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Clean Government Will Be The Paramount Issue

Oil Scandals Have Overshadowed Bonus, Taxation And Everything Else And Given Democrats Opportunity To Take The Offensive

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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Washington, Feb. 9.—Clean Government will be the paramount issue of the 1924 campaign.

Taxation has been overshadowed. The soldier bonus will be disposed of by a compromise. The Democrats will take the offensive and ask the country to return them to power on the ground that their record of administration was not sullied by any misuse of power.

The air is full of rumors and everywhere one goes there are whispers all tending to incriminate persons of prominence with a misconception of their personal relationship to the positions they hold. If half the stories which are being talked about are ever brought out under oath before the Senate investigating committee, the sensations of the past three weeks will be tame compared with the disclosures to be made.

Bolled down to fundamentals, the big question is who in the Government knew ahead of time about the making of the oil leases. Who tipped off friends so that operations in the stock market might be profitable? Who in the Government is engaged in stock market speculation based upon the act of the Government? And where shall the line be drawn between speculation and investment?

The usual tales of the roundabout efforts of the oil companies to gain favor are being told and while no one is talking about outright bribery there are suspicions being expressed that favors were extended in order to bring about a favorable viewpoint toward the leasing of the oil reserves to private interests.

One of the most perplexing phases of the controversy is the differences of opinion which seems to exist with reference to the true value of some of the oil leases now under investigation. Responsible persons are making the statement that some of the leases in question are really of doubtful value and that the owners know it but that the latter had to keep on making public statements about the amount of money expected to be made out of the leases in order to bolster up on the stock market the value of the stocks of particular oil companies involved. If they admitted that the leases were without value, the stocks would tumble. If they admitted that large sums of money would be made, the Senate would get the impression that the Government had made a contract unfavorable to itself.

Just how much did the oil companies know ahead of time concerning the making of the leases? Did they gather all outstanding claims and arrange a settlement so that the Government would look with more favor on the making of a lease or did they settle the claims because they knew the land was so valuable that they could buy out the claimants at a low figure and ultimately make more money themselves?

As for the general leasing policy, this undoubtedly will figure in the answer to be made by the Republicans to the Democratic attack. Certain leases were made under the Democratic administration. While no one has proved that any Democrat received money or loans or any other favor to make the leases it is a fact that private interests did secure leases under certain conditions. Were these leases wisely made? If not, then the Republicans can claim that both the Democrats and the Republicans followed the practice of making leases.

The Democrats will say of course that they made their leases in the open and asked for bids. But should the Government's reserves be leased to private interests? One day President Harding in a conference with newspaper men discussed the subject to some extent. The criticism of the Teapot Dome lease had begun to develop and there was talk of an investigation by the Senate. Mr. Harding declared with vehemence that it was all right to talk about preserving the oil for the Navy but if nobody would drill the wells there wouldn't be any oil and that if the lands adjacent were being tapped by private companies the Government's supply might be drained.

Mr. Harding never believed in Government development of its own oil lands. He didn't want the Government to go into the oil business. He believed that if the Government entered into a contract with private concerns who would find it to their advantage to invest their money in drilling operations, both purposes would be served—the Navy would get its oil and the private companies would make their expenses and a return on their investment.

Granting the principle of this argument as sound, the question then turns on whether the private companies got more than their share of the oil and made a return entirely out of proportion to the investment they applied. And shouldn't the Government have gotten more out of it all?

Experts are at odds on these points, but the controversy will really turn on unprejudiced testimony of experts. If it is proved that the interests of the Government were neglected it will make the issue of clean government even more conspicuous in the campaign. There are signs of cleaning already. The administration is probing itself, making rules for the conduct of Government business based upon the disclosures made. Clean Government is a trite issue but it will have a concrete significance in the 1924 political campaign.

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COOPERS TAKE STAND IN TRIAL THIS WEEK

Wilming ton, Feb. 11 — With the introduction of the last witness the State expects to close its case today in the first indictment against the Coopers in the Commercial National Bank case, and the defense will probably consume several days presenting its side.

