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EDITORIALS

Listening In (Exchange)

In order to learn more of the tastes of its public, the British Broadcasting Corporation is circulating a number of listeners, chosen at random, throughout the country. The necessity, in planning programs, of having the cooperation of listeners has always been emphasized by the B. B. C., and criticism, there is another form of cooperation that might be practiced, consisting in a methodical attitude on the part of the listener.

Only a few weeks ago a protest was made by a B. B. C. official against the habit of some households of allowing the radio to function uninterruptedly throughout its working hours. It is certainly peculiar way of getting one's money's worth, and argues a complete failure to appreciate the radio's possibilities, except as a companionable noise becoming articulate when other distractions are hushed. The practice of turning it on in moments of boredom, and hoping for the best, may be more understandable, but is even more illogical.

The radio can be properly enjoyed at the cost of a little exertion compared with the theater, the cinema, and the concert hall, it is odd that some should shrink from undertaking that little.

Those who refuse to study and select programs in advance demand, of course, an impossible excellence that would please all the people all the time.

Efficiency for Right Things

(Christian Science Monitor)

Modern industry "has made men familiar with a kind and amount of efficiency they had never known before," with the result that the habit has grown of measuring the success or the failure, the satisfaction or the disappointment, the government in terms of this efficiency." This observation is Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler's. Going still further, he adds that the growing demand by the people for the same degree of effective authority to a single administrative officer or government."

This thesis is well taken. While the unsurpassed productive efficiency of American industry is due in part to the achievements of technology, another explanation is that the American people, in order to gain the end of industrial efficiency, have been willing to accept a degree of centralization of power in industry that would be repulsive to them in government.

Yet one of the significant trends in the last half-century has been the enlarged role of government in economic and social life. As a result, it is perhaps inevitable that increased power should be granted to government. As public problems grow more complex, the citizen must of necessity rely more on the judgment of expert executive officers, just as the stockholder must rely on the judgment of corporation officials. It is perhaps also inevitable that Congress should delegate certain powers, once considered exclusive prerogatives of the legislature, to the President, to the executive departments and to special boards of experts, even as corporation directors have found it expedient to relinquish some of their authority.

However, it should be recognized that there is a point beyond which the price for merely mechanistic efficiency in government is too high. Dr. Butler points out that the habit of insuring the success or failure of government in terms of the efficiency achieved by industry "is the explanation of the rise in the twentieth century of a type of despotism which surpasses in severity and in cruelty the worst established despots of ages long gone by."

Friends of democracy must accustom themselves to the fact that democratic government at its best lacks something of the effectiveness which is present in mechanized modern industry. Yet they generally will prefer not to trade their heritage of free thought and free speech for the dubious benefits of a government which, in order to get things done," must necessarily silence all who would oppose its program. They will realize that the real test of government is its ability to get the right things done.

Who Gains by This Deal?

(Christian Science Monitor)

In behalf of Georgia's new law to legalize the sale of liquor, it is argued that since under the State Constitution all revenue from alcoholic beverages must go to the common school fund, the new taxes would release money needed for eleemosynary institutions. Additions are now being made out of the hospital for the insane and a home for the feeble-minded.

Mental disorders are among the chief by-products of beverage alcohol. Can Georgia legalize into the consumption of alcohol? If not, will liquor taxes pay the increased cost of caring for Dr. John Barleycorn's patients?

The Essentials of U. S. Democracy (Exchange)

A short time ago a number of Senators, principally members of the majority party, conferred with a view to creating a definite program for promoting recovery. Their conclusions, embraced in ten proposals, were presented to the Senate by Senator Bailey of North Carolina. A digest of these ten vitally important points follows:

1. The capital gains tax and the undistributed profits tax should be thoroughly re-examined so as to encourage the normal flow of savings into productive enterprise.
2. A start should be made toward balancing the Federal budget in order that future credit will be preserved and fears which deter investment, ended.
3. The constitutional guarantees of the right of the worker to work, and of the owner of property to its possession, must be preserved and maintained.
4. Government should stay out of fields which belong in the realm of private industry—and if the government does propose to compete in any field, just notice should be given so that private investment might be avoided.
5. The competitive system must be maintained—as against either private or government monopoly, profit must be guaranteed.
6. Private credit must be preserved—and that means that the nation's collateral on which credit depends must be preserved.
7. There must be an assurance that taxes will not be further increased, and that they will be reduced at the earliest possible time.
8. State's rights, home rule, and local self-government must be vigorously maintained, unless proven definitely inadvisable.
9. The needy must be aided under a system which is non-political and non-partisan.
10. Lastly, the nation should re-examine its attitude, as in the past, upon the American system of private initiative and enterprise. This program needs no comment. It is a real prosperity program. It is based upon the principles that have made America great. Congress will adopt it, it is inevitable because of "pull" which will make a significant contribution not only to recovery, but to the maintenance of U. S. democracy.

