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WENDELL LAWRENCE, Editor
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Teaching

In our search for editorial matter which we rehash and pass on as being the product of our own think tank we sometimes run across certain writings of other newspapermen which we feel should be made available to readers of the News Review, without our comments.

We found one this week about government which seems to us to be very important, particularly as this is an election year. The editor of the Fairfield, Iowa, Daily Ledger, preached a sermon last week on the subject of teaching government.

His sermon was titled, "Israel Forgot to Teach Government and Lost." We think you'll agree that the things which he mentions can happen in America, and are, in fact, happening today.

This is the sermon:
 "We want to preach a sermon, in the following paragraphs, to the school boards, country teachers, superintendents and principals of high schools, and faculty members of both high schools and colleges, whose duty it is to teach government.

"We will imitate our 'brethren of the cloth' by taking a text. It is found in Nehemiah 8:9: 'For all the people went when they heard the words of the law.'

"Israel, when it fled from Egypt, had been given the briefest written constitution any nation has ever accepted. It was called the Ten Commandments. As long as Israel knew and followed that law, it prospered and expanded till, under Solomon, it became the richest and foremost nation in the world.

"With prosperity and expansion, Israel became complacent. Its people its elders (members of its boards of education), its Levites (teachers and faculty members) began to slowly drift away from the importance of teaching the Israelite children the superiority of their country's form of government.

"Fifth columnists from Baal and other subversive elements from the surrounding country began to infiltrate Israel and stress the alleged weakness of the Mosaic pattern of government. The youth of Israel, having had little or no training in the fundamental law of their land, were easily moved toward Baalism and the other 'isms' of that day.

"When they grew up, they were better posted on the forms of religious and political governments of the surrounding nations than they were on the basic principles of their own government.

"There were probably a number of old timers, nearing the 100th milestone in their lives, who urged the Levites to devote more time to their constitution and form of government. But some of the leaders of the teaching profession may have retorted, 'Ah, our curriculum is already overloaded. We have taken on tap dancing, bridge, Delsarte and similar modern branches of education and we simply can not find a place in our course of study for anything else. Besides government is such a dry study that it is difficult to interest either the teacher or the student in it.'

"The result was that Israel became so imbued with foreign 'isms' that when the totalitarian foreign armies invaded its borders, they were welcomed by many and met with little resistance from the remainder of the Israelite population.

"The key men of the country, without respect to their political party affiliations, were taken into captivity—the Trumans, Barkleys, Deweys, Warrens, Walles, Taylors, Thomases, Loudens, Frescoins, Eastburns, Williams, Pences, Saur Shearers and all the leaders and most important citizens. The Sherlocks and the rest of the insignificancies were left behind to mourn the overthrow of their government midst the weeds and rains.

"Many, many years rolled around and the totalitarians became convinced that Mosaic concepts had been bred out of the Israelites. They decided to send the Hebrews back to their homeland.

"In due time a patriotic revival broke out in the streets of Jerusalem. It was not sponsored by Ezra, nor the elders, nor the Levites, nor the leaders. It sprang from the people.

"Nehemiah 8:1 says, 'And the people gathered themselves together as one man into the street that was before the water gate, and they spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded to Israel.'

"Ezra obeyed the command of the people and read to them from morning until midday. The people wept as described in the words of our text, but Ezra bade them to mourn not nor weep for that day was holy unto the Lord.

"It took the rank and file of the people then, and it will take the rank and file of the people today to arouse interest in the fundamental law of the land—to show the public, especially the youth of the land, the superiority of our form of government.

"We have little time to lose. Un-Americanism is at work night and day, while we are procrastinating as did the Israelites of old.

"The elements of civil government should be taught, beginning with the eighth grade to reach the pupils who may never attend a high school. Some of our schools are instructing the youth in the mechanics and the superiority of our form of government.

"We sincerely congratulate the teachers in those schools. Others are not doing so well. We hope they will fill this gap this year. Israel failed and lost. America can fail and lose."

-- Letter to the Editor --

To the Editor:

As here lately so much headache, misunderstanding, and disagreement, about street paving, curbs and gutters, I say again, as I said before, I stand for each councilman to have a zone, to work in, when ever a street comes up for pavement, his duty is to see how many front footage there is, and how many are for it, and how many against. Now do you think it is fair and just, if I have a 25, 35, or 50 ft frontage and you have 100, 150, or 200 ft. frontage, would my vote for said expense, be equal to yours, then if so, we would not, have no fairness or no justice, for my expense would be about one fifth or less. I stand for fairness and justice to one and all.

I stand for, and when elected as your councilman, for said councilman in each zone to take up such said street, to get such front footage for anti against, then notify each property owner of said street to be present at council meeting, and said council men to report to the mayor and other council men to take up of said street and front footage.

At present we realize, high cost of material and labor high cost of living, as you all know and realize, this must all be paid for, so many of us with hard labor, and as we all know money does not grow on trees.

I am in favor, of beautifying our city and streets, so let us hope in the future that every street be paved with gutters and sidewalks. all side walks be remodeled and repaired if so, that would increase, the value of our property and business, likewise one third or more, but still I stand for fairness and justice, for each front footage of each and every street.

Then let us see when ever a street is started for drainage or otherwise and let said street be finished before starting another, as it is at present, for instance, let us take Chestnut street, which was started several months ago, at present, there is barely room to pass on said street and no room for anyone to back

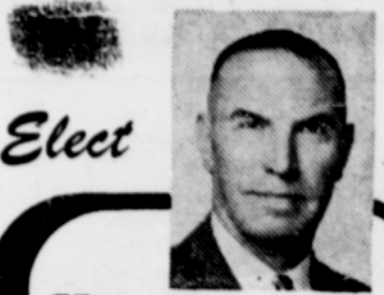
their car, out of their driveways, without going over an embankment on lower side of street of about three feet, which happened this morning. That is why I mention this, let us finish our streets as we go.

I am not a fault finding candidate, only believe in fairness and justice for one and all.

Thanks for your vote and cooperation.
 Henry Gerdes
 272 Maple St.

MISS WYCOFF BECOMES BRIDE OF HAROLD FARR

Miss Beverly Jean Wycoff, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ray Wycoff, became the bride of Harold Roy Farr, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold R. Farr, October 1, at eleven o'clock a.m. at the parsonage of the First Church of



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Ed. Adv. P. K. Hammond, Chm. 306 S.W. Broadway, Portland, Oregon

Christ. The Reverend Earl F. Downing performed the ceremony.

The couple will reside at the Farr residence while his parents are away on business in California.

Both the bride and groom are graduates of Ashland High school.

Several churches of the city have, under the sponsorship of the Ministerial Association, contributed toward the purchase of a piano for use of the YMCA. The instrument will be delivered this week.

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