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France, The Puppet

The world's second mass slaughter has been accompanied by many revelations which the future student of history will find difficult to understand. Russia, considered an ally of Hitler's, turned to fight Hitler. Declarations of war one day were meaningless the next as far as the Slavs were concerned. Confusion has been general, and only the strong determination of Britain's Prime Minister Churchill has kept the eyes of the people on an ultimate goal.

In all the confusion growing out of the second World War, the part played by France is the most puzzling. Historians will find it difficult to explain away her actions, to tell how one of the greatest armies in the world folded up and flopped over night. Activities in Paris and Vichy are the world's big nightmare.

Old Petain's close collaboration with the Hitler mob is excused to some extent by the fact that he is prompted along that course by fear and threats. There are others who believe Petain, Darlan and many others have been hypnotized by Hitler's new order, that the leaders and many of the people have lent an ear to Hitler's new order gospel and that they are now intentionally turning their backs on Democracy and its main standardbearers, Britain and America.

While President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill may have discussed more significant problems in their recent meeting, the declaration of policy advanced by the meeting carries much significance within itself. In granting nations their own choice of government, the policy recognizes needed changes in the world's economic system, and unless the democracies can convince the people of many nations that those changes will come in due time, the people of those nations are almost sure to listen to Hitler's new order plans. Many know Hitler is planning to enslave the world, but the true facts are withheld from many peoples and naturally they are being lured to Hitler's side.

France was reduced to a puppet state not by the German armed forces altogether. Internal conditions were inviting, and the world, before it can right itself, must consider and correct those conditions not only as they existed in France but also as they exist in other lands, including our own. A nation half fed and ill clothed and poorly housed will not stand under any system for time immemorial, and the same applies to the world. Whatever the causes may be for our troubles, the conditions must be altered to head off Hitlerism and restore peace to the world. May be that even Hitler's proposed new order, despite its inhumanity and other damnable faults, has some points worth considering. Even Joe Stalin's government has one or two points worth considering. May be that our way of life can be improved and offered to the world as its way of life and as a means to world peace. At least we can look to conquered France today and know that she was crushed before German force was applied, that even had she successfully resisted the Hitler hordes peace and progress would not have been hers to enjoy.

How About The Crime?

Greatly disturbed, and possibly rightly so, over the recent mob action in a North Carolina town, a state paper suggests, "After all, there could have been no 'march' against the mob had there been no mob." The paper could easily have added that there would have been no mob had there been no heinous crime.

Living in a fast-moving world, the people apparently do not like delayed action. The very fact that men act when an atrocious crime is committed in their midst is encouraging. It must be admitted, however, that mob action offers the wrong course of procedure. It would be a great world if all people would bind themselves together to stamp out through designated and orderly channels all kinds of crime. The courts are partly responsible for mob action in some cases, but a greater portion of the blame rests upon the shoulders of those who remain indifferent to the call of the ballot box and who are reluctant in performing their duty imposed upon them as citizens.

Far removed from the little North Carolina city and while handling a subject of world-wide moment, the Christian Science Monitor has the following to say which indirectly, of course, can be found to parallel the case in this State:

"In the early days of the American West, towns sometimes fell into the temporary control of outlaws. When conditions became intolerable decent citizens organized vigilante committees. Sometimes there were so few God-fearing folk that they had to enlist the less dishonest gamblers, merchants of unorthodox religious views and ranchers whose waterholes had once been acquired by gun law. Some of their most effective posse members were quick-triggered cow-punchers who hadn't been able to make cattle-rustling pay.

"Today the world community is being robbed and terrorized by the Axis bandits. It would be splendid if we could send out Sheriff Geneva and hale them into the Hague court. We can't. We've not really armed a police force, or given our support to the court. John Bull has been standing the desperadoes off and Uncle Sam has been loading rifles behind the barricade . . .

"Until we can practice Christian brotherhood so fully that justice, liberty and love remove the causes of war, we shall have to deal with the anarchy of aggression. Until we can enlarge our concepts of citizenship to a world scope and maintain real law, we shall have to deal with gangsters by the vigilante system. Until we can prove the adequacy of weapons which are not carnal to hold crime in check in local and world communities, we shall have to arm our posse. Until we can find enough respectable citizens we shall have to enlist good fighters."

It is good to urge men to act with discretion, to refrain from rash acts, but it is better to exemplify the ways of justice. Politics will have to be cast out of our judicial system, and the judiciary, or some of its members, at least, must change their ways, and justice must be meted out for justice's sake if we would strike home the appeal to reason and against mob action.

A Question To Be Answered First

A follower of Robert Rice Reynolds is anxious to know what the so-called Senator has done against the American people?

Reynolds is not paid to do things against the American people. He is paid to do things for the American people. And before the first question is answered, another one should be propounded and answered in detail. What has Reynolds done for the American people? Playing the role of a first rate jackass, Bob Reynolds has all but disgraced the people of North Carolina. He has been their false prophet, a four-flusher and a bitter disappointment to those who value things decent and respectable.

It certainly would be good to learn one thing—just one thing—that Bob Reynolds has done for the people.

A Real Revenge

By Ruth Taylor.

Revenge is a two edged sword, cutting us as well as our enemy when we use it to hurt someone else—but there is another revenge that is not only safe, but far more effective. Quiller Couch described it thus: "The greatest revenge we can have on our enemy is not to be like him."

This is a real revenge, for through it the original hurt is removed. Through it we concentrate on the good, not on the evil.

We say that the enemy of our country, the enemy that threatens us, is the force of evil unleashed by the German dictator, and that the blood of thousands of helpless victims calls for revenge. But revenge for defeat was Hitler's rallying call to the German people, and like the Philistines of old, of whom Ezekiel wrote, they "have dealt by revenge and have taken vengeance with a spiteful heart, to destroy it for the old hatred."

By all means let us take revenge—but not the revenge of slavish imitation, of new hatreds. Let us rather be dissimilar, let us set an example.

What do we hate most in the totalitarian set-up? First, the cruelty. Let us seek revenge by being kind—by doing unto others as we would have them do unto us. Second, the oppression. Let us seek revenge by being scrupulously fair in all of our dealings with others, no matter how insignificant the act. Third, the domination of the many by the few. Let us seek revenge by treating those with whom we come in contact not as groups, or in derogatory generalities, but as individuals like unto ourselves, with the same principles, the same rights and the same obligations. Fourth, the suppression of freedom. Let us seek revenge by using our freedom of speech, and thought and assembly for the building of our country and our fellow citizens, for the practical application of democracy. And last, the armed attack on religion and freedom of worship. Let us seek our revenge by making our religion the living force in our lives, by putting into practice the ethics in which we believe, no matter by what name we call our faith. Let us prove the worth of our faith by our own actions.

Paul preached this to the Romans nearly two thousand years ago when he wrote "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink, for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." This is the only lasting revenge.

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