

The Harrodsburg Herald

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City Fathers and Church Fathers.

The circumstances of so many of our boys showing a criminal tendency is just cause for alarm enough to shake the whole community and call forth the greatest effort with corrective measures to save them.

Would it not be a very pertinent question to put our City Fathers and Church Fathers if they were asked: "What they are planning toward improving conditions under which our youth are brought up in this community?"

Including the three Negro churches there are nine churches in Harrodsburg. These nine churches with their nine pastors and nine Sunday school superintendents, and scores of officers and teachers constitute a large potential force for good. If this influence is not exercised for good, it is, regretful to say, a negative influence. If it has become negative it is nothing short of a community calamity.

If the potential force within the churches should make a slight motion by asking the City Fathers to cooperate with the parents and churches at saving the boys from a life of shame, it is most sure they would respond by granting any reasonable plan of action.

Here is a very puzzling thing to present itself in the past few weeks since we have had up the idea of reviving the curfew law for Harrodsburg. It is, that not a minister, Sunday school superintendent or teacher has thought enough of the idea either way to commend or condemn it. But on the other hand it has greatly impressed us how the humble people of the pew have expressed their timid hope that the curfew law and a trained worker be given the children.

A good woman wrote us this week that she had the suggestion from the Legion heads here that they were interested in the welfare of our boys and girls and suggested that, if a certain place is obtainable, that a recreation work be started there for the children.

While our churches have been deathly silent on the matter for a general work for the children of the community, the Legion leaders speak up. The Legion is not a religious organization either or charged with the morals and welfare of children. It seems it should have been the other way around, and the churches speaking out first.

For what use have we for our culture, our clubs, lodges, schools and churches if they do not prompt us to do as much for a boy as farm organizations do to save a tobacco leaf or a pig.

The fire siren sounded in the dead of the night; not merely the firemen responded and took out costly fire equipment, but hundreds of citizens, too rushed out. The fire was in an unoccupied shack not worth five dollars as kindling. Many came all excited and half dressed and others rushed there in night clothes. We present another picture: A small lad who has never had a half way chance for his feet to set right, commits an offense against the law. Is arrested and hailed trembling into court. Beside the lad and his parents there are no excited ones. The ones showing all the excitement over the loss of a worthless shack are not stirred over society's loss of a boy. Why is this so? Wonder if we are afraid of being looked on as queer in the churches if we wanted to save a boy as well as a shack, a tobacco leaf or pig?

Did not some one get excited enough to do something to save and give to the world Sam Jones, Steve Holcomb, Gypsy Smith, Billy Sunday and others?

We know our pastors intimately and believe every one of them would look with favor on a good plan that would safeguard the youth. But we are sure they do not see a spirit great enough in the church leaders to urge and back such a movement.

It has come to a point where if the church do not face her obligation to youth, the youth and church will suffer together. One thing is clear, if the churches do not furnish the amusement, the recreation and social plan, the devil will, and it will always be, on the borderland of hell.

What Is Behind Mr. Hoover's Bleating

To Make Him Act As He Does?

In his speech at St. Louis—third of the epochal series—ex-President Hoover zealously supported all of the indictments of the Roosevelt Administration handed down to date by the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Liberty League and other Old Guard adjuncts. In none did he inject so much of his newly developed personality as in his attempt at a severe exorcism of what he termed "local relief shifted to a Federal bureaucracy through the exercise of dictations from Washington."

Mr. Hoover should know, and if so he should not disregard the fact, that the FERA was never a centralized relief bureaucracy; its only function was to distribute to the States a monthly Federal contribution toward the cost of relief. Of course, this was many months after it had been clearly established that the States and local subdivisions of government were no longer able to carry the entire load and only the Federal government was in a position to utilize the enormous credit necessary. Under the terms of the FERA, State and local administrators had complete autonomy in spending the money, with a few mutually agreed upon Federally prescribed safeguards to make sure that standards of honesty and efficiency were maintained. In only six States Administrator Hopkins was obliged to exercise the authority provided in the Relief Act of 1933, and named Federal appointees, for reasons well remembered by the public.

The Federal Government supplied the essential remainder after States, cities and counties had contributed toward relief to the extent of their ability. Thus the States, cities and counties obtained from the Roosevelt Administration what they had petitioned Mr. Hoover for in vain. And now as the respective revenues of the States, cities and counties are picking up again, mothers with dependent children, the blind, the aged and the crippled that comprise the unemployables, that so grate on the nerves of the Liberty League, the other G.O.P. aid societies and Mr. Hoover, are being returned to the care of the States and localities, as in normal, non-Hoover times.

