

The American Form of Government

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At first thought it would seem unnecessary to tell American citizens of the type and form of their own government. The immediate reaction to the suggestion that this is necessary is that everyone knows about the origin and type of government established in the United States; that all are acquainted with our history, and know that this nation came into being with the successful conclusion of the War of Independence, after which a Constitution was written and adopted by the States; and yet, to know all this does not necessarily give the possessor of this knowledge an understanding of our form of government.

WRONG CONCLUSION

One of the evidences of general slipshod thinking today is the present tendency to divide all governments into two classes, totalitarian and democratic. With this division as the premise, men then reason that because we are not a totalitarian state we must, therefore, be a democracy. Thus, in starting with a wrong premise, the conclusion becomes faulty. Yet this conclusion has been accepted by the unthinking multitudes and even expressed as a fact by public speakers, leaders and businessmen in general.

UN-AMERICAN LABEL

Because it has been accepted that our nation is a democracy, for any man to express a distrust of such a form of government immediately classifies him as un-American by those who have accepted the conclusion as reasoned from the above false premise, with the result that the misinformed and

unthinking label everyone who recognizes the fallacy of calling this nation a democracy as unpatriotic. This attitude on their part in reality, though unknown to them, is a public declaration of their ignorance of true American history and the fundamental principles which guided our forefathers in writing the Constitution of the United States.

Sincere and earnest students of American history thus become the target of smear-mongers who immediately undertake to make their declaration of facts the statements of anti-Americans. The majority of people, who are unfamiliar with the question so ably discussed in the Constitutional Convention, are readily deceived by such tactics.

SABOTEURS OF AMERICAN HISTORY

Most Americans are as yet unaware of the viciousness of the attacks being made upon our Constitution and upon our form of government by those who would sabotage our way of life. That such attacks have been remarkably successful is clearly evident by the general acceptance today that this nation in reality is a democracy. Those who, knowing American history and the purpose for writing the Constitution of the United States and who are trying to sell the American people the idea that they are a democracy are the real enemies of this nation. While some are doing this intentionally there are many more who, in their ignorance, are trying to make a democracy out of a nation whose founders never intended to establish such a type of government over our people.

After the damage has been done the nation will awaken to find they have been but the tools of subversive interests who have laid careful plans to destroy our form of government and nullify the working of the Constitution of the

United States.

OUR CONSTITUTION

Upon turning to our Constitution one of the first things that strikes the reader's attention is that the framers of the Constitution endeavored to establish a **government of checks and balances!** Three great departments are provided: the legislative, the judicial and the executive. Each is given power to defend itself against the encroachments of the other two, and each acts as a check on the others.

Channing, in his **History of the United States**, writes:

"The Constitutional framers had good reason to attempt the accomplishment of this difficult purpose: in the old Colonial days, which most of them remembered, the governors of the royal provinces had exercised all three functions, greatly to the dissatisfaction of the colonists; and the legislative body of Great Britain held the supreme power. To avoid establishing a government which would develop into either of these forms, the framers of the Constitution sought to give each department its due share of power, and to prevent any one department from making itself supreme.

"For instance, the executive power is vested in the President; but he also exercises important legislative functions in his veto, and judicial power in his right to pardon. The legislative power is lodged in Congress, but the Senate acts as an advisory council to the President--without its consent no important appointment can be made and no treaty ratified. The judicial power is entrusted to the Supreme Court and inferior courts; but, as no law can be enforced which the Supreme Court declares to be unconstitutional, the Supreme Court, in fact, exercises supreme legis-

lative functions. Finally, the House of Representatives, by means of its initiative in taxation, exercises a most effective control over the executive department."

A REPUBLIC ESTABLISHED

Never in our history has it been more necessary to study our Constitution and the principles of government established in this land by its adoption than in this day of confusion and uncertainty. The Constitution of the United States did not establish a democracy; it did not establish an autocracy; it **did** establish a **Republic!**

The flag salute is known to every boy and girl attending our public schools, "I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible with freedom and liberty for all." To those who accuse others of being un-American because they declare this nation is **not a democracy but a Republic** we refer them to this flag salute, for the Stars and Stripes stand for a Republic and not a democracy as every boy and girl who has pledged allegiance to our Flag fully knows.

