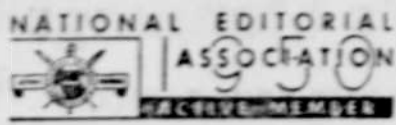


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WARREN FOR PRESIDENT?

Lessons of the recent election are many and varied, depending to a large extent on who is doing the interpreting. What one considers a "directive" of the electorate is, to another, an entirely different matter.

Much of the nation, in this off-year vote, has been aware of prospective candidates for the Presidency of the United States, in 1952. Where the race was particularly dramatized, this trend has been extremely well emphasized.

In Ohio, for instance, there is the case of Senator Robert Taft.

The Taft victory is one of those political stories which seem to tell a mighty truth to one group and an entirely opposite lesson to the other. Particularly is this reflected in the glee many take in pointing out how fruitless and almost ridiculous the vows and statements of Labor actually proved.

The facts stand out by themselves. Labor politicians did an unusual amount of chest thumping and sounding off of how completely and unmercifully Taft was to be "dumped". And after the post-election mists raised, to these profound pundits of the laboring class were there, a dead cigar clinched in their teeth, their pockets bulging with anti-Taft diatribes and the throbbing realization of utter defeat weighing heavily upon their spirits.

This was a major test for Labor. . . and they flunked ignominiously. The recognizable fact that might well be faced is that union members do not blindly follow the dictates of their leaders, no matter how impassioned an appeal might be made.

Taft is a senator of stature, that cannot be denied. And he was, basically, running against a candidate with admittedly less stature—not against Organized Labor. Could it be that voters—including labor union members—were reluctant to dislodge this man of national repute for one in whom less confidence abided?

By the same reasoning, of course, Taft's victory stands primarily as against his opposing candidate—not over the idea of Organized Labor. And if the unions want ever to do more than spend a lot of money and do a lot of talking to no result, they had best first arm themselves with a candidate of comparable ability and significance to Mr. Taft.

It is easy to prophesy, on the lone fact of Taft's resurgent vote-getting, to picture him as a sure-vote-getting candidate for presidency on the Republican ticket, in 1952. To some, this seems somewhat far fetched because the coming race for President is in an entirely different league and requires a much different bit of pitching—and catching.

Looming much stronger, following the November 7 battle with the ballots, is the re-elected governor of California who so pointedly blunted the attack of a young Roosevelt.

Which leads early prognosticators of the West Coast to wondering, "Will it be Warren for President in 1952?"

AUDIT OF JOBLESS PAY

The idea of unemployment compensation is firmly established as one of the procedures of the nation.

There still are many, however, who are reluctant to be enthusiastic about it. One of the most common explanations of this dim view on social security is occasioned by what is loosely termed the excesses and abuses of the scheme.

We are all familiar with the procedure. The employee pays a designated percentage of his wage. The employer contributes his matching donation. The total is credited for both, to provide in a period of joblessness for certain causes. And when employment ends for the worker, he is allowed to draw on his account while he is actively engaged in seeking work—up to a statutory number of weeks.

"Rocking chair money" is one of the designations offered by employers who, not covered themselves, must still provide matching money toward the unemployment compensation fund. An employer, particularly one who has but a handful of hired workers and is burdened with trying to make a reasonable profit in addition to meeting the constantly growing demands for taxes and related payments, is naturally watchful for anyone who takes advantage of the system.

There have been instances of jobless workers taking the compensation checks to their favorite bar and blowing a good share of it on beer or wine. This belief is attested by the numerous times it is solemnly reviewed. True, the specific instance is often vague. But this one story has convinced many an employer that he is being "taken" and plenty.

Therefore, it is somewhat refreshing to note that the state unemployment compensation commission is aware of this possibility and activates a Fraud Investigation Unit to visit various local offices of the commission to check discrepancies of claims and earnings records.

These auditors constantly compare employers' reports of earnings against the rec-

ord of weeks for which jobless benefits have been paid. "Rocking chair" money, thus, becomes increasingly hard to obtain with intent to defraud the fund—and the employers.

On the other side of the unemployment compensation picture, of course, are sincere workers who find themselves without a job for reasons not their own. They take their government-paid pittance for its subsistence value, while seeking another job. They abide by all the rules of the setup and find their jobless pay to be fully what it was intended—a stop-gap between jobs.

So, for the benefit of employers and unemployed workers who ask only their just dues, the audit of jobless pay serves well.

IRRIGATION PROSPERITY

The economic value of irrigation has been established in many ways and numerous studies made establish the point that an agricultural area benefits almost without measure by this means of stepping up the fertility and productivity of the soil.

Most dramatic exhibit in this consideration might be noted in the arid lands of Washington, Oregon, California and elsewhere. There the magic touch of water turned barren, sagebrush-dotted country into lush garden spots. Yields from such sun-baked sections, too, are staggeringly generous.

However, the full story of irrigation is not confined to such dramatic instances as semi-desert transformations. In lands already under cultivation, too, the added growing power from extra water is reflected in annual crop incomes. Water, it is thus evidenced, is the magic ingredient which extends the growth potential of any soil.

