

EDITORS OPPOSE GOVT. IN BUSINESS

REPLY TO QUESTIONNAIRE

Hundreds in Illinois Express Themselves Against Interference; Too Much of Bureaucracy

Editors of Illinois newspapers are overwhelmingly against "government in business" according to preliminary tabulation of results of a survey being conducted by the Illinois Committee on Public Utility Information.

Up to today 223 editors have replied to questionnaires sent them, the committee reports. Of these 191 say "no" to the question: "Do you favor government ownership or operation (or both) of any industry or business now carried on by a private enterprise?" Two editors reply "yes." One editor is undecided, and 14 do not specifically answer the question.

To the question: "Do you favor putting the government into any form of business or industry, in any guise, in competition with existing private enterprise?" 194 editors say "no." Three editors say "yes"; one is undecided and 16 do not answer.

Third Question
The third question is, "Do you favor government ownership and operation of business or industrial opportunities arising from execution of public-benefit projects, as for example, water power incidentally made available by flood-control undertakings?" To this 161 editors reply "no" and 17 say "yes." Eight editors are undecided and 22 do not answer.

The fourth question relates to the third. It reads: "Or, do you favor utilization of such incidental opportunities by private enterprise, under government control, as exemplified by the federal water power act?" "Yes" is the opinion of 146 editors, while 19 reply "no." Twelve are undecided and 40 do not answer the question.

Excerpts Given
Excerpts from comments appended by the editors are interesting.

The editor of an eastern Illinois weekly says: "No business ever flourishes as well under government ownership as under private management. There are too many leaks that escape the eye of the hired overseer that the interested eye of the private sees."

An editor in Egypt believes that "there should be maintained the same fine distinctions of functions and privileges between government and private ownership that the federal Constitution draws between state rights and federal authority."

From the central part of the state an editor believes in government regulation but not government ownership for "when the government goes into business the individual must go out of business." He says, also, that the purpose of the government is "to regulate industries reasonably in the interest of the people but not to such an extent as to put the industries out of business."

Says Government "Gyped"
One editor has seen the Muscle Shoals power development and thinks the government "got 'gyped' very nicely by somebody."

The editor of one of Chicago's great dailies volunteers, "private enterprise should have to itself very field that

it can occupy satisfactorily from the point of view of the public."

In one of Chicago's suburbs there is an editor who believes that "after all is said and done, government should concern itself with government, with the rules of the game, and not with the game itself." Another in the same area says that "government regulation of public utilities is essential but the actual operation should always be in the hands of private individuals or corporations."

Have Had Enough
"Infringement on the rights of the individual is promoting radicalism," is the reason given by the editor of a country weekly, while another head of a weekly summarizes by stating, "we have had enough government in business to last the next ten thousand years."

More extreme is an editor in the northern part of the state. He says: "Many of the powerful officials of our government are liable to rob the various states of all civic and human authority if they are allowed to go unpunished in their reasonable usurpation of power."

Examination of the questionnaires shows that the government's participation in the printing business—the printing of envelopes—has brought the question close home to the publishers who have a job printing business in connection with their newspapers.

LET DRIVER HAVE ROAD IF HE INSISTS

Slow down and keep to the right as you come to the crest of a hill, advises the accident prevention department of the Chicago Motor club.

As a further safety suggestion; when a driver in the wrong insists on the right-of-way, let him have it. You can't argue with a fool.

That landing field for airplanes on top of Chicago's new post office is all right enough, but what is going to be needed next year is a good soft place for spent presidential booms to light.—Indianapolis News.

Who remembers the old days when a girl had to roll up her skirts before she went in wading?

WATER RESOURCES OF GREAT BASIN

WESTERN U. S. FEATURE

Not All Rivers Flow to Sea and Many Into Inland Lakes; Great Salt Lake and Dead Sea Examples

Not all rivers flow into the sea. On every continent there are drainage areas in which the rivers flow to inland lakes that have no outlets and from which the surplus water disappears by evaporation. The most notable drainage basin of this kind is perhaps that of the Dead Sea, in Palestine, which receives its water supply largely from the River Jordan. This sea, which is 1290 feet below sea level, is the lowest known water surface on the earth.

In western United States there is a similar large area, known as the Great Basin, consisting of nearly all of Nevada, a considerable portion of Utah, and parts of Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, and California, all the rivers of which flow to inland lakes that have no outlets to the ocean. The general climate of the Great Basin, as shown by the records of the U. S. Weather Bureau, is of the arid and semi-arid type, so that the water resources of this area are in several respects the life blood of the land. In the winter and spring there is a maximum of precipitation, and the summer and autumn seasons are comparatively dry. The annual precipitation in this region increases rapidly with the altitude.

Production Area
The Great Basin contains large production farming communities and many important centers of population and industry, and the Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior has for many years made daily measurements of the principal streams of the region and published the records in annual volumes. Water-Supply Paper 570, just issued, is a

180-page report, largely statistical, showing the behavior of the rivers of the Great Basin for the year ending September 30, 1925. Copies may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for the cost of printing—25 cents each.

The Great Basin is not, as its name might suggest, a single pan-shaped depression gathering its waters to a common center but is divided into a large number of independent drainage areas, of which the Great Salt Lake Basin is the best known. The Great Salt Lake Basin includes the northern part of Utah, a small part of eastern Nevada, the southeast corner of Idaho, and the southwest corner of Wyoming. It extends about 180 miles east and west and about 150 miles north and south and has an area of 27,000 square miles.

Great Salt Lake
Great Salt Lake, which is a shallow remnant of the much larger prehistoric Lake Bonneville, rests on the surface of a broad plain and has an average depth of about 15 feet. There are many similar lakes in the Great Basin, although Great Salt Lake is by far the largest. A few of the larger ones are Goose Lake, in California and Oregon; Mono Lake, Owens Lake, and Salton Sea, in California; Malheur, Summer, Silver, and Abert Lakes, in Oregon; Carson and Walker Lakes, in Nevada; and Sevier Lake, in Utah. There is a total water surface in all the lakes of the Great Basin of several thousand square miles. The scores of rivers that feed these lakes are of course of great local importance because of their use for irrigation and in several localities for water power.

Mussolini doesn't believe in permitting aviators to take too many chances. He has forbidden them to marry.—Milwaukee Journal.

Keeping shoes shined is expensive, but at least you needn't check them when you go into lunch.—Lake County Times.

ELECTRIC CAR LINES USING MORE CURRENT

Indication of Increasing Patronage of This Type of Transportation

One of the greatest proofs of the increasing popularity of electric transportation is revealed by the increased energy consumed for traction purposes during the six-year period 1920-1926, according to the Electric Railway Journal, basing its analysis on reports by the Electric World and the United States Geological Survey.

Despite the use of buses, one-man cars, lighter rolling stock, improved motors using less energy—all of which would tend to reduce power consumption—there has been an increase of 25.7 per cent in electricity used by the electric railways in the United States. The largest increase in the energy purchased by the railways from central-station companies,

which increased 37 per cent in the six-year period, there having been 1,779,000,000 kilowatt-hours more of electricity used in 1926 than in 1920. Electric railways have found it more economical to purchase their energy from central-station companies than to generate their own current and to enlarge old plants and build new ones to meet the constantly increasing demands.

The amount of energy generated in electric railway plants increased 12 per cent during the six-year period, there having been 467,000,000 kilowatt-hours more of electricity generated in 1926 than in 1920.

ALL PREPARED

Among the many "weeks" we are urged to observe is book week in November. As that is just the time the winter telephone book comes out, we are all provided for.—Woman's Home Companion.

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