

The Journal - Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Thanksgiving

When this date rolls around each November we try to write on the subject of Thanksgiving. This year it seems to have a deeper significance than ever before.

Far be it from us to try in these columns to enumerate the blessings of the American people in this current year. They are too numerous to enumerate.

With the other great nations of the world in destructive war, America today is the only place on earth where freedom and opportunity are predominant.

Surely, we should approach this day set aside for Thanksgiving with hearts overflowing with gratitude.

Thanksgiving is an American holiday. It had its origin in America with the early settlers giving thanks to God for crops which they had harvested, for life, for health and the opportunity for pursuit of happiness.

The significance of this truly American holiday we celebrate today is more apparent than ever before. In America we have the greatest blessings known to mankind anywhere. If we should not be grateful, if we should not guard and cherish those blessings, we deserve nothing better than to lose them.

It is not necessary here to go over a long list of wonderful things we Americans enjoy. We know what they are. So today let us ponder them in our hearts and be thankful to a great and gracious God.

Serious Offense

The epidemic of house breaking in North Wilkesboro has continued unabated for the past several months.

There is a similarity in the breaks and from the standpoint of an observer it would appear that there must be an organized gang entering houses of local residents for the purpose of stealing money.

In practically all cases nothing but money has been taken and the breaks occur when none of the residents are at home.

This indicates that persons who know the families watch to see when they leave and while they are gone they enter the homes and take whatever money they can find.

One would naturally assume that boys are doing this thievery, probably boys of high school age who do not realize the gravity of the crimes.

They perhaps do not know that house-breaking is a felony punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary. The crime is closely associated with that of burglary, which is a capital offense.

We would like an opportunity to talk to those boys and try in some way to tell them that a life of crime and inevitable disaster is the best which can be hoped for along the trail they have started.

The guilty ones so far have not been apprehended. They have not been haled into court and do not have the infamous distinction of being classed as lawbreakers and criminals. They have a grand opportunity to quit crime now and begin lives of usefulness.

Inconsistent Policy

If the national emergency is sufficiently critical to warrant conscription of men for military training then it certainly must follow that the government would be warranted in preventing men from striking in industries making weapons with which the men may train to defend America.

In California a big airplane industry is idle because of a strike.

The planes the idle plant could be making if there were no strike could very well mean the difference between victory and defeat for democracy, granting for the sake of argument that the emergency is as critical as the government would have us believe.

believe.

The selective service program has bogged down away behind its original schedule for several reasons, one being that the army does not have the equipment with which to train many additional recruits at this time.

And while the government has made conscription of men and industry legal for national defense purposes it allows a bunch of labor racketeers to slow up proceeding by instituting a strike in one of the nation's key industries in defense.

Patriotic Americans are indignant because of such inconsistency on the part of the administration and a congress which is in session but with "nothing to do", quoting and administration leader. If congress can pass a law to conscript men and industry it certainly can prevent strikes which retard the defense program, and the American people are not going to let anybody tell them differently.

The industry in question has already conceded to the wage demands of the so-called union which called the strike. The hitch now is because the management demands a contract for no more strikes for two years.

The refusal of the so-called union to accede to that demand bears out the contention of the department of justice that the strike was instituted by Communistic enemies of our form of government. They should be dealt with firmly and conclusively.

The Old, Old Story

There is one letter that most of us accept as a tradition of Christmas. It is the letter that brings us our Christmas Seals. Year after year, we receive that letter. We send our money. We do this because we know that something worthwhile is being done with our money.

Few of us, though, take an active interest in how our money is spent to combat one of our most dreadful enemies—tuberculosis. The horror of tuberculosis is fading gradually. That is enough for most of us. We read each year of the declining death rate. Perhaps, we even know the fact that the death rate from tuberculosis among people of all ages has been cut three-fourths since 1907, the first year of the Seal Sale.

We have forgotten the despair that once struck us whenever we heard the verdict—consumption. We know now that tuberculosis, if discovered in time, can be cured. We know that the X-ray can find early tuberculosis in time to cure it.

This year, as in other years recently, the tuberculosis associations are asking us to do one more thing in addition to giving our dollars. Their request is reasonable. Their having to make such a request is ironical. They are forced to ask us to drop our attitude of complacency toward tuberculosis. Great though the victories of the past are, tuberculosis is not under control in this country. It is our lives and our children's lives the tuberculosis associations are fighting for.

More persons between the ages of 15 and 45 are killed by tuberculosis than by any other disease. And these are the young, active, productive years of life.

Sixty-four thousand persons died of tuberculosis last year. That means that the disease killed 175 persons a day, or one person every eight minutes.

So the eradication of tuberculosis cannot yet be taken complacently. It can be eradicated—if we continue to regard the disease as a deadly enemy that can be forced out of this country through the combined efforts of scientists, medical men, health departments, tuberculosis associations and every single individual in this country.

We are fairly warned this year that if our own money must be used to fight our own indifference and complacency toward a deadly enemy of ours, as well as used to fight the enemy itself, complete victory will be delayed interminably.

We must restore meaning to Christmas Seals. We must consider them as the symbols of the financial power that is imperative to free ourselves and our children from a deadly scourge that, as yet, we have not conquered.

Strange language, the English. A man carrying a mortgage gets rid of it by lifting it.—Lynchburg News.

