

Decrease Federal Spending

EVERYTIME the high cost of living is mentioned, many of us start screaming loud and long denouncing excessive spending by the federal government.

It's only natural that we should scream because if we are to economize; federal expenditures is usually the logical place to start.

However the reaction to that voice is typically political. For instance, a senator may meet with a group in the lobby and say, "Look fellows, the people over in my district are demanding a decrease in governmental spendings. I can't ignore them. We must start the log rolling and find some place we can cut down on spendings."

This hypothetical example is not the exact words of any senator, but it is near the truth of the matter that it should serve as a basic for stimulating thought.

There we have the senator apparently gearing his actions with the desire of the people. He is willing to cut down on governmental spending. The fault lies in his whimsical decision as to where and what to cut and how much to cut it. In most in-

The empty honors that the world bestows do not last beyond the grave.

Over The Top In A Barrel

IT IS usually easy to understand why 100,000 rabid football fans would gather to see a Rose Bowl game, or why 75,000 baseball enthusiasts would wedge into Yankee Stadium to see a World Series. However, it is difficult to understand why 200,000 supposedly intelligent people would risk life and limb scaling the cliffs along Niagara Falls just to see a foolhardy stunter go over the falls in a rubber barrel.

Earlier this week, a daredevil defied the laws of nature. He had previously built a barrel from old innertubes, then he crawled into this barrel and had it towed some two hundred feet upstream from the turbulent rapids of Niagara. We can only surmise how he felt as he plunged over the falls which race downward at the speed of 250 miles an hour.

It's doubtful if he could hear, over the mighty roars of the falls, the blood-thirsty cries from the 200,000 spectators lining the cliffs to watch this tragic scene.

We do not know what this man was trying to prove. Had this venture been a success, nobody would have benefited. Science nor geography, medicine nor navigation—none of them will suffer due to his failure.

Success could have meant nothing more than vain glory, whereas, failure left anguished loved ones.

Such a small reward for so dangerous endeavor.

Almost anybody can get a free job for the public good in any community.

Personally, we prefer for the go-getter type of women to go-get somebody else.

The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions "Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

The Battalion, official newspaper of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, is published five times a week during the regular school year. During the summer terms, The Battalion is published four times a week, and during examination and vacation periods, twice a week.

Entered as second-class matter at Post Office at College Station, Texas, under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

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News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444) or at the editorial office, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 200, Goodwin Hall.

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Illustrating Sportswriter's Views

Food for Thought On Sports Scandals

During the past week, the West Point "cribbing" incident has placed the spotlight on football similar to the "black" light shining on basketball. Following we have a running commentary on an article written for a national magazine by one of America's leading sportswriters. We think it's food for thought. — The Editor.

"Sports: Hail or Farewell?" In the latest issue of Esquire, Red ("Views of Sports") Smith writes about the recent earthquake to hit the sports world. Smith starts, "The first half of the twentieth century witnessed the biggest boom in sports since Zeus pined Kronos, two falls of three... the last honest wrestling match on record."

Yet to See Views

At the time of this writing, Smith had yet to see that his views on football were correct. Smith believed what had happened had set the American people to wondering what would occur next.

"The answer is that nothing is going to happen which hasn't happened many times before. There will be scandals and investigations, abuses and reforms, and sports will continue to grow as America grows—in travail and turmoil and contentiousness and inexhaustible vigor."

The American people got the cut back, alright. But judging from the terrific loss due to the recent flood in the Kansas River Basin, we got our throat cut in the process.

Being courteous may require a little extra time but, in the long run, it often saves time.

Cotton For Publicity

ED "Boll Weevil" Keane, the heretofore unheralded record spinner of a South Texas radio station, has just been crowned public hero number one.

Old King Cotton, who has always been white with modesty, might timidly admit that he took part in this success of the hero, because if it had not been for King Cotton—no hero.

The way in which Keane became a hero substantiates the theory that heroes are made not born. He vowed to pick a bale of cotton in seven days. He did. He's a hero. Simple as that.

Last fall, we were on our way to a place in the Brazos bottom and stopped at a country store for refreshments. A small, gangly Negro boy, apparently about 12 years old, was whistling merrily as he bent over a small stalk of cotton at the end of the row.

"How much can that kid pick?" We asked an older Negro.

