

# The Journal - Patriot

MEMORANDUM IN POLITICS

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MONDAY, JAN. 30, 1939

## Good Southern Cooking

Nothing makes people madder than for some upstart to deny their traditional boasts.

This was brought out recently by Miss Isabelle Post's article in Mercury Magazine, in which she recited southern cooking in most vicious terms.

Here are a few excerpts from her article as quoted in State magazine:

"The truth of the matter is, to be brutally frank, that the South's over publicized Epicureans subsist mostly on its three traditional M's—meat, meal and molasses. Chickens are small and scrawny compared with those up North. . . . A really good steak in Dixie is as hard to find as a good Republican—and infinitely tougher. . . . The best Virginia ham in the world is served in New York restaurants. . . . Except during the short growing season, fresh vegetables are practically nonexistent. . . . Good sweet corn is scarcely known. . . . Broccoli is unheard of. Oranges, brought in on trucks from Florida, are the sickly greenish kind, nine-tenths seeds and pulp and one-tenth bitter juice. I never tasted a good plumb, cherry or pear in Dixie. . . . Breakfast consists of unadulterated grits, or eggs with grits; luncheon is meat with grits; supper is fish with grits. . . . Then there are the famous breads—corn-bread, spoon-bread, banana-bread, and other gelatinous masses of incredible specific gravity, which in the North would probably be used as ballast for ocean liners, but hardly as food".

We do not believe Miss Post knew anything about her subject, because it would be inconceivable for a person to write what she did if she had really partaken of the good southern food for which this section of the country is famous.

Miss Post says that chickens in the south are "small and scrawny". She needs to visit western North Carolina, and particularly Wilkes county which furnishes the best of the well fed and fat chickens to grace northern tables. But we would remind Miss Post that we eat the best chickens on our own tables, and those sold are far superior to those of the north.

She made some very slight remarks about ham, but she is not qualified to even utter an opinion about ham unless she should come here and eat some real country ham, sugar cured and with natural gravy.

She raves about the lack of good vegetables when it is a fact that people of this section eat more good vegetables than in the north, who think they have nothing to eat if they do not have a half-baked steak from the mid-west. Why, the people of the north do not even know how to cook snap beans! They think snap beans are something with which to make a sickly tawdry stew and they think corn bread is hog feed, mainly because they do not know how to bake really good corn bread.

Northern people do not know how to make good biscuits and are naturally content with loaf bread because they know nothing of how eatable biscuits can be.

Southern mothers can outcook anybody, and Miss Post's hallucinations about southern cooking naturally raises the ire of one who knows how chicken ought to be fried, how good corn bread can be with good, whole southern milk from contented cows, the aroma of country cured ham and brown, natural gravy, buck-wheat cakes spread with molasses and butter from the kitchen churn, fresh eggs from the hen nest and not from some cold storage house, heaping dishes of steaming vegetables probably gathered the same day in the long growing season, raw vegetables with a distinctive southern flavor. We could go on like this, but we are getting hungry.

Miss Post, come down and see us some time and then write the truth. We will be satisfied.

## Selfishness The Problem

Most of the troubles that confront the world and many of those that worry individuals can be explained in a word of eleven letters—selfishness.

To elucidate this thought, let us consider a single individual, who is entirely interested in what he can get. He grabs what he wants to satisfy his ambition, appetite and desires. He takes no thought of other people and their rights. He is unconcerned with the fate of other humans. Life, to him, is completely successful when he completely gratifies his own ends. What would you think of such a man? And what kind of a world would you expect if every man were of this type?

Take, for example, a family group. Here we have the fundamental organization of society. Let us assume that each member of the family — father, mother and all of the children — are concerned solely with their selfish ends. Each is determined to get what is coming to him or her without any thought of the other members of the group. How long do you think such a family group would continue and what kind of life would they lead as long as the family continued to operate?

