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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1946

TOP O' THE MORNING

Words are such mighty things, dear Lord,
May I so yielded be
That Christ who spake as never man,
May ever speak through me.

Selected.

New Sanatorium

Wilmington and New Hanover county are still feeling the benefits of the Red Cross sanatorium, which had to be discontinued when the Army, after taking over Bluethenthal airfield, extended the reservation almost to the sanatorium's back door. This is shown by the comparatively low incidence of tuberculosis.

The information comes from Dr. T. David Smith, Duke University medical school and president of the state Tuberculosis Association, in an address before the New Hanover Health and Tuberculosis Association, when he urged that the Red Cross retreat be superseded by another that the gains from its operation may not be lost and spread of the disease, which is no respecter of persons, be prevented. "The county organization," he added, "is well set up for case finding and now is the opportune time for a sanatorium."

Because building materials are still scarce an immediate start might not be made. But there is no reason why all preliminary arrangements should not be completed, so that when the time comes for construction there would be no excuse for delay.

The county government has a great responsibility for this undertaking, in the cause of humanity.

Russia Invokes Veto

It was Russia that forced the veto provision's adoption at the San Francisco Security Conference. It is Russia that first invokes it.

The United States delegation at the London session of the Security Council had proposed that negotiation, which we may assume in this case means meditation, be undertaken in the Lebanon and Syria case, where British and French troops remain over Russia's protest.

It would seem impossible for the Moscow government to make its point stick as at least three of the five powers with veto rights—the United States, France and Britain—will stand against it and seven members of the Security Council voted for the United States proposal before Russia invoked the veto.

There can be no dispute that the Russians are well within their rights, but to have used the veto with the cards obviously stacked against them was ill advised. They have acted like a boy with a new kite who insists on trying it out on a stormy day, without considering that the wind will tear it to pieces.

"Above The Salt"

When former Governor O. Max Gardner of North Carolina was called to Washington for consultation with party leaders and subsequently was nominated for under-secretary of the Treasury, the man in the street was not slow in assuming that something more important than an assistant's post for him was under consideration.

As sometimes happens, the man in the street was right.

For, while Mr. Gardner is to be Mr. Vinson's under-secretary, he will in all probability serve most of the time as acting Treasurer, because Mr. Vinson's duties in connection with the world bank will keep him out of the capital much of the time.

There appears to be no doubt that the Senate will confirm his nomination promptly. Thus North Carolina will have a favored citizen "above the salt" at the official table.

Housing Proposal

Housing remains among the chief shortages throughout the country. North Carolina is no exception. It has remained for the Raleigh Times to propose an expedient, if not a cure. The paper has solicited relief from Secretary of the Navy Forrestal and the North Carolina Warehousemen's Association, the one for the use of idle ships, the other for unoccupied warehouses.

The idea is to have some of the idle naval and marine ships moored in the James river made available along the eastern shore where they might be docked or anchored in inland waterways where unhoused persons in that region could find refuge in them. Also, the Times points out, there are well-built, securely roofed tobacco warehouses all across the state. They might be turned over to eager tenants.

Quoting briefly from the Times:

"At the larger cities like Wilmington, Morehead City, Edenton, Elizabeth City, New Bern, Plymouth and Washington, many of the discarded Liberty ships, too slow for present traffic requirements, could be docked or anchored and fitted out as fairly comfortable living quarters for families of both veterans and civilians.

Then, too, there are barges like those General Eisenhower sent overland to cross the Rhine, which "could be parked in the Neuse river near Raleigh, as well as at Smithfield, Goldsboro and Kinston, or on the Tar at Louisburg, Tarboro and Greenville."

Such accomodations naturally are crude and inadequate, but as the Times adds, "the situation is urgent, and people are becoming desperate" for living places.

The proposal is so simple it is surprising that it was not advanced long ago.

Authority In Question

Because there is no reason to hope for any change in the decision of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's eligibility committee against the New Hanover High school in the McKoy case, the local school has dropped its protest, with result that no official recognition will be forthcoming of the basketball team's' outstanding record, despite the undisputed fact that C. E. McIntosh, secretary of the association, gave permission to Coach Brogden to play McKoy in the Durham game, which precipitated the complaint.

