The Washington Post

★★★★ WASHINGTON: MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1936

Elliott and Ely Debate Need To Alter Law

Constitutional Reform Issue Argued at Town Hall Session.

Educator Asks Changes, Politician Says Power Would Not Shift.

By Karl Schriftgiesser.

A professor in white tie and tails and a politician in tuxedo fought out the issue of the need for constitutional reform at Town Hall last night in the Hotel Shoreham, the politician carrying off the unofficial honors when he declared that however ideally the Constitution might be reformed, the politicians would still be in there running the Government.

With a wealth of epigram, Dr. William Yandell Elliott, chairman of the department of government at Harvard University, upheld the need for reform of the covenant against Joseph D. Ely, member of the American Liberty League and twice Democratic Governor of Massachusetts. No decision was announced by Huston Thompson, chairman of Town Hall, who presided.

Rising at Ogden Mills for having declared "the world is on the move," asking forgiveness for his "misguided efforts" in having helped to form the American Legion, and terming the Townsend plan "a Utopia for the indigent aged," Dr. Elliott sailed into the reactionaries who hold the Constitution an infallible document.

He plead eloquently for further centralization of power in the Federal Government, deplored the fact that the less populous States have equal representation in the Senate with denser regions and declared that "pressure politics" called for some constitutional reform whereby control over the Nation's fiscal policy might be rescued from politics.

Asks Three Changes.

Dr. Elliott based his demands for reform mainly upon his assertion that "the essence of the party system is patronage and spending" and that when the President does not conform to these demands, he loses control over both the Congress and the country. In order to alleviate these evils he called for three major reforms:

1. Prevention of riders being tacked onto bills.

2. The right of Presidential Itemized veto of budgetary measures.

3. Presidential power to call one general election during his term of office.

The third proposal, Dr. Elliott said, would dramatize a particular issue, especially an important issue such as the budget. If the people liked the executive proposals they would support them; if not, they would turn them down. This, he said, would be a "responsible system," for control over the governmental spending system is most important and difficult to achieve under the present political, pressure group set-up.

Turning to the power of the Supreme Court, which he felt should be checked, and declaring that it should be an "umpire" rather than a "censor" of laws, Dr. Elliott said that today the people "back the Supreme Court because they know the Legislature is too susceptible to pressure."

"A more responsible Federal system for control," Dr. Elliott said, "is a prerequisite to a democratic and responsible self-government."

"No Fascist Danger."

Such a system would not bring fascism, he said. It centralization remained "responsible to public opinion." Fascism comes, he warned, from a "feeling of frustration, futility, and disintegration" among the people.

Former Gov. Ely termed most of Dr. Elliott's suggestions "moderate changes," especially his calling for broadening of Federal powers and elimination of judicial control over the legislature. With all the force of his training as a prosecuting attorney, Ely nevertheless attacked all of Dr. Elliott's proposals.

He assailed the proposal for a general election on the ground that after a President had spent all the peoples' money, such a gesture would be merely to ask the recipients to approve. The very methods of "pressure politics" which Dr. Elliott abhorred, he said, would make this approval possible.

"None can call our Government a failure," the Liberty Leaguer said. "None can say it was a mistake or that our founders blundered. The burden rests on those who would establish compelling reasons for change. All changes should be, beyond a reasonable doubt, for the permanent benefit of the people."

The control of monetary affairs, Ely said, can be remedied by the people now. "It is not a question of constitutional reform," he declared.

The former Governor built up a hypothetical state of intolerance that might conceivably result if judicial check of the legislature weakened, mentioning abridgment of the freedom of speech, press and religion. He intimated that what Dr. Elliott suggested was the need of a dictator to run a planned economy under constitutional grant. Ely said he could think of no one person in the 140,000,000 citizens big enough for the job.

Handsome but Homeless—This Boy

Post Staff Photo.

This 15-day-old boy, nuzzling in the arms of Nurse Sally Brown at Children's Hospital, was found abandoned late Saturday in a dilapidated automobile at Tenth and N streets northwest. Healthy, with curly hair and blue eyes, he is expected to be turned over to the Juvenile Court for adoption, or made a ward, unless police find his parents.