USE OF TERMS

Harry E. Atwood in **Back to the Republic** has this to say:

"One of the serious aspects of the present-day tendency is the reckless and inaccurate use of governmental terms. Almost daily Russia is spoken of as 'the new republic.' That phrase is as inaccurate as it would be to speak of a drunken man as a new example of temperance. To speak of Mexico as a 'republic' is as inaccurate as it would be to speak of fanaticism as a new form of reverence. To call China a 'republic' is as far-fetched as it would be to speak of insomnia

as a new form of rest. China, Mexico and Russia at the present time are all types of democracy....These countries are not republics."

As the writer of the above book declares (a declaration we have verified) one finds thoughtless inaccuracy in dictionaries and encyclopedias regarding the meaning of the terms republic and democracy. What is true here is also to be noted as so in the political speeches of politicians and statesmen and in their use of these terms as they make them appear synonymous. The offenders in this respect include the highest of officials in our government who are continually referring to the United States as a democracy and yet our forefathers had no intention of forming such a type of government and did not establish it when this Republic was born. The proof of this is clear from the statements of Hamilton and Madison who were the spokesmen for--and interpreted the work of--the Constitutional Convention.

The founding fathers of this country established a Republic and **not a democracy**, the evils of which were fully recognized by them as exemplified in the bloody French Revolution with its mob rule.

MADISON'S STATEMENT

In **The Federalist**, Madison says:

"Democracies have ever been spectacles of turbulence and contention; have ever been found incompatible with personal security or the rights of property, and have in general been as short in their lives as they have been violent in their deaths. Theoretic politicians, who have patronized this species of government, have erroneously supported that by reducing mankind to a perfect equality in their political rights, they would, at the same time, be perfectly equalized and assimi-

lated in their professions, their opinions and their passions....A republic, by which I mean a government in which the scheme of representation takes place, opens a different prospect, and promises the cure for which we are seeking....The two great points of difference between a democracy and a republic are, first, the delegation of the government, in the latter to a small number of citizens elected by the rest; secondly, the greater number of citizens and extent of territory which may be brought within the compass of republican than of democratic government....The effect of the first difference is, on the one hand, to refine and enlarge the public views, by passing them through the medium of a chosen body of citizens, whose wisdom may best discern the true interest of their country, and whose patriotism and love of justice will be least likely to sacrifice it to temporary or partial considerations. Under such a regulation it may well happen that the public voice, pronounced by the representation of the people, will be more consonant to the public good than if pronounced by the people themselves, convened for the purpose.... Hence, it clearly appears that the same advantage which a republic has over a democracy consists in the substitution of representatives whose enlightened views and virtuous sentiments render them superior to local prejudices and to schemes of injustice....In fine, it consists in the greater obstacles opposed to the concert and accomplishment of the secret wishes of an unjust and interested majority....If we resort for a criterion to the different principles on which different forms of government are established, we may define a republic to be, or at least may bestow that name on, a government which derives all its powers directly or indirectly from the great body of the people, and is administered by persons holding their offices during pleasure, for a limited period, or during good behavior....The true distinction between these forms is that in a

democracy the people meet and exercise the government in person. In a republic they assemble and administer it by their representative agents.... The first question that offers itself is whether the general form and aspect of the government be strictly republican? It is evident that no other form would be reconcilable with the genius of the American people."

James Madison, a careful thinker, had fitted himself to take the leading part in the Constitutional Convention. "In the management of every great question," wrote a delegate from Georgia, "he evidently took the lead in the Convention."

We follow Mr. Madison's clear-cut statements as to the type of government intended for the United States, all of which is fully substantiated by a careful reading of our Constitution. To those who would label as un-American those who take a stand with Madison and recognize the evils of a democracy, our advice is to read American history and the Constitution of the United States. As they read, let them take special note of the statements made by the founders of our country and the writers of our Constitution, for the intentions of those founders are found in the writings of Madison and Hamilton who have emphatically declared the type of government intended and finally established. Then the fog of ignorance will be dispelled and the bright and luminous orb of the Republic will be seen to shine forth as the form and type of government established in this land.

THE WAY OF VIOLENCE

Unfortunately for our national well-being those who are at present raking in the muck and mire of democracy are but deluding themselves into thinking that through mob rule they will find perfection in government. In reality, they are

but turning to ways of violence that will bring ultimate and inevitable disaster and destruction, for pure democracy is as surely destined to disintegrate under the weight of its own incompetency as is the totalitarian state. Must we pass through violence and trouble before America awakens to the evils of democracy and recognizes the blessings of a Republic? When the government established by our forefathers is recognized and appreciated in all of its fullness the wisdom of shunning the evils of democracy will be accepted by the people who will then denounce those who are trying to convert this great Republic into a democracy.