The observations in regard to individuals and family groups apply equally to the other organizations and institutions of human society. It is true in reference to towns and cities, counties and states, and nations as well. It is obvious, in theory, when we reflect upon the entire world.

As an individual, you control the life of only one person. You can direct yourself and your relationship to other people. You can make one useful member of human society if you are willing to give up some of the selfishness that makes human cooperation impossible. Whether you decide or intend to do so is a personal problem with you. The answer that you make measures the extent of your contribution to civilization.

## 2,785 Miles For \$24.75

You probably won't recall the name of John M. Jones or remember what he has done, but just the same his exploit is worth some notice because it gives an idea of what lies ahead of us in the future.

Young Jones, 25-year-old California flier, recently flew non-stop across the continent in 30 hours and 37 minutes. The time is not a record, but he made the 2,785 miles hop in a stock model Aeronica—a fifty-horsepower plane, at a cost estimated by him to be only \$24.75.

Mr. Jones spanned the continent in a plane with a lower power rating and operating cost than a popular-priced automobile. If you don't know what this will mean to aviation, you might sit still a few minutes and think it out.

## Borrowed Comment

### IT CAN HAPPEN HERE

(Whiteville News-Reporter)

Reading in current newspapers and magazines of the filthy conditions which characterize tenement districts of large cities, Columbus county people lean back comfortably on their easy chairs and muse "It can't happen here".

"That is only a figment of their own imagination", they say perhaps of people who decried the conditions in some section of Columbus county.

This fact stands out in bold relief: It not only can happen here, but it is happening right under our noses. A survey would reveal that there are dozens of families in Columbus county right now living under conditions analogous to worst conditions in urban centers.

Houses, bare and gaunt, little better than the stalls which shelter the livestock, offer protection from the elemental onslaughts. Cold, hunger, and squalidness result from poverty in its most advanced stages.

Children, half-naked, run about the yards. Four, five and six persons, often divided equally among the sexes, sleep in one bed under a thin coverlet on the coldest nights.

Such people, apparently oblivious of their squalid surroundings, often are so low in mentality and so devoid of intelligence that they don't even know how to want any more than ill-fortune has brought them. They can be helped, and living conditions improved, only by inciting in them a desire for better things.

These are not theoretical instances drawn for the purpose of illustration. They are conditions which exist right in our own county.

Such conditions should be completely blotted out, and it remains the responsibility of every intelligent citizen of the county to see that they are.

## This Week In Washington

Washington, Jan. 28. (Auto-caster)—The new Congress is already beginning to feel the pressure of organized lobbyists who want Federal funds spent for their pet projects.

It is too early to predict whether the present Congress will prove more immune to such pressure than its predecessors have been, but if history repeats itself, as it usually does, the determination to economize with which the 76th Congress started out will go the way of most New Year resolutions.

There is no question about the sincere desire of that block in Congress, which is composed of anti-Administration Democrats and the 171 Republican members of the House, to cut down Government expenditures. But it is extremely difficult for any Congress to resist appeals which purport to come from a preponderant mass of their constituents.

The first illustration of the way in which public sentiment is manufactured, for the national legislators, was made for the benefit of the members of this new Congress on a matter which did not concern the subject of spending, as it happens. In response, to a radio speech by Father Coughlin literally hundreds of thousands of telegrams and letters were received by Senators and Representatives, urging them not to repeal the embargo on munitions shipped to the participants in the Spanish Civil War.

Received 12,000 Telegrams  
One of the new Republican Senators reported that he had received some 12,000 telegrams and more than that number of letters from voters in his own state, urging him to follow Father Coughlin's advice.

It so happened that he was opposed to lifting the embargo, anyway, so these communications were so much wasted ammunition.

But this Senator's comment, based upon wide political experience and intimate understanding of the people of his state, was that he was certain that the question of the Spanish arms embargo was one to which his constituents were entirely indifferent and that this was an attempt to fool him into believing that the voters were all stirred up about it.