An example of irrigation in Northwestern Oregon is offered by Washington county, where the market for fruit and vegetables in supplying food processing plants accounts for from \$13 to \$14 million annually. This is in addition to the present farm income of a like figure. In other words, these specialty crops, in the production of which some irrigation is used, have already doubled the usual agricultural earnings.

The county planning commission, now, is seeking to determine whether or not to undertake an irrigation-flood control-drainage project of the Tualatin river which became dormant after a period of activity which saw the U. S. Army Engineers lay out proposals which would have been supported in part by federal contribution.

Certainly, such a project deserves serious, selfless examination for the good of the county. Further, the proponents of the idea should hold numerous educational meetings throughout the county to frankly discuss the entire project and clear away many misconceptions which might hazard its success.

Without the solid backing of the entire district which this irrigation-flood-control effort concerns, the improvement of agricultural lands will fail to materialize. Proponents, also, will bear the burden of proving to landowners that the idea will result in tangible advantages which outweigh the costs involved.

Irrigation influences prosperity.

IMPORTANCE OF BREAD

The first imposition of controls over our economy, in the guise of credit controls, coupled with the ban on what is considered unessential use of important construction materials, paves the way for more of the same.

Everywhere is repeated the old saw, "we are at war". Under this label, the people are merely told that circumstances dictate controls and that's all there is to it.

Now the strangest thing about times of crises is that the people, themselves, are willing and anxious to abide by any restriction which strengthens the national interest. Sure, there is a bit of grumbling and grumbling. But, in the majority, the public takes such acts of government in good faith.

Now there is being readied, in the nation's capitol, a twin-attack on inflation under the general heading of basic industry price control accompanied by wage control.

If this maneuver is put over, the patience of the public will be sorely tried. Because, in the face of a rising inflation of food, clothing and shelter, wages would be frozen at a level not in direct proportion to basic living costs.

Although memory of OPA days is distinctly distasteful, it seems the only straightforward way to put the brakes on inflation is to clamp down on those items which are the heart and soul of existence. And the people, even unwillingly, will be better served by realistic curbs on a runaway economy which do not put a limit on workers' income while at the same time allowing the price of food and clothing to go up unchecked.

The importance of bread in our daily life finds little recognition in the apparent attempt to ignore the relation of wages and the food they will buy.

Readers Say

Readers are welcome to use this section of the paper for comments on any topic. There is no restriction on subject matter, other than slander or libelous statements. If possible, letters should be made brief and to the point.

To the Editor:

There is no higher accolade in the Navy than to bear the words "Well Done" for a task well performed. We send you this same citation and assure you that you merit a "Well Done" for your help, aid, and assistance in explaining the old age measure on last Tuesday's ballot.

Admittedly it was a tough measure to explain, the ballot title was confusing, and the people were prone to vote "No" on something they did not understand. We tried to do our best to tell them that a "Yes" vote was essential. But without your help we frankly don't think we could have done the job to return a 308 "Yes" vote of nearly 2 to 1.

It was a fine job of public service that you turned in. Thank you again. Let us hope that future crackpot pension schemes will not make it necessary for anyone to repeatedly defeat cash-box raiding schemes which would push Oregon to the brink of insolvency.

On behalf of this committee, our sincere thanks to all of you.

Very truly yours,
Stanley R. Church,
Secretary
Public Welfare Education Committee

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Our explanation of the Public Welfare measure was not at the suggestion of any committee or group but as a public service designed to explore a controversial issue which, if understood, should carry on its own merits.

TOO MANY TALKERS OFFER ONLY BABLE

Dear Editor:

With some trepidation one comes to attend any kind of public forums or meetings (in church or out) where comment is admitted from the floor, simply because there his ears have too often been offended by some sonorous stentorian voice, male or female, apparently anxious to subdue him, etc. Perhaps one ought to be over-sensitive about this kind of maltreatment in the realm of talk which descends to bable.

Just why such voices occur in nearly every public forum or even ordinary meeting confronts one with a puzzle. Not free speech but this aspect of dissonance, clamor, and at times, sheer noise, is the problem.

One wonders whether some individuals chaffing under the ordinary obscurities of life seek compensation through expression in talk particularly in public speech? After all, isn't this one way of extending one's influence over others and isn't it a penchant of human nature to delight in taking advantage of others?

Isn't it a great thrill to the self if it can enthrall, enchant, and hold others spellbound through the power of speech? And doesn't the good old ego swell in direct proportion as its voice's sound-waves ripple out over a great audience of listening ears? Anyway, here seems to be a plausible line of suggestion.

Washington Irving in "Comedy of Politics" writers of free speech that they all lifted up their voices and made such a clamor of tongues, that we are told they frightened every bird and beast out of the neighborhood.

Indeed to this day, this bable continues and over more channels than ever. The radio pours forth perpetual talk, the Sunday papers flood us with oceans of words to no effect, and even youth, encouraged by modern education, joins the choir of dissonance under pretext of free speech. Once it was told to be "seen" and not heard?

