

POLITICAL CORRUPTION IN AMERICA

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[This article is not the outpouring of any hatred and contempt for America. These painful facts are being brought before the eyes of the readers to show that the attitude of considering America a source of light and guidance, as our model, is a folly. This also does not mean that we can't find any good points in the American way of life...And above all, it is not meant to make us—the Muslims—feel self-complacent and forget the wretchedness of our own social life or justify it by the defects of others—Editor.]

It is poured in our ears, in season and out of season, that America is the bulwark of democracy It is the last bastion of peace. Its president believes in moral values above everything else. The fairy of honesty dwells in this valley of liberty and fraternity. The moral standard of its people are enviable and their character reflect a "sea-green incorruptibility". The American way of Life is the only way one should emulate. By its adoption alone can one become civilized for their nation alone is the living embodiment of "progress and civilized morality". But do these rhetoric quibbling contain any grain of truth? Facts tell an altogether different tale.

Among the modern nations, particularly the greater and stronger ones, America is perhaps most remarkably "enviable" as regards the hollowness of character and mounting corruption in the public life. A legion of authentic works is available which tears asunder the beautiful curtains of propaganda and takes the lid off this Brave New World of fraud and corruption. "The Great Game of Politics," "Political Behaviour," "Corruption in American Politics and "Life", "Popular misgovernment in the United States," "Privilege in and Democracy in America," "Washington Confidential" and "Harrowing tales of American Fortunes—to quote a few at random—reveal the American life in its true colours. In this brief study we shall give a few instances of corruption in the political life only so that the reader may see the other, the darker side of the picture.

Grand Rackets

National resources at the disposal of the federal and state governments have proved to be a grazing-ground for frauds and rackets. More than - 66% of 1,300,000,000 acres of land which accommodate rich forests and contain in its bounds treasure, oil and mineral has been squandered in fraudulent ventures. Corruption graft and nepotism has been rampant and even Benjamin Hibbard in his famous "History of the Public Land and Policies" has to admit that:

"Throughout the history of the public domain fraud, has been prevalent".

Another writer on the grant of land to the railroad corporations says, "The universe swamp land grants were secured largely by fraud, for the advantage of private individuals having political influence" (Ise in "The United States Forests Policy.",)

These grand rackets and gigantic frauds were perpetrated by men who steer America's destiny and sit at the helm of public life. Many senators too have involved in this "Pious Game." And the

Teapot Dome and Elk Hills oil deals, which were characterised before the United States Supreme Court as having "Consumed by means of conspiracy fraud and bribery took the thread of the tale to the very door of the White House (encyclopeadia of Social Sciences Vol. IV.) In every walk of governmental life the same sordid story is being repeated. Prof. Petu H. Odgard of Ohio State University of America very pathetically remarks that:

"Favouritism and discrimination in the use of taxing power, misuse of funds, contract frauds and job patronage and common evils attendant upon the administrative wilderness which is America."

It hardly needs any further word of comment. It hardly behoves the American-ridden progressives to continue chanting hymns in praise of the "sea green incorruptibility" of American life.

Corruption in Police

The guardian of the public morals have themselves fell a prey to the charm of corruption. The department for the regulation of public conduct is one of the most immoral and corrupt ones. Police is involved in innumerable scandals—nay, it regularly patronises frauds and scandals and prostitution flourishes under its own nose. The startling revelations of the Vice Commission of Chicago, the report of the sub committee of the Senate Commission on Judiciary, the harrowing tales told by the Former Mayor Dever of Chicago and the latest works viz., "Washington Confidential" and its companions, the "Sexual Behaviour of the Teen-Agers" and the 'Crime Statistics' made one stand spell-bound. They tell that "60 per cent of the Chicago police were engaged directly or indirectly in the liquor business." that in Philadelphia "policeman detectives were becoming blufausly rich from the business of 'selling protection' ", that in that city "police and enforcement officers " collected about \$2,003,000 annually from bootleggers and their allies", that in Chicago more than 20% of the total income from "prostitution went to the police". This is a very sad commentry on the "honesty" and "incorruptibility" of the guardians of law and order.

Malady is Deep-Seated

Election frauds are also so common and so frequent that now they are regarded as "a matter of routine". They stir no indignation in the masses. They have become a part and parcel of the American way of life. The toll of corruption has mounted so high that thinking minds are battled at their 4amazing "progress". They look upon this ever-increasing social malady, with calenlated disgust and openly say that they are fed up with this hum-drum. .Many modern American thinkers are feeling that the malady is very deep-seated. The wrong lies in the very American way of life, in the spirit of American culture, in the worship of Mammon, in the disregard for religion and morals. The following words of Prof. Peter H. Odegard are abnndantly eye-opening for those who have become and teach others to become "the most obedient imitates of America".

There is the general a cultural mileu which has made corruption and racketeering an integral part of American Society. Corruption is in a sense a product of the way of life of an acquisitive society, where "money talks", where that which "works" is justified, and where people are judged by what

they have rather than what they are. The growth and consolidation of American business into ever larger units have increased the pressures of private interests upon public servants. But even more important is the fact that they have created a society in which pecuniary values are dominant. In such a society prestige is measured in terms of wealth. Successful grafters and corruptionists become respected, and a million dollar covers a multitude of sins.”

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