The United States is a strange country in which everybody talks and nobody listens.—Washington Post.

Oh, for the good old days when it took a gallon bucket to hold a pint of beer.—Statesville Daily.

There are many tough persons in this world to whom you cannot afford to be polite. They mistake politeness for weakness.—Washington Post.

Governor Asks Safe Driving During Holiday

Raleigh. — Alarmed by a "shocking" upswing in the number of traffic fatalities in North Carolina, Governor Hoey appealed to Tar Heels yesterday to drive carefully during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons.

Asserting that there were 18 highway deaths last week-end, the Governor said that the increase in fatalities during October and November had erased safety gains made earlier in the year.

Unless the upswing is halted, he added, 1940 may be the "bloodiest year" since 1937.

Hoey's statement follows:

"I am making a special appeal to all the people of North Carolina and to all those who use our public highways to exercise more care and caution for their own safety and for the safety of their fellow-travelers. Within the next 30 days we will have two holiday seasons: Thanksgiving and Christmas, and I shudder to think of the loss of life and the injuries which may result from accidents on the highways during these holiday periods, unless greater care shall be exercised and more rigid enforcement of safety laws and rules observed on the part of all the users of our highways. This applies to those who walk as well as those who ride.

"I have been greatly shocked at the terrible slaughter on the highways for the month of October, and so far the month of November has been almost as bad. There were some 12 deaths on the highways of North Carolina on the recent week-end. There is no excuse for this wholesale killing.

"For the first 10 months of 1940, 734 persons have been killed in motor vehicle traffic accidents in North Carolina, which means that one person has been killed about every 10 hours. Of the number killed, 229 were killed while walking on the highways. Only five counties have passed through the first 10 months without a traffic fatality, while 10 counties have had 228 traffic deaths, or 31 per cent of the total for the whole 100 counties.

"During the month of October 118 were killed in traffic accidents which was the largest number of any month since December, 1935. The heavy traffic accidents for the last two months have cancelled out all of the gains which we made in the first part of the year; and unless more improvement shall be shown during the next 30 days, there is danger of 1940 being the bloodiest year since 1937.

"I call upon all law enforcement agencies to exert themselves to see that the laws of safety on the highway are enforced, and that the public give proper consideration to these laws under penalty of punishment for their violations. I further call upon all the drivers of motor vehicles, and those who travel upon the highways in any capacity, to observe these laws. We know what causes accidents. The five prime causes are excessive speed, passing cars on curves or grades when the view is obstructed, entering the highway without looking both ways for traffic, failing to dim glaring headlights, and

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drunken driving. These are the causes of nine-tenths of the wrecks on the highways. Surely we value human life enough in this state to take time to be careful."

British Labor Chief Makes Plea For Aid

New Orleans, Nov. 25.—A British labor leader, appealing for "planes, planes and more planes," today said German bombings have become so intense they are affecting "our output," and added that American labor can defeat Germany "without firing a shot."

Sir Walter Citrine, executive secretary of the British trades union congress, which is a counterpart of the American Federation of Labor, told the A. F. L. convention:

"I say to you something that no British statesman has yet said: Bombing is having an effect upon our output. Speed is of the essence now as never before because our output cannot keep upon full schedule because of the bombings."

The British labor leader, whose position corresponds to that of A. F. L. President William Green, spoke as the A. F. L. opened the final week of its two-week meeting.

"How long we can continue, depends not merely upon our will but also upon the will to hit back," he declared. "The only thing the nazis understand is the power to make them suffer."

Appealing for speeded production of war supplies in this country, Sir Walter said "American labor can conquer the nazis without firing a shot. I want you to make your workshops the first line of defense for all democracy."

Many Drowned As Refugee Ship Explodes

Haifa, Palestine, Nov. 25.—The refugee steamer Patria, packed to the gunwales with 1,771 wandering, homeless Jews, exploded and capsized in Haifa harbor today with an undetermined but possibly heavy loss of life.

The refugees, who had sought illegally to settle in Palestine, had been placed aboard for transportation to some other British colony for the duration of the

war. Cause of the explosion was not ascertained.

Many of those aboard managed to swim ashore, but an official announcement said that "some casualties" were feared.

The refugees had been aboard the ship since last Thursday, waiting to start their voyage as soon as authorities deemed conditions in the Mediterranean to be reasonably safe.

(Jewish immigration to Palestine was forbidden in June, 1939, when the British colonial secretary asserted there was an organized attempt to thwart the usual immigration quota law).

The Patria was an 11,885-ton French freight and passenger vessel recently taken over by Britain.

The refugees were mostly from Austria, Slovakia, Bohemia, Hungary and Rumania.

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However Humble the Home We Should Be Thankful!

Those of us living in America today have much, indeed, for which to be thankful... our liberty, freedom of speech, freedom of religious worship, and freedom to do the things we know to be right and helpful to our fellowman. That privilege, unfortunately, is not granted to mankind everywhere, and as we observe the Thanksgiving season may we pause to take stock of our tremendous wealth in Liberty.

And as we inventory our assets, let us not forget our liabilities... our obligation to civilization to make this land a better place in which to live by giving our full co-operation to the numerous programs now being undertaken to safeguard these liberties for us, and for future generations. Let's make no faltering step in our efforts to safeguard American shores and American Thanksgivings.

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