MINSTREL REHEARSAL

The local talent show, "The Minstrel Revue" will hold a rehearsal tonight at the Masonic Hall for all that are to appear in the show at the new High School Auditorium February 13 and 14. A full dress rehearsal will be held Tuesday at the high school auditorium. That the Minstrel Revue will be acclaimed one of the best amateur shows ever presented locally, is the opinion of several critics who have attended rehearsals. Special vaudeville features will be introduced in the olio and the entire company will appear in the farce comedy "Way Out in Montana" which has been arranged especially for laughing purposes. There has been a large sale of tickets and indications point to a highly successful performance from every standpoint.

The proceeds are for the Woman's Club tea room, the Linden.

Rehearsal Tonight
The choral club will have a rehearsal tonight at 7.30 o'clock in the high school auditorium. All members are asked to be present.

On Northern Trip
Mrs. H. Grice left Monday for New York to purchase woman's ready to wear apparel for the spring season for the firm of McCabe & Grice.

GERMANY MUST ABANDON POLICY OF EVASION

(Continued From Page One)

mission is able to present to the French a German program, based upon an impartial estimate of German capacity and accompanied by full and convincing guarantee of German good faith and German readiness to perform under the new contract.

Today the real difficulty seems to lie in the German conviction that the mission of the present expert inquiry is to force the French to let Germany off, and that the single real necessity of the Germans is to provide a paper case of inability to pay much of anything. This is the thing which is instinct in all the press comment in Germany at the moment when General Dawes is beginning his labors.

And the German reaction is for the next few days the all-important thing. Meantime the one solid basis for optimism lies in the fact that neither the Germans nor the French care to assume the responsibility for a failure of this present undertaking. For the Germans it may well mean domestic collapse and even revolution, for the French it can hardly fail to spell bankruptcy. Each nation, therefore, will maneuver to throw any responsibility for failure upon the other and this circumstance gives General Dawes and his associates a good deal of authority.

In the end, however, the old problem remains; if Germany is not ready to pay largely, as everyone agrees she ultimately can, then there is no chance of any solution and things must continue to go from bad to worse. Therefore the German state of mind as revealed by the German public and press comment at the moment has enormous value, but it must be recognized that heavy discounts are to be made for propaganda operations, and the real test will not be what the Germans say before the Dawes decision is made, but after.

GIVEN FOUR MONTHS

William Alexander Overton, for assault on Fred Moore with deadly weapon, was sentenced to four months on the roads by Trial Justice Spence Monday morning. Efforts were made to induce Judge Spence to change the sentence to a fine but the requests were refused.

New Shipment

Umbrellas and Canes
Weeks & Sawyer
Where the Best Clothes Come From

CAPTAIN McCRARY LOSES COMMAND

Washington, Feb. 11.—Sweeping changes in the personnel of officers at Lakehurst, New Jersey, air station and officers assigned to the airship Shenandoah, including the relief of her commanding officer, Commander McCrary, have been made by Rear Admiral Moffitt, chief of the Navy Aeronautical Bureau and approved by Secretary Denby.

The orders to McCrary said "Upon being relieved by Lieutenant Commander Landsdowne as commanding officer of the Shenandoah you will regard yourself detached from all duties on board that airship."

McCrary who has also been in command at Lakehurst was also relieved of command there and "detached from all present duties."

HERRIN FACES MARTIAL LAW

Turbulent Section Also Expecting Strike of Four Thousand Coal Miners in Twenty-seven Mines.

Herrin, Ill., Feb. 11 — Turbulent Williamson County, the scene two years ago of a massacre of more than a score of non-union coal miners and lately of internecine warfare between dry Ku Klux Klan and wet anti Klan factions, today faced the prospect of a declaration of martial law and the strike of approximately 4000 bituminous coal miners employed in 27 mines.

No untoward incident occurred last night, according to reports to military authorities.

