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Fifth Column

The European war has introduced a number of new words which are read in practically every newspaper and heard in almost all radio news broadcasts.

One of the new terms is "Fifth Column." Although practically every person has some idea by now of what the phrase means, a better understanding that can be had from the following comment by John B. Weatherman, a Washington columnist: "Aside from the tremendous public reaction to the military phases of present events in Europe, the public and official Washington are becoming acutely aware of other threats to this and other countries which are quite apart from dangers of aggression in the hitherto accepted sense of the word. Up until now the leaders of the country have thought of threats by foreign powers in terms of troops, navies, air force and other orthodox military instruments.

"In the American scheme of defense officials are now coming to view the Trojan Horse or the fifth column just as a part of an aggressor nation's war machine as are their tanks, planes, and cannon and are moving swiftly now toward forging an effective defense against this new instrument of modern warfare.

"Those charged with the task of drafting the plans of America's vast new defense measures have seen the havoc wrought by the activities of the fifth column in Norway, Denmark and the Low Countries. The swift disintegration of these nations, which on the surface seemed fairly well prepared, only to collapse entirely at the first thrust of the Nazi machine, offers a valuable lesson to American leaders. They realize that they must act swiftly and with as great a degree of accuracy and foresightedness as possible toward combating these well-planned and often devastatingly smooth-working phases of international strife.

"The basic principle of the Trojan Horse and fifth column movement is for a nation planning an attack upon another nation is to get as many of their soldiers well entrenched in enemy territory before the actual open-and-above-board invasion starts. The soldiers are placed in a country as students, tourists, and, in as many cases as possible, as workers. They appear innocently seeking jobs in vital industries such as transportation, communications, machine shops and other spots where the least amount of sabotage may do the most toward the complete demoralization of the nation undergoing the attack. Their work is concentrated upon upsetting co-ordination, the bringing about of a chaotic condition and the utter confusion of the cardinal industries contributing the most vital elements toward the defense of a nation. All this is timed so as to coincide with the actual invasion of a nation's territory by armed force and creates a situation, in such a time of stress, so as to completely paralyze the defense facilities of an invaded nation.

"As America's vast rearmament program gets under way, plans for combating the fifth column are being scrutinized and formulated by Congressional committees and it becomes apparent that drastic measures will be taken to insure the United States' defense plans against further inroads by fifth column activities.

"Of all the alleged subversive and probable Trojan Horse groups now active in this country the Communist Party and the German-American Bund are now being eyed with the most suspicious and will, in all likelihood, come in for the first shaking up as American anti-fifth column activity enters its initial stages.

Representative Martin Dies, of Texas,

chairman of the House committee investigating Un-American activities, has for the past two years conducted exhaustive inquiry into the activities of subversive groups in this country, and now stands as one of the nation's foremost authorities as to conditions which might easily develop into dangerously effective fifth column instruments.

"Measures directed against possible fifth column activities have had Washington official circles on the move during this week as the full import of the Trojan Horse threat comes into full realization. Representative Dies is leading off the Congressional agitation against fifth column activities. He announced that he is taking a request to President Roosevelt, who is far from unmindful of the existence of threats from within, that he set up a home defense council to ward off the influence of subversive groups. Mr. Dies warns that there is trouble ahead unless some action is taken. He further stated that "there is a lot more to preparing for defense than mere voting of money—as this country will find out."

During the past few years many good American citizens have been inclined to poke fun at the Dies committee for investigating what it termed Un-American activities and groups. Because the committee happened to uncover some unholy alliances which had among their members persons more or less in the favor of the national administration, the committee was accused of playing politics.

The part which traitors played in the downfall of at least three free countries in Europe should have taught as all a lesson; that the worst enemies can be within our own boundaries should the nation be threatened from without.

Whether we want to believe it or not, we might as well admit the fact that enemies to our form of government are secretly doing their dirt all over the country and some of them have reached high places in public life. We believe that it would be a good idea to "purge" the administration and faculties of our great universities and colleges of sympathizers of socialism, communism, nazism, fascism and all other isms. We couldn't back it up with exact figures, but an assertion that thousands of people who secretly would like to overthrow this great democracy are the payroll of our own government in one way or another, would be a statement of truth.

If they don't like our form of government to purchase for them one-way steamship tickets to the dictator countries.

Speed Very Deadly

Speed—the killer—kept its deadly work on North Carolina highways during the first four months of this year, according to figures just compiled by the Highway Safety Division in Raleigh.

Records of the Division show that five out of every six traffic fatalities in the state during the four-months period occurred in rural areas and small towns. To be specific, only 40 of the 231 traffic deaths for the four months occurred in cities of 10,000 population or over, while 191 of the fatalities happened in small towns and out on the open highway.

