ROOSEVELT TAMMANYIZING FEDERAL SERVICE

Demand for Strictly Partisan Loyalty Bedevils Federal Bureaucracy

By Nicholas Roosevelt
For the National Republican Builders, Inc.

Nothing better shows the utter cynicism of the Roosevelt Administration than the Tammanyzation of the various branches of the Federal service which has been in progress since the summer of 1933.

While Franklin D. Roosevelt publicly praises the civil service and urges the importance of keeping it unpolluted by politics, Messrs. Farley, Ickes and others are quietly but surely making politics supreme in as many branches of the government bureaucracy as they can dominate. Not only are all of the 150,000 New Deal agency appointments subject to the rigid rule that only good Roosevelt Democrats are eligible, but persistent efforts are being made to make partisan loyalty the sole test of advancement, or even of continued service, in the formerly non-partisan bureaucracies.

Men whose lives have been spent in government work with never a thought of politics are in constant fear of being thrown out—because they have no friends at Democratic headquarters or because some deserving Democrat wants a job.

Long years of faithful and efficient service count for nothing. Fitness is no longer considered. The sole criterion is: "Will he bring votes for the Roosevelt machine?" If he can, he may be safe. If he cannot, he will be edged out or dropped.

The most shameless example of this sort of political skulduggery occurred in the case of the commercial attaches assigned to our embassies and legations abroad. This service had been built up to a state of high efficiency under Herbert Hoover—both as Secretary of Commerce and as President. Many of the men had been Democrats. No one knew or cared about their politics. They did their work with exceptional efficiency.

But they were Hoover men. He had chosen most of them personally. He regarded their service as one of the most important in the government.

That was enough to damn them. One of the first things the new administration did was to order them home on scarcely two weeks notice, and abolish their jobs so that they would be forced out.

They had to close their offices in distant foreign lands, get rid of their homes, take their children out of school and wind up the associations of many years abroad immediately—or pay their own way home. Their long service counted for nothing. The fact that many of them were in the midst of important negotiations was of no avail. They were Hoover men.

By ousting them two ends would be achieved—good jobs would be available for Roosevelt Democrats, and a blow under the belt would be struck at Mr. Hoover.

But it did not stop with that. It is now common knowledge that in the various government agencies under the New Deal no one may be appointed or discharged—even as messenger boy or typist—without the sanction of the Democratic chiefs. The only question is: "Does he strengthen the machine?"

This same principle has even been applied to relief workers.

Just how the system works was ably illustrated in a recent exclusive story in the Los Angeles Times. This article quoted a letter from Senator Johnson of California stating frankly that "positions with the Federal government now are partisan in character and all of the political patronage of this state is under the absolute control of my colleague. Senator McAdoo and his partner."

At the same time an excerpt was printed from a letter from a Democratic leader to the effect that "it would be appreciated if you would send to this office letters from leading Democrats in San Francisco testifying to the fact that you are sympathetic with the policies of the administration and that an endorsement of you would meet with their approval."

What is the result of all this That branches of the government service from which politics had been scrupulously excluded are now dominated by political considerations. One department has recently sent a confidential request for information as to the past political affiliations of all of its employees. In another, all employees have to register as Democrats—and are expected to vote accordingly.

The resulting demoralization is deplorable.

Everything is being sacrificed to the creation of a powerful national machine built along Tammany lines. As in New York City, the leaders care nothing for the public interest. Their only concern is the political machine.

For the Republicans this creates a difficult problem. Demoralization such as has been in progress since 1933 is hard to counteract.

Many good men in government service no longer dare call their souls their own. They are, in at least one department, being spied upon. Instances are known where men have been punished because they were courteous to their former Republican chiefs. Everywhere men who formerly avoided politics are now in constant fear of political reprisals.

This must be stopped. The civil service must be strengthened—not in the Franklin Roosevelt manner of a promise which is only made so as to be shamelessly broken—but in such a manner as to make it even more impossible than it was under Messrs. Coolidge and Hoover for the politicians to dominate the civil service. Even when this is achieved, the evil which the present administration has done will linger on.

The work which a great Democrat, Grover Cleveland, inaugurated, is being undermined by the New Dealers.

The ideals of Tammany Hall are being applied on a nationwide scale.

In his next article Mr. Roosevelt will discuss the need of new leadership in the Republican party.

Millington News

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Comegys spent several days with friends in Baltimore last week.

Mrs. Phil H. Wood, of Wilmington, spent several days here last week as the guest of her mother, Mrs. John F. Ahern.

Mrs. Annie Yarnall and her friend Mrs. Robertson, of Philadelphia, were luncheon guests last Tuesday of Miss Clara H. Bryan.

Miss Elizabeth Walls, of Wilmington, was a Saturday guest of her grandmother, Mrs. John Slaughter.

John Randolph Barnhart, of the Sun Oil, of Chester, was the week end guest of his mother, Mrs. Annie Barnhart.

Mrs. Ernest Radnor, of Wilmington, spent the week end here with her mother, Mrs. Will Loper.

Frances Edwards was the week end guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Edwards of Wilmington.

Mr. James B. Stevens and Mr. Sidney Dixon, were Thursday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Irving Smith, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Felton Wilson, of Philadelphia, spent the week end at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Phillips.

