

POLITICIANS

A statesman is only a successful politician. If he wins, many people follow him blindly. They forget that he is a man controlled by the same motives and impulses as all other men. He may be better than the average; he may be worse; but you can count on one thing- that ambition is the besetting sin of all politicians.

Politics is one of the oldest trades in the world. Every President that this country ever had was a politician. Every Congressman and every Senator, every Governor of every State and every candidate for public office is a politician. All of the New Dealers are politicians. Roosevelt is a politician. So are Farley, Ickes, Wallace, Hopkins, Tugwell, and Miss Perkins. They have the same ambitions that every politician in history has had - to get in office and to stay there.

History is mainly the record of what good politicians did for their people and what bad politicians did to them. By and large, the record is not very good. Unfortunately, there have been more bad rulers than good ones.

History is full of politicians who started out as good rulers and wound up as bad ones. Napoleon was a very good ruler for France at first. He put France on its feet after a terrible revolution. Then he became ambitious to be Emperor of all Europe, and millions of Frenchmen died because of his lust for power. He told Frenchmen they were dying for the glory of France. They thought they were. But we know better -- they died because of Napoleon's ambition for more power.

That was the great sin of Napoleon. But he does not stand alone. Nearly all of the wars which have been fought during the entire course of history were brought about by the ambition of rulers to extend their domains, to magnify their power, and to glorify themselves.

The American Revolution was fought because the people of this country did not like the way the English politicians ruled them. After they found they had no more peaceful ways left to get rid of these bad rulers they revolted against them and by bloodshed established a country where they and their children and you and I and our children could live in freedom from political interference with our private lives. When the Colonists won their liberties, they were faced with the problem of choosing a new set of politicians to rule them.

The leaders of the American Colonies were very wise men.

They knew that they had to have politicians. But -----

They had all studied a lot of history and they knew there were more bad politicians than good ones and that the bad ones wanted the citizens' hard-earned money, seized their property and, when the citizens protested, threw them into jail.

They also knew why this was. It was because the citizens had to obey the laws the politicians made, but they had no way to make laws the politicians had to obey.

So these wise men decided to set up our Government in such a way that before it was turned over to the politicians to run, it would be fixed so that those politicians would have to behave themselves.

The way they did it was to write a Constitution. The Constitution is a law made by the people to govern politicians. It tells them what they can do and what they can not do to you. It tells them they may have so much power to control you and no more.

But since no law is any good unless somebody enforces it, these wise men set up an independent court that the politicians do not control, so that if the politicians did seize power that was not given to them by the Constitution, there would be someone who could say to them, "You can't do that". This is the Supreme Court. Our Constitution and our Supreme

Court were the first effective schemes in all history to control politicians and limit their power to govern and to tax.

As a result, in this country we have free speech because if the politician tried to put someone in jail for attacking them the Supreme Court will say, "Let him alone".

Also, we have freedom of worship, which many other nations have lost. And our politicians can't take your money or your property from you without paying you for it, like they can in so many other countries today.

These are only a few of the things we have because we have a law (the Constitution) to govern our politicians and a Court to make them obey that law.

What has happened in this country under this law to keep politicians in their places? Since it limited their power, it has prevented them from meddling in our private affairs and plundering us. As a result, our cost of government, until the last few years, has been low and this country grew and prospered like no country in all history.

Millions of people from other lands where they were tyrannized by their politicians came over here. My father and mother did and so did the fathers and mothers of most of you. And if the immigration laws let them, there would be millions more who would rush over here from Europe and the rest of the world. Today it is still the finest and best country on earth to live in.

Ever since the Constitution was established, politicians have schemed to get around it -- to get more power than it gave them and to weaken the Supreme Court. They have frequently tried to limit the Court's power and, as usual, are talking about it again. They have tried to get the people angry with the Court for its decisions. They have tried to scare the people by saying the country would go to pot after some of the Court's decisions. That is what President Roosevelt tried to do when the Supreme Court threw the NRA and the AAA out.

But in the past all of these attacks have failed. The people of this country still realize that the Supreme Court is the only protection they have against politicians seizing more power -- the only protection of our rights we have short of revolt.

Of course, politicians do not like to have their power limited by Constitutions. They would like to substitute their own schemes and make you obey their will instead of having the rights the Constitution says you shall have.

Now a lot of politicians have been telling you the Constitution should be amended to give them more power and have been promising you a lot of things for the liberty they want you to give up. Well, that is what Hitler said too, but I don't want that kind of a bargain. I want no politician as my nurse-maid. I want none of his brain-trust planning me and my life and, if you knew politicians and brain-trusters as I do, neither would you.

What these politicians really want is more power to tax you and to order you around, which means less liberty for you because the more power you give them, the more they have to say about what you do, and the less you have to say about what they do to you.

And, if you didn't have a Constitution to control them and a Court to enforce that Constitution, their power would be unlimited once they got in office. They wouldn't even have to run for re-election if they didn't want to. They your only remedy to get rid of them would be revolt. Just as it was the only remedy Washington and Jefferson had. And we must not have revolt.

Whenever any politician says to you, "I want more power" and makes a lot of promises about what he will do for you if you give it to him, think of what has happened in Russia, Germany and Spain and ask yourself,

"What does he really want to do to me?"

If you don't think that what is happening in those countries can happen here, read the story of what happened to the people in the Southern States after the Civil War. After the North won. Congress deprives the people of the South of their votes and sent Northern politicians and the Army into the South to rule them. The years that followed are the blackest pages in our political history and the South has never fully recovered from the way those "carpet-bagger" politicians robbed and plundered them. Read the history of "Reconstruction" in the South and you will understand what happens when politicians take the Constitution away from the people.

This is also a good example of what happens under a centralized government without states' rights.

Politicians, regardless of Party, are all the same kind of people -- they are ordinary human beings, except that they are ambitious for power and when they get it they want to keep it.

And the lesson of history is that you don't dare trust any of them very far.

How, then, are you and I to choose our politicians? We can never be sure in advance that they are going to be good ones. We only judge on their records whether they have been honest and have tried to keep their word. If a politician's record shows he does not keep his word, we are fools to trust him further.

What is the politicians present record? Certainly business is better. Any child could make business better at the sandy store if you let him spend all the money he wants -- until you have to pay the bill. I can make business better that way. So could you.

The rest of the record is one of broken promises. After taking a most solemn oath to uphold the Constitution, men of high position have ordered Congress to pass a law "in spite of any doubts, however reasonable, regarding its constitutionality". Mind you, he ordered Congress to act against its own oath of office. What he was really saying was, "I don't like the limits which the Constitution places upon my power and even though you swore to uphold it, I want you to ignore it."

A certain politician also referred to the Constitution as a "horse and buggy" instrument. Well, maybe it is, but if you were traveling through a strange country on a dark night with no stars and no signs to guide you, which would you rather ride in - a horse and buggy that you drove yourself, or a high-powered car driven by someone else at top speed without brakes?

The above analysis is by one whom I may distinguish as Lincoln did: One of the plain common people. It is filled with common sense. I recommend it to your consideration.