The lesson to be urged here is not that talk or words are wrong per se. Let's have more free speech. There should be less resort to insolence, bigotry, egotism, invective, etc., and more to impartial and disinterested concern for our total welfare, a voice far too much in abeyance.

St. Paul writing on "tongues" might well mean just this.

Sincerely,
Paul Brinkman, Jr.,
1027 E. 57th Ave.,
Portland 15, Oregon

EDITOR'S NOTE:

If everyone were to wait until he were a polished, accomplished speaker and master of logic before he stood up in a public meeting and expressed himself, there would be less such annoyances, it is true. But free speech most certainly allows one to make a few efforts to speak in public, in order to gain poise and mastery. And while an embarrassed, self-conscious speaker often fails to adequately "put over" his point, his self-training is a forerunner to the time he might make significant contribution to an important, future discussion.

But, it is true, many a person makes a habit of speaking emptily, without much more than a fondness for the sound of his own voice to justify his presentation. Against such might well be laid the charge of an abuse of free speech privileges.

VETERANS BONUS PAY AWAITS LEGISLATURE; PATIENCE, G.I.'s!

Oregon veterans' bonus payments must await further action by the 1951 legislature, which convenes in January, and veterans were urged not to make inquiry or attempt to apply until they get the go-ahead.

On the other hand, applications for farm and home loans by new-comers made, eligible under the new constitutional amendment to the Oregon veterans' loan act can be filed as soon as the official ballot count is announced.

This was the word announced today by William F. Gaarenstroom, director of the Oregon Department of Veterans' Affairs, administering agency for the new bonus act and the amended veterans' loan act, both of which were approved by the voters in the November 7 election.

Regarding the "World War II Veterans' Compensation Fund", more popularly termed the veterans' bonus, Gaarenstroom explained that wording of the constitutional amendment creating the act prevents accepting applications and making payments until the legislature determines how the bonds are to be sold, and he warned that a flood of inquiries to the department at this time "may result in unnecessary delays."

That further legislation is necessary is indicated in Section 1 of the act authorizing the sale of direct obligation bonds to create the veterans' compensation fund, which states: "Said bonds shall be a direct obligation of the state and shall be in such form and shall run for such periods of time and bear such rates of interest as shall be provided by statute."

In the meantime, veterans were cautioned that original discharge papers may have to be submitted when applying for the bonus, so those who have lost their original papers should file immediately for certificates in lieu of lost discharge papers so these documents will be on hand when the time comes to apply. Veterans' organizations, county service officers or the Department of Veterans' Affairs will assist in filing for the substitute discharges.

The bonus act provides payment of \$10 for each month of domestic service and \$15 per month of foreign duty to a maximum of \$600 for those who were bona fide Oregon residents for at least one year immediately prior to World War II active duty. They must have served at least 90 days between September 16, 1940, and June 30, 1946, and have been honorably discharged.

Also, the survivor or survivors of the deceased veteran "whose death was caused or contributed to by a service connected disease or disability incurred in service under conditions other than dishonorable" is entitled to the maximum. If death was not incurred in nor due to service, the survivor will receive the amount the veteran would get had he lived. Eligible survivors include the unmarried wife or husband, children, and parents, in that order.

The act sets the deadline for

applying at two years after the effective date of the measure, which will be the date on which the official ballot count is announced. The bonus payments are exempt from state and federal taxation.

The loan amendment approved by Oregon voters liberalizes the World War II veterans' home and farm loan act to extend the benefit to veterans who enlisted from other states but who came to Oregon and lived here at least two years between date of discharge and December 31, 1950. Previously a veteran must have resided in Oregon at the time of enlistment, to be entitled.

The loan amendment also sets the period of active service for loan eligibility as between September 1, 1940, and September 2, 1945, and it raises from three to four percent of the state's assessed valuation, the amount of bonds which may be issued to obtain loan funds.

The loan is made at four percent for the acquisition by World War II veterans of homes or farms, and is in the amount of 75 percent of the appraised value of the property to be acquired, but cannot exceed \$4,000.

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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

We Ask That
"Fares" Play Fair

Judge Cunningham was telling about a taxi ride he took over to the County Seat last week. The cab was all littered with cigarette butts, plus candy and gum wrappers. This annoyed the Judge and he spoke to the driver about it. To his surprise the cabman answered right back. "Don't blame me," he said "Fast as I clear this taxi out, the fares just mess it up again. I like a clean cab as well as anybody, but a man has to have some co-operation!"

Judge figures the fellow was in the right, and maybe we ought to

do a little campaigning with the public. I agree with him—that's why I'm writing this article.

From where I sit, it's important for us to remember the fellow who's going to get in the cab after we leave it. Because he pays the same as we do, he's got the same right to a clean, comfortable ride—just as he has the same right to enjoy the beverage of his choice (be it coffee, beer, lemonade, or what have you).

Joe Marsh

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