

THE PILOT

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"In taking over The Pilot no changes are contemplated. We will try to keep it as good a paper as Nelson Hyde has made it. We will try to make a little money for all concerned. Where there seems to be an occasion to use our influence for the public good we will try to do it. And we will treat everybody alike."—James Boyd, May 23, 1941.

The Loan To Spain

It is unfortunate that the Senate chose this critical time to vote a loan to Franco Spain. Luckily there is reason to believe that the House will not follow their example. The speeches of the President and Secretary Acheson opposing the loan, together with the unfavorable reaction here and abroad, should reinforce the usual good sense of that body. But a bad impression has been created, and it will take a good deal more than negative action to dispel it.

If the times were not so deadly serious, it would be amusing to see how reasonably each side in this argument bases its cause on patriotic grounds. One says a loan to Franco will help our cause and the other that it will do us incalculable harm. The arguments of the pro-Franco forces are twofold: one is the need for bases in Spain if there is a European war; the other states that friendship with Franco is in line with our policy of an alliance with all who oppose Russia. The loan to Yugoslavia is given as precedent for a loan to Spain, another totalitarian country.

Those who take the other side hold that, in the first place, bases in Spain will be ours in any event and there is no need to bribe Franco in order to get them. He cannot fail to be on our side, as victory for Stalin would spell his doom. As for the precedent argument, why follow a precedent, they ask, unless it is in our interest to do so? Just because we make a loan to one dictator is no reason why we should make a loan to another: the reasons behind the loans are what count.

The loan to Tito was made to try to win from Russia her strongest ally. It was frankly governed by expediency, with many people, then and now, doubting greatly its morality or wisdom. To follow such a precedent with action that has only the faults and none of the advantages of the Tito loan appears to have nothing to recommend it.

However, these surface arguments fade before the deeper ones. For the point is that this apparently overwhelming desire for bases in Spain has convinced our friends and allies overseas that we plan to abandon them to Russia at the first attack. To say that the thought strikes terror to their hearts is to put it mildly. There is no calculating what has been the effect on their morale of this Senate action, or what encouragement it has given to Communists in Europe as well as in Russia. They were already making capital of the smallness of our arms shipments to Atlantic Pact nations: this is another weapon in their hands and a powerful one.

The loan to Spain is indefensible on such grounds, while militarily its case is weak. It is to be fervently hoped that, with strong public support, the House will reverse the Senate's unwise action.

Put Democracy To Work

When the dividing line of the 38th parallel was created in Korea it was purely geographical. The line was drawn for the purpose of facilitating the surrender of Japanese troops to the Russians who were then in the North, and to the U. S. troops occupying the South. That was the first time the country had been divided and there was no division at all in the minds of the Koreans, no conflicting interests or desires in the hearts of the people. The country, up to then, had been united.

It was about five years ago that the 38th parallel was set up; we now find the North Koreans attacking their compatriots in the South with a fanaticism that could not be greater if it had been the product of centuries of feuds and hatred. In contrast, we see the South Koreans fading away before these onslaughts, defending themselves with an apparent utter lack of enthusiasm. Why is this?

What does the Russian Propaganda consist in? In two main themes. Among the native peoples of Asia is spread, first of all, the message of hope. Russia poses as the liberator, the means whereby the gates into the Promised Land are to be opened. There is not a country of Asia that is not passing through a crisis: many of them have been in the midst of crises for generations. Always, dimly or brightly as their fortunes waxed or waned, the light of hope has beckoned: hope for better things, for freedom from native tyranny, for liberation and independence from a colonial overlord, for progress towards a happier condition of life. The Soviets have played on this hope, exploiting it to the hilt. We know that the freedom they promise is a

myth, that the tyranny which they would impose on Asia would be more complete than anything known there for centuries, but the Asiatics do not understand this.

The promises are made, as we must not forget, by men who, in the vast majority, still believe fanatically in them and in the Communist mission. They are undoubtedly spoken with compelling eloquence. To the Asiatics they have the ring of truth.

