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GONE WITH THE WIND

A most amazing piece of effrontery was John A. Lewis' attempt last week to assert his power over the President of the United States, because of election campaign support.

In the presidential campaign it was frequently charged the economic royalists were contributing large sums of money toward the Republican campaign fund, the inference being that Governor Landon would be under obligation to repay these favors if elected.

It now appears that John A Lewis, and his United Mine Workers spent nearly half a million dollars to help elect President Roosevelt.

Within less than two months after the President was re-elected, Lewis started warfare on the automobile industry. That he looked to the White House for support in the attempt to organize General Motors has now become evident. At a press conference he said:

"We have advised the administration through the Secretary of Labor and the Governor of Michigan that for six months the economic royalists represented by General Motors, the Du Ponts, Sloan and others contributed their money and used their energy to drive the President of the United States out of Washington, and this administration out of power. The administration asked labor to help it repel this attack, and labor helped the President to repel the economic royalists. The same economic royalists now have their fangs in labor, and labor expects the administration to support the auto workers in every legal way in their fight.* * * This is no time for neutrality, no time for pussyfooting."

When asked if he had asked the President to intervene he replied.

"That is for the President to determine; we have made no request. Labor intervened when he was in jeopardy."

In that remark the inference was plain. Lewis wanted it known that he expected a quid pro quo. A more brazen attempt to force the chief executive of the nation to pay a political debt can hardly be imagined.

President Roosevelt's reply was prompt. "In the intereet of peace there come moments when statements, conversations and headlines are not in order." said he to White House reporters.

Now that the President has impliedly rebuked Lewis for his boundless temerity; it might be in order for the United Mine Workers to put their leader on the spot for sinking their money in a pipe dream.

Half a million is probably the largest political contribution yet made by a single organization. Half a million "Gone with the wind."

MARYLAND A DETOUR

News that Maryland is being by-passed by tourists on the advice of northen, western and southern travel bureaurs has aroused the ire of the Maryland Hotel Men's Association. In consequence, Harold I. Fink, President of the organization is on the war path urging members of the legislature to back a program for the improvement of the State's main highways.

Roads with detour signs are anathema not only to the hotel men's group, but to all motorists, and Mr. Fink is not off the track when he says "It has come to a sad state of affairs when Maryland becomes simply a detour on the map of our country It is no calumny on Maryland; our main highways do need improvement. They are uncomfortable and unsafe and in no sense modern."

Good roads are not necessary just for tourists, they are even more needed for our citizens, and although modernization of the State's main highways is admitedly an urgent need, of equal importance are lateral roads in the rural districts.

But road improvement can progress only in proportion to money available for road work. And for imediate needs it already appears necessary to rob Peter to pay Paul by diverting gasoline taxes from road upkeep to meet what is thought to be more urgent requirements.

No matter what the Governor may recommend to the General Assembly there can be but one answer to the State's money problem. Reduce expenses or increase the tax burden of the people.

Plan New Setup for Government

Efficiency Is Goal Sought by President; Seeks Expert Advice

By EARL GODWIN

WASHINGTON.—Ever since Roosevelt was first in Washington as Assistant Secretary of the Navy in the Wilson cabinet he has had an ambition to put the business of government on a basis of good management. He had that idea in mind when he began to feel the urge to be President; but when he took office March 4, 1933, he had to forget good management for the desperate work of stemming the tide of depression. He knew that the great weakness in American government was the sprawling federal set-up which has grown up in a morass of red tape and time-consuming bureaucracy—and the hastily created emergency organizations served only to add to the confusion.

Now that he has sent to congress a complete new chart for the administration of the government's business, it is interesting to know that he talked of this proposed reform at least three years ago to Professor Charles E. Merriam, chairman of the department of political science of Chicago university. Professor Merriam can properly be called one of the outstanding authorities in political science and administrative management. At the White House he is looked on as the Number One man in that field. Later, when the President was ready to go to work on putting government on a business basis, he called in Merriam and two other experts who are responsible largely for all the improvement in state and city governments in the past twenty years—Louis Brownlow of Chicago, director of the public administration clearing house, and Luther Gulick, director of the institute of public administration in New York City and a member of Columbia university's faculty. The tremendous improvement and reorganization of the governments in the states of New York, Maine, Massachusetts and Virginia, which are now models of efficient set-up, are largely the work of some or all of these experts whom the President called in for his revolutionary report on administrative management in the federal government.