"Dat's my boy," replied the old man, "If he don't get three hundert a da' I's gonna whare him out wid a cotton stalk."

No doubt, as a publicity man, "Boll Weevil" Keane is superb, but as a cotton picker, Keane isn't so keen, after all.

Since the King had the fastest horse in the land, he raced thirteen foolish and ambitious youths, defeating all "whom he then skewered with his spears. This provided the fun-loving king with healthful exercise and kept Hippodamia home to help with the dusting."

But as always, love finds a way, or a man that wants to win badly enough will, and a sharp character named Pelops, also a Greek, "bribed the king's charioteer to tamper with the royal surey. When their race turned into the home stretch, the monarch's chariot east

piad when a horse race was fixed on the plains of Olympia.

It seems that a king named Oenomaus had a beauty for a daughter who went by the handle Hippodamia (Greek). She was "luscious and lovable and royal and also rich." So the king recognizing these qualities fixed up certain rules whereby suitors of the lovely princess had to abide. The rules were "to qualify as a son-in-law, a swain must wheedle the little pigeon into a chariot and get her across the county line ahead of the sire."

Smith also shows where Emperor Nero, while fighting in the Olympics, had "a whole covey of opponents go to the water." "In short, jobs have been bought off as long as men and animals have engaged in organized competition. There are no grounds for fear that the present-day skulduggery will discourage the suckers."

Chandler Ousted

Even though, A. B. Chandler was voted out of a job, by a minority of his employers—seven out of sixteen—it was this determined minority that on three occasions pivoted "No, No, NOOOO" that put the commissioner out of his \$65,000-a-year job.

But, Smith says, "meanwhile baseball is going on, prosperous and popular and exciting... Nothing short of total war will loosen the game's grip on the people."

Concerning the basketball fix: "... unless one is prepared to believe that all cops and college presidents are infallible, it must be true that basketball players were throwing games before anybody got caught at it. Disclosure of the extent to which Cadillacs and steam yachts had displaced Alma Mater in affections to a spreading evil and the necessity of remedial action."

"Growth, not decay, led to corruption in basketball." Moving the games, said Smith, from areas which housed but 1,500 to a capacity arena of 15,000, colleges began to make money on a sport that previously was a drag on an athletic department's cash.

"Emphasis shifted from character building to the development of successful—and therefore profitable—teams."

With the expansion of public interest on basketball, gamblers saw a profit and also moved.

"The more popular the sport, the bigger medium of gambling it becomes, as baseball, football, boxing, and horse racing have shown. And wherever there is gambling there will be efforts to reduce the financial risks created by honest competition."

As to location of where games are played and where schools are located Smith says, "A boy who can be talked to by fixers can be talked to in a telephone booth."

and he can throw the game in a cathedral."

"Cynical commercialism is a spreading peril on the gridiron; except that it is more difficult to fix a football game than a basketball match, there is no guarantee that the most popular of campus entertainments is safe from the influences that fouled basketball."

"Where ever boys are paid to attend college and play football—and some of them are—they are outrageously underpaid. When they realize this and resent it, they become ripe for plucking by the fixers. It can happen here. It may happen here."

Hence, the NCAA, Smith says, fearing this brought in the Chastity Code "establishing colling privates on clefted livestock."

"It put college authorities on their mettle, challenging their ingenuity in evading the rules... The only schools put on trial for violating the Code were those that discovered they couldn't abide by the letter of the law and declined to lie about what they were doing."

A repeal of the Sanity Code was brought about by the unity of the South with the "ivy-covered institutions of the East which opposed hypocrisy feeling the NCAA would destroy itself..."

