

Are We Governable?

Each day the total cost of government increases, and it takes another bite out of the take-home pay and the personal independence of the American people. When the actions and growth of government no longer benefit the people and instead begin to disrupt and dislocate the affairs of the nation and the lives of the people, it is time to change directions.

There is little question that we have come to a turning point in history. Up to now, we have been a nation of surpluses. We have had the most productive, vital economy in the history of nations. Our strength was so great that we could afford waste and errors and inconsistencies in government's administration of its own affairs and in its management of matters affecting the basic economic conduct of the production of such essential things as food and energy supplies. We could almost afford excessive expansion in public welfare programs in an effort to deliver, at taxpayer expense, the good life to all our people. We could tolerate massive federal deficits that would have sunk most countries and have brought a gradually accelerating rate of inflation to our own. But now people of many nations have become more affluent and are competing for the good life. In a shrinking world, there is international competition for natural resources. The U.S. must bid for these. Suddenly, we are no longer self-sufficient in the vital matter of supplying ourselves with essential petroleum products. We must import massive and increasing quantities. We can no longer control the cost of our energy supply and hold that cost at a low level. Other nations are willing to pay more, and we must bid against them. We must export goods to pay for the oil we buy abroad. Among our most important exports are agricultural commodities, for which there is a growing world demand. We must reverse a 40-year policy of limiting our farm production to hold up prices. We must encourage the planting of new acres and the production of farm commodities for sale in the international markets. Higher demands for food supplies will mean higher prices for groceries at the local supermarket. Like our energy supply, our food supply is going to cost more. Regardless of political pressures, there is nothing government can do to maintain the tradition of cheap

energy and cheap food. Record-high world demand for grain and rising grain prices inevitably mean higher prices for bread. Overall, it is expected that the end of 1973 will see food cost rising from 18 to 22 percent over a year ago, and food prices cannot be frozen or set too low by price controls without drying up supply. We have seen this happen in the case of meat.

Government policies must change to encourage American business, industry and agriculture to produce more, not less, and those policies must change quickly. There are many examples. It makes little sense to maintain stiff price controls on gasoline, heating oil and other petroleum products at a time when there is a severe shortage of these essential fuels. This is certainly not the way to encourage crude oil production in the U.S. or the construction of new refineries which are critically needed in this country. At a time when there is worldwide competition for all natural resources and for markets in which to sell products, it makes little sense to propose federal legislation which would cripple U.S. companies operating in manufacturing and marketing facilities overseas. These companies strengthen markets for American goods and bolster our sinking balance of payments. Yet such legislation is proposed. It makes little sense to cripple with regulations the innovative capacity of U.S. pharmaceutical companies which once led the world in research, development and introduction of new drug products and which now are falling behind pharmaceutical companies of other nations. It makes little sense to regulate the competitive free market out of existence—the free market that always has been the consumer's finest guarantee of the greatest volume and highest quality goods and services at the lowest possible prices.

Perhaps it would be too much in this day and age to suggest that the best government is still the one which governs least. But, in light of all that is happening, it seems eminently reasonable to state that for the U.S. a better government would be one which governed at less cost and with more regard for the realities of the world today and for the conditions necessary to the successful functioning of the economic system upon which every person in the United States depends for his livelihood and his future.

Where Is The Monster Going?

Is inflation an insatiable monster loose in our land? It is. Next question: Where will it all lead? Let us hope we do not wind up in the Germany found by herself after World War I. In a recent Wall Street Journal feature, Alfred Malabar Jr. reminds us how it was over there during that bleak period:

"Even in today's economic environment, the raw statistics of Germany's inflation make a awesome reading. In August 1922, the country's

money supply totaled 252 billion marks. In January 1923, it was 2 trillion. In September 1923, it stood at 28 quadrillion. And in November 1923, it reached 497 quintillion—that's 497 followed by 18 zeroes. This runaway inflation of the money supply stopped, finally, when the currency became virtually worthless. The old mark was replaced in 1924 by a new Reichsmark whose value was set at 1 billion old marks. The old marks were withdrawn from circulation and ceased to be legal tender. In 1913, some 19 billion marks were on deposit in savings banks. In November 1924, that sum had the purchasing power of one quarter of an American penny. The story was much the same in the insurance business. The postage stamp on an envelope containing an insurance payment to a beneficiary often cost more than the sum written on the enclosed check.

Colonel Moor's Musings

That was one fine parade Mooreville Jaycees put on downtown last week. Policemen said it drew the biggest crowd they remember, and it was the first time in recent years a blizzard didn't blow through on parade day. I was thinking as I watched that Mooreville is a town with real civic spirit. Our merchants want and deserve our Christmas business, and with gasoline being short, we've got even more reason to shop first at home.