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PRESIDENT'S IDEA

The President takes the view that the Constitution makes the President the manager of the business of government after the congress passes on the laws and the courts make the judicial determinations. That being the case the boss should have as simple and effective an organization as possible. In business organizations, the various departments head up to managers or vice-presidents who report direct to the president of the company. In the United States government there were originally a handful of cabinet officers, with departments under them. These departments have now been increased to ten departments under ten cabinet officers, but in addition congress has created 130 various commissions, boards and government corporations, every one of which also reports to the President. He has, therefore, 140 different things to watch. It is impossible to watch them all carefully. Incidentally the staff of aides, clerks, etc., assigned to the President is pitifully small. It is now composed of about a hundred subofficials and clerks—much fewer than some governors, fewer than many city mayors have and much less of a staff than big business regards as necessary for the conduct of presidential offices.

All this makes for a lot of red tape, inefficiency, slow speed. The presidential plan is to put them all under various cabinet officers, create two new departments for the welfare work and public work; and then give the President some more high grade assistance and let him spend his time in really executive work and planning—rather than in checking up on 140 different huge governmental organizations.

As he explained it, it is like a man he knew on a Dutchess county, N. Y., farm; the farmer could not make a go of it so he asked the county agent to step in and look things over. The county agent found he had eighteen various outbuildings in addition to his barn. He had two chicken houses. He spent time and money on the activities of these outbuildings, and the agent advised him to enlarge his barn and put most of the outbuilding activities in the barn. When he did so, he took the farm out of the red and saved himself about a mile of daily walking in the bargain.

* * *

POLITICAL ANGLES

The plan of this proposed reorganization is perfectly all right from a business standpoint, but there are political angles to it which will prove puzzling. It should be understood, I think, that one of the tremendous reasons for the business reorganization of government departments and functions is the need for keeping the United States in fine working trim so that in these changing days, with governments falling into the hands of fascists and communists, democracy shall be on its toes and doing its best. This or any other government, if it does not function properly and fails the people, can be destroyed by a revolution.

There is one suggestion before congress which has been argued and boosted for seventy-five years. The civil service, Mr. Roosevelt suggests, should be extended "upward, outward and downward" so that the government offers a career for the best available men and women who can be assured of going to the top if they have the merit and ability. This is the old idea of taking politics out of government service, and in addition, to putting the same kind of pep and ginger into the service that you find in some of the great industrial corporations where it is well known that every president and big boss generally started in at the bottom. Members of congress are genuinely and sincerely divided on the question. It is not entirely fair to say that those opposed to a greater extension of the civil service are more interested in political jobs for their constituents than in fine public service. There is a feeling that a complete hardboiled civil service will produce a class of government officials of the high-hat variety. It is more or less true that the career men of the State department, until they begin to mellow with age and success, are quite likely to sneer at the ordinary taxpayer—an attitude which pains the lawmakers who appropriate the money to support these officials.

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CIVIL SERVICE

The President made his civil service and other reorganization proposals in the week in which Washington celebrated the fifty-fourth anniversary of the enactment of the civil service law—more than half a century—during which time the government has made notable progress away from the spoils system as it existed in the notorious era between the Civil war and Garfield's time. In that black era there was a ring of politicians who controlled the whole field of government jobs; and attempts to better the situation were met with the same sort of criticism that the Roosevelt "brain trust" received from the present day reactionaries.

So great an editor as Charles Dana, of the New York Sun sneered at attempts of Grover Cleveland to better the situation, calling it the "snivel service."