It is not inappropriate to ask, if the association secretary has authority to rule on the eligibility of a pupil to play, and has given consent after necessary questions have been satisfactorily answered by the particular school in this instance, New Hanover County High school—why does the eligibility committee reverse his ruling? The inference that he either lacks authority or the eligibility committee has no confidence in his decisions is inescapable. Equally inescapable is the fact that southeastern North Carolina has no representative on the eligibility committee, and that six members of this committee are also members of the execution committee, the only group to which the New Hanover High school athletic authorities could have appealed.

Notwithstanding the eligibility committee's failure to support the association secretary's original decision, the fact remains that the New Hanover High School's basketball team has won all but one of its conference games, being defeated only by the Durham team, which it in turn defeated here. They may not be in the association's records, but the victories themselves are above questioning.

Fair Enough

By WESTBROOK PEGLER
(Copyright, 1946, by King Features Syndicate.)

Throughout his career in the Cabinet, there were many Americans who thought that the title of Honest Harold, bestowed on Mr. Ickes with sarcastic intent, was a gross exaggeration. Originally it referred to his suspicious nature which instinctively examined the motives of others.

"Honest Harold" implied full recognition of the probability that here was one new dealer at least who would not tap the till or drain off secret graft in one guise or another either for his personal gain or that of his sisters and his cousins and his aunt. In this commonplace virtue there was a sidelong criticism of the morals and ethics of his chief but it will be noted that Mr. Ickes' honesty was not so active as to evoke from him any public objection to such violations of his own code by his political betters. That a public servant be innocent of the larcenous instinct or that he resist it firmly would seem to be little enough to ask, but the personal fortunes of some who led the Roosevelt revolution show that it is not only a lot to expect of them but much too much.

Mr. Ickes leaves public office, but not the public eye and ear, self-styled a grasping and miserly fellow and with no dissenting opinion from those who know him best, but his most enthusiastic enemy will not allege that he got a dollar of his fortune illegally. To that extent, then, he is indeed "Honest Harold" but that is faint praise.

Honesty means more than that and by other tests Ickes flunked.

In the second new deal, Mr. Ickes toyed with a temptation to return to Chicago and run for mayor against Ed Kelly whom he piously regarded as a rascal in need of turning out. He was not a resident of Chicago in any publicly known sense of the term.

He actually resided in the suburbs of Washington and his only other registered home was on a street called, in his biography in Who's Who, "Private Road, Winnetka, Ills.," yet Mr. Ickes said he believed he could establish a fine legal residence in Chicago. His plans changed and he was not called on to prove domicile but the Kelly politicians naturally went searching and their conclusion was that Ickes had a vague technical claim to legal but fictitious residence in a room up near the eaves of an old hotel near the loop.

In 1940, Ickes had either changed his opinion of Ed Kelly or was stooping to conquer. At the height of that stupendously sordid brawl which nominated Mr. Roosevelt for his third term and Henry Wallace, amid boos, for his first in any elective office, Ickes was caught in flagrant association with the man he had so recently and ardently despised. He and Harry Hopkins, who, to his credit, as wisely never made an issue of his honesty, turned up in the company of not only Mr. Kelly, but that other despicable Fascist, according to the new deal Billingsgate of the time, Franke Hague, of Jersey City. The purpose of their huddle was not reform or civic virtue but the low, practical politics of the old-time smoke-filled room. They couldn't get along without the rascals and their wicked machines so, in that moral crisis, they decided to get along with them and turn to their own political service the very wickedness which they deplored.

Having his own gestapo in the Department of the Interior, Mr. Ickes cannot be presumed to have been ignorant of the $25,000 bite to which Judge Charles Harwood submitted in a rush act by Hall Roosevelt, the brother of Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, acting on behalf of Elliott and his radio chain. Ickes knows more scandal and gossip than any other one in Washington. Yet when the President named Harwood governor of the Virgin Islands, under the general management of Mr. Ickes, and even after the facts of the bite were presented in print, his honesty did not move him to repudiate the whole affair. In so doing he would have reflected on his late leader, the preservation of whose reputation, as we have been seeing, is more important than all considerations of virtue and decency in public affairs.