"It's not where traffic is thickest that the most traffic deaths occur," declared Ronald Hocutt, Director of the Safety Division, "it's where traffic is fastest." "When two cars collide on a congested city street the cars usually suffer damage only and the occupants probably suffer minor injuries, but when two cars breezing along on an open highway collide, a fatality occurs more often than not."

Last year's accident record for North Carolina show that 182 fatalities occurred in 4,026 traffic accidents in cities and towns, while 761 people were killed in 4,131 accidents in rural areas of the state.

Hocutt said speed too fast for existing conditions was the principal factor figuring in the higher ratio of traffic deaths in rural areas.

"Drivers who make a habit of going too fast are the most deadly species of drivers on the road," Hocutt said. "When you have a trip to make, leave sooner, drive slower, and live longer."

NO WONDER

We read that mosquitoes were unknown in England 500 years ago. Well, how would you like to be a mosquito trying to pick up a living in an age when everyone were suits of armor?—Grit.

If we were an earth and just had to quake, we think we'd know of a crust we could crack and swallow up a deadlier foe to humanity than anything that could be found in California.—Statesville Daily.

Next White House Occupant?



A quartet of distinguished guests pictured during inner circle dinner of city hall reporters and political writers in New York city. Each one a presidential possibility, they are, left to right: Sen. Robert Taft of Ohio, Rep. Joe Martin of Massachusetts, Postmaster General James A. Farley, and Wendell Willkie. Taft, Martin and Willkie are Republicans; Farley a Democrat.

France Keeps Vigil on Western Front



Somewhere on France's Lorraine front a French soldier keeps eternal vigilance behind his rifle-machine gun, lest a German surprise attack be successful. Note the cache of hand grenades just below the gun. They are used for close-in fighting.

Apple Crop In Virginia Reported Larger Than 1939

W. S. Campfield, secretary of the Virginia Horticultural Society, reports on the apple crop in Virginia in a letter to Carl E. VanDeman, horticulturist in charge of the Apple Research Laboratory.

The season is late in Virginia. The bloom was generally medium to heavy. This is the "on" year for Yorks in northern Virginia. There was little, if any, serious frost damage in the Shenandoah Valley; there was, however, considerable hail damage. There appears to be a rather heavy drop

of Winesaps in the Piedmont. The heavy producing Winchester area reports about 25 per cent heavier crop than last year. All varieties bloomed heavy. The crop seems to be a little lighter to the south, with a medium to

good crop around Staunton and the valley, Timberville, probably 10 per cent to 15 per cent heavier than last year. Piedmont section, generally lighter than last year. Nelson-Amherst county sections, a little lighter than last year, due to heavy Winesap drop. Roanoke section, about the same, a little heavier than last year. Southwest Virginia, 35 per cent more than last year.

Peach prospects, medium to good. Timberville section should

have the largest crop in 10 years. Croset and southside Virginia, medium.

Mr. VanDeman states that the apple crop in the Brushy Mountain section of Wilkes and Alexander Counties is as large or larger than last year. The Lincolnton variety, which is the leading variety, has a full crop in the better orchards.

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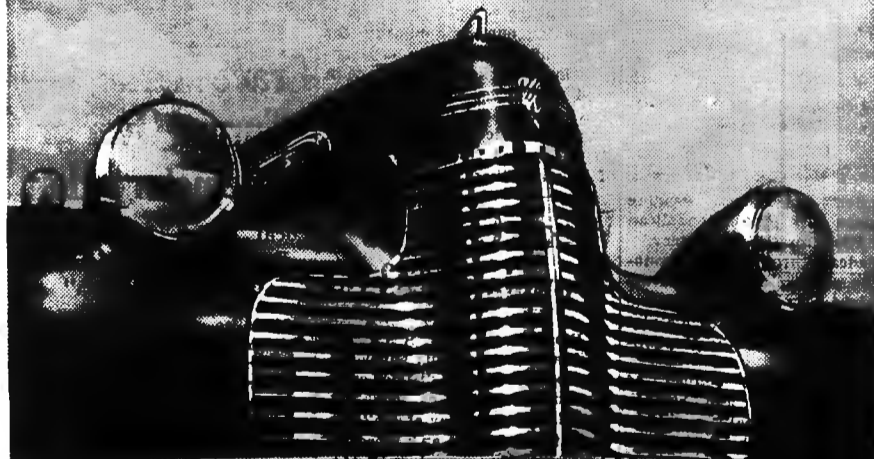
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