Mr. and Mrs. William Feddeman, of Washington, D. C., Mr. and Mrs. Richard Feddeman, of Baltimore, were the week end guests of their mother, Mrs. Richard Feddeman.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Slaughter, Mr. and Mrs. Millard Slaughter, of Elkton, visited relatives in town on Sunday.

Mrs. Marguerite Walker and her son Noah, visited relatives in Baltimore, over the week end.

Jimmie Pippin was the week end guest of Leston Edwards, Jr., of Wilmington.

Mr. Wright Wiltbanks and Mr. Morris Nickerson, of Kennedyville, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Edwards.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry McGuire, of Wilmington, were Friday visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bramble and family, of Kennett Square, Pa., were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Anthony.

Mrs. Charles Stevens spent several days this week with her daughter, Miss Elizabeth Stevens, of Philadelphia.

Mrs. Richard Feddeman left this week for Baltimore, where she will spend the winter.

Mrs. Will Loper left on Tuesday for Wilmington, where she will spend the winter with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Radnor.

Mr. E. Green has returned home after spending two weeks with his daughter, Mrs. Joseph Boyles, of Centreville.

Mrs. Mary E. P. Smith entertained the Queen Esthers of Asbury M. E. Church at her home on Monday evening.

The Seniors of the Millington High School, held their Christmas social on Tuesday evening in the Community Hall.

The Ladies' Aid Society, of Asbury M. E. Church will meet on Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. Norman Wallen.

The members of the Homemakers' Club will hold their Christmas party on Friday evening in the Community Hall.

The members of the Volunteer Fire Company will hold their Christmas treat for the kiddies on Thursday evening, December 19, in the Community Hall.

Still Pond News

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Geary and daughter, Lena, of Turner's Creek, and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Toulson, visited in Wilmington last Thursday.

Miss Edna Wroth and Miss Lily Parrott, spent a few days this week in Baltimore.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society held it's monthly business and social meeting at the home of Mrs. Edward Dittman, last Thursday afternoon.

Rev. and Mrs. Vaughn Moore, Vaughn, Jr., and Galen Clark, visited with friends in Wilmington last Friday evening.

Miss Kate Howard and Miss Louise Pennington, went to Baltimore on Sunday to spend a few days.

Miss Louise Toulson, of Granogue, Del., spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. William Clark.

Mr. George Haddaway is spending sometime with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Davis, of Swan Point.

Miss Geneva Woodall, of Chestertown, spent a few days last week with her cousin, Miss Elisabeth Bedwell.

Mrs. Webster Tomb, of Philadelphia, is spending a few days this week with her father, Mr. Charles Hague.

Mr. and Mrs. B. R. Fellows and son, Roger, Mrs. Edward Fellows, Bobbie Walmsley, visited in Philadelphia on Monday. Mrs. Margaret Walmsley returned home with them after spending two weeks with relatives in Philadelphia.

Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Jones and daughter and son, spent Monday in Wilmington.

Mrs. Carson Greenwood spent Monday in New Jersey and Philadelphia.

Mrs. William Ford and daughters, Ann Dudley and Eleanor, visited in Wilmington on Monday.

Mrs. William Medders, Miss Edna Wroth, Miss Lily Parrott and Mr. John Jarvis, spent Tuesday in Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Eliason, of Wilmington, visited with her brother Mr. Walter Davis, on Sunday.

Government Costs and the H. C. L.

By RAYMOND PITCAIRN
National Chairman Sentinels of the Republic

With the next session of Congress only a few weeks away there has been a cheering revival of discussion on methods of checking waste and extravagance in our government.

A group of Representatives, news dispatches report, will study the entire Federal picture with the idea of determining why expenses should mount so swiftly. The question is where to begin.

Well, they might look at the growing list of Federal agencies—and the huge payrolls thus created for American workers to meet. These have been expanding for years at a much faster rate than our population. Here, for example, are some recently published figures on the subject:

Since 1900 the population of the United States has increased about 60 per cent. During that period the number of Federal jobs increased not 60, but 350 per cent.

Since June 30, 1933, the population has increased a little over 1 per cent. During the brief period between then and June 30, 1935, the number of Federal jobs increased not 1, but 25 per cent.

No wonder these are boom days in Washington.

No wonder the capital is congested with jobholders, recruited by scores of job-creating commissions whose payrolls and other expenditures are paid by the people through taxes which boost the cost of food and shelter and clothing and everything else we use.

No wonder, with this constant drain on his production and his earnings, the average citizen continues to worry over what headline writers call the H. C. L.

Today, the High Cost of Living and the High Cost of Government are closely related. What the people — and the politicians — must realize is that one way to reduce the first is to deflate the second.

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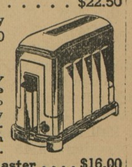

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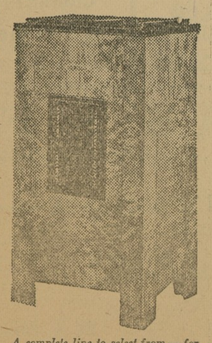

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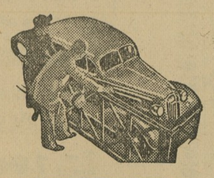

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