Mr. Ickes' own participation in the distribution of philatelic monstrosities of great value was in accordance with the new ethics of high office. No man can say he got a dishonest dollar there in the sense of illegal doing but he knew the value of such stamps and so his conduct will be called honest only by those who share his principles.

Mr. Ickes has always been a stout man in the fight for labor's gains, including the protection of the so-called common man from impudence and all manner of personal imposition by the bosses. Yet, like Fiorella LaGuardia, another honest man, in the same restricted sense, he was an overbearing executive in the Department of the Interior whose manners and methods in his relations with individuals who couldn't fight back would have had him up on serious charges before the Labor Relations Board had he used them in private industry.

Mr. Truman probably will be relieved to be rid of him once the noise subsides. The party is separating into its two natural divisions now and Ickes obviously belongs with Wallace, Hillman, Frankfurter and the few shameless fakers in the Senate who never had any principles and spoke pieces written for them by the left wing strictly for the sake of their jobs and invitations to parties in Washington. The Republicans might even think of nominating John L. Lewis in 1948 as the man to beat Wallace and his communist following, counting Truman out in advance.

Two mechanical dash errors of transmission in recent pieces are acknowledged and corrected. In the reflections of George Spelvin, American, reference was made to the founding of a fortune through opium smuggling by the grandfather of Mr. Roosevelt. As published, the word "grandmother" was substituted. There was no such intent. In a discussion of soldier demonstrations in Hawaii, the name of Ewart Guinier, a warrant officer, selected as a member of the GI committee to go to Washington, was changed in transmission to "Edward" Guinier. The first name is Ewart and the Dies Committee index lists Ewart Guinier as president of the New York district of the state, county and municipal workers of the CIO, which has been a selected stamping ground of communist agitators and organizers.

QUOTATIONS

You are making a serious mistake when you learn nothing from it.

* * *

Certain people tell the truth—uncertain ones are likely not to.

* * *

Spring styles already are on show. The more change in women's clothes, the less in men's.

* * *

The smart traveler wants to see America first. The smarter one wants to see it last—for ever and ever.

"LEFT" HOOK

Now The Situation Along The Strike Front Has Developed Into Pretty Pass

By JOHN SIKES

The strike situation has come to a pretty pass. Industry which makes the things you eat and wear and use and read appears not to be the only thing touched by strife.

Here is a story from St. Louis, sent over the wires of the United Press, which seems to me to be the height of the sitdown hiatus.

Suppose you just read the United Press story and make up your mind about the whole business:

"With hallelujahs and hosannas ringing, the prayerful sit-down strike of 30 members of the Negro House of Prayer church went through its fifth day Wednesday.

"The strikers have been in the church for four days and nights, praying all the time. They staged the sitdown to prevent the church owner, Prophet Harvey Ambro Green, from locking them out.

"Green said they could stay as long as they prayed. They prayed and stayed.

"Prophet Green was ousted as minister of the church at a protest meeting held by 85 of the congregation's 500 members on Feb. 4. He apparently accepted the decision and went to California, where he is pastor of the Metropolitan Church of Prayer at Los Angeles.

"The congregation then elected the Rev. Arthur Alphonse Smith, also of Los Angeles, as pastor. On Feb. 9, the parishoners petitioned the circuit court to transfer ownership of the church from Green to the congregation.

"When Prophet Green heard about that he wired one of his faithful flock to slap a padlock on the front door. On Saturday night, the church members broke the lock and the strike began.

"Sunday Green fled here by private plane from California for a surprise appearance at morning services. He mounted the rostrum and told the congregation:

" 'Jesus forgave and I forgive.'

"Or so he says he said. Members of the congregation said he told them to get out in unpastorlike terms.

" 'I speak evil of no man," Green said. "I respect the Rev. Smith.'

"In the next breath he announced he had filed a $100,000 slander suit against the Rev. Smith in California.

" 'He called me a female impersonator, among other things,' the prophet complained.

"The prophet said he was praying just like the strikers, 'But I doubt we are praying for the same thing'."

Until somebody else comes along with a better one, I'll put this up as the strike to end all strikes.

Religion Day By Day

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

OTHER HUNGRY

It is not easy, thought it is wholly Christian, to keep ever in mind the desperate plight of the suffering millions in Europe and Asia, and to aid them up to the very limit of our ability. Yet this is one clear test of our fitness to be citizens of One World.

