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Thursday, May 7, 1936.


## Landon In California.

Widely divergent interpretations are being placed upon the results of the Republican primary in California because the issues at stake have not been clearly understood. Some casual observers, noting the substantial majority of votes for the uninstructed delegates to the Republican National Convention, jump to the conclusion that Gov. Landon "took a beating" in California. In the light of the campaigns conducted by both factions that view is difficult to maintain.

In the first place, there was no fight between aspirants for the nomination. The uninstructed ticket is exactly what it purports to be. That was conclusively proved when Earl Warren, Republican State chairman, to whom the delegates were pledged, released them to vote as they desire at the national convention. On the other hand, Gov. Landon neither affirmed nor repudiated the slate of delegates pledged to him through the activities of Gov. Merriam and William Randolph Hearst.

Supporters of the Kansas Governor were lined up on both sides of a local fight. The Landon-for-President Club in Los Angeles repudiated the leadership of Merriam and Hearst and appealed to friends of the Governor to vote for the uninstructed delegates. A similar position was taken by some of California's leading newspapers. The uninstructed delegation was sponsored by the Los Angeles Times, the San Francisco Chronicle and the Oakland Tribune. But the Times, for example, appealed to "those who have the Kansan's best interests genuinely at heart" to "support the free ticket of California delegates and clear Gov. Landon of the imputation that has been thrust upon him."

It is evident, therefore, that the fight turned upon local issues. Republicans of California rejected the leadership of the Merriam-Hearst faction, without expressing any clear-cut choice for the Presidential nomination. Some of the winning delegates are known to be favorable to Landon. Some will doubtless support other candidates. However, with the growing indications that former President Hoover will make no attempt to secure the nomination, it is reasonable to believe that a considerable share of California's 44 delegates will be found in the Landon column when the voting begins at Cleveland.

Incidentally, the choice of a Republican candidate will be made easier by Senator Borah's statement that "if Mr. Landon or Mr. Knox comes up to the Cleveland convention with a fair expression of the people that he is their choice, I'm not going to stand in the way."

## The Three Plagues.

The General Education Board, founded by John D. Rockefeller, sr., recently announced a $3,000,000 gift to provide a new building for Memorial Hospital which specializes in the study and treatment of cancer. The malignancy of the disease and the mystery of its cause and cure will stir a romantic-minded public to keen appreciation of this gift. The reputation of Memorial Hospital, long affiliated with the Cornell Medical College, in the field of cancer makes the news doubly pleasing. The fight against cancer is notably strengthened when medicine is backed up by such reinforcements.

Cancer is the second great plague of modern times. The first, not only because of its prevalence, but also because it has been longest recognized, is tuberculosis. In this case, the techniques of prevention and cure are well enough known, yet tuberculosis has not been wiped out at a single stroke. Complete eradication of the disease awaits improvement of living conditions and cooperation of the general public. Science has donated its best energy and ability to devise successful treatment for both these maladies, but the actual fighting must be carried on by the average men and women of the world.

With this realization, it is bitterly ironic that, though the doctors have completed the most perfect strategy to whip the third plague, there is no concerted movement for its eradication. The third great plague today is syphilis. Together with gonorrhea, it attacks more than 1,000,000 new victims yearly in the United States. In Washington, these two diseases represent an unbelievable menace to public health. In 1919, 116 cases were reported to the local Health Department; in 1933, the total had mounted to 5,120. More thorough physical examinations may well account for much of the increase. But it is certain that the venereal diseases are not under control here or elsewhere.

Since both may be cured as well as prevented, it is a tragedy that no better progress has been made against them. A smoke screen of mistaken prudery protects them well. So effective is this barrier to effective attack upon the problem that in the 1937 Treasury appropriation bill, only $80,000 is being discussed for the venereal disease division of the U. S. Public Health Service as against $2,000,000 to combat chinch bugs and $4,000,000 to control the Mediterranean fruit fly.