Better Spacing Of Cars, Buses Urged by Elgen

Basing his opinion on the testimony adduced at the hearings into service rendered by the Capital Transit Co., Riley E. Elgen, Public Utilities Commission chairman, sees as the chief development, the need for better spacing of buses and street cars.

He said yesterday that improved service would require two bases:

1. Better supervision to see that buses and trolleys keep to schedule.

2. Stringent traffic control by the District to keep the roads as clear as possible for mass transportation.

After a week-end success, the heating resumes at 10 a. m. today. It will probably close this week. Company testimony will be offered today, with J. E. Heberle, vice president and comptroller, scheduled to offer a picture of the company's financial condition.

Will Report on Studies.

Later in the week, commission experts will tell results of several technical studies they have made.

One set of studies covers the condition of air in buses. John B. Reed, District government chemist, drafted for the study by the commission, found air in some buses to contain as high as 36 parts of carbon dioxide to every 10,000 cubic centimeters of air. Only 10 parts is regarded as advisable for purposes of good health.

The commission has also had a private firm of ventilating engineers studying the problem. In recent weeks, as a result, some 50 to 60 installations changes have been ordered in individual buses. Health department experts, however, believe that stricter supervision of use of ventilating apparatus can improve air conditions on most of the vehicles without changing design.

Another problem studied is that of fumes emanating from the buses. This has already been discussed with manufacturers.

Still another technical study, by Fred A. Sager, commission engineer, covers diagrams of bus and street car floor plans, to constitute a basis for orders fixing the maximum limit of passengers to be accommodated.

Yellow 'Peril' Called Creature Of Propaganda

There is no "Yellow Peril" except in the minds of naval propagandists, a Japanese Oriental observer of 35 years' experience told the opening Friends Forum last night.

The present antagonism between Japan and the United States, the observer, Frederick Moore, one-time Associated Press reporter and adviser to the Japanese government, explained, can be traced back to the "White Peril" which threatened Asia in the last century.

He said Japan has never forgotten that American, British, French and Dutch naval vessels had once bombarded her shores.

In a slow, deliberate manner the speaker hammered out point after point in contending the blame for friction between these two peoples rests upon the shoulders of this country.

Heckled by Rep. Crawford.

"I doubt if many of you know," he said, "that it was the United States that sold Japan her first modern naval vessels and trained some of her first naval officers at Annapolis." And he went on to show that the present naval race was precipitated by this country's unprecedented building program in the last three years of Wilson's administration.

Japan, he maintained, is building only for defense. They know, he said, that no nation on earth will be powerful enough in the next 100 years to attack the United States without disaster to itself.

"Yet we continue to increase our armaments," he concluded, "which we shall need only if, contrary to present intentions, we engage again in war across the seas."

Sensation of the meeting came after Moore's address when Representative F. L. Crawford (Republican), Michigan, rose and asked him if was not true that Japan was buying raw materials in this country, manufacturing them with cheap labor and selling the finished product here to close American mills.

Aggression Defended.

"My answer to that question, Mr. Congressman," Moore replied, "is: 'No!'"

The speaker stoutly defended Japanese aggression in China on the ground that the latter was living in wretched conditions under unscrupulous war lords, and, contrary to the general impression, welcomed the invader who brought with him law and order.

To cite an example, he said that in one Chinese province, "mothers are selling their daughters for $10 apiece to get enough money to escape with the rest of the family to Manchuria and live under Japanese rule."

He ended un, however, by saying that if Japan penetrates too far into the interior of China, the capital of the future union of the two powers will not be in Tokyo but on the Yangtze River."

Over 100 persons jammed into the tiny Friends Meeting House at 1811 I street northwest, to hear the talk.

'Latin Party' Friday Will Honor Horace

The first city-wide "Latin party" will be held Friday at 8 p. m. in the Eastern High School Auditorium.

The occasion will be the Bimillenium Horatianum, or the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of the poet Horace.