Parson Jones' Pulpit

DEAR MR. PUBLISHER:

I always heard that a camel was a horse put together by a committee. A country preacher is reminded of some of the first work of committees when he goes to the church convention. I just got back from our convention, and I am more convinced than ever that the Lord moves in wondrous ways his wonders to perform. A church convention, you know, is where folks go to approve what they've already done back home. This year we voted to spend \$75,000 on a study of business morals. They got the money up last summer, and they already have hired a half dozen people to do the work. But nothing is official until it is put to a vote at convention.

The only thing for sure at convention is that every delegate is unhappy about something. The complaints of delegates this year ranged, for example, from the seats being too hard to the manner in which one had to address the chair.

Minister Publisher, you've heard about meetings being cut and dried. Well, this one was dry as a bone, but it wasn't cut a bit. The program said the convention was to run three days and two nights, and, by the grace of God, it did. I figure by careful planning we were able to cram a full day's work into three days. As for the nights, they were spent in the motel rooms poliocting for pet causes while invited speakers were talking to four walls in the convention hall. Those astronauts that have to sit for half the day on the launch pad don't know how good they got it—at least they final got off the ground.

Just to live things up, I addressed the chair proper, and made a motion that we nominate a committee to find out what denomination God is. Nobody took me serious at first, because I remembered as the delegate who reported five years ago that God wasn't dead. I said Israeli secret police had found him alive and well and hiding in Argentina.

But this year it turned out several delegates were pointing buses they had been named to committee that could go home and report on, so my motion got a second, and the investigate God committee was made up of them left-out delegates.

But there was an amendment. The committee is not to start work until after the stewardship campaign next fall. In case the committee finds God's denomination is different from ours, we will at least be that much ahead of the game.

Yours Truly,
Parson Jones

OUR COMMUNITY



IN OTHER YEARS... 51 YEARS AGO

At a meeting of the Mooreville Fire Department last Thursday night officers were elected as follows: J. H. McLeeland, chief; J. T. Brantley, assistant chief; F. B. Freeze, captain; C. A. Troutman, first lieutenant; Harry P. Deaton, secretary and treasurer. The firemen have under consideration the matter of establishing a club room for the members. The proposition has been submitted to the Town Board Commission, which will be passed upon at a subsequent meeting of the board. This room is asked to be provided for in order that the firemen will have an assembling place. C. A. Troutman, of the Mooreville Furniture Company, very generously offered to equip the room, if established, with tables and chairs.

Arrangements are being made to take a team to the State Firemen's convention to be held at Morehead City, July 24-27. Delegates elected to represent the firemen were chosen as follows: C. A. Troutman and F. B. Freeze; alternates, C. E. Mills and G. G. McKnight.

Five young men were admitted to membership by a unanimous vote: Fred Turner, Everett Brantley, Fred Erwin, Henry Mills and Edwin McPherson. Captain Freeze announced the following team: Everett Brantley, Fred Turner, C. A. Troutman, G. G. McKnight, C. E. Mills, J. T. Brantley, Sam Nesbit, Edwin McPherson. Substitutes: C. E. Mills, Henry Mills, D. B. Benson, Fred Erwin, J. P. Honeycutt. This team is doing practice work every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7 to 9 o'clock on South Academy street. The public is invited out to witness these practice drills.

After the meeting Thursday night the entire membership was treated to watermelon and lemonade.

Dr. C. U. Voils, of this city, holds the world's record in pulling a tooth. The Enterprise admits that the assertion is based on a great deal of territory, but the fact remains just the same. He was with Attorney George A. Morrow when the peculiar incident occurred. The two men were fishing on Fourth Creek one day last week. Dr. Voils noticed that his hook was nibbling at great speed and he finally hauled in his line and landed a small fish or twenty feet. When he attempted to land the nibbling fish, he was shocked when he pulled out of the water a large carp, weighing not less than eight pounds. He got the fish within reaching distance and touched it with his hand, but the human tooth was more than the fish could stand, and it gave a flit, returning to the water. Dr. Voils noticed something dangling on the end of his little hook. It was a carp tooth, with a wee bit of flesh around its root. He has the tooth on exhibition in his office over the M. & F. Bank.

Postmaster W. D. Templeton's administration of the postoffice affairs in this city will cease on September 5. It is natural to suppose that the Republicans will be awarded the office, and it is said there are several candidates out for the job, among them being S. M. Goodman, Jay Shoat and Earl Atwell. There may be others but it could not be ascertained before going to press today.

Mack Cathey, who is in the navy, spent a week here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Cathey. He was accompanied by his friend, Sailor Benson. They left yesterday and will join their crew on the United States ship Langley, which is leaving in a few days for a cruise around the world. Mrs. Charles Kendrick, a sister of young Cathey, came down from Asheville to spend a few days with her brother before leaving. She will be working in the city several days before returning to her home in Asheville.

