

★ ★ ★ ★
THEY GAVE THEIR LIVES

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Editorials---

Something to Think About

Looking down Roanoke Avenue and across Second Street this morning, your editor began to think about a lot of things—none of them directly connected with Roanoke Rapids, but all of which would have an effect here or on any American city much the same as if a 500 pound bomb dropped right in the middle of either the 200 block or the 1000 block of that thoroughfare.

In the first place we were thinking what high prices, labor strife and other general unrest are going to do to us in 1948. In the second place we were thinking what would happen to those people you see strolling up and down the avenue if the wrong crowd of people took over this nation by force.

In many of the neighborhoods you'll see neighborhood stores. Folks come in those stores to buy a few pounds of sweet potatoes, a can of coffee, or maybe even some cigarettes. In Roanoke Rapids—in the U. S.—those aren't "big" stores. But in a lot of places in this world today, they would be comparable to Macy's.

Young fellows, out of service maybe a year or two, drop in to listen to sports events or to buy a cold drink or just to see friends and talk.

Suddenly, this might all be changed if prices were to go to "sky-high" and no one had enough money to buy even a loaf of bread. It can't happen here? Lots of other folks thought it couldn't happen there too, but it did.

Take for instance Germany. They listened to the wrong man for too long. More than just a chicken in every pot was the promise of the little Corporal. He even said the pot would be solid gold.

Today, what do you have in Germany? You have Communism in one area with partial starvation and partial starvation in the other area with a faint hope of democracy.

What would happen if the U. S. were suddenly taken over by Communists? The neighborhood store wouldn't be there any more. Instead there would be a sign hanging up above the store saying "Government Store Number 651".

Before you start saying this is far-fetched did you know that when the Communists took over Russia there were only 2,000 party members in the entire nation? And did you know that in the United States today there are more than that number and that this country is less populated than Russia?

We're out to fight the Communists. But a lot of us don't know what a Communist is. A fellow editor once said that "A Communist is anybody whom you dislike." That isn't so. A Communist is a man who believes with all his heart and soul that the state should dictate to the individual. He is convinced there is no God. He is convinced that Moscow is the immaculate city and he must follow the orders from that country blindly even if it costs him his life. He does not believe in free enterprise. No one could own a store but the state. He does not believe in freedom, period. He believes in slavery. He believes in ad-

ministering sudden death to those who refuse to capitulate to the communistic pattern.

He would hang Rev. Johnnie Walker or Rev. Gordon Price or Rev. W. R. Stevens to the nearest lamp post if he got into power.

He would have my kid or your kid be an informer to tell the secret police that you and "preacher" were plotting against the state by reading the Bible or listening to a foreign radio broadcast.

There would be no Christmas, no July 4th, no spirit of helpfulness whatever. There would be a vacuum devoid of any individual enterprise. You wouldn't be able to trust your neighbor or your own kids.

If you think it can't happen here you are shirking your duty to the principals of American democracy.

Each person, man, woman and child, must learn that when a person tells you a rumor about some group, some race, some creed, they may be doing so with a premeditated plan to overthrow our society. They may be poisoning your mind against your fellow American.

They are deadly. They want to bring starvation and economic chaos into America—an America which has known near chaos before but which has surmounted them in a free manner and not by inviting the ascendancy of a dictator wearing a crimson shirt.

Mrs. T. J. Taylor Is Bridge Club Hostess

Mrs. T. J. Taylor was hostess to her bridge club and invited guests on Wednesday evening of last week.

Winter greenery and berries were used in the rooms where three tables were placed for playing. After several progressions were enjoyed Mrs. Dick Taylor was awarded high score prize for the club and Mrs. Beaman Helms received high score prize for guests. Mrs. Jim Taylor, a recent bride was remembered with a gift by the hostess.

During the game Mrs. Taylor served soft drinks and peanuts and at refreshment time straw berry short cake and coffee was served to the following—Mey Taylor, T. R. Wilson, Clyde Liske, W. G. Collier, D. E. Bennett, Houston Fuller, R. A. Daniel, Roderick Meikle and W. D. Hall.

Wildlife Federation Meeting To Be Held In Winston-Salem

The North Carolina Wildlife Federation's third Annual Meeting will be held in Winston-Salem on January 23 and 25. Headquarters will be the Robert E. Lee Hotel. Several nationally known speakers including Carl D. Sauer, maker of the National Wildlife Federation will be on the program. Federation President P.K. Gravelly of Rocky Mount will preside and give a report. Wendell Tesh, president of the Forsyth County Wildlife Club, and Dr. Fred Garvey, both of Winston-Salem, are in charge of local arrangements and have promised several entertainment features. Election of Officers for 1948 will be held at the business session. Officers are president, three vice presidents, and secretary and treasurer.

Keep your foot on the curb and out of the grave, the National Conservation Bureau warns pedestrian. During winter months, when early darkness overtakes the peak traffic period of 6 to 7 p.m. more pedestrians are killed than at any other time. Look both ways, cross only on the signal and at designated crossing places, the man on foot was warned.

Mrs. Jay Thompson and Mrs. Lloyd Allen spent Saturday in Richmond.

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92 Counties Prepare For Relief Drive

Durham, N. C., January 17—92 counties throughout North Carolina are this week making final preparation for participation in the state-wide overseas relief collection to be held January 25-February 1, the Rev. Julian A. Lindsey, state director of the campaign has announced from the state office at Durham. With their goal "Fill a Ship with Friendship" communities across North Carolina will gather up clothing, shoes, bedding and other needed relief supplies for the needy abroad. Participation of the Negro population of the state is being enlisted with the help of co-director, R. E. Jones, state extension agent for Negro work. Everywhere churches, schools, civic and service groups and other organizations are uniting to realize the goal of the drive in their communities.

Need overseas, Mr. Lindsey points out, far from being over, has mounted since the war's end. It is difficult to imagine the suffering winter has brought, especially in cities where, with practically no coal available, people collect wood scraps to burn. Where cities were bombed and burned, almost nothing is left for fuel is left. Clothing is needed to replace the garments people have worn almost constantly through months of hard-

ship. Shoes must be had to enable men and women to continue work and to allow children to attend school.

House-to-house collections of materials throughout the state will make possible the shipment of aid to many thousands of suffering human beings. All goods are being shipped directly from North Carolina to the Church World Service Center at New Windsor, Md. Communities are arranging their own shipment, often directly by truck or railroad box car. All materials are sent pre-paid.

The Center at New Windsor, largest of nine maintained throughout the United States by Church World Service, international relief agency of the Protestant churches can pack for shipment fifty thousand pounds of goods a day. Help is sent to more than 40 countries

overseas, where it is distributed through churches and church institutions to those in most need.

Materials being collected to "Fill a Ship with Friendship" include: clothing of all kinds, blankets, sheets, shoes, galoshes, rubbers, (all footwear tied in pairs), tools, feed and flour sacks, soap, can-

dles, silverware, felt hats, farm tools and harness, and kitchen utensils.

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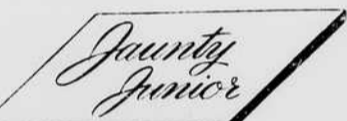
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