But there is another hunger, widespread in our own land. It is the deep desire, expressed in many forms, for a clearer sense of God. Blind hands are everywhere reaching out for Him, and crying "Where may I find Him?' This spiritual restlessness and questing is one of the signs of our time.

Heart hunger is real hunger. It expresses itself in dissatisfaction with the prevailing mood for material things. Homes are being disrupted at a fearful rate. Lives are wasting time and substance and fineness of spirit, in night clubs, in low-grade movies and in sensuality-soaked literature. None of these bring real satisfaction.

What millions of us are consciously seeking is a clearer knowledge of God and of His will, and the possession of spiritual peace. A large part of the heart-hungry world is crying, with St. Augustine, "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our hearts will not be at rest until they rest in Thee."

Help us to give bread, O Lord, to the world's hungry millions; and the Bread of Life to starved spirits. Amen.

McKenney On BRIDGE

North: ♠ J 5 4 3 2 ♥ None ♦ 5 4 3 2 ♣ 5 4 3 2
West: ♠ None ♥ 8 7 6 5 4 ♦ 3 2 ♦ A K Q J 10 9 ♣ None
East: ♠ 10 9 8 7 6 ♥ None ♦ 8 7 6 ♣ 10 9 8 7 6
South (Dealer): ♠ A K Q ♥ A K Q J 10 ♦ None ♣ A K Q J
22

By WILLIAM E. McKENNEY
Americia's Card Authority

No discussion of freak hands would be complete without the "Mississippi Heart Hand." This hand has never been authenticated and was probably made up by some practical jokester, or possibly by some dishonest gambler. The record of it goes back to the old Mississippi River steamboat days and, according to the story, it was supposed originally to have been dealt at whist.

If it were realt today at contract, I suppose that South would simply open the bidding with seven hearts, which West would be inclined to double. It looks as though South should take every trick, but actually he can take only six tricks, his six high trumps.

When the king of diamonds is opened, it has to be trumped by South, with the nine of hearts. Neither the ace-king-queen of spades, nor the ace-king-queen-jack of clubs will take any tricks, as West ruffs both suits.

STAR Dust

Pianissimo

A certain well-known Broadway producer, despite an abysmal ignorance concerning all things musical, has won several fortunes promoting musical comedies. Considering the following incident, one is inclined to ask "How?"

At the rehearsal of one of his shows, this gentleman listened to the orchestra and then shouted, "Too loud; too loud."

"Do you think so?" asked the conductor respectively.

"Yes," replied the producer. "Tell the violins to play only on one string." — Clipped.

The Literary Guidepost

By W. G. ROGERS

Starling of The White House, as told to Thomas Sugrue by Col. Edmund W. Starling (Simon & Schuster; $3).

Starling bossed five Presidents. For 30 years he was attached to watches over their lives, and for the Secret Service detail which a good part of the time he was in charge. When he told them that, without too great personal risk, they must do this or couldn't do that, they had to mind.

An honest-to-goodness Kentucky colonel, he went to Washington in 1914 after a career as deputy sheriff and railroad detective. He was with Wilson when we entered the first World War, with Roosevelt when we entered the second. He died in 1944 just after Sugrue finished the manuscript of this unusual book.

Occupying a unique position from which to observe national leaders, he is at his best when he tells some of the little things which he alone knew, or alone would bother to recount:

That Wilson wouldn't let the barber snip the hairs inside his ears, and that he was jealous of the dutiful attentions of his Secret Service man to the second Mrs. Wilson; that State Secretary Hughes could blush and stutter that he was no gambler when Harding forced on him $33 won in a golf game; that Coolidge could ask him to "lend me ten" and mean ten cents with which to buy roasted chestnuts; that Hoover got more nervous as the depression got worse until at Rapidan he would catch his fishhook in his pants, coat and hat.

The most entertaining stories concern Coolidge, who planned a hunting and fishing trip with Starling when they left the White House. There are very interesting pages, too, about the elaborate preparations made to guard the President: about Harding's death, on which, as Starling recalls, Steve Early scored a 25-minute beat for the AP; on the Harding and Coolidge funerals.