"The demand for 'liberalizing' Old Age Pensions is likely to be one of the most hotly-debated and long-drawn-out discussions on record, before this Congress adjourns.

The hearings on the Social Security Act amendments, concerning which there is as yet no general agreement except that the law as it stands is clumsy and difficult to administer, will become the forum for the discussion of the Townsend Plan and probably other plans to give everybody over a given age a liberal living pension at the expense of the taxpayers.

### Will Study Schemes

Enough pressure was put on candidates during the election campaign to induce many of them, Republicans and Democrats alike, to commit themselves to at least a study of these various pension schemes. The extent of public sentiment in the nation for Federal assumption of responsibility for the support is unknown, but that efforts will be made to represent to Senators and Representatives that they will forfeit their political futures if they do not fall in line with the Old Age Pension program is not doubted by any experienced Washington observer.

The Townsend Plan lobby is rapidly becoming one of the most powerful pressure groups in Washington. Old-timers liken it to the Anti-Saloon League lobby which put over the Prohibition amendment. It operates in much the same way, with local clubs or groups exerting pressure in their respective states and Congress districts upon legislators.

They are not yet as well organized as was the Anti-Saloon League, and they have no such astute political leader as the late Wayne B. Wheeler, but everybody who watches what is going on under the surface of things in Washington concedes they are making headway.

Aside from the Old Age Pension group, the only one of the pressure blocks which is demanding increased government spending is the WPA.

The largest demand for additional spending, aside from pensions and relief, so far, has come from the Administration. In addition to the billion and a third included in the President's national defense budget, he has since asked Congress to appropriate an additional 550 millions to enlarge the national fighting air forces and train and equip enough pilots to handle a total of about 10,000 fighting planes.

New Plan Developed  
It was brought out at the so-called "monopoly" hearing before the Temporary National Economic Committee the other day that a new, quick way of building aircraft has been developed, which holds the possibility of bringing



## Treatments Prolongs Life Of Fence Post

Many North Carolina farmers are cutting fence posts at this winter season of the year, but because of the comparative shortage of such durable woods as black locust, red cedar, bald cypress, red mulberry and catalpa, in many cases it is necessary to use softer woods like pine and

the aerial fighting force up to full quota within a year or so instead of three or four years.

This is an application of the pioneer discovery by the famous chemical engineer, Leo H. Baekeland, of a method of making plastic materials which are waterproof, fireproof, and insulated against electric currents. The application of the Baekeland plastic resins to moulding airplane bodies and wings in a single piece, quickly and cheaply, was reported to have been so successful that it could be predicted that the new process would supersede present methods.

The Administration is more internationally-minded than any since the World War. The calling home of Ambassador Johnson from China is the latest in a series of recalls of America's foreign representatives for information and consultation.

It seems certain, however, that so far the new Congress does not share to the full the concern of the White House and the State Department over international relations, possibly because Congress does not fully understand them.

W. J. Barker, assistant forester of the State College Extension Service, says it is possible by creosoting or the use of other preservative treatment to make even the less durable woods last from 15 years upward. He explains that decay in fence posts is due to certain low forms of plant life called fungi. These organisms for the most part of every fine threads that penetrate the wood and dissolve the wood structure with which they come in contact. Their basic requirements for growth are moisture, air, warmth and food. If any of these are eliminated, decay is stopped.

On the other hand, a good preservative must be reasonably cheap, should penetrate wood readily, should not be corrosive to metal, should not evaporate or wash out of the wood easily, and should be poisonous to fungi. The most commonly known and used preservative today is coal tar creosote. Briefly, the recommendations for treating fence posts in North Carolina with creosote are, first to have the wood peeled clean and thoroughly dry. Then place the posts on end in a boiler containing creosote oil and boil for two hours. Posts should be in the oil to a depth of six inches or better than they will stand in the ground, and upon removal from boiler, place the entire post in a tank of cold creosote oil and allow to remain for two hours.

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