



"THE PAPER THAT HAS NO ENEMIES HAS NO FRIENDS."
—George Putnam.

"Buying" Public Opinion

Please observe your newspapers and magazines. Have you noted any advertisements sponsored by the steel interests? Of course, you have seen them—plenty! We are in a position to know that such advertising must total in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. The effort that the steel interests are making in the direction of conditioning the public's view of this steel matter is a study in fantasy in its scope. Every string that can be pulled in their behalf is being pulled, rest assured. If money can buy it, they have it. Strangely ignored is the basic idea that our Nation's welfare comes first, our private profits second.

We believe it is an insult to maintain that the President of these great United States of America must sit idly by and let the massive productive power of this Nation grind to a jolting halt. The Executive of this Nation is in a position where he has the facts about the entire world situation. If he and those in an advisory status about him feel that the steel mills must continue operating because of the emergency, we trust their judgment. Time has proved their judgment sound as witness our great national prosperity and world leadership.

Lincoln faced bitter criticism for his acts in the interests of preserving the Nation. Let the man who would have it otherwise step forward and proclaim his position. Just as Lincoln was cast out by the Republicans of his day, so also are those Republicans of today censured for their stand favorable to President Truman's action on the steel matter.

We hear much talk about returning to government of laws as contrasted to government by men. We agree with this contention that we should have government by laws. We believe that the action taken by President Truman was well within limitations of the Constitution of the United States. We believe that the Supreme Court of the United States will so rule, should it be required so to do.

What irks us is the seeming prostitution of the press by the influence of "big steel" and their lavish expense account for advertising. Thousands of dollars can drown a lot of feelings. Editorial after editorial in behalf of "big steel" has splashed upon the printed page in recent weeks. We consider these editorials as being paid for—indirectly so possibly—but nevertheless paid for. If we were afraid President Truman were assuming the powers of a dictator, we would say so—now. We have more confidence in our President and our government than to think this, however. Furthermore we feel the people of this great Nation have like feelings.

In vain one can search the Constitution of the United States for a provision which guarantees any corporation or anybody six percent profit on an investment, yet "big steel" demands more and will duck its citizenship duties entirely if allowed. This attitude of "big steel" is an object lesson in what government by "men" is—their ideas are not that favorable to government by law though they spend tremendous sums influencing your thoughts otherwise.

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Editorial Comments

FACING THE FLOODS

While dwellers along the Missouri and Mississippi rivers pile sandbags on levees ahead of approaching flood crests or evacuate flood victims from already inundated homes, the rest of America hopes with them that their efforts will succeed in protecting lives and minimizing the already heavy damage to property.

Each such epic of struggle with disaster freshens appreciation for the efficient relief activities of the American Red Cross and renews requests for financial aid from the federal government. To such calls Americans sympathetically respond.

Yet in the longer range surely something more can be done. Undoubtedly, flood protection is much more effective today than it was before millions of dollars' worth of dams, jetties, and sluiceways were built along the major rivers. To these must be added, as costs will permit, a greater control of headwaters where flood prevention joins with irrigation and soil conservation to teach better use of land and water resources.

—From Christian Science Monitor.

THE BIBLE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

An English professor from a neighboring state makes a convincing case for teaching the Bible in public schools in an article in the May issue of the Oregon Educational Journal.

Richard F. Miller of the Eastern Washington College of Education points out that the question of religion and the Bible is concerning educators throughout the country; he cites the American Council on Education's Committee on Religion and Education and the National Study Conference on Religion in State Teachers Colleges held at Yale last year.

Miller, admitting that "religion is as dangerous as politics in the classroom," nevertheless believes that the public schools have a serious "blind spot" in their teaching when they avoid reference to the Bible. Knowledge of America's Christian heritage is essential to understanding of this country's history and ideals; Miller says:

"To enable a student to understand his environment, it is at least as important to know the Bible—the primary sources of Christianity—as to know the ins and outs of the post office (or) modern transportation systems. . . . To examine American ideals without reference to the Christian heritage is like trying to understand auto production without understanding the Industrial Revolution. . . . If a student is aware of what Christianity is and what it has contributed to his own world around him, he will be better advised to this democratic society in which he lives, and for which he sometimes dies."

Miller also goes on to say that a good percentage of students who glibly call themselves Christians cannot explain what they think they believe. He feels that, for many, that is "as tragic as the soldier who thinks of democracy in terms of hot rods and milk shakes."

It certainly is not the task of the public schools to try to explain to "Christian" students what Christianity really is. That is where teachers would quickly find themselves in hot water; there are too many differing definitions of "Christians." It is up to the home and the church to instruct children in what religious dogmas they are to believe; the schools have a big enough job trying to teach the kids what democracy really means.