Enforce Traffic Laws (Exchange)

One of the obstacles in the way of enforcement of laws against reckless automobile "driving," in large cities and small communities alike, has grown up a practice of "ticket-fixing." In the large cities and with a suspended sentence, provided the offender has political pull or other influence, the dreadfull annual toll of motor fatalities will never be checked unless the laws against excessive speeding and reckless and drunken driving are strictly enforced. It is discourteous to those charged with enforcing the traffic laws to make an arrest or serve a summons on a motorist, only to have the charge dismissed or sent to the county jail because of "pull." New York City started a year ago to reform this practice. The imposition of fines for traffic violations was made compulsory on magistrates, who could no longer suspend sentences. One result has been to cut down the number of accidents. Another has been increased the city's revenues by nearly \$750,000 a year, making the magistrate's courts practically self-sustaining.

Mrs. Nina Klingenberg of Bucyrus, O., has a pet crow that acts as an alarm clock. At 4:30 every morning the crow raps on her window until she is awake.

It would take more than nineteen hundred years to spend one billion dollars at the rate of one dollar a minute.

AN HONEST MAN

By S. M. WILDHOLT

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THE lights inside the room snapped on. Hidden in the portieres drawn before a tall window, Roger, leaning on the veranda, a man peered out into the flood of light. The tableau that met his gaze, told in tragic panorama, was at once arresting and alarming.

Stooped over a prostrate form on the floor was a girl, her back toward him—silken sheen of evening gown shimmering in the yellow glow from the chandeliers. From within the big house came faint strains of dance music, but she, though patently one of the revelers until this moment, was oblivious to the sounds.

The prostrate form was that of a man—shot. The girl held a black automatic in her right hand, starting at it in terrified perplexity.

At the door, tongue-tied for the fraction of a second, he took a glance at the scene, a young man, his fingers just relinquishing the button that snapped on the lights, stood transfixed. Consternation, horror, and solicited concern vied for prominence in his expression; consternation at the unexpected shock; horror at the deed; concern, not for the victim, but for the dumbly frightened girl.

"Dora!" the young man found his voice. Expressing a bit of reproach, more than a little fear, and a great deal of questioning anxiety, it had not looked him peace.

Dora looked up, startled. She sprang up, discovered the ugly weapon in her hand, tossed it from her with evident loathing. It struck the carpeted floor with a thud, an ominous thud.

The dead man was huddled face down; cursing darkly through the fibrous colored patterns of the heavy rug appeared a widening splotch of oozing blood—it must be blood. Boy and girl as with one accord watched it in horrified fascination.

"Quickly!" he exclaimed. "We must get away." Not self-preservation, but the protective instinct, was dominant.

Dora hesitated. Even in the stress of that terrible experience, she feared to flee. Her words betrayed it: "No—no, Roger. No," growing noticeably calmer with the sound of her voice. "We must—I must stay."

"But Dora—?" he pleaded. "If we go, no one will—"

"Yes, Roger, they will." She turned away from the dread sight on the floor with an expressive shudder. "Then all the more—"

"But they can't," he strenuously objected. "No one saw you—no one can—"

"I didn't shoot him, Roger." The denial, composedly uttered, was nevertheless spoken with a slight tremble of the lip.

Vaguely, Roger stared. "All the more reason," he insisted, with undoubted conviction. He had stepped across the room, and now stood before her, a little before her. "I'm sorry, Dora. I admit that on the surface, at first, it looked—I didn't want to believe—I've hung his head in public position."

The girl leaned against him condescendingly. "I know, Roger dear," soothingly. "You see, I—have demanded a private word—I have never told you," beginning to speak rapidly, perhaps to spin out pre-arranged moments, perhaps to avoid thought of the murdered man.

"He owns our house—mother never knew it, but when father died and left things in my hands—I stole the house, as you know, I had hard luck toward the last, father died," relating again. "So he—me— with a forced wave of a hand toward the silent figure on the floor. "I tried to take advantage. I'll pay him; I would have paid him . . . Queer that his death kills the unrecorder dead, too, isn't it?"

Roger, unspoken, put a firm arm around her, earnestly urging her toward the door. "I believe you, Roger, every word—even before you spoke. But now, can't you see, you must let us yourself get involved?"

