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EDITORIAL

GOOD AMERICANS ARE GOOD NEIGHBORS

By GORDON BERKSTRESSER,

Publicity Chairman of the Community Chest

Community Chest drives are now under way throughout the United States. Each year we see more and more new Community Chests organized. Good Americans recognize more and more the value of these yearly campaigns for the voluntary support of private, social and health work carried on through the Community Chest.

No Federal or State welfare work has ever been able to do the things that keen eyes and warm hearts see and feel must be done in your local community. Therefore every fall of each year the Mobilization for Human Needs appeals to the democratic conscience of all good Americans to support the voluntary effort of the people themselves to meet these needs directly.

In the United States today we know ourselves to be free citizens of a rich democracy, based on brotherly love. We inherit this democracy from the warm hearted citizens of past generations, who recognized the needs of less fortunate men, organized these social service organizations and gave generously to them to carry on the work of helping their neighbor.

If you are thankful that you have a roof over your head, food on the table, warm clothes to wear when winter blasts come, care for your children through supervised instructors, and a good wholesome community to live in, then, you too, should give generously so that the next generation will enjoy this same democracy.

Roanoke Rapids' volunteer workers will call on you this Thanksgiving week. Be ready to give. Make this second Community Chest drive better than the first. Over the top for the sake of human needs.

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

(A ten minute talk delivered to the pupils of the 6th Grade of Roanoke Rapids Graded Schools yesterday as part of the program for American Education Week)

No other children in the world are as fortunate as the children of the United States where every child is given a free public school education. In many countries, education is only for the rich while, in other countries, public education is limited to only the first few grades.

American Education Week, this week, is to bring more clearly to all of us, children, parents, teachers, taxpayers, the great blessings and opportunities which are ours above all others in having such an educational system. Instead of not liking school or certain things about school, we should all be happy to have a chance to go to school, a chance denied so many children in the world who would so like to go.

One of the most important reasons for going to school is to learn to be good citizens. It will only be a few years until you are through school and must find a job and take your place as citizens of your country. When all the worries and problems



which now face your parents and other older persons become your own, you will then see how happy and free from real care were these days in school.

Being a citizen is like playing a game and being a good citizen is learning how to play the game right.

Every game, as you know, must have rules so that all the players will know just how the game is to be played and in this game of being a citizen we have rules which are called laws. All the players are supposed to obey those laws, altho sometimes they may not be to our personal liking. Just like the rules of any game, when a majority want to change those laws, there is a way to do it. But as long as they remain it is the duty of every player to obey them.

Just as games have referees, umpires, time-keepers and other officials to see that the rules are carried out and to keep games from running wild so does our government have officials and boards to see that our laws are carried out as intended. Most of these officials are chosen by the citizens in elections and the citizens, can, when a majority wants to, change these officials by voting for new men to take their places.

It will be just a few short years before you children will be the ones to vote, to hold office, to pass laws, to see that laws are enforced to the best interest of the whole group and it is here, in school, that you should learn something about these new tasks which must face every good citizen.

As in games, so in citizenship, you must learn there are two sides to every argument; you must learn to tell what is right and what is wrong; you must learn that while you have certain rights, so has the other fellow and you must do nothing to injure his rights lest you lose your own; you must learn that the property of other people is theirs, not yours, just like your property is yours and not theirs, and the property rights of all must be respected if the game is to be played right.

And just as in your games, where good sportsmanship is even better than winning teams, so in your life-game of citizenship there must be good sportsmanship in order to make good citizens. You must learn to see the other fellow's viewpoint, learn to give and take, learn to be a good winner or a good loser, learn to be loyal to your country and always willing to come to its aid when it needs you, in order to partly repay it for giving you the greatest freedom and happiness enjoyed by any people on this earth.

A BUILDER

The sudden death of John C. Smith Tuesday shocked this entire community, for there were none who thought this energetic business man was marked to go. Extensive property owner, planner and builder of the only big hotel Roanoke Rapids has ever had, builder of the Tenth Street corner building which houses two of the biggest stores in the city, John Smith, a self-made man, was a builder in every sense of the word.

He had the vision, the ambition, the energy and tenacity which only builders of cities possess. If John Smith had a hobby it was to see things of brick and stone and wood and mortar rise to grace his city. These buildings are important to the growth of a community and as a master-builder his place will be most difficult to fill. He had the courage to take chances which balk many of us.

John built friendships too. He was a friend to many people who will miss him much in the days ahead. As one man said yesterday, "He was most accommodating". We call him Master-builder because he was adept at building buildings, equally adept at building friendships.

THE WHITE HOUSE
Washington

October 2, 1939

To the Patrons, Students, and Teachers of American Schools:

Let us take note, as we again observe American Education Week throughout our Nation, that education in our democracy teaches the practice of reason in human affairs.

Our schools also bring us face to face with men and women with whom we shall share life's struggles. In their lives and ours, struggle will never be absent; the struggle of every individual against the stream of life; the struggle and competition among individuals, groups, institutions, States, and nations. To the resolution of conflicts and struggles of life, democracy supplies no easy answer. The easy answer, the quick but incomplete answer, is force; tanks and torpedoes, guns and bombs. Democracy calls instead for the application of the rule of reason to solve conflicts. It calls for fair play in canvassing facts, for discussion, and for calm and orderly handling of difficult problems. These vital skills we Americans must acquire in our schools.

In our schools our coming generations must learn the most difficult art in the world—the successful management of democracy. Let us think of our schools during this American Education Week not only as buildings of stone and wood and steel; not only as places to learn how to use hand and brain; but as training centers in the use and application of the rule of reason in the affairs of men. And let us hope that out of our schools may come a generation which can persuade a bleeding world to supplant force with reason.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.