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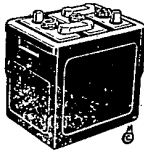
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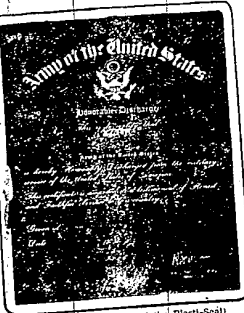
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News and Comments
from
Congressman
George A. Dondero

Highlights of address by Congressman George A. Dondero, 17th Michigan District, at Lincoln Day Dinner, Macomb, Illinois, on Wednesday, February 13, 1946.

Lincoln has been frequently quoted as a proponent of dangerous panaceas and doctrines which have arrayed class against class and which would eventually lead to the destruction of our Republic. We have never had a President who was more conscious of the rights of all men and who upheld our Federal Constitution, with greater fearlessness and reverence than Lincoln.

Lincoln not only believed in economy, he practiced it.

Lincoln's record stands out when compared with present-day ideas of national economy and stability. This government of ours can be destroyed from within unless the people themselves repudiate the philosophy that it makes no difference how much we owe, because we owe it to ourselves, and that a nation can make itself poor by paying its public debt.

No one has discovered a substitute for honest work, and no one has yet devised a system of government that can beat simple arithmetic.

We have been moving away from the time-tested principles on which our government was founded, principles which have lifted the weights from the shoulders of men and given promise and hope to the downtrodden and oppressed people of the world. We have been moving at accelerated speed toward the collectivist ideology or totalitarian government.

When Benjamin Franklin emerged from Independence Hall in Philadelphia on a day in September 1787, the day on which he signed the new Constitution of the United States, a friend asked — "What kind of a government have you given us?" He promptly replied, "A Republic. If we can keep it." Three quarters of a century later we find Lincoln asking the same question at Gettysburg, "Can a government conceived in liberty long endure?" Now, eighty-three years later, we are asking the same question.

When Lincoln spoke at Gettysburg, the Civil War was at its height. He must have had in mind the danger of our destruction from within, for we were not being attacked from without. He foresaw what we fear now, when he pointed out with the wisdom of a prophet: "At what point is the danger to be expected? If it ever reaches us, it must spring up among us. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and its finisher. As a nation of free men, we must live through all time or die by suicide."

What is the collectivist idea? It is the thesis that the collective welfare is important and that, in necessary, the rights, the privileges, and the welfare of the individual citizen must be subordinated entirely to it. It is but another way of saying that the common man must be kept common. If that theory is embraced, we are on the road to the destruction of individual liberty and the very foundation of the greatness of this country. Liberty has provided the initiative for man to go forward and create benefactions for himself, his country, and the world. It is why, in all ages, millions have died for that precious thing. Yet, collectivism sweeps over the country and is expressed in government agencies. It is so easily sold to many people and, when it gets the whip-hand, liberty dies. The challenge of Lincoln from Gettysburg again rings in our ears.

Much has been said and is now being said about reconversion to peacetime production in material. Our present reconversion problem is to restore in the hearts and minds of our people the principles of freedom and self-government.

Unmistakable signposts of danger are here. More than eleven hundred boards, bureaus, and commissions are set up under our federal government rule, regulate, and control our people. The whole trend is to centralize all government in Washington. The federal colossus in the nation's capital dominates agriculture, banking, credit, foreign trade, stock and commodity exchanges.

CONSUMERS POWER PREPARES FOR EXPANSION

Consumers Power Company will spend more than \$17,000,000 in 1946 on construction projects designed to meet anticipated growth in the use of electricity and gas, according to an announcement by Dan E. Karna, vice president and general manager.

The company's service embraces most of the Lower Peninsula aside from the Detroit and Thumb areas.

Preliminary work is already under way, Mr. Karna said, on a large new steam-electric generating plant to be erected on Muskegon Lake at Muskegon. Test borings are being made to determine the type of foundation needed, and when these are completed and analyzed, te drafting of engineering and architectural plans will begin immediately. Most of the actual construction work is scheduled for 1947 and 1948.

With an initial capacity of 120,000 kilowatts, the new plant will be one of the largest in outstate Michigan. Like the six other large steam-electric plants and the 43 hydro-electric plants of the Consumers system, it will pour its energy into a statewide network of transmission lines uniting all communities served by the Company.

The new plant has been named the B. C. Cobb Plant, honoring Bernard C. Cobb, former president and chairman of the board of directors of Consumers and of the Commonwealth and Southern Corporation. Mr. Cobb retired in 1934 and now makes his home in New York.

The John C. Wescock Plant on Saginaw Bay at Essexville will become the largest of all Consumers

Even the radio is intimidated. By grants, loans, federal aid, and subsidies, there is not a city hall, a courthouse, or a business in the United States that is entirely free from its control.

plants with the installation of another 50,000 kilowatt generating unit, which will boost its total capacity to 170,000 kilowatts. Work on this project will begin this year and reach completion in 1947.

Also on the Consumers program for this year, are many new power lines and substations and numerous additions to and improvements of the company's gas distribution and storage facilities. Gas main capacities will be increased in anticipation of a sharp rise in the number of customers who heat their homes with gas.

Office buildings in Flint, Kalamazoo and Eastland will be enlarged.

Consumers now has 519,000 electric customers. It expects to add 19,000, about half of them farm customers, in 1946. It has 253,000 gas customers and expects to add 11,000 during the year.

Rice Co-Ops

Rice co-operatives are active in Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas and California. In a report on prospects for agricultural co-operatives in the postwar period an inter-bureau committee of the U. S. department of agriculture says there are 25 of these organizations, including 14 locals operating in the Gulf coast area and 8 co-operatives engaged in rice drying and bulk storage in the four principal rice-producing states. It is estimated, the report says, that the combine - dryer storage operations permit 60 per cent reductions in labor costs.

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• OUR AIM is to provide the kind of telephone service you want.

We have no choice but to grow as the demand for our service grows. That's our public responsibility — and we like it that way.

Right now, the demand for telephone service is at an all-time high. To meet it and prepare for future growth, we have a 5-year post-war program under way that will cost \$120,000,000.

Money to finance that program must come from thrifty people who are willing to invest in Bell System securities. If our prospects for future

earnings are less attractive than those of other companies, folks will invest their money elsewhere.

In recent years, the rate of Telephone Company earnings has been declining until at the end of the war it was far below the average of other industries.

So it boils down to this:

Too long a continuation of a rate of earnings substantially below that of other industries would weaken our ability to raise the money required to meet expected telephone needs.

The future quality of your telephone

service depends on telephone rates that will produce earnings attractive to investors.

We believe our customers want good telephone service, even if it costs a trifle more than inferior service.

Technical improvements in the past brought rates for good service down and have kept them down in the face of rising costs. As rapidly as future improvements will permit, we expect and want our rates to come down still further. For Michigan Bell wants rates no higher — and no lower — than necessary to insure good telephone service.

MICHIGAN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY

OUR \$120,000,000 POST-WAR PROGRAM MEANS JOBS FOR THOUSANDS