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 INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, NOV. 24, 1938

Thanksgiving

Today is the day set apart for general thanksgiving throughout America. The blessings of the American people are too numerous for enumeration. But let us again thank God that we live in a free country. Let us be grateful that we have the liberty to possess something and call it ours. Let us be thankful that we are not serfs of the state. Let us give thanks for the freedom of worshipping God as we choose. Millions in the world today have lost that privilege.

Let us in America be grateful that we live in a country which has 44 per cent of the wealth of the world and a great majority of the things made to make life more pleasant. Let us give thanks for the privilege of working out our own destiny, even though we make a mess of it often. The early settlers who celebrated the first day of thanksgiving at harvest time had no easy road to follow. We should be thankful that we in America have such a heritage. If we more deeply appreciated the hardships and toil of our ancestors, maybe we would not complain so much. Let us be thankful that we retain the good sense to remember the warning... "With all the nations that forget God."

Fate let us be born in this great country among so many good people, why shouldn't we be grateful?

The Trend To The City

For years socially-minded people have been bemoaning the trend of the human race toward the big cities and away from the country and small towns. Now, however, Government statisticians have figured that there is a decided movement of population away from the cities and back to the country. The automobile is principally responsible for this. It is possible for people to live in rural regions and work in the big towns, and there is a growing desire to get away from the noise of the cities and to live in smaller and quieter country places. Most people have an idea that country life is the normal life of humanity, and that there is something modern and unnatural in city life. The exact opposite is true, we are told by the anthropologists who spend their lives digging into the history of the human race. Primitive man lived in cities, as big cities as he could build. Life anywhere else was too dangerous. Man is not only a gregarious animal, fond of the society of his kind, but very early in his development he learned that the open spaces were full of dangers. There is nothing to be concerned about in the growth of towns. Probably the largest cities will not get much larger. Indeed, the largest of all, the Island of Manhattan, is losing population. There are as many people as ever, if not more, who go to New York daily for work, but who sleep in some of the outlying boroughs of the city, or in adjacent counties or even in other states. The steam engine is responsible for the big modern cities. When large-scale factory industries were started power could not be transmitted farther than the length of a belt. Now electric power is available everywhere, and the tendency is to build factories near where the people live, instead of making them move to the factory town.

Challenge To Congress

News dispatches from the nation's capitol indicate that the treasury department may recommend to congress lowering income tax bases. It is proposed that income of married men be

taxed from \$1,500 up and single persons from \$750 up. Congress may balk at the suggestion because it is full of political dynamite. But a congress convening in a year when the federal deficit is about four billion dollars, more money than the average mind can comprehend, has a clear cut duty and that is to do something about it. This nation cannot continue forever spending far more than it takes in. If congress fails to take remedial steps and our democracy suffers from such failure, then congress will have by wilful neglect harmed every citizen in the nation. There are two things congress can do. It can revise the tax structure to get more revenue, and cut expenses. There is a broader field for the latter course, but it will take both to strike anything with a semblance of balance. Representatives are elected every two years. Lowering income tax bases and finding sources of revenue are unpopular. Cutting down government expenses, especially when re-election hinges on patronage, is also unpopular. It will take a courageous congress to perform its whole duty. Returns show 1,146 citizens of Ashe county physically unable to get to polling places on election day. And we thought that mountain climate was healthful!

ACHIEVEMENT TALKS By LUCIUS HUMPHREY Author of "It Shall Be Done Unto You"

"Our Mind Is God."—Plato. He was young, tall, well-built and handsome. Yet he entered my office with a lost hand-dog air. He did not look directly at me for more than a moment at a time, but watched his feet and his strong, restless hands. I said to 'Y' (as I shall call him) as casually as possible:

"You can tell me what the trouble is, for I have talked with hundreds of men with the most serious problems. You might begin by telling me why you think of your own personality as insignificant."

This is what he said: "Why do I feel ineffective and inferior in the presence of others? Why don't girls like me? Why do men never take me seriously? Why does no one really care what happens to me?"

"Don't you think," I ventured, "that your apparent unpopularity may be due to your own belief that people don't like you. For some reason you feel unworthy of their liking. Tell me how you really think of yourself, what mental pictures you have made of your life."

'Y' fairly burst into speech. He was sure that people held him in contempt. Shamefully he admitted that he had tried to win approval by imitating the speech, manner and gestures of men who were popular.

"Don't you know," I interjected, "that an imitator is always weak, because he knows that his poses are nothing but imitations? Do you know that what you really think about yourself—the mental images of yourself which you build up—are the most potent factors in shaping your whole life?"

The poor young fellow at length confessed that he had felt himself so unloved and unappreciated—such an outcast—that he had seriously contemplated suicide.

"Start now, as you sit here," I urged "to make a mental motion picture of yourself as you would like to be; actually see yourself as popular and successful. Then maintain this vigorous, positive, mental picture, no matter what temptations to fear and doubt arise in your Habitual Mind, that phase of your mind which deals usually only with outward things and with the works and thoughts of other men. By creating forceful and positive mental pictures of yourself, you are using the Christ Mind, which is in direct contact with the Higher Intelligence, the God Mind, the source of all strength, inspiration and new ideas—able to transform your entire life." The boy promised to follow my directions. Within six months 'Y' because of the general confidence and popularity which he inspired, had been selected to head and manage a big country club near his city—a highly responsible position for a boy of his age. Shortly afterwards an older man saw such possibilities in 'Y' that he backed him heavily in an investment. 'Y' made good in the most thorough-going manner.