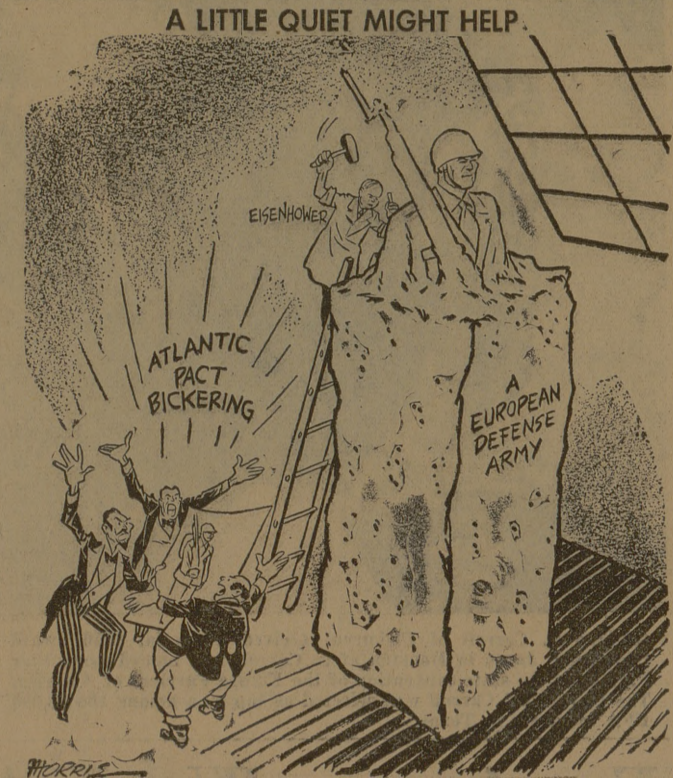
Over-commercialized Football

"There is the growing conviction in responsible campus circles that the antidote for over-commercialized football must be furnished by individual college presidents, not by any set of national rules. Colleges committed to the amateur spirit need schedule only those with similar views, and if one endeavors to cheat, the remedy is to quit playing with him."

"The more ambitious ones will expand as their financial ability permits until a scandal, a major war or economical depression calls a halt."

From here on, Smith goes on to point out how courts tossed out the fabulous Jockey Club which controlled the licensing power of horse racing, and where boxing has taken some bad punches yet may manage to keep its head above the water.

But the thought as to whether or not sports will continue, we think Smith sums it up best when he says, "If the game has merit it will survive and grow up and prosper, as all sports have survived scandals of their own."



Interpreting the News

Problem of Withdrawing Troops Faces Negotiators

By J. M. ROBERTS, JR., Associated Press News Analyst

THE prospect that the latest halt in Korean truce negotiations will be followed by another step toward agreement seems to be at least fair. But the most delicate item on the agenda will still remain.

The first real step toward a cease fire came with Communist agreement to leave the matter of foreign troops withdrawal for later conferences at governmental levels rather than to try to settle it as a part of the military arrangements.

Neutral Zone Squabble

During the neutral zone violation squabble, which seemed Thursday to be working itself out through an exchange of unpleasantities, the Peiping radio has been talking about the demarcation line.

The broadcasts are subject to the interpretation—although it must be to a considerable extent speculative—that the Communists will not insist on an allied withdrawal from important terrain, in some places considerably north of the 38th parallel, merely for the purpose of restoring the pre-1950 political situation down to the last detail.

The Communists seem to be trying to leave the impression throughout the Orient that the allies are actually demanding an advance beyond present lines. Then, if an agreement is reached as of the present lines, the Communists will be in the position of having resisted allied demands which actually were never made.

Fits Beautifully

This fits in beautifully with the sometime workings of the Chinese mind as well as with typical Communist tactics. The fact that the shooting will end with the allies still in possession of some ground formerly administered by the North Korean puppet government will then be minimized.

If this is a correct estimate of the Peiping tactic, the allies will still have the ground, the heights from which to repel any possible future aggression, and the Communists will have been able to conceal from the home folks at least a part of the weakness of their bargaining position.

But even if this comes about, a fundamental clash of practices will have to be ironed out.

Use of Commissions

Westerners have long been accustomed to the use of joint or neutral commissions to settle disputes of watch over areas of conflict in the interim between violent conflict and final settlement.

Chinese and Russians alike, however, have an inbred suspicion of foreigners and foreign ideas. When this is coupled with the Communist concept that all observation by outsiders constitutes spying, you have a very difficult situation in trying to arrange such

things as observation of the manner in which both sides are observing a truce. The United Nations feeling that such an observation system must be set up in this case is therefore likely to become the real focal point of cease-fire negotiations, and may be the chief reason why some observers expect them to be prolonged.

You will notice that little has been said as yet about a call for a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, which seems likely to be the tipoff that negotiations in Kaesong have reached the point where the military men are satisfied and some gesture of political approval is required.

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