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STANLEY W. NETHERTON Editor and Publisher
MRS. EDNA BLACK Associate Editor-Office Mgr.
WALLY KAIN News Editor

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Detect False Leaders

Now is the time for all good men . . . and some scoundrels . . . to start their promises and make their claims for all sorts of public office, ranging from a school district's board of directors to the President of the United States. And now is the time, if history bears repeating, for the common citizen to be swayed by glib oratory of the political professional—and to help crucify some of the many who are imbued with as much the ideals of public service as with desire for public acclaim and personal advancement.

There are many definitions of a politician. Some say a politician is one who will stand for anything the voter will fall for and others dismiss the entire business with a weary sigh that all politicians are scoundrels and a blight upon our system.

It sometimes seems positively amazing to find, among a crop of candidates seeking office, anyone who is not a self-seeker—or a spokesman of self-seekers. For the very record of deceit in purpose, of graft in high places has associated the holding of many public offices with corruption.

This would not be perhaps so unhealthy a matter if the importance of government did not show its influence in practically all phases of everyday living. But the growing insinuation of government into everything of the national scene—and the staggering price that taxpayers kick in to keep that government functioning—establishes a new basis for valuation.

A political race, by this development, becomes more than a pull and a haul and a scramble to see who will get a snout deepest into the public trough. It's a matter of administration and ability which will affect the trend of personal as well as official life.

Candidates who promise they will "give" so much to the common man and will ease so many problems by merely waving a wand when elected, are suspect. Their motives must be closely scrutinized for, unless they can back their promises with a definite program that offers faith for their logic, they speak for votes and votes only. All political "giving" comes from the taxpayer's pocket.

In all phases of political oratory, promises and programs must be balanced by some sort of background which bespeaks a degree of basic integrity and honesty. Yet, in the tragic mill of political success, too often a promising man becomes a pawn and a shadow of what his background would otherwise foretell. For such success proves heady—and the opportunities are said to be positively surprising.

Nationally and statewide, there are opportunities for public service which will build to high stature anyone willing and capable to assume the responsibilities of high position honestly, sincerely and without favor. While circumstance has played a large part in molding great figures of our national history, circumstance has also proved the undoing of some whose names are rescued from anonymity only because, somewhere, it is written down that they served from this date to that.

Political life engenders antagonisms and burns many bridges in a person's life. Once in the swim, readjustment to normal life, because of defeat or retirement, is hard and slow. Politics seems hardly for the timid.

Yet, if there were less recrimination and less association to evil in political activity, more non-professionals would be attracted. And politics wouldn't seem like politics any more.

Next to that confusing possibility, what the political processes next need, as a contribution for better government, are candidates who have not let their professional contacts destroy the fine idealism our nation could so handily use.

In any case, a voter in the months ahead should carefully weigh political claims. We are in need of leadership. We must detect those who would lead us falsely.

—W. K.



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BABSON DISCUSSES GRAPEFRUIT AND ORANGES

I am sorry to see my citrus friends here in Florida feeling so low. After several prosperous years, grapefruit are now selling at twenty cents a box, on the trees, and oranges are selling at forty cents. No grower can raise fruit for these prices.

REASONS FOR DROP
During the war the government took about one-half the crop. This was dehydrated to one-seventh its normal bulk and sent in large cans to our soldiers in Europe. When the war stopped, the government suddenly stopped buying which resulted in the citrus people losing one-half of their customers all in one blow.

People up North are not buying as much citrus as they were. With the high price of steaks, fish and vegetables, people are economizing on other food items. In addition to consumers buying less, many more trees have been set out during the last few years which has increased production. Citrus is unlike a tomato crop or any other annual crop which can be cut off at any time. It takes seven years before a tree begins to bear, and then it bears almost forever.

HEALTH VALUE
I have no citrus fruit to sell, but I can honestly tell readers that citrus fruits should be eaten by all people who wish to keep well. A No. 2 can of grapefruit or orange juice has about 350 milligrams of vitamin C. Each can has the equivalent of about three grapefruit or four oranges. Citrus fruit also has the valuable vitamin P and certain other important vitamins and minerals.

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Speak and Win

"Here Jane, please pick up that piece of paper." And Jane, 3-year-old, came back with I WON'T. Then the contest was on with mother set to make Jane mind. The hour passed with spunks, tears, more spunks and I WONT'S until Jane gave in and picked up the paper.

We and Jane are both alike. Jane defied her mother and we sinned against God. But he so loved us that he gave Christ, his Son to die for us. Believe God, that Christ's death settled for all your sins and God gives you eternal life. Then receive Christ into your heart to make you a new man.

The M. D. had warned that the next drunken spree would send young Sutcliffe into tremens and the grave. This is Dr. B. E. Sutcliffe, for years now a nationally known Bible teacher. He says that thru Luke 19:10 he was saved. "The Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." And just so, Christ stands ready to save you. Only so you receive Him into your heart.

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Joe Marsh
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