HAMILTON'S STATEMENT

Alexander Hamilton wrote on September 18, 1803:

"The plan of a Constitution which I drew up while the Convention was sitting, and which I communicated to Mr. Madison...was predicated upon these bases:

"1) That the political principles of the people of this country would endure nothing but republican government.

"2) That in the actual situation of the country it was in itself right and proper that the republican theory should have a full and fair trial.

"3) That to such a trial it was essential that the government should be so constituted as to give all the energy and stability reconcilable with the principles of that theory.

"These were the genuine sentiments of my heart, and upon them I acted."

For one to agree with Mr. Hamilton today is to bring into question his loyalty and patriotism as the muckrakers of democracy undertake to label his stand as un-American. Such an accusation is either through malice, or in ignorance of the purpose for which our Constitution was written.

EVILS OF DEMOCRACY

At first we departed little by little from the strict observance of the original requirements of government as established by our forefathers. Then there came the day of acceleration in that departure and, with the establishment of commissions and boards to control and govern us, we are today in the full grip of all the evils of democracy in a government of bureaucracy that fails to recognize individual rights and in which there are no checks and balances by which those rights can be protected. With this acceleration our nation is rapidly moving towards an inevitable crisis that brings those who warn of the coming judgment upon democracy into disrepute with the present spirit of the mob and its ruling demigods.

PASSING OF DEMOCRACY

In DESTINY for February 1941 we wrote: "The dictators will not only be defeated but democracy will be destroyed. The present conflict, with dictators in the ascendancy is, in the plan of God, for the purpose of completely smashing democratic forms of government for all time! The dictators are instruments in His hand being used by Him for this purpose. When the present conflict ends, democracies will be a thing of the past, never again to be restored as a form of government."

The above was written over two years ago and we are more than ever convinced through subsequent events that every form of democracy is ultimately

doomed, even that type of democracy established in Russia. Men today intuitively sense this impending judgment upon the entire democratic system as evidenced in the repeated words of warning we often hear regarding the deadly perils confronting this form of government.

Every form of rebellion to God is coming to judgment and just as those individuals who are in opposition to God are to face judgment so also is democracy facing judgment. Democracy is a form of government that is definitely in rebellion to righteousness, for a pure democracy establishes the desires and wishes of the people as the final court of appeals. Public opinion, or the desire of the majority in a democracy becomes the guiding spirit of the nation, and its desire transcends the law of the land.

VOICE OF THE MAJORITY

God never intended that public opinion, or the voice of the majority, should in any way have an influence that would be detrimental to the law. His commandments, the "Thou shalt nots," must take precedence over every opinion--either public or private. His statutes, governing administration in the nation as well as the economic life and well-being of His people, were never intended to be subjected to popular referendum or amendment. His judgments were to be kept more scrupulously than any judgment rendered in a court of law and were certain to take precedence over any popular judgment rendered by the majority at any election or in any action by the mob.

THE LAW AND THE CONSTITUTION

The type of government which God gave to Israel at Mount Sinai was a representative form of government with men picked to administer the affairs of the nation. These men were chosen in

accord with the following rule:

"Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of ten. And let them judge the people at all seasons." (Exodus 18: 21-22.)

These representatives administered the affairs of the nation, judging the people and deciding issues in accord with the requirements of the law.

Our forefathers modeled the Constitution after this perfect Israel system and, while it may be contended they did so unknowingly, yet they were certainly guided by the Spirit of the God of Israel and thus a Constitution was written which would bring justice and equity to all. But though we patterned our Constitution in accord with the perfect Israel system of administration we failed to make mandatory the administration of the laws given to Israel at the time God organized the world's first great Republic when He established His Kingdom at Mount Sinai. Because of this failure there was left in the hands of the people of the United States the power to enact legislation that could destroy the Republic. Wrecking crews have been busy during the past years and never have they been so active as at the present time. They are moving against the type and form of government our fathers established in this land. The results are in evidence in the failure of what was once the most successful form of government in centuries with an administration operating for the benefit of all the people.

