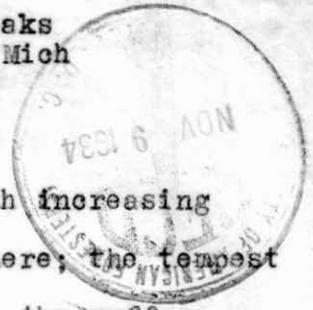


1138 Fair Oaks
Ann Arbor Mich
Nov 4 34



*I do not think Mrs. Sh...
1/17/34*

Dear Chapman:

Some days ago I read the last Journal, and with increasing puzzlement. There was, I thought, something buried there; the tempest in the teapot probably signified more than appeared on the surface. I wondered just what; and still do.

As I now dope it, this is just another of Zon's social spasms; a sort of Hebrew-prophet orgasm of the feelings & pro bono pub ache which has found relief in this manner & motion. Every so often he accumulates until the pressure has to be taken off with a species of revival meeting to smear the sinners & exalt the pure of spirit.

There will be contributing factors. I hear that single-handed he sold Washington with the glorious Shelter-belt project & became its Moses. When some nasty fiscal agent went an' pinched it down to a miserable million dollars or so, thus goin' agin the Word of God, the Prophet had to issue a Psalm or so. Or sumpin like that, I'm guessing.

Don't get me wrong. I have a whole lot of real respect for Zon. When he's right and going good, he's good! He can be the most intellectually honest, anti-bunk person I ever knew. But those phases are evidently linked with manifestations like this Journal thing. Even so he will usually have some valid justification, and a little over-crowding now & then doesn't hurt and may often do some good.

To my mind Fritz' letter just about says it. If the Journal is or has been sort of drab, lacking pep & "leadership", the answer isn't that the "editorial policy" has been too conservative; rather the medium is reflecting the status of the membership, and the profession (if it is one) is a bit drab and showing the evidences of maturity or age, and the characteristics thereof. And why not?

The evangelical period passed with the Capper bill and the Pigchot Committee Report on Devastation (which I helped write).

Zon et al are here at the wailing wall protesting and lamenting the sad passing of the good old evangelical days and there isn't much of anything else to it - according to my doping.

But mebbe there is; the signitures to the original Zon protest make a queer set of associates. I'm wondering whether Silcox, for instance, didn't sign, on by-mail representations, before he assumed his present capacity. And that Clapp "didn't reply" seems to me quite to be understood. But how-come he signed in the first place I dunno.

I suspect that on the inside there is resentment, in high places, that Reed hasn't been a rubber stamp for a certain contingent of the Forest Service. That's pure guess on my part.

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To me the Journal hasn't changed materially since it was the Quarterly. What changes there have been seem to me to be a natural & proper reflection of the basic changes in the Society as it, in turn, pretty much reflects the status of "the profession" in America. If I haven't gotten a lot from the Journal, I haven't expected to; and I haven't put much into it, either. Still I've made more ante than some of the protesting gentry, I think; so to hell with "em, says I; and my advice to you, as President, is to make whatever sture you think appropriate or expedient, but to let 'em fizz out.

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may have been poorly informed, or prejudiced, but all the noise, some years back, about the "need" for a permanent paid Secretary, me cold and (very) mildly acquiescent. Let 'em try it out, then. vent seems to be justifying my original hunches. I haven't yet evidence that there is worthwhile work for a full-time Secretary at, "need" was set up and sold. But there is certainly a lot of business (of sorts)- dues, duns, meetings etc., which ought tended to promptly & properly, and getting out any such publication is a protracted & real chore which I think it unreasonable

to keep trying to wish off on volunteers (or goats) in the Service or in the Schools. To keep the J^ournal going along decently (and without making the white horses prance) and to tend to the routine work, and now and then to tackle something urgent (as perhaps a checking up on raw situations of the order of the Cox tangle in Minn.) should be job enough for anybody paid not more than the SAF is paying Reed, as I think. So to hell with the recent protesters; let 'em start their "other magazine" if they want to - and can get 'em a Check-book Charlie angel to stake 'em. They wouldn't last long otherwise, I judge, for the white-horse-prancers don't generally have any cash, I seem to notice, and the revival fervors don't shell the shekels for long. So hand 'em whatever sugar-titty facilities you think expedient and lets be on our way again. Little cathartic now & then probably OK for any aging organization..... You asked for comment from members?

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I'm still much interested (but unexcited) in the New Deal Land-use theories & practice as it seems developing. Wallace in "New Frontiers" is eating in close, I judge. But without apprehending in detail what is due to be involved, probably. Here ^(in much) we are in the way of experimenting with that detail with two "Projects" - one to "rededicate" a tract of poor-farm hill & lake country within easy travel-radius of Detroit, the other where smallish patches of OK farming land are lost and insulated by great stretches of wild cut-overs (mostly already owned by public). Given such setups, and people in 'em needing help, how proceed? Not by moving the people out, we are guessing, but by demonstrating practicable & worthwhile new utilizations for the previously idle lands surrounding the OK agrl islands. Via (mild) "forestry" plus "Recreation facilities". The development and tending of which, by the local people, may (will?) fetch in enough outside cash to let the habitaws get by in decent shape, and "create new resources for the long pull"..... Copy for Reed if you see fit -