Coupled with the Communist promises of freedom are denunciations of imperialist intent on the part of the United States, Britain and France. These denunciations also have the ring of truth. France and Britain have been overlords, just or not makes little difference: they have been vehemently opposed to the rise of Asia. The United States is naturally identified with these two nations. But, adding to our guilt in the mind of Asia, is the fact that in China we backed a government which soon turned out not to have the support of the people, and that in South Korea we have taken a similar position. From many sources comes the report that the rule of Singman Rhee did not have even minority support: that he is distrusted and feared by the great majority. Certainly the lack of enthusiasm shown by the South Koreans in the present fight would seem confirmation of such a theory.

We hear a great deal these days of the need to broadcast the democratic message. It is a good idea and needs to be done, but what is a thousand times more necessary is that we act our message of democracy as well as preach it. We lost the opportunity, in our part of Korea, to inspire the people with the hope the Russians brought; similarly in China our espousal of the unpopular government of Chiang and our inability to bring about the reforms which the Communists effected, and which everyone knew were desperately needed, lost us our position of leadership there and, eventually, lost us China as an ally. In both places and in others one could name, where the opportunity was great and victory in the war of ideas was all-important, we lost our chance.

We cannot afford to let this go on. Not only because of the threat to our security, but the threat to the very spirit of democracy. That spirit lives and grows strong as it is released and made manifest in action. We must put it to work.

Prohibition For Moore County?

We find ourselves, and all decent people we know, in complete agreement with the Allied Church League in regard to the abuse of alcohol.

Public drunkenness, drunken driving, drunken and disorderly conduct and the evils which arise therefrom have the hatred and contempt of all right-thinking citizens. Laws have been made against these and, while enforcement is not perfect, it is being tightened up all the time. Also, great strides are being made toward the greater understanding of the alcoholic as a person afflicted by a disease of which alcohol is not the cause, but the symptom.

To feel that prohibition of the sale of alcohol has anything to do with these, however, is to be foolishly blind to facts which have been proved time and time again.

Whoever presents any type of prohibition law should also have to present some foolproof plan for its enforcement, and for paying for it. The outlay for the men and equipment required would beggar any economy. Anyone who thinks our present law enforcement officers could cope with the situation should just ask one of them how he feels about it.

He will be most emphatic in telling you that a law which does not have the cooperation of the people is worse than no law at all—and no prohibition law ever has such cooperation.

Far better, we believe, is the present system of legal control, which is designed to keep sales of alcoholic beverages in the hands of responsible people, and to hem it about with restrictions which protect the irresponsible and the young. There are no such restrictions when bootleggers take over.

For the big-time boys will move in—they always do, when legal controls are removed. The lure of illegal riches will inevitably draw them. Anyone who wishes such a regime on Moore county, which ranks high today among clean, decent and law-abiding counties of the state, is wishing us no good.

Many thinking people who are personal "drys" recognize the evils of prohibition, and the advantages of legalized control. This entirely aside from the principle of free choice in the conduct of one's personal life, on which our American democracy is founded.

The personal referendum is the only one which does any good. In this, the precept and example of good people have far greater influence than law. Temperance education of youth is important. Of no value at all is the forbidding "Thou Shalt Not" of the blue-law forces.

In attempting to impose their own viewpoint on those who hold opposing beliefs, we feel that the certain ministers and their earnest followers are stepping far outside their proper role. As preceptors of what they see as right, they can, if they will, do much good. In forcing laws on unwilling people, they are admitting their failure at teaching and preaching their beliefs. They are neglecting their Christian crusade against present evils, in order to create a host of new ones against which they will be even more helpless.

THE PUBLIC SPEAKING

TITLE CORRECTED

To The Pilot:
Referring to Mr. Bishop's letter of last week concerning Owen Lattimore's book: his comments would have been much more impressive, showing careful reading, thought and study, if he had been able to quote the title of the book correctly, which is "Ordeal by SLANDER" not "Ordeal by TREASON" as Mr. Bishop calls it.