Mr. Hoover remains and unquestionably will continue to be the logical Republican to discuss "relief," even what he characterized as "relief" under his own administration. But his astonishing unfamiliarity with this topic which has engrossed the attention of Americans for several years was displayed in his assertion that under the Hoover administration "we provided Federal Government funds to be distributed to the State governments and by them distributed to the local government."

The only relief statute enacted prior to the Roosevelt Administration was that of 1932 which allocated the pitifully inadequate sum of \$300,000,000 for loans, not grants, at high interest rates. It was called the "Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932," and as the name implies, was for both relief and public works. This appropriation, which Mr. Hoover at the time solemnly said "went too far," proved to be about one-thirtieth of the sum for relief of which the Nation was in dire need. Thus under Mr. Hoover's "relief" system many cities then anxious to borrow for their relief needs were forced to float bond issues at the highest known rates of interest and hand their securities over to the RFC, which under Mr. Hoover operated exclusively for large corporations, before they could obtain a penny. And the situation was so acute that many already heavily bonded cities and counties and States could not even take advantage of Federal loans under those burdensome conditions.

Again, switching momentarily from his bitter criticism of Relief under the Roosevelt Administration to added encomiums of his own personal relief leadership, Mr. Hoover uttered this amazing statement at St. Louis: "There was no important failure to provide for those in real need." Human memory is indeed short but the sickening scenes enacted all over America before the Federal Government established relief administration have not been entirely forgotten. So it depends upon whether Mr. Hoover would call a complete failure an "important" failure and how he would classify "real" need as applied to a human being instead of a railroad or holding company.

Governor Chandler's Plan To Use Convicts In Road Building Is Humane

Time and time again the idea of utilizing such convicts as may be employed safely in road work has been advanced. Governors, as a rule, have shied at adopting the idea for a number of petty reasons. The cry of "chain gang," "humility" and "public danger."

None of the stock reasons were really sound, and none solved the prison problems. And now the use of prison labor in road building and repair is planned by Governor Chandler. It offers a practical plan by which thousands of idle inmates of the prisons may be usefully employed.

That Kentucky newspapers which recently conveyed the impression that the "chain gang" idea with its reprehensible connotations would be employed, obviously endeavored to create a public prejudice against a practical, constructive plan by which may be solved the acute problem created by crowded institutions.

Governor Chandler plans enactment of legislation which will require the state highway department to take over all county roads for maintenance. It is not contemplated that effort will be made to immediately convert the vast mileage of county roads into hard surface highways. It is anticipated that maintenance as good or better than that now given county roads will be given.

Practical effect of this action will be to save the counties that money they have been collecting from the taxpayers for the county road fund. It is estimated that the aggregate saving to all counties will approximate four million dollars.

In assuming this increased highway maintenance responsibility idle prisoners in the penitentiaries will be highly useful. It is not necessary to utilize the "chain gang" method in working prisoners on the road. Such will not be done. None of the vicious prisoners will be used in road building. It is planned to use the penitentiary at Eddyville as a prison in which the worst criminals will be confined, segregating them from those less vicious.

Prisoners will be better off working out in the open on road construction than they are crowded into institutions inadequate to care for them. They will themselves prefer it.

Effort is to be made to construct additional cell quarters and expand facilities of charitable institutions that are overcrowded. It is planned to use prison labor in making these improvements. Responsible leaders of organized labor in Kentucky have given the Governor assurance that use of prison labor on the roads and in building additional quarters at the state institutions will not be opposed. In fact, the plan has been given hearty endorsement by organized labor.

The citizenship need not be alarmed over the fact that temporary prison camps may of necessity be established in various sections of the state so as to quarter prisoners conveniently near the scene of their work. Adequate precautions will be taken to prevent any unpleasant probabilities.

Practical common sense dictates that the proposal is a sensible plan by which work may be provided for idle prisoners, giving them an opportunity to make a considerable contribution to the state in useful labor, effect of which should be increased road building at a minimum of expense.

The late James Taylor Wilson, an attorney at this place, contributed a number of articles to The Herald favoring such a plan some 25 years ago. His idea was taken favorably over the state for a time.

The Governor Is Going Down

To Bed Rock To Build.

Reorganization of the mechanism of state government so as to effect economy of operation without impaired efficiency, is the task which Governor Chandler has delegated to that group of Kentuckians whose services he has commanded for the Advisory Commission he recently designated.

There should be general approval of the fact that the first concern of the new administration is to find out how little money the state government can be operated on before thought is given to raising the revenue. After a sincere effort has been made to eliminate such waste as is disclosed, after the payroll has been pruned as closely as appears prudent, after the cost of government has been deflated, then it will be possible to determine how much revenue must be raised in order to balance the state budget. Such is the course which the new Governor has charted.

