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LABOR AND DEFENSE

This newspaper for a number of years has stood solidly behind the efforts of organized labor to secure better wages and better working conditions for laborers of all classes and creeds. In our stead we have supported a majority of the strikes and movements to lift the American working man from a plane of servility to one of respect, because we felt that there was justifiable cause for most of the protests that have come from even individuals, as well as labor organization.

For some reason or another, we can't quite believe that this latest strike called by the C.I.O. in the coal mines of this country is above reproach. We think that John L. Lewis, erstwhile president of the organization, and leader of the C. I. O., is doing more to hurt the cause of labor, by his dogmatic attitude toward the appeals of President Franklin D. Roosevelt to keep the nation's coal mines in operation during this national crisis, than any gains that might be made by calling the strike.

Frankly we do not propose to know all the inside ramifications of the dispute now going on between the employers and the employers in the coal mines in question. We do know however, that most of the miners are working for far better wages than the soldiers who have been drafted from their jobs and homes into the service of the national defense—many at great sacrifices.

The fact that the miners are not striking for higher wages—but a closed shop, implies that they are fairly well satisfied with existing wage scale, and are merely looking around for some reason to raise hell about. We do not think that now is the time to raise hell about a closed shop or an open shop. On the contrary, we think it is time for every true American to bend every effort toward furnishing those soldiers in our training camps with every piece of equipment they need for their training lest we have no mines in which to work.

The right to strike, the right of free speech and a free press are rights that only exist under a democratic form of government. When appeals to reason coming from the chief executive of the nation are scoffed at and even ignored by autocratic labor leaders, we think it is time to call a halt, lest the very right to strike and other rights we enjoy be forever taken from us. The exercise of the rights of a democracy are never safe when they are in the keeping of those who do not believe in and practice democracy.

John L. Lewis may have a personal hatred of President Roosevelt, but he should not be permitted to allow that hatred to interfere with the defense efforts of the national government.

WORTHY OF COMMENDATION

For several years Herman H. Riddick, has taught biology at the Hillside Park High school and coached the football team of that institution. As we understand it students who come under him and pass his work are among the best in the subject he teaches when they go to college. Every one who has ever seen a Riddick-coached football team will witness to the fact that they are well trained and play the game better than many college teams.

We think that Herman Riddick is due a word of praise for the fine record he has made in the classroom, and in training several great football teams at Hillside high school. His record ought to cause those who have the job of coaching football at the white high school to wonder how he does it. As we understand it the coach at the white high school has no classes to teach, but can devote his entire time to athletics, and thereby should be more successful in producing championship teams than Riddick, who must teach classes, and get no salary for coaching.

Although the white high school has turned out good teams and several championship eleven's, it has not monopolized the high school championship of the state as Riddick has done since taking over the helm of the local Negro high school eleven.

We almost forget to tell you about the lack of equipment to be found at Hillside, the absence of a gymnasium and other shortcomings that are not to be found at the white high school.

We think that Durham owes to Herman Riddick a debt of gratitude for his fine leadership of young men, as well as his ability as a coach and teacher. We think he has proved beyond a doubt that they who are forced because of circumstances to fight to move obstacles from their path are often listed among the great and noble. We salute Herman Riddick.

Between the Lines

(By Dean Gordon B. Hancock for the ANP)

POLITICAL PIDDLING; DICTATORSHIP NEEDED HERE TO FIGHT DICTATORS

There is being enacted before our eyes one of the most brilliant examples of national and international piddling history has ever known. We talk about fiddling that Nero did while Rome was burning; but the way the democracies piddle while the dream-city of democracy burns is not only alarming but it is positively tragic. Many months ago this column contended that slow-moving democracies could not measure efficiencies with swift-moving and regimented dictatorships; that democracy worked well in times of peace, but very poorly in times of crisis; that wherever democracy has met and successfully combated dictatorship, certain democratic notions had to be sublimated for the moment.

