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NOT A GOOD BILL

None can legitimately question the soundness of the argument presented by Mayor Neville Miller of Louisville, in opposing the Brock public utilities commission bill before the State Senate, that communities should have the privilege of regulating their own utilities, without interference from any State body. Louisville, for instance, has set up an efficient and thorough fact-finding body, in the Public Utilities Bureau at the City Hall, which is in constant touch with the affairs of electric light and gas telephone and street railway companies and is able to furnish the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen with honest and unbiased information at almost a moment's notice. To tear down this carefully built up organization and turn over its functions—as well as those of the Board of Aldermen, which fixes the rates and franchise terms—to a politically appointed (and possibly politically influenced) body at Frankfort would be farcical. The same arguments apply to any community able and willing to conduct its own utility affairs.

The experience of most States with public utility commissions has been that political and selfish influences too often sway them, to the injury of consumers. As far as municipal plants are concerned, where these are publicly owned, no regulating body set up at the State capital should be given the slightest authority over them.

THE NEW DEMOCRACY

The Democratic National Committee, under the leadership of James A. Farley, is proceeding on a rational basis in withdrawing party opposition to such Republican Progressives

the highest bidder and paid for by jobs to politicians and their favorites." He had referred to the fact that under contemporary State, county and municipal Republican Administrations, Louisville and the county whose citizens pay a large part of the State taxes received nothing in return, roads or anything else. He attributed this to the attention Louisville's public servants gave to personal politics. He favored the primary in which the great voting strength of Louisville's citizenship counts rather than the big delegation local politicians could deliver at a convention.

The utterance under such circumstances has the weight of a party declaration. At any rate, Representatives Hettinger and Bullitt, who were running on the ticket with Mayor Miller, didn't protest or publicly disagree with him. Their constituents were warranted in assuming that the head of the ticket spoke for the party and that these two acquiescing candidates for the Legislature stood shoulder to shoulder with him. One can imagine what would have happened to them had they absolved themselves during the campaign from the inference.

Considering the facts, Representatives Hettinger and Bullitt have something to answer. If as candidates for the Legislature they disagreed with the position taken by the head of their ticket, why did they not declare themselves while their constituents had a chance to exercise their own judgment? If as candidates they agreed with Mayor Miller, what has caused them to change their minds since arriving in Frankfort?

POLITICAL PRIVATEERS

Once more the State Inspector and Examiner emphasizes a recommendation of the Efficiency Commission ten years ago and calls attention to the failure of the last three Administrations to do anything about it, when

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