"Wait, Roger, he wanted to see me alone, and then—I pushed him away, backed against the table—once, when I was here before, I saw him put an automatic there—now, waiting for it—I—I shudder trembled against the young man's arm, "it wasn't there. The lights went out. A quick flash, a shot—I don't know—I was running across the room. He had gone toward the door. I stumbled—over—over him. The lights came on, and I—I had—the ghastly thing in my hand."

The breakdown she had withstood for so many minutes overpowered her now. She sobbed unrestrainedly against the black softness of Roger's dress coat. Neither of them, in this high-pitched emotional phase, observed the slight parting of the portieres behind them that revealed a pair of eyes, eyes of the man that was still there, unseen, heard, but seeing and feeling.

"You must believe," Roger was telling her, "I only want to help you. I followed you, when he enclosed you here, away from everything. I was just outside the door when the shot came. No one else heard it—so many doors, the music—"

"I know, Roger," slowly quieting. "I trust you, of course. If it hadn't been for—"

"But no one saw you, Dora, no one saw you," repeated the young man despairingly.

"I saw her."

They turned at the sound of a strange voice. A shabbily-dressed, middle-aged man had stepped out of the portieres. His scarcely five feet of stature advanced deliberately along the length of the room.

"I saw her," he repeated, and stopped before them.

Panic colorated the young man's mobile face. He pleaded, expostulated, threatened, all in a breathless torrent of words. "You mustn't. She didn't do it. You mustn't say you saw her here."

Going by the house, on the side nearest this room, away from the dancing, the man heard the shot, came through the hall swinging wide the door of the veranda, saw and heard what happened, and here he was—a potential witness. In the lightning flash of interpretation and intuition that came to Roger as he placed her small hand on the safety of his beloved, the origin of their new danger stood thus revealed.

"You can't tell them," Roger was saying, over and over. "You can't tell them. The short man stretched his full height. "I am an honest man," with the dignity of a simple statement, lacking the bluster of a boast. "I shall tell only the truth."

Interval. A telephoned summons waiting. The anxiety of possibilities. Crude bluntness of arrival. Examination; cross-examination. Motive; the deed; evidence—conclusive? And through it all, faintly from the other side, veiled strains of popular tunes, louder with the opening door, fainter when it closed.

The honest man knew the deceased; had been in business with him; had failed; penniless. Knew him very well; his habits; had some dastardly habits. Was coming to see the deceased; yes, this very night; came to this room—had been here before.

"I am an honest man," came the statement, starting in its naked brevity. "I shot Bruce Elwester, I shot him because he deserved it." Surprise. Doubt. Confirmation.

The honest man had come, taking the automatic from the table drawer, concealed himself near the door, Bruce Elwester entered with Dora. An ensuing struggle. The honest man snapped off the lights, shot Elwester as he came toward the door, darted around the room and behind the portieres. Roger, seeking the cause of the dull explosion, entered, snapped on the lights and—yes, that was how he knew all about Dora and her motives.

The clumsy feet of the intruder stumbled away. Leaving the police detective to inform, astonish, and dumbfound the revelers, Roger placed her small hand in Roger's big one and escaped with him to the veranda, down the steps, into the night. A barrier was gone from between them and in the torturing streets of mutual pain had come complete understanding.

"Queer," Roger was muttering. "He was an honest man, deucedly honest."

Seeking a divorce, Mrs. George Truo of Sacramento, Calif., cited this as one of her reasons: "The defendant raised a mustache and whiskers just to spite the plaintiff."

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1. Be sure of decorative fitness of your lamps and fixtures. There is STYLE in lighting just as in dress. Choose your table and floor lamps to harmonize with your furniture.
2. Eliminate harsh contrasts (brilliant light and dark shadows). Do not have bright pools of light in a dark room. Supplement local lighting with general room-wide light.
3. Have enough light for each seeing task. There are definite recommendations as to the amount of light needed for reading fine print, sewing, mending, working in the kitchen, etc.
4. Avoid bare lamp bulbs . . . they cause glare. Raw lighting is poor lighting—even if there is plenty of it. Shaded lamps are always preferable.
5. Use the right size lamp in the right fixture. Too large or too small a lamp may cause eye discomfort and fatigue.
6. In your floor or table lamps, choose the type of lamp with a reflector bowl; and—wherever possible—shades with a white lining to provide more light. The bowl helps to diffuse the light and assures a soft, pleasant quality of illumination.
7. Wipe lamp bulbs frequently with a dry cloth—also the reflector bowl of your floor and table lamps.
8. If in doubt about any phase of your home lighting, call in a Detroit Edison Home Lighting Advisor. There is no charge for this service.

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