ELMER M. SIMKINS.

PATRIOT OR FASCIST

To The Pilot:
In times such as these, with our world resting on a colossal powder-keg loaded with atomic bombs, an occasional bit of comic relief can be welcome. This was recently furnished in the Pilot by a letter which proclaimed Joseph McCarthy to be our No. 1 patriotic Senator.

Is it patriotic to bring charges of Communism against members of our government and then fail to bring forth one bit of corroborative evidence to support these charges? Is it patriotic to fail to condemn the extreme right (fascism) along with the extreme left (communism) as a danger to our national welfare? Is it patriotic to support a loan (or gift) to that avowed enemy of our country, the world's no. 1 fascist dictator, Franco of Spain?

If these are the things which truly constitute American patriotism, then your correspondent is right, and McCarthy is indeed a great patriot.

Sincerely,
RUSSELL E. POWELL.

GREATEST FALLACY

To the Editor:
Last Sunday I attended a neighboring church, since my own minister is on vacation. The sermon was on prohibition of alcoholic beverages. I told the preacher afterwards that he reminded me very much of his predecessor of more than 30 years ago, only then it was cigarettes, dancing and card playing.

The recent conference on alcohol studies at Yale was predominated, by educators and the clergy. The wet or dry issue was avoided, while searching for the truth. A prominent temperance leader informed me privately that he considered prohibition the greatest fallacy ever perpetrated on the American people, having set the cause of temperance back more than a generation.

More than 60 million persons in the United States use alcoholic beverages. Approximately three million drink heavily, and only 750,000 are considered chronic excessive drinkers. Why not concentrate our efforts on an intelligent educational program of preven-

tion and rehabilitation rather than bickering over prohibition laws which have already proved to be failures. Why be concerned over the 95 per cent who drink moderately with no harm to themselves or others and who are no problem. No one would suggest prohibition of the use of sugar because those with diabetes can not use it without harm, or prohibiting use of automobiles because of damage caused by automobile accidents.

JOHN S. RUGGLES
Southern Pines, N. C.

To The Pilot,

If prohibition is voted in Moore county, then we will lose about \$22,995.63 in city and county beer and wine taxes, and in addition will have to enforce Prohibition. That means that Moore county will have to have more officers, more cars and more money to look for speakeasies and hide-aways. Who is going to pay for that? If we don't pay for it, we will get in the same condition as other so-called "dry" counties with just as much drunkenness and crime as ever.

The moment beer and wine are voted out, the ABC Malt Beverage Division officers who police places that sell beer will leave our county. They will have no legal right to come in here. Law enforcement will be left entirely to local authorities.

I remember reading that the Police Chief of Hamlet stated during the Richmond County beer election, that he did "not look forward with any degree of pleasure to policing a community where beer sales were outlawed." Incidentally, Richmond county voted to keep beer under legal control.

We cannot afford higher taxes in Moore county. We cannot afford to hire more police officers and equip them in an effort to try to do something the Federal government couldn't do under the 18th Amendment, and no county in North Carolina has been able to do. Under legal control, the State ABC officers assist in law enforcement. They take the license away from retailers who violate the law. They have to stop selling.

Let us not close our eyes to the facts. Let's vote FOR legal control of beer and wine in Moore county.
CHARLES S. PATCH, JR.

To The Pilot:

I'm tired of hearing some of the people who want Prohibition in Moore county talk about the "moral issue."

In the first place this beer and wine question is not a moral issue—it's a social and political one. People are going to drink no matter what law is passed, they did during national Prohibition

Grains of Sand

If your camellia bush hasn't been doing so well, how about giving it a bath? Yes, we mean a bath, with soap and water, washing each little leaf-face with care. Paul Staples, nurseryman who has a place at Skyline, said he did that to a bush which hadn't thrived in several years, and straightway it started flourishing and growing.

