
Every Citizen Should Vote

Guest Editorial by

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Chairman of the Board

The Coca-Cola Export Corporation

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EXTENSION OF REMARKS
OF
HON. JOHN A. McGUIRE
OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. McGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, under leave to extend my remarks, I wish to include in the RECORD a guest editorial written by the Honorable James A. Farley for the October 25 issue of the Hartford (Conn.) Times:

(Hartford, like most other sections of the civilized world, knows James A. Farley as an able, friendly, courageous American leader. He began his business career as a bookkeeper for a paper company in New York City in 1906. After serving as sales manager for a gypsum company, he organized James A. Farley & Co. and by 1929 had merged with five other firms to form the General Building Supply Co. of which he was president. He is now president of the Boston Coca-Cola Bottling Co. and chairman of the board of the Coca-Cola Export Corp. He is also a director of the New York Central Railroad. In the political field he has held a multitude of posts from that of town clerk in Stony Point, N. Y., to Postmaster General of the United States. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Elks, Eagles, and Red Men, besides being a member of numerous clubs in New York and Washington. His home is in the Waldorf Astoria.)

EVERY CITIZEN SHOULD VOTE

GUEST EDITORIAL
BY
HON. JAMES A. FARLEY

The theory of a free society is rooted in the principle of human dignity. This is derived in large measure from the right enjoyed by the individual to express his opinion of men and issues through the medium of

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the secret ballot. This expression made at stated times which we call elections reveals how the majority is thinking, but heed is also paid to the voice of the minority. We call this system of society a democracy and it differs from other forms of government in that it encourages men and women of varying faiths, races, and political affiliation to engage in an open discussion of ways and means to serve the needs of the community and the Nation.

It is important, if a democracy is to survive, that its citizens go to the polls in large numbers and indicate their opinions of the issues involved in a political campaign. In that way, public opinion can be properly gaged. Otherwise, confusion is likely to arise because many hold certain views but fail to give concerted expression to them by staying away from the polls. Very often a noisy minority succeeds in befuddling the minds of the people, including those who have not availed themselves of their privilege to vote.

Some may point to this ostensible lack of interest on the part of many voters as a weakness of our democratic way of life. I am inclined to disagree. First of all, we have an excellent system of checks and balances under our two-party system. Secondly, we have always shown a spirit of unqualified unity when a great emergency arose, or when our country was in danger.

I believe, however, that the voters of this country have always shown great interest in our domestic as well as foreign affairs through the ballot box. But I also feel that our democracy can be strengthened and our whole concept of unity reinforced if there is always a vast outpouring of voters. Such a broad and intense interest would not only act as a stimulus to the rest of the free world but it would give notice to the totalitarian countries that our citizens, while holding

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different viewpoints, were ready to vote as they pleased in free and secret elections and in great numbers.

In my years of experience in public life I have found that many individuals who seldom voted found plenty of time to criticize politicians and officeholders. They were inclined to sneer at public officials and rant loudly against political leaders, but they showed no interest in taking advantage of the one great weapon they held against dishonest officials and corrupt government.

The wise political leader is he who is able to feel the pulse of the public, who is sensitive to the desires of his party, and who is able to adjust his own thinking to popular demand, assuming of course that he approaches the problem with an open and honest mind. In the final analysis, it is what the people want that leads to changes in local, State, and Federal legislation and

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government. The politician who turns a deaf ear to the argument of his opponents in a minority party is short-sighted and will soon disappear from the political scene.

I want to say that I have great confidence in the survival of our society. No matter what changes come about as the result of new conditions and new situations that arise in a free society, the freedom of the individual will never be impaired, for if that is destroyed then everything is lost, including honor.

It seems to me that one of the important things to keep in mind is that, no matter what we may think about men and issues, so long as we have intellectual honesty and faith in our country, and show that faith by going to the polls and telling the political leaders how we feel and think, we cannot fail to maintain our free society. That is democracy in its finest flower.

