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What Is "Americanism?"

WE hear on all sides many discussions as to exactly what is meant by the word "Americanism." What, precisely, is this American spirit and tradition which, some complain, is vanishing under the strain of economic distress?

It seems to us a very simple matter. The American tradition is the tradition of individual liberty. The American spirit is the force that impels every American to pursue his own chosen course to the limit of his ability. Under any genuine definition of Americanism every individual is free to travel as far and as fast in any direction as he chooses or is able to go.

By that definition of Americanism no man is bound for life or for longer than he pleases to any group, class or party. Once he so binds himself he is sacrificing his inborn American right of individual choice, whether he affiliates with a political party such as the Communists, which dictates to each of its members just how they shall act under any conditions, or with a labor organization which denies him the right to work at whatever job he pleases, or with any other class or group short of the whole nation. One cannot admit even to himself that he is limited by anything but his own ability and an essential respect for the rights and liberties of others, and be true to the American tradition.

We have no idea how many people have sacrificed their independence for fancied security; the temptation has been great, but we fancy fewer have succumbed to it than is generally believed. We think the old American spirit of personal liberty of thought and action still survives and, in the long run, will continue to rule America.—Selected.

The Price of Progress

THE price of human progress is human lives. There is no escaping that conclusion. Every step forward in mankind's efforts to conquer his environment has been at the cost of a countless toll of life. But are we, then, to cease all effort to go forward because in the attempt men have died and many of those who follow in their footsteps will also die?

Our thought turns in that direction because of the two accidents in which folk prominent in the public eye were killed last week. The automobile crash in which "Junior" Durkin, one of the best-beloved of the younger screen stars, was killed along with "Jackie" Coogan's father, while Jackie himself had a narrow escape from death. Also the airplane crash in which Senator Bronson Cutting of New Mexico lost his life. These accidents will doubtless start timid souls to demanding absurd restrictions upon motoring and flying.

Just so, in the early days of steam navigation and of rail-roading, sentimental movements were launched against those "newfangled" methods of transportation. In the first issue of the New York Herald, published 100 years ago, on May 6, 1835, the explosion of a boiler in a Hudson River steamboat, killing and injuring many passengers, was front page news. In a hundred years the safeguards placed about travel by ship and railroad have reduced the risk to a minimum, in spite of occasional tragic wrecks on land and sea.

So, in time, will safeguards be devised to make motor travel and air travel just as safe. That is all that can ever be expected; absolute safety, either in travel or sitting still at home, has never been achieved by humanity.

The great majority of human beings recognize the hazards of life as risks to be accepted, discounted as far as possible but not to be avoided from senseless fear of possible danger. We do not think that the price we have paid for progress has been too high. Modern life is, at least, free from most of the hazards and terrors which surrounded primitive man on every hand. We think most folk would prefer to trust their lives to the inventions of today, than to live under the shadow of death by the claws of the cave-bear or the fangs of the saber-toothed tiger, as mankind lived in what was only yesterday, as time is measured by the great chronograph of God.—Selected.

Things That Burn Me Up! — by A. B. Chapin



THROUGH CAPITAL KEYHOLES BY BESS HINTON SILVER

GOT THE JUMP—

Lieutenant Governor A. H. Graham got the jump on Clyde R. Hoey, the Shelby Democratic giant, in announcing his candidacy for governor. Both hopefuls had announced that they would tell the dear public of their intentions after the general assembly adjourned, but "Sandy" Graham made it almost "immediately if not sooner," in announcing while the legislature was marking time in order that bills might be ratified. If Mr. Hoey hasn't spoken when you read this, you may expect to hear from him ere long, and a good political time will be had by one and all.

NEW THREAT—

A lot of people around Raleigh and elsewhere are hoping that they can persuade Senator Carl L. Bailey of Washington county to run for lieutenant governor. Already numerous candidates have been mentioned with Senator Paul D. Grady, of Johnston, and former Senator George McNeill as the go-getters of the campaign so far. Senator W. G. Clark may take the boys on, but it is rumored along the old Grapevine that he might withdraw if a triple-threat to Grady can be found. Some of the wise boys think Bailey is the man. The Senator from Washington has a good legislative record to lean upon if he should decide to run.