## Labor And Politics.

In an address to the National Women's Trade Union League, Francis J. Gorman, vice president of the United Textile Workers, forecasts a new political alignment in the United States. Since he advocates creation of a genuine Labor Party, he apparently has in mind the concentration of all employers in one camp and all employed persons in another. That development is an old story in Europe, but its applicability to the conditions of American democracy is open to serious question.

The current trend is undeniably in the direction of partisanship within the American Federation of Labor. Some time ago the United Mine Workers enthusiastically indorsed the candidacy of President Roosevelt. Now President Green of the A. F. of L. has taken a similar course, although he apparently did not speak officially for the federation. If the executive council, meeting in Washington this week, should follow his lead the tradition of non-partisanship in the parent labor organization would be pretty well shattered.

Before that step is taken leaders of the A. F. of L. should seriously contemplate its implications. Is organized labor ready to identify its cause with that of a political party? If so, is the action merely opportunist, or is it a step toward the distinctive Labor Party which Mr. Gorman foresees? And, since it takes two to make a bargain, is the Democratic party willing to be defined not as an instrument of democracy but as the organ of one well-organized group therein?

Samuel Gompers, father of the modern labor movement in the United States, made a practice of turning political situations to the advantage of the working man. But, in his own language, he "refused to let the labor movement be annexed by a political party and . . . refused to lead them into a policy from which it would take decades to recover." It does not appear that changing conditions of themselves warrant departure from his effective methods of promoting the cause of Labor through both major political parties.

One motive behind Mr. Green's break with the philosophy of his predecessor is apparent.

His momentous struggle with John L. Lewis, president of the U. M. W., over industrial unionism keeps the A. F. of L. chief constantly on the firing line. He is well aware of President Roosevelt's popularity among the rank and file of working men. By publicly advocating the President's re-election, in spite of previous appeals to affiliated unions to remain aloof from political organizations, he takes some wind from the sails of Mr. Lewis. Even if that could be written down as an achievement for Labor, however, it would still offer no justification whatever for the undermining of the A. F. of L.'s nonpartisan tradition.

While this movement goes forward within the ranks of labor, some industrial and business organizations are inclined to line up against the present Administration. In both cases the result is unfortunate. Group organizations which are essentially self-asserting in character may properly concern themselves with principles and national policies. But when they set out to oppose or indorse any party or candidate as a body, they weaken their own independent position and foster unnecessary friction in essential economic relationships.

## Dresses With A Design.

Back in the days when men were men and women were corseted, a quaint form of communication between the sexes sprang up. On the feminine side it was known as "fan language." Beruffled parasols, also, were a happy medium for expressing emotions in the days before word-signs became just a technical term in shorthand. Men, in their turn, responded via the florists—roses for love, petunias for sympathy. Alas, however, coy customs went out with WELCOME doormats and GOD BLESS OUR HOME samplers.

Anna Steese Richardson of the *Woman's Home Companion* recently declared that "women have passed through the tea-room stage and have developed a taste for red meat in restaurants and in their reading." She seems to think that in the race for survival of the fittest, steaks and stern realities have far outclassed ice-box cakes and lukewarm illusions. Perhaps she had in mind the women who went so far as to borrow men's dinner jackets for formal wear and who have long since been relaxing in shorts, slacks and divided skirts. Even the fedora was not safe, and the masculine jauntiness with which it was worn by sweet young things was a far cry from the subtle messages once transmitted by means of demure hats and provocative veils.

With the coming of spring, however, women again are dressing with a purpose. And the purpose in this case is peace. Printed chiffons and crepes are no longer enhanced by mere floral or imaginative designs but bear the word PAX in bold pattern. Sometimes the letters are incorporated in the material in definite succession. Again they are more or less disguised in weired formation. But, obvious or subtle, women will find more than a crusader's satisfaction in wearing them. And that is the age-old feminine streak which delights in finding a new way of wearing the heart on the sleeve.

## Getting Together Again.

Although certain details have still to be settled, the prolonged and often suspended negotiations between the representatives of railway managements and the unions are reported to be nearing a satisfactory conclusion. The roads are said to be prepared to make liberal dismissal allowances to employes losing their positions as a result of mergers, consolidations or unification of facilities involving two or more carriers. The unions in return for such concessions will, it is assumed, cease to press for a legislative solution of the labor displacement problem.

