

WILL NEW YORK CITY'S DEBACLE  
LEAD TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF  
LIMITED GOVERNMENT?

The financial morass in which New York City is presently in is but a precursor of the mess in which the federal government will eventually find itself. Just as the nation is too big and has too many people to be governed from Washington, so New York City is too large and has too great a population to be governed from City Hall.

A terribly important question which probably has hardly ever been considered, and certainly has never been resolved is the degree of government of which man is capable. Altho one cannot say so definitely, it would appear that, possibly he can govern when the government is barely above the family level and the area involved is small enough so all the residents can be acquainted quite intimately with it. But above that level and area size, it is extremely doubtful that man can govern.

People simply cannot get together to solve common problems when too many are involved and too large an area is encompassed. The assumption that it can be done by selecting individuals to represent a certain number of people and a particular area has been proven false time and again. All one needs to do is to examine the proceedings of our Congress.

Those chosen simply do not represent the people. They cannot, no matter how wise nor honest they may be for it is not a question of wisdom or integrity. It is simply a fact that no one can really represent another person. We are all too different. What does occur is that those chosen if they represent anybody other than themselves, it is those who put up the money, exerted the influence and put forth the effort to get them elected.

In New York City, for example, the politicians for many years have been elected with the aid of the money and the efforts rendered by the labor union chiefs and their minions, as well as by the liberals and their followers.

Thus, these politicians are not answerable to the people, altho they indulge in plenty of lip service to the people, but to the pressure groups who helped put them in office.

If one does not believe the City is run for the benefit of these groups, how does he explain that a sanitation worker starting at the age of 18, after 20 years, can retire at the ripe old age of 38 with half pay? The list of favors to labor and the liberals is endless.

It has reached such a high level that the so-called services that New York City renders costs twice what it costs Chicago. And Chicago is certainly not a model of efficient government.

As for do-goodism, the politicians at the behest of the liberals outdid themselves. The City has 19 city owned hospitals whereas Chicago has only one. And these hospitals are often only occupied to the extent of about 25%. The City College is probably the only "Free" college which any city in the nation runs. And of all the absurdities, altho the City is the center of the main radio and TV stations of the country, it maintains its own radio station. To date, despite the City's problems, no one has suggested that it be closed to save the money it costs.

This is not to say that the politicians are alone to blame. The inefficiency with which the City has been run has been aided and abetted by the banking fraternity. When the City started to borrow to pay operating expenses every banker in the City should have been on his toes hollering so the people might become aware of what was occurring for the easiest way to go into bankruptcy is to pay for your operations by borrowing. No business could ever be run that way. But the bankers did not for the returns were apparently too lucrative. Now they are loaded with city obligations which they are fearful will represent huge losses so they are bringing pressure on the Pres-

ident of the United States to intervene. It is not the City they are worried about--it's their banks and their own lack of banking ability.

Of course, one of the main reasons the City is so hard up is that in virtue of its past control laws, which it passed to satisfy the liberals, as inflation became more virulent, it became impossible for landlords to maintain their property for they were squeezed between rising costs and fixed rental ceilings, which it was almost impossible to raise. So they abandoned their buildings at such a high rate that parts of the city look as tho it had been boomed. The City's tax base has been eroded. But will the politicians do anything at all to eliminate the rent ceiling? Yes, maybe in the hereafter, but certainly not in this world.

All of the above merely emphasizes the impossibility of men governing a city as large as New York. What should have been done, and was even suggested at times, was to divide up the City into small areas of say two or three blocks in size. Each of these areas would be self governed by the residents in those areas. With small areas in which everyone knew what was needed and to which those interested could come to discuss common problems, many of the problems which seem unsolvable today would easily be overcome.

Interestingly, right in New York City is a model of how this could be accomplished for right near Coney Island is a small area which is self governed by the residents. All they get from the City is certain fire and police pro-

tection but just about all other services required are administered by the residents themselves. And they enjoy taking care of their little community.

The bankruptcy of the city might be a good thing. If they lay off the police and the firemen, the City will not be without police protection and fire protection. The people, themselves will get together to provide this protection. This might be the way in which these small self-governing areas might develop almost spontaneously in the City, and when the people do what is needed themselves it will be well done.

It could be as these small self-governing areas become the accepted thing, people will begin to inquire what is the government of which they are capable. And when they inquire, it means they will start thinking. Who knows what this might bring in its train? It might be the beginning of the breakdown of Big Government, from which the country is now suffering.

So, let us all hope the President of the U.S. withstands the political pressure and lets the City completely alone. Out of its mess might come a new and better form of government.

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