Even senior and junior high schools will participate in the program, which will include the singing of Horace's odes, the presentation of his plays and pantomimes and the story of his life. The program is under the direction of Miss Mildred Dean, head of the Latin department.

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School Reds Quiz Doubted By Sen. King

Convincing Facts About Teachings Required, He Asserts.

Federation of Citizens Undecided on How to Ask Inquiry.

Facts "such as would warrant reasonable members to act" would have to be presented to the Senate District Committee before it would embark upon any investigation of communistic conditions in the Washington public schools, Senator William H. King (Democrat), of Utah, committee chairman, said last night.

The Federation of Citizens Associations had decided previously to seek an investigation by both Senate and House District Committees if conditions in the schools "which are favorable to subversive, anti-patriotic and communistic propaganda."

The House committee chairman, Representative Mary T. Norton (Democrat), of New Jersey, was not available for comment last night. One of her committee members, Representative Virginia E. Jenckes (Democrat), of Indiana, who has been conducting her own inquiry, considered a committee investigation very necessary.

Mrs. Jenckes said she might introduce an investigation resolution herself, if necessary.

Senator King's Position.

Federation leaders were not certain yesterday about the way their request would be submitted. Harry N. Stull, member of the federation's special textbook investigation committee, said that would be decided at a meeting of the full committee, headed by George E. Sullivan, probably within the next few days.

Asked to comment on the resolution, Senator King said:

"I have not yet received it, but I would, of course, approach it with an open mind. I do believe that in many of our colleges and in some of the schools of the United States, communistic and Marxian philosophies are being taught—and even in some cases advocated.

"That I condemn bitterly, particularly in the grade schools, where they would affect children of immature minds.

"As a curbstone opinion, and without seeing the petition, I would not feel that the District committee would be the one to inquire into communism outside the District schools."

Mrs. Jenckes' Evidence.

"The committee would, of course, treat any petition by the citizens of the District with the greatest of respect. Before any investigation, however, there would have to be facts presented such as would warrant reasonable members to act—could not be mere surmises or assertions."

Mrs. Jenckes last week secured from the Board of Education lists of textbooks and magazines used in the schools, a copy of the social studies course, and records of the board's own recent textbook investigations and report.

"I've gotten a good deal of information from other sources," she said yesterday. "This is a national problem.

Girl Born to Fords.

A daughter, the first child, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Ford, Clifton Manor Apartments, Clifton and Fourteenth streets northwest, in the Garfield Hospital. The baby, who weighed 8 pounds, will be named Barbara Jean. Mr. Ford is a member of the composing room staff of The Washington Post.

Civic Leaders Aid Ruhland Health Drive

United Plea for More Money to Be Made to Congress.

District Mortality Rate Can Be Reduced, Says Campbell.

Leaders of local civic and health organizations will go to Capitol Hill in a united front this session to seek appropriation putting the expanded Health Department program into effect, it was indicated yesterday.

Dr. Charles B. Campbell, chairman of the public health committee of the Federation of Citizens Associations, who has gone before Congress in the past for the federation and the District Medical Society, pledged his support to that program yesterday.

Corporation Department figures revealing that Washington's death rate was surpassed only by that of Nashville, Tenn., surprised him, Dr. Campbell said, although he had known the local situation was bad.

Says Ruhland Needs Help.

"If the Health Department had more funds and more of a corps to work with, that rate could be reduced," he said. "Dr. George C. Ruhland, the health officer, is doing an excellent job, he needs help.

"There are two things we're seeking—that more funds be allowed for the Health Department, and that more nurses and physicians be provided for the schools.

"There ought to be at least 24 school physicians, and 24 nurses in the schools. The physicians are only part-time, and the nurses are full-time. That wouldn't be too many to take care of 22,000 school children.

Stresses Immunization.

"We ought to be stressing immunization against diphtheria and campaigning against scarlet fever and whooping cough, in particular, and we're already carrying on the tuberculosis campaign.

"We're all behind Dr. Ruhland."

Besides the federation and the District Medical Society, support before Congress for the department program has also been indicated by the District Medico-Chirurgical Society, the District Tuberculosis Association, the Congress of Parents and Teachers, and the Board of Trade.