JUDGE STACY SPEAKS AT MEMORIAL SERVICE

Raleigh, Feb. 11 — Declaring that Woodrow Wilson will be the colossus of the twentieth century, Associate Justice Stacy, Sunday addressed a large audience here in the memorial service to the former President.

MRS. ASA CANDLER DOESN'T GO HOME

Atlanta, Feb. 11.—While Mr. Candler today remained silent on the matter, Mrs. Asa Candler, who was caught Saturday afternoon in an apartment with two men and some liquor, did not spend Saturday night or Sunday at the Candler home.

TAKEN TO RALEIGH FOR SAFE KEEPING

Raleigh, Feb. 11 — Dillon Goodwin, negro, who shot and fatally wounded William Case near Kinston Saturday, was brought here yesterday for safe keeping.

Miss Florie Bell Morgan of Plymouth spent the week end here as the guest of her aunts, Misses Mary and Florence Bell, on North Road street.

FIRST LETHAL GAS EXECUTION SUCCESS

Death So Far As Observers Could See Was Instantaneous And Painless With None of Horrible Contortions That Mark Electrocutions

By L. C. OWEN.
Copyright, 1924, by The Advance

Carson City, Nev., Feb. 11.—Other states which desire to be both quick and painless in meting out death to their condemned criminals might do well, if capital punishment must continue the prevailing vogue, to investigate the example set here last week by the state of Nevada when it sent a convicted murderer to his doom with lethal gas.

Ten seconds after the lethal mixture of hydrogen and cyanide had been turned upon Gee Jon, Chinese high binder, who went to his death alone when a sensational eleventh hour commutation spared Thomas Russel, his intended companion, the oriental lapsed into unconsciousness.

It took nine of the 10 seconds for the deadly gas fumes to reach him. Once they reached him, however, the end seemingly was instantaneous and painless.

Through lack of scientific supervision which would have measured the advancing steps of death with micrometer exactness, the estimates of the time it actually took the deadly gas to kill, can be based only upon the slightly differing closeness of those who watched. An effort was made to set down accurately each stage of the death proceedings by means of a stethoscope fastened over the condemned man's heart, but an extra section of hose, which led from the death chamber to the observers' safety station outside, rendered the effort ineffectual.

Gee Jon was led into the lethal gas chamber at 9:40. The gas was turned on at 9:41. It was necessary for two guards to support him in his death-march to the interior to the small stone igloo.

Once inside the chamber the trembling prisoner was quickly trussed to a chair in one of the two steel cells, which had been set up inside of the structure. An instant later there was a plainly audible sound which resembled the rush of air from an air hose and the half dozen witnesses required by law with as many newspaper men who were also spectators, craned their necks to see the final chapter in the legalized drama of death.

The condemned man straightened in his chair and raised his head. A fleeting expression, hardly of curiosity, came over his face. He started to turn his face toward the sound of hissing gas which came from the wall behind him. Suddenly his eyes went shut and his upper torso sagged limply down into the chair to which he was bound. At the same instant the upper abdominal muscles, which until a second before had moved in regular breathing, became still. The muscles of his body continued to twitch for six minutes. In the quick transition from life to eternity there was no movement of the body or face to indicate even the slightest suffering.

McADOO BEFORE OIL COMMITTEE

Appearing At His Own Request He Declares That The Question Transcends Partisan Consideration.

Washington, Feb. 11.—William G. McAdoo today emphasized before the Senate oil committee that his professional relations with E. L. Doheny recently terminated were "in good faith" and had nothing to do with the leasing of the naval oil reserves.

Appearing at his own request because of testimony given by Doheny as to his employment in connection with Mexican oil matters, McAdoo declared "I think it may fairly be presumed that if my name was not prominently mentioned in connection with high office my private practice as a lawyer would be of no interest to this committee or the public."

Asserting that the "faith of the people in their own Government is shaken," he declared: "This question transcends political parties and partisan consideration" and the "first duty of the hour is mercilessly to uncover and to bring to public view and scorn and punishment every one who has betrayed a public trust or who has been guilty of wrong doing in this humiliating and dangerous affair."

