

# *Good* Politics as Usual

THE SPEED AND DIRECTION of things is frequently determined by circumstances.

On a blistering day in August a bulldog was chasing a tomcat. It was so hot they were both walking.

Then there was the farm bloc and the "ever-normal granary" idea. The Government was to finance crop surpluses in times of large yields and low prices in order to assure adequate supplies and prevent runaway prices in times of short crops.

The weather turns cooler. The dog and cat are now running for life—the cat's life.

The demand for farm prices has increased enormously. We are in desperate need of a greater supplies of meat, eggs, poultry and dairy products to meet our own requirements and those of our Allies. Fortunately we have a huge supply of wheat, hundreds of millions of bushels of it acquired by the Government in making crop loans to farmers.

It is now proposed that the Commodity Credit Corporation sell some of this wheat for livestock feeding at less than parity prices in order to encourage increased production of meat, eggs, poultry and dairy products. The Senate has given its approval. But the House rejects the idea. It is adamant against sales at less than parity.

When farm products glutted the market, the "ever-normal granary" was invented to give the farmer much higher prices than he could have got otherwise, all, of course, at the public's expense and in attempted defiance of the natural law of supply and demand.

But the weather turns cooler. When the "ever-normal granary" would operate to prevent the public from being gouged further, the farm bloc throws a monkeywrench into the works.

There is no moral to this tale. It merely shows that come hell or high water, war and devastation, unprecedented national peril, with the farm bloc it is politics as usual.

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