The tuberculosis campaign resumes this week with X-ray examinations at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing tomorrow and Wednesday, and at Dunbar High School on Thursday and Friday.

A brightening note in the health picture came yesterday when the Jewish Foster Home, quarantined nine days ago when 11 cases of diphtheria carriers were discovered, reported that seven of the 11 had been discharged from isolation as cured. Quarantine will be lifted when the other four cases are released, probably by Wednesday.

Potter to Be Installed President of Engineers

Dr. A. A. Potter, dean of schools of engineering at Purdue University, unanimously nominated to the presidency of the American Engineering Council, will come to Washington this week to take office formally.

The annual meeting of the council will open Thursday in Washington headquarters, 744 Jackson place. Representatives of national, State and local engineering societies will attend. Dean Potter, who is past president of several engineering societies which are member bodies of the national council, succeeds J. F. Coleman, of New Orleans.

More Rain Today and Tonight, Colder Tomorrow, Is Prediction

Washington faces more rain this afternoon and tonight, the Weather Bureau said last night.

The rain probably will continue until tomorrow, the forecast said, after which it will turn colder. This morning the temperature was expected to go lower than 32, which is freezing.

Bladensburg and other nearby Maryland towns, which were flooded last week, were free of water yesterday, and families driven from their homes had returned.

A halo around the moon aroused considerable speculation here last night. The Weather Bureau explained that it was caused by a refraction from heavier than usual waves, made that way by ice particles high in the atmosphere.

Contented Policeman Directs Cars by Radio

Post Staff Photo.

Not a crooner, but James P. Clement, police radio announcer, on the job.

Clements Denies Duties as Broadcaster Are Monotonous.

There's never a murder so exciting or an accident so interesting that Policeman James R. Clement wants to go out on it.

He's perfectly satisfied to sit in the radio dispatcher's room, high up in No. 10 Precinct, and broadcast such things as:

"Eleven-fifteen test call for all police cars. Eleven-fifteen test call for all police cars. WPDW. Washington police. That is all."

If you have a short-wave set you've undoubtedly heard Officer Clement's pleasant baritone informing scout cars at some time or other that there's a fight in a filling station, a holdup at a grocery store, an unconscious man lying in the street or a boy breaking into a house.

For eight hours at a stretch Clement tells police radio cars where to go and why. He also takes a hand—or, rather, a voice—in housing ambulances and harbor patrol boats.

"It's a swell job," said the dispatcher yesterday as he finished ordering the cars to look out for a stolen automobile. "This has it all over foot patrol."

Until three years ago Clement, attached to No. 10 Precinct, had a beat, pounding pavements.

"I had enough of it, thank you," he laughed. "Now up here in our broadcasting studio the weather is always fine, the atmosphere is always peaceful. Monotonous? Well, no, it really isn't."

The clipped, formal little statements Clement speaks into the microphone may become rather tiresome to listeners-in but not to Clement.

He never gets tired, he explained, of saying pretty much the same thing over and over.

"At first I had mike fright," he confided. "I guess most of the dispatchers do when they first start broadcasting. We're not given any training in pronunciation, inflection, or anything like that. Of course we're selected more or less for our voices. The supervisor (Lieut. James L. Kelly) doesn't want any soprano ordering the scout cars around."

While they take no special training in learning how to speak, all the dispatchers—there are four of them—must learn the standard letter code, so they can radio off: "B, as in Boston; O, as in ocean," etc.

There can be no improvisation. "B, as in Baltimore," is out. Each dispatcher must stick to the authorized code. This insures clarity in giving directions to the scout cars.

The men work in three shifts—7 a. m. to 3 p. m., 3 p. m. to 11 p. m., and 11 p. m. to 7 a. m.

Clement prefers the 3 to 11 p. m. shift.

"It's the busiest," he explained. "That's when the most things happen. We often take two calls a minute. And if you don't think that's a job—receiving the call, writing out the record and making a broadcast—why, try it on somebody's microphone some time."