Every thoughtful citizen realizes that it will be necessary for the forthcoming legislature, under guidance of the Governor, to impose tax levies to replace the income which for the last two years has been produced by the sales tax. Revenue must be raised to finance all essential agencies of state government on a plane of prudent economy. It will be necessary to finance a modest program of old age pensions.

After the government has been reorganized on the bedrock of economic operation, the citizenship should not then object to paying such taxes as are necessary to maintain those administrative agencies which are for the welfare of all the people. Governor Chandler has given assurance that such tax measures as are enacted will be equitable and fair, that no effort will be made to coerce the General Assembly.

And those who besiege the Governor for jobs should ponder the wisdom in his statement that "the job I have to do is more important than any job I have to give." The citizens whose servant the Governor is, should respect his request that he not be besieged by those seeking jobs, or those asking an audience with him on matters that may be deferred until the pressing responsibilities of the legislative session have been discharged.

Highlights of President's Message to '36 Congress

Here are highlights of President Roosevelt's message to Congress on Jan. 5, 1936:

The temper and the purposes of the rulers of many of the great populations in Europe and in Asia have not pointed the way either to peace or to good-will among men.

A point has been reached where the people of the Americas must take cognizance of the growing ill-will, of marked trends toward aggression, of increasing armaments, of shortening tempers—a situation which has in it many of the elements that lead to the tragedy of general war.

The United States and the rest of the Americas can play but one role: Through a well-ordered neutrality to do naught to encourage the contest, through adequate defense to save ourselves from embroilment and attack, and through example and all legitimate encouragement and assistance to persuade other nations to return to the ways of peace and good-will.

Efforts to reduce armaments have thus far not only failed but have been met by vastly increased armaments on land and in the air. Even efforts to continue the existing limits on naval armaments into the years to come show little current success.

Among the nations of the Great Western Hemisphere the policy of the good neighbor has happily prevailed.

x x x At no time in the four and a half centuries of modern civilization in the Americas has there existed a greater spirit of mutual understanding, of common helpfulness, and of devotion to the ideals of self-government.

In the United States, as in the world at large, popular opinion is at war with a power-seeking minority.

You, the members of the legislative branch, and I, the executive, contended for and established a new relationship between government and people.

After thirty-four months of work we contemplate a fairly rounded whole. We have returned the control of the federal government to the city of Washington.

To be sure, in so doing, we have invited battle. We have earned the hatred of entrenched greed. x x x They seek the restoration of their selfish power. They offer to lead us back around the same old dreary street.

They steal the livery of great national constitutional ideals to serve discredited special interests.

They seek—this minority in business and finance—to control legitimate and highly honored business associations; they engage in vast propaganda to spread fear and discord among the people—they would "gang up" against the people's liberties.

Let action be positive and not negative. x x x Let them propose to this congress the complete repeal of these measures. x x x The way is open in the congress of the United States for an expression of opinion by yeas and nays.

Their weapon is the weapon of fear. x x x Let these challenges be met.

We look forward to the reduction in the number of those citizens who are in need. Therefore, also, we can anticipate a reduction in our appropriations for relief.

Governor Chandler's Thirteen-Point Order to Kentucky General Assembly

Here are the 13 points outlined by Governor Chandler in his message to the General Assembly:

Immediate repeal of the sales tax law.

Enactment of a compulsory single primary election law to replace the present run-off law.

Enactment of a statewide registration law.

Reduction of one cent per gallon in the state five-cent gasoline tax.

Provision for the use of convict labor on state roads and state building projects.

Maintenance of all county roads by the state highway department.

Reduction of the state real estate tax from five cents per \$100 to one cent and permitting counties to fix their own rate.

A complete audit and survey of the state government.

Legislation enabling the governor to request advisory opinions from the court of appeals.

Provision for the state to carry its own insurance.

Passage of a liquor control act.

Removal of the state game and fish commission from "politics."

Co-operation with the federal social security program.

With pride we followed our friend, Maurice, in his fine records thru college, university and medical school, to his association with the greatest medical hospital in the country. Then a few years ago we were reminded of our own age when he informed us he was going to locate for himself in office work.

For him we hold a deathless friendship. We shall always enjoy the memory of the warmth of his presence, his assuring friendly smile as it beamed on us over forty years ago.

Some Like It Hot—Some Cold



NEW YORK . . . That it takes many likes to make a world is evidenced as news pictures pour in from winter resort-lands. . . . The styles are correct, left, Kitty Barrett wearing the season's newest bathing suit in Florida. Right, Miss Carlie Mayne, a Texas beauty, who prefers the ski runs of the North, at Lake Placid.