Donald Abernathy is at home from Randolph-Macon College at Salem, Va.

Eugene Fink will move into his new home on Academy street next week.

Mrs. P. G. Reynolds has returned from Baden, where she spent ten days visiting her daughter.

Mr. Eugene Hawthorne left Monday for Norfolk, Va., where he will spend several weeks. It is quite probable that he will engage for an European trip on one of the large sailing vessels. This trip is yet uncertain.

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Colson reported new roasting ears from her garden on Tuesday June 23.

Miss Nevada Frieze is spending the week in Statesville, at the home of Miss Rachel King.

There's Been Clashes Between U. S.-Russia For Two Centuries

The recent U. S.-Soviet confrontation in the Mid-East follows a history of clashes between the two super powers that began almost two centuries ago off the Alaska coast. But marking these periods of conflict has been a spirit of cooperation between the two. One of the first conflicts between the United States and Russia flared over the fur trade in the North Pacific, according to Dr. Mary E. Wheeler, associate professor of history at North Carolina State University and a specialist in 19th century Russian business.

Enterprising New England merchants, seeking a commodity they could trade for China's tea and silk, ventured into the Russian-dominated waters off Alaska in the 1780's, said Dr. Wheeler. Because they had no fur hunting facilities, the "Bostonians" traded guns and woolen cloth to the Alaskan Indians for furs of the sea otter and other skins that brought handsome prices in China, she said.

The "Bostonians" were competition to the Russian fur traders, adventuresome men who had been named to a committee that could go home and report on, so my motion got a second, and the investigate God committee was made up of them left-out delegates.

But there was an amendment. The committee is not to start work until after the stewardship campaign next fall. In case the committee finds God's denomination is different from ours, we will at least be that much ahead of the game.

Dr. Wheeler's research, which has centered on the Russian-American Company,

has branched into areas that grew out of the fur industry such as the opening of trade with China.

The editor of this paper might be willing to lend you his copy of The Christian Science Monitor.

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- Sunday Luke 22:66-71
- Monday Matthew 3:1-12
- Tuesday Isaiah 18:15-19
- Wednesday John 13:12-20
- Thursday Acts 10:34-43
- Friday 1 Samuel 2:1-10
- Saturday Philippians 2:5-11
- Sunday Isaiah 45:18-23
- Monday Colossians 1:12-19
- Tuesday Zechariah 3:1-10

A thermometer is indispensable in the home... even though it can't cure a thing, its first function is to prove that someone is sick so that diagnosis and therapy can begin. Then it keeps tabs on the patient's progress. Ultimately it can suggest, though not absolutely, that the crucial stages of illness or infection are over.

You hear people call ours a "sick" society. Is anyone taking its temperature? Yes, the answer is doing a thorough job reporting the fever of the times.

A more crucial question: Is anyone striving to heal society? The Church has it has always been quick to diagnose men's spiritual ills and ready to make available the remedies God has prescribed.

Obviously, however, society isn't one person but many. Its cure will progress as we get the patients and the doctor together.



Baptismal record by the American Bible Society



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Mooreville's Mac Atwell Enjoys Parade

Although he had to come on a stretcher, since he's in a cast following a spinal operation, Mac Atwell came to Mooreville's annual Yule parade... and he enjoyed it greatly. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Atwell of the Prospect community,

Malinda Blalock N. C.'s Only Female Civil War Soldier

During the Civil War, North Carolina provided approximately 140,000 soldiers for Confederate service. Of that number, 139,999 were in many ways unremarkable, at least in comparison with one, whose name was Malinda.

Malinda Blalock, nee Pritchard, alias Sam, North Carolina's only known female Civil War soldier, was the wife of W. M. (Keith) Blalock and was living "under the Grandfather" in Watauga or Caldwell counties at the outbreak of the war.

Keith, although a Union sympathizer, enlisted in Co. F, 26th Regiment North Carolina Troops, March 20, 1862, in order to avoid conscription and in hopes of escaping to the Union lines. Sam Blalock, unperceptively described as "a good looking boy, aged 16," enlisted on the same date.

For the next two weeks Pvt. Sam Blalock "did all the duties of a soldier" and was, as he is told, "very adept at learning the manual and drill." The new private tented and messed with Keith, who was presumed to be his brother, and watched the other men when they went swimming near Kingston. It is observed, however, that Sam never went in himself.

Keith, meanwhile, speedily grew tired of soldiering and, having endured military life for two weeks, "went into the bushes and covered himself with poison oak," or, according to another account, poison sumac. The army surgeon, although puzzled as to the nature of his disease, agreed that he was unfit for service, and he was granted a discharge.

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