Freedom of speech is a fine thing in times of peace, but it becomes exceedingly dangerous in times of war. At a time when we should be concentrating everything on getting this nation's mind made up to fight a war that is inevitable, we are still crying "freedom of speech" with the result that our councils are divided and the people are confused and the nation is just piddling around. Whether we have a dictatorship or not, we certainly need one, and that very badly; and we must have one if the entire nation is not to become a vassal of Germany and a hench-nation like Vichy, France.

The use of the democracies are making of the ideology raises the question whether or not the United States and Great Britain really deserve democracy. Nations who play so carelessly with the vital matters involved raise grave questions by their procedure. Our isolationist group is so sure of itself that they are positively defiant and proceed to embarrass the President in every conceivable way. There can be no greater political tragedy than that our great President is handcuffed by a bunch of political piddlers who are gambling the lives of millions of the nation's youth for the next election.

It appeals us to think of what might have happened had not Hitler made the fatal mistake of invading Russia instead of England. England's war-whoop has become a mere whimper. Only God knows what would have become of this once mighty nation had not Russia come indirectly to the rescue. It is even more appalling to surmise what

we would do if England and Russia were suddenly removed from the combat as there are reasons to fear they will.

It is hard to tell just who is running this country, Roosevelt or Wheeler. Besides a lot of squabbling and "political piddling" we are not doing much in this country. The die-hard Republicans are trying to utilize the critical hour for their advantage; the nation is still trying to place prejudice above the welfare of the people. The nefarious attempt to circumscribe the Negro is too often taking precedence of national security. The Negro is still trying to break into the war we are almost certain to fight. The Negro is still this nation's super-patriot for none but a super-patriot would try to force his way into the front lines of the battle for a democracy that has not functioned too satisfactorily.

It is hard to avoid the conclusion that Russia is being left to destruction of the German armies because the democracies fear what may happen if communist Russia survives. We are asking questions about Russia and her religions as if it were our business. Russia could with equal propriety ask us questions about our democracy and how it has not functioned in regard to the Negro. Or with equal propriety Russia could question our religion; for God knows that it has failed lamentably in many a color situation. To attempt to high-hat Russia because of her attitude towards religion is just about as silly as it would be for Russia to high-hat Uncle Sam because of the way that democracy has been misused and abused in this country.

When we begin investigating Russia's religion, she could begin asking questions not only about our religion but our vaunted democracy. This would be equivalent to a quarrel between the kettle and the pot over the kitchen color question. We want Russia's aid whether we admit it or not but if we do not want it we most certainly need it. Russia is our benefactor whether we acknowledge it or not for we verily need the time we are getting through her valiant defense.

While the Germans are fighting the democracies are just piddling around. Our congressional piddlers and their piddling makes a real patriot sick at heart. Whoever heard tell of a man whose house was on fire raise the question as to the political or religious affiliations of the firemen?

REALISTIC THINKING

By Ruth Taylor

The present decade may be an age of realism, and the time may call for realistic thinking, as some men say. But too often realism has meant stooping to the mire, reflecting only the ugly, rather than reaching upwards toward the beauty of the stars. Realism has its value—but the great things of life have been done by the dreamers—by those who looked ahead and then made their dreams come true.

Thoreau once said: "If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put foundations under them." This is the task confronting the practical dreamers of today. They do not deny the evil and ugliness abroad in the world. They do, however, look through and beyond and build, even if only in visions, the world as it should be—a place where all groups and individuals can and will recognize each other's rights as they recognize their own obligations, where all peoples, regardless of race or creed or color can work together in a spirit of cooperation, and live together in mutual trust, friendship and brotherhood.

The dream of a world such as this must be fulfilled. Firm foundations must be built for it.

BIBLE VERSE—

"If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin; but now have they both seen and hated both Me and My Father. —John Ch. XVI, V. 24.



Don't Let This Happen to You

By C. C. Spaulding, President North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Company.