Clement is convinced the dispatchers don't have much of a public.

"We don't get any fan mail like the guy Godfrey does," he said.

Policemen who take turns with Clement in broadcasting are Charles Clay, jr., Walter G. Fuller, and James E. Armstrong. Clement is the only one with a radio operator's license. It's hanging on the wall of the studio, but he never points it out because printed on it is his full name — James Roseveit Clement.

"I'm fed up with explaining that I'm not related to the President," he smiled.

If he ever leaves the police force he'd like to become announcer for a commercial station. For amusement he and the other dispatchers listen in on regular broadcasts whenever they have a few free moments at the studio. But that isn't often.

"Still, it's a swell job," grinned Clement.

2 Are Held Up By Armed Men; Homes Robbed

Church Poor Boxes Rifled; One Arrest Made in Wave of Thievery.

Two men were held up and robbed by armed colored bandits early yesterday and more than a score of homes and stores were reported broken into.

Andy Kneranschield, of the Commodore Hotel, was robbed of $30 by a lone gunman while walking at Fourth and F streets northwest. He called to the Negro stuck a gun in his ribs and then escaped on foot.

Robert Moore, 45 O street northeast, told police two colored men attacked and robbed him of $30 in bills and some change at Twenty-sixth and K streets northwest. Third Precinct police later arrested Robert Johnson, 28, of the 300 block Twenty-sixth street northwest, in connection with the robbery.

William Hoyle, sexton of St. Stephen's Church at Twenty-fifth street and Pennsylvania avenue northwest, reported the church broken into and the poor boxes looted. He said no estimate could be given on the amount of money taken.

Police reports showed money and property valued at nearly $300 were taken from the homes and stores of John White, 1532 Seventh street northwest; Brook Brewer, Chevy Chase, Md.; James Nader, 1409 Seventeenth street northwest; Samuel L. Feldman, 1601 Argonne place northwest; George McKeon, 1228 Twenty-ninth street northwest; Benjamin Cotton, 1024 Eighth street northwest, and Ralph Sterner, 1708 G street northwest. Several other homes were looted.

According to police the car in which the women were riding collided with another automobile. The two women were taken to the Alexandria Hospital, where it is said they suffered from head injuries and are being kept at the hospital for further examination as to the extent of their injuries.

Three Girls Flee Home At Clifton Station, Va.

Three girls ran away from the Iwakota Home of the Florence Crittenton Society at Clifton Station, Va., yesterday, and were reported heading for Alexandria.

They were identified as Emily Fitzgerald, 21; Grace Melton, 20, and Lorraine Balderson, 15. The home superintendent, Miss Margaret Luther, asked Alexandria police last night to look out for them.

2 Hurt in '35 Traffic Die; '36 Toll Gains

Thomas Marlow Victim of Motor Accident Saturday Night.

Man, Woman Lose to Death; Several Are Hurt by Autos.

Two more names were added to the 1935 traffic fatality list over the week-end and one new name brought the 1936 total to two dead in the District of Columbia from injuries received in auto accidents.

Thomas Marlow, 68, 1830 L street northeast, died yesterday in Casualty Hospital, from injuries received Saturday night when he was struck by an automobile in the 400 block of K street northeast. James B. Egloff, jr., 44, 2423 Pennsylvania street, Mt. Rainier, Md., alleged driver of the car, was arrested on a charge of reckless driving. An inquest will be held Tuesday.

Horace Hayes, 76, 1416 Twentieth street northwest, who was injured at Wisconsin avenue and M street on October 28, died early yesterday morning at Georgetown Hospital. Marshall Thompson, Rosslyn, Va., was arrested on a technical charge for the coroner's inquest.

Ida Young, 56, 1254 Thirty-first street northwest, injured with three friends while allegedly standing in a safety zone on November 17, died at Gallinger Hospital late Saturday night. Louis Robinson, 1128 Twenty-third street northwest, who was arrested at the time and charged with driving in the wrong lane of traffic and released after posting $25 collateral, was rearrested for a coroner's inquest.