Probably the introduction of the merit system would have been delayed many years but for the assassination of President Garfield. He was shot one morning in the Washington railroad station by a disappointed office seeker, and the public reaction provided the impetus necessary to put the Civil Service act on the statute books. The votes, both in senate and house, were overwhelming, and President Garfield's successor, Chester A. Arthur, signed the measure at once.

The merit system began in a small way, but in every administration more and more government positions were subjected to the test of merit. Today about 60 per cent of all government jobs are under the merit system. Mr. Roosevelt wants to put 100 per cent under the system, and improve it too.

There is an immediate question as to whether the President's plan of reorganization will save money. The answer is that it will save $20,000,000 a year, which is only one per cent of the three billion dollars annually spent for salaries. If congress wants to save more than that (and it should) it can on its own initiative cut out some of the vast array of government functions. Senator Byrd of Virginia is making a great noise about that right now, and it may be that he will capture the popular limelight, because his own report to the senate on economy in government is already making headway, although it is fragmentare.

CHEVY CHASE WOMAN'S CLUB LUNCHEON HELD

The Woman's Club of Chevy Chase met Wednesday in the Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church to listen to an address by Dr. Shio Sakanishi, author. Mrs. George Winchester Stone.

ity on Japanese art.

The meeting was preceded by luncheon, with Mrs. Lloyd H. Sutton acting as hostess. Thomas N. Leef, barytone, sang, and the drama section presented a one-act play, "Poor Henry" by Dorothy Winthrop, under the direction of Helen Hunter Kerby, with stage settings by Bertha S. Fowler. Members of the cast were Lola Farnsworth Davenport, Doris Davidson, Peggy B. Wolhaupter, Doris Dewey Day and Margaret Keyhoe.

The international relations section program was conducted by Mrs. H. Clapp, assisted by Mrs. Eugene E. Stevens, Mrs. Elmont B. Hazard and

Bethesda Women Hear Miss Webster And Carl Wells

Mrs. J. W. Bulger, acting chairman of the American home department of the Bethesda Woman's Club, was in charge of the morning session of a meeting held Tuesday at the clubhouse. Dr. Carl G. Wells, professor of sociology at George Washington University, addressed the club on some phases of "Parent and Child Relationship". Luncheon was served at 12:30.

Miss Marjorie Webster, president of the Marjorie Webster Schools, gave a program of readings and told of the varied activities of her schools at the afternoon session. Following the program, an entertainment was held for the new members. Mrs. E. A. A. Dunn was in charge of this part of the program.

Governor and Mrs. Nice to Entertain Every Wednesday

Beginning next week Government House at Annapolis will take on a festive air.

With true Southern hospitality in keeping with Maryland social traditions Governor and Mrs. Nice are to entertain at gay afternoon receptions to be held each Wednesday through February and March.

Guests are to include Senators and Assemblymen, with members of their families as well as those of the Annapolis social set.

Last Friday night Governor and Mrs. Nice were among the guests of honor at the eleventh annual banquet and dance of the Woman's Eastern Shore Society of Maryland, held at the Lord Baltimore Hotel in Baltimore.

Mrs. Taylor Dead At Kensington

Mrs. Bessie Rebecca Taylor, 63, died Thursday last after a short illness at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Albert B. Buehler, West Avenue.

Born in Rockville, Md., Mrs. Taylor moved to Washington with her family when a young child. At the age of 14 she returned to the county, where she spent most of the rest of her life.

Besides her daughter, she is survived by four sons, C. R. Taylor, J. H. Taylor, N. C. Taylor and C. E. Taylor, all of Washington, and a sister, Mrs. J. H. Graham of Bethesda, Md.

SERVICES FOR MRS. SUE MILLER

Funeral services for Mrs. Sue T. Miller, 71, a resident of Takoma Park, Md., for 35 years, who died Thursday night of pneumonia at Sibley Hospital, were held Sunday at 2 p. m. at her home, 1 Takoma Avenue.

The Rev. R. Paul Schearrer, pastor of the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, of which Mrs. Miller was an active member, conducted the services.

Besides her husband, Daniel Miller, a retired Government Printing Office employe, she is survived by a daughter, Miss Ethel Miller.