This is the stuff of history even if it is small potatoes, and you'll enjoy every word, or mouthful. But it should be added that a man who has seen one President with his face lathered and another in his oversize underwear is probably no better equipped than the rest of us to pass judgment on the League of Nations campaign, the Teapot Dome probe, or any need to return to God to straighten out the world's affairs.

Height Of Indignity

The dentist, after long and futile efforts to collect a bill for the false teeth he had made a patient, finally took the matter to court.

Facing the judge as one whose exasperation has reached its height, he said: "Not only did he refuse to pay me, your honor, but he had the effrontery to gnash at me repeatedly with my teeth!" — Wall Street Journal

Open Letters

ADEQUATE AUDITORIUM

Mr. A. C. Nichols city Mgr,
Wilmington, NC

Dear Sir.

If eight hundred thousand dollars is to be put into an auditorium it should be modern and take care of all the city's needs. The city has been without a dance floor for a long time large enough for various civic clubs to bring popular orchestras to Wilmington during the winter months. Lumina at Wrightsville beach will take care of this during the summer months. In planning this auditorium special attention should be given to this idea; if a modern dance floor with a balcony for spectators is provided in planning the city will receive much revenue from dances alone that will go a far ways in the upkeep of the auditorium. I venture to say that during the winter months the dance floor could be rented once a week to some civic club in Wilmington at a rate of one hundred per night, that is if proper planning is made in auditorium.

A.S.B.

Wilmington, N. C.

PRICE CONTROL
Feb. 21, 1946

Washington, D.C.
Hon. J. Bayard Clark, M.C.,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Bayard:

I am attaching hereto copy of letter which I have written Senators Bailey and Hoey outlining my views in regard to the extension of the price-control program.

I hope you also will lend your support towards attaining the results I have suggested.

Nathan S. Haskell.

Hon. Josiah W. Bailey,
United States Senator,
Washington, D. C.

Hon. Clyde R. Hoey,
United States Senator,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Senators:

I wish to preface my remarks in this communication by stating that I am unalterably opposed to any "planned economy", but under present conditions in our country it is my studied opinion that the security of our future is dependent upon the continuation for at least another year, after June 30th next, of a strong price control.

While scarcity of goods is the principal thing that can and does make inflation possible, inflation can be prevented or held down by controlling prices.

The price-control program, although performing miracles during the war period, has been hampered by weakening amendments, introduced in the Senate and House. One of the main reasons why full benefits have not been accomplished from this program has been occasioned by the cutting of appropriations to OPA in the past, and a large part of any inefficiency is atrributable to this action of the Congress.

Those of us who have lived through both periods know that if it had not been for OPA the cost of living would have increased at least 100 per cent during World War II, judging from what happened to prices in a much shorter time in World War I.

The immediate renewal by the Congress of the price-control and rent-control legislation which now expires on June 30th next, is an essential prerequisite for the Nations's successful transition to high level postwar employment, production, and national income.

It is my opinion that we are faced with the imminent threat of a runaway price and rent inflation, unless these programs are continued for at least another year and that appropriations are made which are sufficient to assure that the regulations will be complied with. In the face of major and acute shortages in consumer durable goods, clothing and housing, the record-breaking demand will precipitate inflation unless prices are held down, until the supply of scarce goods comes into approximate balance with postwar demand.

The people of our Country have not forgotten the post World War I inflation which ended in an economic crash and an acute depression and this experience after World War I emphasizes the immediate and pressing need for renewing, strengthening and maintaining price and rent controls. In a short while after World War I the cost of living soared and reached a peak 108 percent above the prewar level and a repetition of this, which of necessity would be on a larger scale, would mean economic chaos.

Last fall, as we all know, some manufacturers and business-men held back goods from the market because they wanted to make profits this year after the repeal of the excess-profit tax. Unless immediate steps are taken to renew the controls, so that many manufacturers, builders and other business-men will curb production to hold back goods in hopes of higher prices after the end of price-control.

The renewal, strengthening and extension of price and rent controls will safeguard reconversion. The business-man will know that it will pay him to get capacity operation going as quickly as possible in a seller's market, where he can sell anything and every

(Continued on Page Eight)