Sunday School Lesson

International Sunday School Lesson For November 27, 1938

Golden Text: "Thou shalt not steal." Exodus 20:15.

Lesson Text: Exodus 20:15; Matthew 19:16-22; Luke 19:1-10, 45, 46; 20:9-16

The apparent utter disregard of the rights of others, both as to person and property, is the basis for most of the criminality in the world today. There is a dire need for the teaching of and acceptance of the right of ownership. From earliest childhood, individuals should be taught to respect the property of another. Some years ago, a well known economist, after much study, estimated that stealing, through fraud, burglary, robbery, and thefts, cost the people of this country more than two and a half billion dollars each year. This staggering sum could be materially reduced if our people would put into practice this Eighth Commandment, "Thou shalt not steal."

Dr. G. S. Dobbins says, "There are many reasons why there must be a law against stealing. The two kinds of crime that have afflicted humanity most universally throughout the ages have been crimes against the person of others and crimes against property. Unless these two types of criminality are dealt with vigorously and successfully, there can be no secure social order. In a stable civilization, the sacredness of human life comes first, and then must be guaranteed the sacredness of property rights. If, without fear of punishment, were allowed to take the property of others by theft or by force, there could be no orderly government or industry. Theft degrades the thief, and so brings on degeneration of personality. Theft wrongs the one from whom the property is stolen, since it takes from him the fruits of his labor. Theft is an offense against God; hence it is in defiance of his moral law and is in contempt of his holy nature. A world made up of thieves would be an impossible world for human beings to live in. Selfishness, for the most part, is the basic cause for stealing. The desire to possess something which belongs to another, the desire to get something without expending the necessary effort in time and physical energy, causes some to sink to the level of taking that certain thing, either by stealth, at the point of a gun or through fraudulent manipulations. There are other forms of dishonesty, however, which are not outright stealing. Hypocrisy is absolute dishonesty—the pretense of being something when down in your heart you know you are not sincere. Jesus condemned this form of dishonesty most severely. Honesty lives in one's soul and should be practiced in our everyday living. Jesus' dealing with Zaccheus illustrates how he dealt with a dishonest man. Instead of condemning one whom everyone knew to be crooked, he had fellowship with Zaccheus in his home and gave him the opportunity of appreciating the beauty and desirability of a pure and good life, with the result that Zaccheus caught the vision for himself and immediately went to work to purify his life by attacking the most glaring sin of which he was conscious. The genuineness of his conversion is attested by the fact that he immediately declared his intention of giving half of his wealth to the poor and of restoring four-fold to those whom he had cheated.

Jesus used another method in dealing with dishonesty when he came to the temple and found tricking and robbing their fellowmen by selling animals for sacrifices at exorbitant prices and of bringing the business of the world into the sacred precincts of God's House. Taking a scourge, he drove these men out of the temple, exclaiming, "It is written, My House is a house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." Regardless of the exigencies of modern times, it still remains true as Pope declared, "An honest man's noblest work of God." The same truth that applies to individuals also applies to large business corporations and to nations. If all persons and all nations in the world were only reasonably honest in their dealings, how much more pleasant would be the relationships in the world. Nations

Thanksgiving Worship



OYSTER SUPPER AT WILKESBORO

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Wilkesboro Episcopal church sponsored an oyster supper in the community house at Wilkesboro last Thursday. Oysters were served to an unusually large crowd and everybody went away feeling that they had been well repaid for coming.

Doubles The Interest
 Beggar—Spare me a copper, sir.
 Business Man—I haven't time now—call again tomorrow.
 Beggar—The impudence, asking for credit in these hard times.

and individuals need always to keep in mind the words of this Eighth Commandment of God "Thou shalt not steal."

Whang
 "How are you getting along at school, Henry?" asked the father.
 "Fine," answered the son. "I have learned to say 'thank you' in French."
 "Good," came back the father, "that's more than you ever learned in English."

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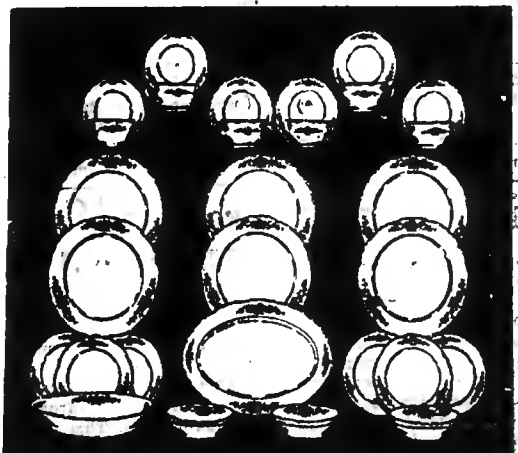
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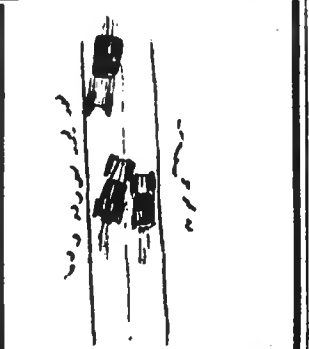
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