But in teaching the meaning of democracy and the origin of democratic ideals, the schools are negligent if they ignore the Bible. Miller is right when he says that "simply as a means of setting things straight" students should know the America's Biblical origin of "revolutionary" faith that postulates the essential dignity of the individual and holds that man is responsible for his own future, not the victim of immutable laws of history or environment.

This newspaper, for 102 years, has firmly upheld the idea that church and state must be separate. But we can agree with Miller that schools which give due attention to the Hellenic-Biblical origin of America's "revolutionary" influence on Western civilization and pass over lightly the Hebraic-Christian heritage that has shaped Western man's way of life are doing the children and the nation an injustice.—The Oregon Statesman.

TV AND EDUCATION

Along with the robins and crocuses has come the unfreezing of the television industry. The way has been opened for almost every American eventually to be within range of at least one station. An industry incalculable in its influence on the national life has been given the go-ahead signal.

The decision by the Federal Communications Commission to set aside channels for educational interests in 242 communities is most heartening.

To be sure, the provision is less than ideal. Numbers of towns and cities (even good-sized ones) will be served by no educational channel. More than half the channels for this purpose will be on the ultra-high frequency band.

But the possibilities for educational TV, even under these limitations, are enormous and breath-taking. The FCC decision—reached in the face of strong opposition from the commercial broadcasters—challenges educators to make bold, vigorous, imaginative use of the means at their disposal. A national network of educational stations—or even two networks—is a possibility.

One thing should be clear, however. The channels set aside for this purpose should be treated as a national resource, as much as the water stored up behind Norris dam. Even if educators are deterred by their financial limitations from making full use of all the channels at their disposal, the latter should not be treated as "wasted," but should be reserved for their original purpose while more energetic efforts are made by the educators to exploit these resources to the full.

This is not to ignore the profound "educational" possibilities in commercial TV—especially, perhaps, in the field of political education. But pious wishes for better commercial programs are likely to be less effective than practical efforts within practical limits to educate public taste to the possibilities of TV in enriching intellectual and cultural life. Thus the fringe of noncommercial channels can prove an integral and vital part of American television, leaving the whole amazing lump.—From Christian Science Monitor.

Editor's Letter Box

To the Editor:

It seems that it is in the air for a lot of misinformed people to write editorial letters into The Mill City Enterprise newspaper for publication.

Therefore I have decided to join the hands with them. I advise that: Mr. Peterson should quit publishing letters in The Enterprise free of charge, and instead: charge a good price for every letter published, if he did so maybe he wouldn't need any merchandise advertisements at all.

I would like to subscribe for one newspaper that: never puts out any editorials of its own. The editorials that all newspapers publish is: one person's opinions, or a synticate of a few persons opinions, which pleases part, and offends the other part of people.

I believe a newspaper of no editorials of its own at all—would ultimately become the grandest and best newspaper of all. Respectfully,

DICK TURPIN.

Editor's Note: Mr. Turpin didn't include a "greenback" to start his idea.

To the Editor:

In the words of the late and great Josef Pulitzer, "It would be refreshing to see at least one newspaper not rushing with the crowd, but standing by what it believes to be true."

I have been reading with amusement and amazement all the recent letters and editorials about the prices of our local food merchants and the very real inconvenience their lack of advertising has caused most Mill City housewives. I have been hoping that one of these merchants would reply to the barrage, as after all there must be SOME reason why such a public service has never been rendered.

I heartily agree with Mrs. Knowles as to the absurdity of name-calling when these ladies (supposedly backed by substantial numbers) do not have the courage to have their own names printed in the paper. Why are they so afraid?

However, I disagree with Mrs. Knowles as to the reason for the food merchants' not advertising in The Enterprise. It is not dislike of the editor, or else they would load the Detroit Dam News with weekly ads, which sheet has always been distributed free. The food stores here do not believe in newspaper advertising period. Nor has this situation any relation to "the last mess that was created concerning the school board." The School Board created the mess, not the newspaper.

FAITH VENESS.

Dear Mr. Peterson:

At our regular meeting held last night, a vote of thanks was extended to you for your very generous donation of space in your paper for American Legion Auxiliary news. Sincerely,

RUTH STOVALL, Sec.

April 22, 1952

Dear Mr. Peterson:

I read Elnora Albright's letter to "The Editor", last week. It gave me a good hearty laugh. I can tell she is a very intelligent girl, but oh! how much she has to learn yet before she is an adult. She is very much mis- (Continued on Page 4)

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