In the absence of a voluntary agreement there was grave danger that Congress would yield to the importunities of the rail unions and pass the Wheeler-Crosser bill. That measure provides for compensation of employes displaced through reduction in the services or facilities of individual roads as well as those who lose their jobs because of inter-company consolidations. Furthermore, the roads would have to secure permission of the I. C. C. before making any changes affecting their employes. J. J. Pelley, president of the Association of American Railroads, asserts, indeed, that the bill would make it impossible for an individual road to close a station, discontinue a train, consolidate its mechanical facilities or in any way curtail its operations, without first obtaining the approval of the I. C. C.

The emergency transportation act of 1933, which expires next month, has hastened consideration of the problem presented by displaced labor. Employes on the pay rolls of the roads in May, 1933, have been protected against loss of their positions by this temporary measure. As a consequence of its restrictive provisions, which have limited the reduction in labor costs, the roads have been discouraged from pressing unification plans.

> Co-ordinator Eastman has strongly emphasized the advantage to railway employes as well as to the roads themselves of eliminating superfluous labor as a means of reducing operating costs. "Looking into the future," he said, in a recent public address, "and considering the competitive conditions by which the railroads will be confronted, I can foresee progress, development, increasing traffic and employment, provided, but only provided, they can make the adjustments necessary to meet these conditions. One of the essential adjustments is elimination of all unnecessary waste so that railroads can operate at the lowest possible reasonable cost. The sooner they get to work and do this, the better in the end for all concerned, including the employes."

By entering into voluntary agreements with their employes to make reasonable compensation to displaced workers, railway managements will have a greater incentive to improve the quality of their services and reduce operative costs. And railway labor will in the long run benefit by the enlarged employment opportunities resulting from an expansion of rail traffic. At the same time, a reasonable measure of protection against undue hardship will be afforded by the dismissal wages that the roads are willing to pay.

As Coordinator Eastman says, such payments are "a logical extension of the pension principle." Introduced at a time when traffic is increasing, they will not be a great financial strain upon the roads, and they can be adjusted to their ability to pay more easily than a scale of payments arbitrarily imposed by law or by bureaucratic decree.

## Gold-Rush, 1936.

There is no news in the figurative April statement that

"The buttercups, bright-eyed and bold,
Hold up their chalices of gold."

But contagious emotion ought to emanate from the front-yard garden of Mr. Walter Muller—Borough of Queens, City of New York—for there Mr. Muller has come across a lode of real gold, right beside a crop of yellow jonquils. Yet how is the discovery received?

Time was when such an announcement moved whole populations to the aureate site. Lives were staked and lost in the succeeding scramble. Today, on the contrary, nobody even tries to jump the initial claim, and the modern Sutter just takes some sample earth to an assayer; gets his picture in the inside pages of the papers, and says he may, after all, use the site of his potential mine for the erection of a front porch, where, of a summer's evening, he can have a comfortable chat with his neighbors.

Perhaps the reason for this apathy lies in the minor fact that Mr. Muller's garden hasn't yet yielded enough of the precious ore to fill a tooth. Or is he postponing operations in the hope that his gold may soon be worth more in terms of 49 or 39 cent dollars?

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According to Einstein, "The empirical quantum of the gravitation equation bridges the corpuscles of the material eschantology by subliminal energy evolved counter-clockwise out of analogous infinities." You may run out and play a while now.

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The still, small voice of conscience rings in a loudspeaker when you get caught up with.


**"Ethiopia Is Italian."**

# Letters To The Editor.

*All communications must carry the writer's name and address, though pen names are permitted at the Editor's discretion. In fairness to other correspondents, brevity is requested. Letters are subject to condensation.*

### Results Of Conquest.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: Conquest of Ethiopia may do for Italy what Mark Antony's invasion and other European plunderers of Africa did for ancient Rome and Greece. Among the results of any international conquest, almost inevitably follows a biological aftermath of racial admixture.