The answer, he believes, to the inertia which has beset many local trees and shrubs is diesel oil fumes, from the huge trucks which constantly pass along the highway. These overlay the leaf surfaces with an oily smudge which rain will not wash off, and the plants cannot breathe.

Mr. Staples sees the fumes as a real threat to beautiful growth alongside much used highways, such as our US 1—May street in town. Diesel trains don't do the damage the trucks do—the mechanism is more carefully adjusted and cleaned, the fumes far finer. Smoke, cinders and ordinary dirt will wash off in the rain—the deposit from the truck fumes.

Seems to us the town board was considering a plan proposed by the Chamber of Commerce some months ago by which some of the trucks would be routed another way than along the highway. As it is, they are concentrated on US 1. If they were divided it might be better. Whatever happened to that plan?

Game Protector Woodrow McDonald expressed himself as highly pleased with the public reaction to some pictures published in several papers—including The Pilot—showing a haul of illegal fish traps in Moore County streams.

From a number of Moore County citizens, also from residents of other counties who fish our streams, came quite a bit of information in response, telling of other fish traps in hidden places. As a result he has been enabled to keep on hauling them out, and

we hope he gets more and more tip-offs, until every last trap is out of Moore waters.

Roy J. Hughes, who recently moved to Southern Pines from Siler City, says the large fig orchard he has planted north of town is coming along fine, and he is looking forward to the establishment of a real fig business here in a few years. (It takes five years for a commercial fig orchard to start producing.)

He has a considerable acreage planted to fig trees in Hoke county, and is enthusiastic about the prospects there too. Few, if any, figs are commercially grown east of California, it seems, yet the Sandhills, he believes, are ideally suited to them.

With peaches becoming ever more and more of a gamble, and the once-vast dewberry crop now dwindled to almost nothing, the Sandhills' fruit future may well lie in figs.

And Mr. Hughes is now studying the possibilities of citrus fruit—lemons and limes—in this soil and climate.

The great Marshall Field has long since gone to his reward, but he left behind him many worthwhile things besides the world-famous department store which bears his name. Not least among these requests to mankind is the following bit of advice entitled "Twelve Things To Remember"—They are:

1. The Value of Time
2. The Success of Perseverance
3. The Pleasure of Working
4. The Dignity of Simplicity
5. The Worth of Character
6. The Power of Kindness.
7. The Influence of Example
8. The Obligation of Duty
9. The Wisdom of Economy
10. The Virtue of Patience
11. The Improvement of Talent
12. The Joy of Originating

What a storehouse for joyful living lies within these simple thoughts! Each is well worth much more than a few minutes of thoughtful consideration.

and they do today. Look at the "drunk" arrests in "dry" counties. Under the law it is legal to have in your possession 53 bottles of beer at any time—anywhere. So people who want it will go to Fayetteville or Richmond county or some other place and get it, anyway.

Further than that, I don't want to vote for prohibition and be responsible for putting bootleggers in business in Moore County. I don't want to make lawbreakers of my fellow-citizens, as the 18th Amendment did. I don't want to have the State ABC officers walk out of Moore County as they will if we vote out beer and wine. I don't want to be responsible for forcing alcoholic beverages being sold in "speakeasies" — lawless, furtive "joints" out from under the Legal Control that can close them up if they violate the law. I don't want

to be responsible for making it "fashionable" or "smart" for our young people to patronize these places as they did in Prohibition. I don't want the responsibility for teaching them to disregard all law. There are facts to prove that this happened during prohibition, and to a startling degree.

Even if it could be considered a "moral" issue—the best way to handle beer and wine is under Legal Control—and always will be until the "drys" can prove that they can stop people from drinking by passing a law. They haven't done it in other North Carolina counties yet. I, for one, do not want to take the responsibility for the evils that will come if beer is voted out of Moore county. That's why I will vote FOR Legal Control on Saturday, August 26.

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