During the inflation period that accompanied the first world war, some farmers, misled by what seemed to be an era of prosperity, mortgaged the farms they already owned in order to secure additional land. When the depression set in, many of them lost not only the additional land, but the farms they already owned. The lesson to be learned is: Never mortgage land you already own in order to purchase additional land, during periods of inflation.

At present the nation is passing through a period of almost profitless prosperity. How long it will last is open to question. It is therefore advisable, now now while money is plentiful, to pay up debts and place one's personal affairs on a sound, consistent basis.

Those of us who saw the world war and witnessed its aftermath, are in position to anticipate to some extent what may be expected after the present war is over. Then, the flow of money that seemed inexhaustible, dried up seemingly overnight. The nation experienced one of the worst depressions. Bread lines appeared. Thousands were out of employment, and those who were fortunate enough to hold jobs, were called upon to support those without employment and in need. Such was the picture immediately following the first world war, and it is entirely within the realm of things possible, that a similar condition may follow in the wake of the conflict that is now being waged.

What is the lesson to be learned, and what is the safe course to follow now that we may be confronted with a similar situation? Then, a life insurance policy was about the only security on which money, in the form of loans, was obtainable. Then, a life insurance policy represented one of the very few investments that did not decrease in value, but paid a hundred cents for the dollar in every instance.

Life insurance has stood the test and should be of first consideration in safeguarding the emergency that may soon confront us. For a long time investment, after sufficient life insurance has been secured, invest in Defense Bonds. They are not only as sound as the Government itself, but will make possible the means whereby the democratic form of government we love and enjoy may be perpetuated. Time has proved that the institutions as well as the individuals who laid a foundation of preparedness during periods of prosperity, practice economy, and adher-

ed to sound, conservative methods, were those who weathered former depressions and survived.

The whole economic situation has always moved in cycles. We are going to continue to have wars followed by depressions, and only those who are sane in their thinking and actions weather the storm. While the economic and social conditions for Negroes are not what we should like for them to be, we who have lived for the past forty or fifty years realize a gradual improvement in interracial tolerance, cooperation, and goodwill. Judging the depths from which we have come, and, realizing the traditional prejudice that exists between the different racial groups, we, who constitute a minority group, should continue to make friends and not enemies of the liberal-minded people who reside in our communities. Racial differences cannot be solved in a wholesale fashion or by vilifying those of the dominant group. As stated by the late Booker T. Washington: "We shall succeed, not by abstract discussion, not by depending upon making empty demands, not by abuse of some other individual or race, but we will succeed by actually demonstrating to the world that we can perform the service which the world needs, as well or better than anyone else.

Our future will depend on our own initiative, character, and ability to meet American standards and requirements. It should not be forgotten that the pioneering Negroes wrought well. It was they who founded the schools, churches, and successful business institutions that are today owned and operated by Negroes. If succeeding generations hope to succeed, it is expedient that they employ to a large extent the procedure employed by our forefathers.

In order to compete with other groups, the race must cultivate more self-respect and practice the spirit of cooperation. Let us ask ourselves frankly: How many successful business institutions have been organized during the past decade? What is the cause of failures among our group? You will probably find the answer to be, lack of judgement, lack of ability to fit into difficult situations, and too often lack of integrity. It is suggested that the youth of the land seek to take advantage of the opportunities made possible by our pioneers, rather than center their attention on the disadvantages, pro-

scriptions and discriminations to which we are, as a minority group, subjected.

It is regrettable but true, that while Negroes comprise approximately 28 percent of North Carolina's population, over 55 percent of the prison population is Negro; that of approximately 393 persons put to death in the state during the past 30 years, over 300 of them were Negroes. These are the conditions, and the causes call for serious thought on the part of us all.

It is not conceded that the Negro must of necessity constitute an inferior race solely on account of color, but unquestionably he will continue to be discriminated against in proportion as we learn to glorify and dignify labor and put brains and skill into the common occupation of life. The country's need for skilled mechanics caught the Negro almost wholly unprepared. Our economic status has developed to the point where the common occupations of life can be dispensed with. It is still necessary that we work with our hands. This being true, we should stress the necessity for vocational training, and develop the youth of the race to the point, that regardless of the emergency, we will find ourselves prepared.