In Rome, following a Carthaginian war, 70,000 African slaves were recorded in the population but in a century later the swarthy complexion and the curlier, darker hair of Italians were the only records of the enslaved people The Moors were lost in Spain.

Mussolini, the freebooter and marauder of our day, is possibly thinking of Ethiopia as an environment in which to breed a more virile Italian race, more cannon fodder, and perhaps develop a spearhead of African revolution in African mandates and colonies. In a little while, conqueror and conquered will be friends, neighbors, husbands and wives. Then will history record conquest as a victory or a defeat for Rome.

E. B. HENDERSON.
Falls Church, Va., May 4.

## The Orchestra Tangle.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: I have noted a letter in your columns today, signed by Fairfax Oyster, in which he says: "Washington has not now a symphony orchestra, it has only an association."

May I point out that Mr. Oyster is incorrect in saying that we do not have an orchestra now. We are at present, like the Boston, the Philadelphia, the Philharmonic, and other symphony orchestras, between seasons, and individual contracts have not been signed with musicians. We have been prevented from signing these contracts, however, only because of our controversy with Union officials—not over terms of pay or working conditions, but on personnel matters that we feel are vital to the continued artistic excellence of the orchestra.

May I also point out that the National Symphony Orchestra Association does have a record of five successful seasons of symphony orchestra concerts to its credit, and that it alreadys has enrolled for next season approximately 700 members, with a total of more than 1,800 contributors.

C. C. CAPPEL.
Manager, National Symphony Orchestra Assn.
Washington, May 6.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: As a local amateur musician, and enjoying a familiarity with the "Symphony" situation, I feel that someone, perhaps better equipped than myself, should refute some statements made in the editorial in The Post headed "The Home Town Boys."

The question is not one of the importation of musicians, but the idea of keeping them from competing with local musicians in other engagements, a subject matter that is covered by national law of the American Federation of Musicians, and not local law.

As far as the personnel manager is concerned, no one can deny the union the right to enforce discipline within its own ranks.

I am constrained to point out an important fact. Many articles are referring to the orchestra as "Mr. Kindler's Orchestra" and the statement is continually made that Mr. Kindler came here and started this orchestra. This is emphatically not so. The orchestra was formed by a bunch of Washington musicians, and, after it was organized, Mr. Kindler was invited here to conduct. Musicians, however, are not usually good business men, and these original men were no exception, and they allowed the control of their orchestra to fall into the hands of people who, although they talk and write of "art," are much more interested in finance.

Even the title of your editorial was an affront to the local musicians, and it is my hope that the "Home Town Boys" (many of whom in the past have helped build up the subscription list of The Post) will regain control of their own destinies.

HARRY L. LEWIS.
Washington, May 4.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: Truly the plans of our National Symphony Orchestra appear somewhat confusing. Having read many times in the various newspapers that no summer concerts were to be held and that our director was booked for European appearances, it is surprising to read that these concerts are now contemplated and it is quite evident that these changes have been made in an effort to prevent Mr. Yasha Bunchuk from presenting his proposed concerts.

In view of the fact that for the past four years residents of Washington in all walks of life have been harassed and annoyed beyond endurance by benefits of every description to obtain funds for the symphony, it appears time for someone with the proper financial backing and business ability to put the organization on a paying basis.

Those of your readers who refer to Mr. Bunchuk as an "unknown" are evidently unacquainted with the musical world outside of Washington. I have had the privilege of hearing Mr. Bunchuk in concert in various European capitals and in New York City, where he is recognized as one of the world's finest cellists and a director of outstanding ability.

As no funds are requested and our now unemployed musicians would have an opportunity to earn some greatly needed funds—just where does the objection arise? It is time for Washington residents to wake up and realize that a rare and unusual opportunity confronts them.

MRS. LA MOTTE HENNING.
Washington, May 5.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: I want to thank you for the publicity you have given in The Post to furthering the efforts of the National Symphony Orchestra of the District.

I feel that what you are doing is helping to create in the minds of the children of Washington an appreciation of good music, and know that these concerts are of great value to their education.

