dumping of surpluses of other materials by foreign countries here.

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POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Pipe Smokers Are Quiet, Peaceful, Police Chiefs Say

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK. (AP)—Never mind whether cigarettes give you a cough.

Science is already musing over such problems. Let's take up today another tempestuous issue in the world of tobacco, which is: If a man smokes a pipe is he less likely to rob a bank, strike his wife, or saw his mother-in-law in half?

The nation has an estimated 18 million regular or part-time pipe smokers. Are they a more law-abiding class than other type smokers?

To get the answer to this great social question Morris L. Levinson, president of the Kaywood Pipe Co., polled 200 police chiefs. We have the results at hand. The statistics—like most statistics—seem to prove pretty much whatever you want to believe anyway.

To begin with, 131 police chiefs didn't reply at all. This proves something we have thought all along: You not only can't find a cop when you really want one—you can't even attract his attention through the mail.

Of the 69 police chiefs who did respond at all, 22 ducked the issue by saying they had no figures on the smoking habits of their local criminals. Just why they didn't say. But it would seem easy enough for the police, in grilling a suspect, to slip in a leading query such as:

"We know you went to a progressive school as a boy, Butch, but what really led you to hijack that truck? What were you smoking at the time—pipe, cigarette or cigar? Come clean now—if you know what's good for you."

The remaining 47 police chiefs more or less bore out Levinson's hopeful faith that pipe smokers make good family men, rarely cause the cops trouble, and seldom kick small dogs around.

A few comments: The perfect of police in Paris, France, regretted he had no statistical data but admitted he smoked a pipe himself.

"John McGraw of the New York Giants put thumbs down on ball players that smoked a pipe because they were the 'peaceful' type," wrote Chief of Detectives George Lequist of Sacramento, Calif. "McGraw claimed they lacked the fighting spirit and I believe he was right to a large extent."

"Older men are pipe smokers, and crime reports reveal that the younger age groups predominate in crime," said Chief Ray D. Kerr of Tacoma, Wash.

"I do not smoke at all myself," said police officer L. M. Hilton of Odgen, Utah, but acknowledged pipe smokers committed few homicides in his area.

"We have had dealings with thousands of criminals here, and I cannot recall one of the 'big time' criminals smoking a pipe," commented Chief O. A. Booker of Meridian, Miss. "On the contrary, they chain-smoked cigarettes, many of them taking only a couple puffs before stubbing it out and lighting another."

"Pipe smokers seem to have less nervous tension," wrote Police Supt. Leo Rudy of Scranton, Pa.

"It would appear pipe smokers come from the more stable social group," observed Chief S. G. Haddock of Kenosha, Wis.

"Pipe smokers are generally older, more settled persons than are the cigarette smokers, and it naturally follows that the cigarette smokers will be more numerous among the law violators," said Chief Ray Blankenship of North Little Rock, Ark.

"Frankly, it seems to us this poll raises more questions than it answers.

"What shape of pipe and what brand of tobacco will make pipe smokers even more lovable citizens?"

Would pipe smoking by wives make them more peaceful in the home?

Does the country really need a good five-cent cigar, or would it just create new worries for the police?

Who commits the most crimes—the regular cigarette smoker, the filtered cigarette smoker, or the guy who likes 'em king size? Will police chiefs appear on television saying, "Why don't you smoke my brand—you don't see me being arrested, do you?"

Yes, and how about snuff? A lot of people take snuff secretly, and who knows what else they may be up to?

REDS PROVIDE FARM TITLE
MOSCOW (AP)—In an effort to speed its drive to raise farm production and living standards in the next three years, the Soviet Government has established the honorary title of "Merited Agronomist of the Republic" to be awarded for outstanding service.

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