

The Constitution

By Samuel Rosinger

The Constitution is a sacred instrument. It has been hallowed by the patriots who fought and bled and died in order that the spirit of democracy with which this document breathes, prevail in the land of the free. Therefore the Constitution must not be tampered, or trifled with. It is the lodestar by which the American ship of state must be steered. Any deviation from the direction in which the Constitution points, leads into uncharted seas, and endangers the safety of the nation.

The wise framers of this epoch-making document rightly provided that any amendment to this basic law must have the consent of two-thirds of the sovereign states. Hence a change in the Constitution cannot be effected either by the legislative or the executive branch of the government, but solely by the stipulated procedure of an amendment. No emergency, be it even of war, can justify the suspension of any part of the Constitution. "Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants, it is the creed of slaves," reads the judgment of a renowned English statesman. The Constitution is the standard by which the wisdom and validity of every principle, or policy employed to govern this nation, must be tested.

There is a dangerous tendency, at present, to ride roughshod over the Constitution. In our feverish effort to correct in a day abuses which have accumulated for an age, we chafe at the barriers of the Constitution that constrain us to haste slowly, and not rush head over heels in the gigantic work of reconstruction. At the recently held meeting of the National Bar Association, a high government official profoundly shocked that body by proposing to brush aside the Constitution in an effort to cope with the crime wave sweeping the country. The boiling indignation of the Bar Association forced the government to "explain away" the official's astounding proposal. Yet, the incident shows in what direction the wind blows. Surely, the framers of the Constitution never intended to make this instrument a rigid, unbendable political creed. The Constitution is flexible, and it can be adapted to progressive ideas. Yet, surely, Bolshevism or Fascism or Nazism could not possibly be foisted on the American nation, without crucifying the Constitution. Despotism and democracy cannot go hand in hand.

Reconstruction is, at best, a painstakingly slow effort, and haste and hysteria, far from accelerating, retard and obstruct its progress. Marching forward on the trail blazed by the Constitution is the safest and surest way for America to attain the goal of national welfare and prosperity.

ROTARYGRAMS

OF BEAUMONT



WEEKLY BULLETIN

Membership Secretary, Phone 932

Vol. IX Beaumont, Texas, Sept. 6, 1933 No. 9

Slants at the Meeting

Last Wednesday was 'Hero Day'. The return of the prodigals . . . "Three Men in a Boat."

Patootie Gilbert admits his versatility. Says he can subscribe to any code now . . . Rotary code, N. R. A. code or even the Moral code.

Between Methodist praying Doty and Catholic Roane he learned to say "Amen" in one syllable and with as much piety as a Mormon at bed time.

Willie claims his boat was all right . . . just its bottom was wrong; like a bad dollar it had to turn up.

Brother Roundtree outlined a great highway with a dual purpose for twin cities . . . it was military and economic for Minneapolis and St. Paul.

He charted it thru a fertile section . . . plenty of meat, corn and lead . . . three essentials in modern life (However, this is not the natural sequence).

Methodical Mike in tracing the human race covered everything from the garden of Eden to the Century of Progress.

He had "rugged individualism" on the hop from India to Idaho where the frontiers of civilization stopped as abruptly as Sister Aimee's love did for Dave.

Mike made a splendid start and a perfect stand. He said the pioneering days were over except within ourselves, and it was up to us to stimulate and create?

Charlie Blabcock, the program chairman, kept shouting to those in arrears to come forward. Boy, the bankers have cried themselves hoarse over the same thing.

—Check

OFFICERS

KEITH HOTCHKISS President
KELSEY LAMB Vice-President
PRESTON B. DOTY Treasurer
IRWIN J. FERAY Secretary

DIRECTORS

KEITH HOTCHKISS—Pipkin & Brulin Co.
KELSEY LAMB—Lamb Printing & Stationery Co.
IRWIN J. FERAY—T. H. Mastin & Co.
P. P. BUTLER—American National Bank
B. A. STEINHAGEN—Steinhagen Rice Milling Co.
ED STEDMAN, JR.—The Stedman Co.
MILLARD McMASTER—Petroleum Iron Works Co.
TOM P. WALKER—Gulf States Utilities Co.
R. D. CHASTAIN—Imperial Shoe Store
C. A. EASLEY—Seaport Coal Co.

—R—

Three Star Program Wednesday 13th

The Dallas Pres. Board of Directors (Jim please note) and thirty members have chartered two busses for a trip to Beaumont and will show us how to conduct a Real Rotary Program.

Let us have a 100 per cent attendance for it will be one of the year's outstanding events.

President.

ABSENTEES

We have missed the following Rotarians the last two meetings:

T. Browne, J. D. Birdwell, R. L. Casey, W. H. Campbell, R. E. Edmondson, T. R. Murphy, P. W. Pack, Geo. D. Switzer, Harry Shepherd, Eugene Smith, Tom Walker, W. G. Wallace.

Future increases in the population of this country are likely to be in suburban districts, including those devoted to farming, according to a recently completed study of the subject. The Department of Agriculture reports that the return to farms from urban centers has more than offset the egress from rural districts during the preceding ten years.

Sir Esme Howard quite enjoys telling how he walked briskly into the foyer of the magnificent Mayflower Hotel in Washington, and stopped for a moment to speak with one of the bright-buttoned servitors in the lobby. After he walked on, an assistant manager who had noted the incident, went over to the boy and said, "What did the Ambassador want?"

"I don't know," answered the bell-hop. "He couldn't speak English."

Texas of the Future

"Texas," remarks the Dallas News in an editorial on the trend toward decentralized industries, "should see clearly that in future years the Southwest will incline less to agriculture and more to industries. Industries multiply wealth and enable the younger generation to obtain a larger education. Local industries make a proper balance with farming interests. A State devoted to farming only is rather regularly poor. Texas should plan to match its farm products with local industries, carried on by citizens of the locality, so that each vocation may help the other. Progressive counties might well plan a survey of their resources and develop industries in connection with their chambers of commerce."

And if that is so, as most observers will quickly admit, is not the industrial development of Texas a problem in which every Texan, farmer, livestock raiser, business man, professional man—is interested quite as much as the manufacturer? A lot of us have short-sightedly believed that it belonged to the manufacturer alone—that the others of us were mere bystanders only remotely if at all concerned. Too many of us in the past have held that thought. But over the State today is an increasing realization of the true inwardness of things—that we are all vitally affected by the industrial growth of Texas; that our economic well-being both as individuals and as citizens of a great State is largely dependent on a balanced industrial program, with the production of both the raw and the finished materials essential to our continued forward march along economic and population lines.

If Texas occupied the same position in manufacturing that it holds in agriculture and livestock raising, in oil production, in sulphur production, in natural gas production, it would be what its resources entitle it to be—among the leaders of all the States.

And when every Texan realizes his own self-interest in the industrial development of his State, Texas will come into its own.