LOUISE A. FRY, President,
District of Columbia Congress of Parents and Teachers.
Washington, May 5.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: Why don't the newspapers get the facts straight before giving an opinion editorally?

Some of the people do know the correct story of the National Symphony impasse. In a case of this sort one side or the other is right, there can be no compromise of justice. After all, justice, humanity and happiness are more important than better music-making.

The musical union is trying to thwart the unjust conditions under which these of its members are subjected. Who would deny it to them if the facts were known?

After the National Symphony members were told there would no summer concerts, Mr. Bunchuk and his adherents appear and are trying to do a worthy mission. They are attempting to engage the symphony members, making it possible for them to earn something at this time, while also giving enjoyment to the music lovers of Washington in the summer.

I am sure this angle of the case is not known generally, for then praise would be Mr. Bunchuk's share instead of condemnation.

In answer to Mr. Potter and Mrs. Hesselback, let them, as the symphony men must, attempt to live on a 23-week salary, such as it is.

ESTHER STEIN.
Washington, May 5.

### The Utterback Case.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: The announcement by the Commonwealth's attorney in the matter of the abduction of the Utterback girl that his office had dropped the case, since her voluntary confession, is an example of the gross stupidity which had characterized the case ever since the first report of the abduction; and is a parallel of the inefficiency and negligence, almost criminal, which hampers law enforcement in the South.

Here is a case where a girl, who claimed to have been abducted, was discovered by two reporters who very conveniently had their camera along so as to take pictures which showed her tied in a manner in which it was manifestly impossible for her to have tied herself, and that she must, therefore, have had some assistance; yet the Commonwealth's attorney does not think this case needs any further probing.

For some unexplained reason the sheriff, it is said, either declined to accept, or failed to secure the cords by which she was bound, leaving room for speculation as to whether this was a case of forgetting how, just a few days before, in New York, a cord left at the scene of a murder had led to the arrest and confession of the murderer, or just one of gross stupidity.

This girl caused the humiliating arrest and inconvenience of two innocent men, one of whom, according to the news, in spite of statements of the girl's mother to the contrary, had been meeting her for some time before; and, as is usually the case, she had to make one of her abductors a Negro. Fortunately no Negro was arrested; for had one been arrested there might have been a lynching, since there is little likelihood that the same consideration would have been shown a colored suspect in Virginia as was shown those white men.

It is quite clear that this girl should be taught a lesson by being prosecuted. It is clear, also, that any responsible public official who would drop such a case without attempting to discover and prosecute the accomplice (or accomplices) is unfit for the position he holds. If for no other reason, this girl and her accomplices should be prosecuted for the expenses caused the county in the five days' search for her "abductors."

PRESLY HOLLIDAY.
Washington, May 2.

### Hoover And The Press.

To the Editor of The Post—Sir: The attitude with respect to former President Hoover, which appears to have been taken by the press opposed to the New Deal, must be very satisfactory and comforting to the "New Dealers." For they no doubt realize that, so long as the opposition refuses to accept the principles and ideas of Hoover, including those relative to the tariff, they are only being bombarded with blank shells.

The erroneous and mischievous economic ideas of the insurgents or "medicine men," those who have been in, but not of the Republican Party, and who are now New Dealers—Norris, LaFollette, et al, and to a lesser extent, Borah—are largely responsible for the present plight of the party, and our country.

There are several millions of us who believe Hoover is everlastingly right; make no mistake about that. And we resent the aforesaid attitude of the press, or any candidate. It is conceded that it might not be "expedient" to nominate him, and that fact, and because he is not an avowed candidate, accounts for his "poor showing," which has been so extensively advertised. It may also account for the poor showing of both Knox and Borah in Illinois.

Hoover has offered the Republican Party its most effective ammunition. If it refuses to make use of it, or if (as Waltman says in The Post, May 2) the party is out of sympathy with him, then it will be, and ought to be defeated. For, unless there is a realization that it was the electorate, and not Hoover that was "found wanting," a foreign system of government—a sort of enlarged and camouflaged "Tammany machine," will continue to operate in the United States. DOC.
Clarendon, Va., May 4.