The future is still bright for the race or individual who is prepared, for "if history teaches any one lesson more thoroughly than another, it is that successful effort in constructive, productive work is what counts in getting a race upon its feet." Wars will follow war. Depressions will again be with us. Now is the time for the Negro to take stock—to visualize future possibilities. "We must not only be reliable, progressive, skillful, and intelligent, but we must keep the idea constantly before our youths that all forms of labor, whether with the hand or head, are honorable," and if we are to attain our rightful place in the American form of life, we must be prepared to take advantage of the opportunities that are available to the individual or race that is prepared.

When the unsettled times through which we are now passing have returned to normal, many who are now profitably employed will again find themselves without work. Save while the opportunity is yours. Should misfortune overtake you and you find yourself numbered with the unemployed, your difficulties will be multiplied many times if during this period of prosperity you fail to lay aside some-

How To Win Friends—And Influence . . . Yourself

Do you have as many friends as you desire? Of course, we have a friend or two whom we have known since we first started to school; but what about you whose friends have moved away or gone to another school? You know how it feels "on the outside looking in." If this is your case, instead of waiting for those you wish to have as friends to come to you, why don't you do something to win their friendship.

When passing someone in the halls, rather than mumbling "hi" in a dazed sort of way . . . why not speak and try for one whole day — say tomorrow — greeting every one you meet with a smile.

Before this month is out, do something nice for someone . . . from whom you know positively that you may expect no return. Be kind to everyone with whom you come in contact for one whole day regardless of their treatment of you. For the next two weeks find something kind or appreciative to say to each member of your family every day . . . for it is just as important to have those of your immediate family for your friends as to have the friendship of that nice looking boy across the street.

If you crave popularity, don't criticize. Criticism is like pouring boiling oil over a plant. Everytime you catch yourself on the verge of indulging in sarcasm or criticism, check yourself. If you can't think of something pleasant to substitute, be silent, even if it means biting off the end of your tongue.

Now that you have these points in mind there is just one other thing to remember, to start you on the road to popularity and it is that old saying: If you would have friends you must first be one. Don't look at a person and say, "He doesn't like me" — look at him and say, "I like him."

DISNEY WOULD HAVE PROVED IT

Corp. Marc Daniels of Co. G., 34th Infantry, was a promising young theatrical director in New York, prior to being inducted into the Army. He apparently neglected to leave his showmanship behind, and his most recent flight of imagination nearly won a battle in the Carolina maneuvers.

Corporal Daniels was ordered by his commanding officer, Lt. S. J. Carville, to lead a squad on a reconnaissance of the "enemy" lines. Approaching the danger zone, Corporal Daniels made the acquaintance of a large snapping turtle which he picked up and put in his knapsack. A few minutes later the squad was attacked by the advancing enemy. The foray ended in a stalemate, and an umpire was called in to decide which side could advance.

The umpire questioned the leaders of each contingent, being particularly concerned with an accounting of strength. Corporal Daniels totaled the strength of his unit as "9 riflemen, 1 automatic rifleman, and 1 armored unit." The umpire was puzzled, and after conferring for several minutes with other umpires, demanded concrete evidence of the "armored unit."

Corporal Daniels sheepishly opened his knapsack and introduced the guileless turtle with his armor plate.

Army will start training first air-borne infantry battalion.

Ickes says it would be "stupid" to ease gasoline rules.

Wickard promises farmers high prices for production rise.

Lewis D. Douglas sees Hitler as menace to insurance.

U. S. to subsidize cotton to counter Brazilian exporters.

thing for the lean years that may follow. Should another depression follow in the wake of the present war, it will in all probability be far worse than the one through which we have just passed. Want and suffering will strike at many homes now carefree and happy. Prepare for the worst now. Don't let it happen to you.