But this perfection in administration has not endured as the result of tampering with the original laws of this Republic. We will in time

come to realize that the only lasting foundation on which can be built a permanent government--one that will give stability to our Republic--is the bedrock of fundamental laws which must operate as the law of the land. Those laws are the commandments, statutes and judgments of the Lord. They comprise the only foundation for an enduring peace and, under the administration of these fundamental laws, all that is set forth in the preamble of our Constitution will find complete fulfillment:

"Establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

GREAT ERA OF PROGRESS

Following the War of Independence our forefathers intuitively turned to that form of Government, the perfection of which had been demonstrated by God when Israel was organized into a nation at Mount Sinai. It is the only true system of administration in which the people have full representation and continuous justice with domestic tranquillity. With the birth of the Republic as set forth by the author of **Back to the Republic**: "There began the first great era of progress governmentally that the world had ever known. We began to solve problems and to secure privileges that had baffled philosophers and statesmen for ages....We radiated over all the world the rays of light, of hope, of progress, of justice." He then goes on to say, "Gradually, however, we began to modify our national government through the appointment of boards and commissions, and the creation of various governmental agencies that made it impossible for the government to function in accord with the plan of the Constitution."

The chapter in his book on "Dangerous Experiments" is an indictment of the many and varied

moves and legislative enactments which are responsible for changing our form of government into a democracy. The author says, "Lincoln gave a very good definition of boards and commissions when he said: 'I think they are contrivances to cheat the government.'"

IMPORTANT DEFINITION

The definition of the different forms and types of administration in the above book is as follows:

"Socialism is that phase of democracy which negates property rights. Anarchy is that phase of democracy which negates law. The initiative is that phase of democracy which makes it possible for the infuriated mob, under the leadership of the demagogue, to enact legislation. The referendum is that phase of democracy which assumes that the minority should rescind impulsively at a special election the deliberate action of the majority at a regular election. The judicial recall is that phase of democracy which makes it possible to take a case from the courtroom, where it may be decided in accordance with the law and evidence, to the street-corners, where the agitators may appeal to passion and prejudice.... We should avoid the dangers of socialism and anarchy and government ownership as perils that threaten to shake the very foundation of the republic.... Our national government has grown weaker, more inefficient, more ineffective, more chaotic and more wasteful of public money than otherwise might have been, just in proportion as through the creation of boards, commissions, dictators, excess legislation, etc., we have departed from and failed to adhere strictly and literally to the standard form, the golden mean, the republic."

President Roosevelt said in his campaign address given at Sioux City in September, 1932,

that President Hoover's administration had been the greatest spending administration in our history. He accused it of piling Bureau on Bureau, Commission on Commission and stated that Bureaus and Bureaucrats have been retained at the expense of the taxpayers.

If Mr. Atwood wrote of these dangers twenty-five years ago what would he have to say today? Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932 was horror-stricken at the multiplied bureaucracies under the Hoover Administration and yet he has so out-Hoovered Hoover with alphabetical agencies as to cause one writer to state that in time to come these years will be indexed as the goofiest period of American history.

PREDECESSOR OF TYRANNY

Because there are those of us who point out that we are now being ruled over by bureaucrats and crackpots who never were elected by the people, nor accountable to them, under a system of administration which has disregarded the republican principles of our Constitutional form of government we are labeled as anti-democratic and un-American. Unfortunately the American people have been sold on the idea that democracy and Americanism are to be treated as synonymous terms when they are, in fact, at opposite poles in principle and administration. The real and true American salutes the Flag and the Republic for which it stands, despising democracy with its mob rule and violence. Under the present administration, however, the floodgates were opened to all the evils of a democracy that had not under former administrations been allowed to manifest itself in national affairs. This has enabled a type of dictatorial power to rise in our midst, as it has arisen in the lands across the sea, for true democracy is the predecessor of tyranny and oppression.

Democracy, itself, is the spawning ground of every kind of politicalism and from its midst there arise those who would challenge our freedom. It permits tyranny through seizure of power and foists upon a people all the evils of bureaucracy.

THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Turning to the Bible and following the history of Israel, it will be recognized that the law was codified and given to Israel at Mount Sinai as their national constitution and the people were admonished to adhere strictly to its requirements. The first demonstration of the democratic tendency, when the people departed from these laws and their administration, was made by the people when Moses was absent. The people assembled before Aaron and demanded that their voice be heard. Aaron acquiesced in the appeal and the popular clamor for a democratic voice in the affairs of the nation. The Golden Calf was built and democracy, the rule of the people, was in full operation when Moses returned. The conversation which took place between Moses and Aaron is of intense interest. Moses stood for the keeping of the law and adhering to their representative form of government, but Aaron gave way to the desire of the people. Moses chided Aaron for this weakness but Aaron gave the perfect democratic political answer when he informed Moses that "the people wanted it," so he gave it to them. Thus, under democracy, what the people want or desire they must have; whether God approves or not!

LEGISLATING LAW

Whenever the people of Israel departed from the strict observance of the laws of the Lord they adopted in part, or in whole, the principles of a government by the people in opposition to the

observance of God's laws. Finally the time came when the northern Ten Tribe Kingdom of Israel turned away altogether from keeping the laws of the Lord and a democratic type of administration became a permanent institution within the Kingdom:

**"And they rejected his statutes, and his covenant that he made with their fathers, and his testimonies which he testified against them: and they followed vanity, and became vain....And they left all the commandments of the Lord their God."
(II Kings 17: 15-16.)**

What was it that Israel did when they became vain? They came to believe that they were as capable of making laws for their guidance as God Himself. They, therefore, legislated laws to take the place of those which God gave to them for their administration. I Kings 16: 25 declares, "But Omri wrought evil in the eyes of the Lord, and did worse than all that were before him." Micah refers to the sin of Omri, and tells us that the people were following after what he had done. "For the statutes of Omri are kept." (Micah 6: 16.)

From the days of Omri and onward the House of Israel began to multiply their legislative enactments and followed the principles of a democracy. When in 1776 God called this nation to independence He inspired our forefathers to write a document that would restore to the people the purity and simplicity of the representative form of administration and in the adoption of our Constitution this nation, so long as we observed its requirements, prospered. As Israel of old departed from the simplicity of the original type of administration received by them at Mount Sinai so we, too, have departed from the simplicity of the Constitutional form of government given us by our forefathers who were under the direction and guidance of God.

DEMOCRACY IS PASSING

Just as surely as totalitarianism is to pass away in the defeat of dictators, so also will democracy come to its full judgment in the period following the passing of the dictators. This will be as a result of increasing maladministration and excessive taxation, always found necessary to finance bureaucratic spending in a democracy where there are no checks and balances to protect the rights of the people.

Whether men will accept it as yet or not, the present war is sounding the death knell to democratic forms of government as excesses of mob-ministration bring disastrous consequences to our nation in the rising dissensions of the "People versus the People."

The vital need today is to recognize these facts and turn back to the simplicity of administration established by our forefathers and to those laws, the fundamental principles of which were given to our earlier forefathers at Mount Sinai.

The chapter on "Organization and Administration of Government" in **Digest of the Divine Law*** closes with the following statement which we will do well to remember and heed if our nation would solve the coming problems in a post-war world:

"When it is understood that the basis of the Israel organization is constitutional, with the laws of the Lord as the law of the land, and regardless of whatever official title is borne by the leader of the nation, that his task will be to administer the commandments, statutes and judgments of the Lord in equity and justice, and,

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assisting him in that administration, representatives chosen from among the people for their virtue and integrity, then--and then only--will our nation be on the way to restoring righteousness in administration. Then will have been laid the foundation on which can be built an enduring and lasting government based upon the bedrock of the commandments, statutes and judgments of the Lord operating as the law of the land.

"Following the writing of what Gladstone called the greatest document produced by man (our Constitution) must come the awakening of men to the realization of the need of restoring the administration of the law of the Lord. It must also be accepted and recognized that there is no right granted man that enables him to make laws, for governments were organized by God to function strictly in an administrative and judicial capacity and refrain from entering into business activities which, under the law, are assigned to the citizens of the Kingdom."

For a man to be "anti-democratic" in no way makes him un-American but rather, if he subscribes to the tenets of our Republic, he stands four square for the principles of Americanism for which our forefathers fought and died. It is, instead, those now trying to make of our nation a democracy who are the real enemies of our way of life.

The careless and thoughtless who root for a democratic way of life are unconsciously, or otherwise, clamoring for the destruction of the Republic, and the Constitution that made possible the liberty and freedom which has been a blessing to us and a beacon light to which the downtrodden and oppressed in every land have turned with a hope that they might also share in all our blessings.