# The Post Impressionist

## *Mrs. George's Gilbert Stuart*

***Post Office, Thursday.***

"GEORGETOWN the retrospective . . . held, shut in, with its lavender and pressed-rose memories. . . . whose visible distinction seems to speak audibly in the church-bells on Sunday morning, and breathes not only in the soft air, but in the perfume of every gentle, old-fashioned rose that blooms behind the garden walls . . . Georgetown, who, from her pensive porticoes, looks over her river, brooding with memories!

"Were she mine, how I should love her!"

It is Owen Wister, of course, who is speaking in his best book—not "The Virginian," which everybody knows—"Lady Baltimore," which everybody ought to know. Equally of course, we have cut out the name "King's Port" and substituted the name "Georgetown."

* * *

Wister wrote of "King's Port," meaning Charleston.

But he might have written as truly in the same vein of Georgetown. Even many of Vernon Howe Bailey's drawings of King's Port might have been made in Georgetown.

* * *

There are only a few such places left: relics of a republic that was quieter and simpler than our republic of today. Kinder, too, perhaps—and, oh, how calmly unhurried!

There's Beacon Hill, in Boston. There are bits of Germantown, in Philadelphia. There are some such towns as Dover, Del., whereof we spoke a day or two ago. And Savannah. And parts of New Orleans. Not many more.

* * *

Yet, because they *are* so few, these islets in a rising flood, they become, to the general eye, more and more like one another.

You may quite safely substitute "Georgetown" for "King's Port."

* * *

You live in Washington?

You are living, at a time of immense national interest, in the most interesting city of the United States. For these United States are undergoing a tremendous transformation, and the transformation is being wrought here in Washington. You can hear the plans being made. You can see them put into operation.

And then you can cross an invisible line and enter an intangible difference: a line which, nevertheless, is a Wall of Division; and a difference which, nevertheless, is as great as the differences between planets.

* * *

You must understand that, by "Georgetown," this Columnist doesn't mean those portions of Georgetown devoted to enterprise and vowed to modernity—doesn't mean the ambitious portions of Georgetown. Their devotion is rewarded. They keep their vow, achieve their ambition.

Notwithstanding, they themselves nurse a fine pride in the background wherefrom they stand out so prominently. Doesn't it help them, ever so much, to stand out? However great the dissimilarity, they wouldn't have the background conform to them—if they could help it!

Nor, you may be sure, would the backgrounders.

The trouble is that neither element *can* help it.

Some months ago—late last autumn or early last winter—the rumbling rumor came, like the whirring of enemy bombing planes. The streets of Georgetown—we are aware of the metaphor-mixture, but consider Georgetown's confusion—those streets were to be sacrificed on the high altar of the heathen god Traffic.

Georgetown folk knew what this meant. It meant the turning of their quiet residential ways, lined by old and memorable houses, into speedways.

And the coming of the speedways would spell the exit of the old houses—and all for which they stood.

* * *

Consider the case of P and Q streets. You know them. You remember the case? Well, then, reconsider it. A "great central speedway" would run up the one street and down the other. The first step of progress would be the ripping away of the symbolic Belgian blocks on P street, replacing them by whatever material suits a speedway.

Well, the residents had a dinner and protested to the Commissioners, formed a committee and protested—protested by a dozen methods. At first, the Commissioners would do nothing; but at last, it seems, they have made this concession: "We shan't, after all, rip up your symbolic Belgian blocks; we shall merely cover them with macadam, concrete and asphalt. *Now* aren't you happy?" . . .

* * *

We dreamed that Mrs. George of Georgetown, owned a Gilbert Stuart portrait of her great-great-grandmother as a girl, with powdered hair and flounces. And she wept when a Commissioner told her she must let a PWAP artist paint a PWAP lady on that sacred canvas. But the Commissioner comforted her—showed her the folly of her tears. Said he:

"We're not going to destroy your Gilbert Stuart ancestress. We're only going to cover her up. You'll always have the precious knowledge that she is still with you, separated merely by a layer or two of the best paint money can buy."