BUILDING AND LOAN STOCKHOLDERS TO MEET

The annual stockholders' meeting of the Albemarle Building & Loan Association will be held in the office of the secretary-treasurer, room 205, Savings Bank & Trust Company building, on Tuesday evening, February 12, at 7:30 o'clock.

NORFOLK COTTON

February 11 1924
Middling (closed today) ... 33 1-8c
Middling (opened today) ... 33 1-2c

NORFOLK PRODUCE

At Jarvis & Fentress SPENCE-HOLLOWELL CO.

Table with columns: Live Dressed Undn., Chickens, Hens, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, Large Hogs, Small Hogs, Milk Calves, Yearlings, Sweet Potatoes, Eggs. Prices listed for each item.

ADVANCE CLASSIFIED ADS

DAILY ADVANCE CLASSIFIED RATES

This size type (8 point), one cent a word each insertion; minimum 25 cents, one time; 75 cents week.

Standing ads, five cents a word per week. Twenty cents per month—in advance.

White space and paragraph ads, 50 cents an inch.

Copy must be in the office by 5 p. m. day before insertion.

For Rent

FOR RENT—HUSSEY HOME, ON Cherry street, new paper and paint, lights, water, gas, 10 rooms, suitable two families. Apply Mrs. J. B. Leigh. feb.12-18-pd

For Sale

FOR SALE CHEAP — ONE PENNSYLVANIA Seed Drill (3 disc) and McCormick Reaper and Binder, 6 foot blade. Both only used for few times. In good condition at bargain price. Apply to P. W. Stevens Camden, N. C. 11-12-13pd

PLOW CASTINGS FOR SALE cheap. Apply to Elizabeth City Iron Works & Supply Co. feb.7-14-np

FOR SALE—SEE US FOR BURT 90 Day Seed Oats. We have them, just unloaded. Ayldett & Owens. feb.8-14-np

PURE BRED DUROC JERSEY pigs for sale. Between three and four months' old. Price \$10. R. B. Stevens, Camden, N. C. feb.5-14-np

Help Wanted

WANTED—MAN WITH EXPERIENCE as wheelwright and general repairs in wood shop, also one experienced blacksmith for wheelwright and general repair shop. J. M. Butler & Son, Suffolk, Va. feb.5-11-np

Advertisement for typewriter. Includes illustration of a typewriter and text: "George needed a typewriter. 'I can't afford to pay \$100.00 for one,' he told his wife. 'Why don't you try an Advance Classified Ad?' asked Mrs. George. 'As usual, you are right, my dear,' answered George. So he did. George has a typewriter."

WANTED—HIGH POWERED SPECIALTY salesmen, capable of earning \$75.00 weekly up, to market new, essential, non-competitive product. Nogar, 905 American Bank Bldg., Greensboro, N. C. feb.11-pd

LOST—LARGE CAMEO PIN, Saturday afternoon, between Melick's store and Camden Court House. Return to Advance Office and receive reward. feb.5-11-pd

Opportunities

HARD AND PINE WOOD, \$7 PER cord, \$3.50 half cord, \$1.75 load. Stove lengths. Geo. J. Kerr, Phone 791-W. Jan.29-tf-np

Lost and Found

LOST — TEN TICKETS TO THE Minstrel Revue. Finder return to Advance office. It

WANTED AT HERTFORD, CHAPANOKE, Camden, Belcross, GREGORY, Shawboro and Moyock, representatives of The Advance to send in news and secure subscriptions on commission basis. Address The Advance, Elizabeth City, N. C.

Candidate Cards

NOTICE TO THE VOTERS OF Pasquotank County: Ladies and Gentlemen:—I am a candidate for Sheriff of this County in the Primary to be held on the first Saturday in June 1924. I shall certainly appreciate your influence and your vote for me for this office. Respectfully, L. W. Anderson.