UNPOPULAR—

Senator U. L. Spence, of Moore, went home from the legislature much less popular than when he came to Raleigh, for the simple reason that he opposed diversion of the money you pay in gas taxes for your roads. Senator Spence said upon all occasions that he believed that such money should be spent on roads and not for other purposes. But the Moore county lawmaker was overruled by the general assembly which decided to take \$1,800,000 each year of the next biennium out of the motorists' pocket to pay general expenses of the state. Governor Ehringhaus was of the same opinion as Senator Spence but not enough of the boys were willing to listen.

BIG FIGHT—

The school book publishers of the schools of the state didn't like the idea of this book rental system, but Governor Ehringhaus and his friends were determined that such a measure should be enacted into law in order that each child in the state might have, not only an

eight months school, but books with which to carry on the studies. The proposal brought on major legislative battles but finally became law and now you can get school books for your youngsters at much less cost.

BEE IS BUZZING—

The gubernatorial bug is reported to have bitten Senator John T. Burrus, High Point doctor, but many of the political wise-acs do not believe he will run next spring. With Congressman R. L. Doughton definitely out of the race it is possible that Dr. Burrus could attract a considerable following from the ranks of followers of R. T. Fountain, former lieutenant governor who was defeated for governor by John C. B. Ehringhaus in 1932.

NOT QUITTING—

Mr. Fountain is still working around Raleigh and spent most of last week around the legislature, where he is hoping to line up support for his senatorial candidacy in opposition to Senator J. W. Bailey. "Some of my opponent's friends are spreading it abroad that I will not be a candidate, but I want to say that I am already in the race to stay. The man who runs against me will have to go down every rabbit path in this state," Fountain said just the other day.

IS BUSY—

Colonel Thomas LeRoy Kirkpatrick, former state senator from Charlotte, is stirring up his gubernatorial campaign these days. Like Fountain, the doughty colonel spent a good part of last week rubbing elbows with legislators in behalf of his candidacy. The colonel was the first announced candidate for governor this time, having disclosed his intention to run while a member of the 1933 general assembly.

YOUR HONOR—

Friends of Robert Grady Johnson, speaker of the house of representatives, are discounting talk of his becoming a candidate for lieutenant governor. Mr. Johnson, they say, had rather have a place on the superior court bench. The legislature passed a bill reducing the retirement ages for judges from 70 to 65 years of age and that will mean that younger men, such as Mr. Johnson, will have more opportunities of being addressed as "Your Honor."

HAPPY BOY—

Thad Eure, principal clerk of the house of representatives during the past several sessions, is like a kid with a new toy—so happy he is at the response to the recent suggestion that he might be a candidate for secretary of state. Stacey W. Wade, who holds down the secretarial job at present, says he isn't worried, although it's a pretty safe bet that he would like to see the

popular Mr. Eure decide to take some other job. Both men are well liked, know their politics from A to Z and would provide the natives with a lively race should they run against one another.

GOT NASTY—

The wets in the house got awfully angry with the senate for killing the Day liquor bill and proceeded to pass some legislation just to spite the senators. One Raleigh political observer wrote that he had long deplored the "intolerance of dries" but recently he had become acquainted with the intolerance of the wets which he described as "just as bad." Many people who believe the present prohibition system is extremely bad and would like to see the control laws liberalized in order to get liquor out in the open, do not believe the house wets helped the cause any by displaying their temper.

West's Mill

Mr. and Mrs. Weaver Sheffield, of Canton, were visiting Mr. Sheffield's father, W. C. Sheffield, here Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Grady Owens, and Mrs. Lewis Smith attended the commencement exercises at Highlands last Wednesday night. They were accompanied home by Miss Vonnie West, who has been teaching, and Miss Ruth Smith, who was a student there this term.

Woodrow Gibson has returned to his home here after spending several months in Winston-Salem.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Matlock, of Winston-Salem, spent the past week-end here visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Matlock and Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Morrison.

Mrs. Julia Patterson, who has been very ill, is improving.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry West, of Asheville, were visiting their parents, Mrs. J. L. West, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Holbrooks, here Sunday.

Mary Belle Hurst, small daughter of Albert Hurst, who received a bad cut on the side of her face with an axe, is reported to be improving rapidly.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade Arvey and two sons, of Franklin, and Roy Bryson and four sons, of Sylva, were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bryson Sunday.

John Ray is very ill.

Mr. and Mrs. John Matlock, Ora and Perry Matlock, of Marietta, Ga., and Jay Matlock, of Austell, Ga., spent Sunday visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Matlock.

A daughter, Emily Alice, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Dalton Sunday, May 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Don McGaha announce the birth of a son, Charles, on April 28.