David Crouch, 56, 4625 Ninth street northwest, a private attached to Precinct 11, whose car was in collision with a Capital Transit trolley operated by Motorman Homer Gloves, was taken to Casualty Hospital suffering from a possible fractured skull and pelvis. His name was placed on the danger list. He was driving a private car at the time of the accident and was off duty.

Lila V. Poling, 63, 1012 Seventh street northwest, was taken to Emergency Hospital, suffering a possible fractured skull and concussion of the brain, following an accident between her car and one driven by Edward A. Locke, 28, 1428 R street northwest. T. R. Peters, colored chauffeur of the Poling car, was arrested, charged with driving without a District of Columbia permit and with operating an automobile with defective brakes.

Archie Winkoop, 22, of Vienna, Va.; William Kuhner, 20, of 1407 Fourteenth street southeast; Rose Kuhner, 22, same address, and Louise Burton, 28, of 2000 Sixteenth street northwest, were injured in a collision between a car driven by Winkoop and a gas company truck driven by George H. Greevy, 35, of 1519 E street northeast. Winkoop was held in $1,000 bond on a charge of reckless driving. The Burton woman suffered two broken legs.

Mrs. Helen Maginn, of Fort Montgomery, N. Y., and Miss Helen Maginn, of Park avenue, N. Y., were injured in an accident on the Washington-Richmond highway at Snake Hill, about 3 miles south of Alexandria, Va.

According to police the car in which the women were riding collided with another automobile. The two women were taken to the Alexandria Hospital, where it is said they suffered from head injuries and are being kept at the hospital for further examination as to the extent of their injuries.

What's Going On and Where

Today's Events.

Luncheons.

Alpha Delta Phi, University Club, 12:30.

Graphic Arts, Raleigh Hotel, 12:30.

Life Underwriters Association, Willard Hotel, 12:15.

Newcomers Club, Carlton Hotel, 12:30.

V. M. I. Alumni Association, Army and Navy Club, 12:30.

Dinners.

American Legion, Mayflower Hotel, 7 p. m.

500 Club, Hamilton Hotel, 6:30 p. m.

Washington Opthalmological Society, Mayflower Hotel, 8 p. m.

Meetings.

Civitan Club, board of directors, home of president, 8 p. m.

Craftsmen Club, board meeting and dinner, Lafayette Hotel, 6 p. m.

Dupont Circle Citizens Association, Mayflower Hotel, 4:30 p. m.

G. A. R., A. Lincoln Circle, No. 3, Willard Hotel, 8 p. m.

League of Republican Women, Mayflower Hotel, 2:30 p. m.

Monday Evening Club, Y. W. C. A., 8 p. m.

Military Service Legion, Mayflower Hotel, 8 p. m.

National Association of Cleaners and Dyers, committee on arrangements, Mayflower Hotel, 8 p. m.

National Aeronautic Association, Mayflower Hotel, 10 a. m.

National Bituminous Coal Commission, Carlton Hotel, 10 a. m.

Optometric Society, Lafayette Hotel, 8 p. m.

Political Study Club, Mayflower Hotel, 11 a. m.

R. P. I. Alumni Association dinner-meeting, Sholl's Cafe, 6:30 p. m.

Society of Automotive Engineers, lubrication meeting, University Club, 8 p. m.

Twentieth Century Club, international outlook, Y. W. C. A., 2:15 p. m.

Banquet — National Aeronautical Association, Mayflower Hotel, 7 p. m.

Lecture—Alliance Francaise, Carlton Hotel, 4 p. m.

Lecture—Pierce Hall, Georgette R. Howard before Business and Professional Women's Club, 8 p. m.

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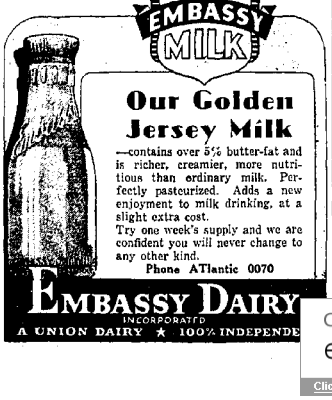

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