

The Journal - Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Tragedy Of Era—

A recent editorial in these columns on the subject of juvenile delinquency received much comment.

And we learn from the following excerpts from an article in the New York Herald-Tribune that a situation similar to local conditions exists all over the nation:

"The rising rate of juvenile delinquency among girls will be one of the greatest tragedies of the era, Edward C. Kennelly, special assistant to J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, declared yesterday.

"Arrests of girls under 21 years of age rose 64 per cent in the first six months of 1943, (can you imagine that!) compared to the corresponding period of last year, he told 500 delegates to the forty-seventh annual convention of the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers.

"The girls side of the ledger is more serious today, Mr. Kennelly said. Girls are the hardest hit among our young people by the social impact of the war.

"Juvenile delinquency arrests among girls in 1942 rose 55.7 per cent over 1941; drunkenness rose 39 per cent, disorderly conduct 69 per cent, and prostitution and commercialized vice 64 per cent. Girls following boys to Army camps have caused a large part of the problem. Arrests among boys under 21 in 1942 decreased a little more than 3 per cent, a small drop, in view of the number of boys in the armed forces."

Mr. Kennelly traced criminal tendencies in most normal children to lack of supervision and guidance in the home and the community. Asserting that youth's natural craving for excitement has reached a new high, he said: "Unless we channelize that, youth is in for real trouble".

And along the same line we are quoting parts of an article by Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, North Carolina State Health Officer:

"Parents, do you know with whom your children are associating when they are not under your roof—the kind of company they keep? Mothers, are you throwing about your daughter, during childhood, adolescence and young womanhood, that protection to which they are entitled? Fathers, are you doing your duty by your sons, by informing them concerning the pitfalls of life and warning them against the results of indiscretion?"

"Of the 16,713 new cases of syphilis reported to the North Carolina State Board of Health during the calendar year of 1942, three thousand and sixty-four occurred among children under 20 years of age. Of these 3,064 cases, there were 2,742 among children between the ages of 10 and 19, inclusive, embracing the adolescent period in its entirety, and of the grand total of 16,713, there were 4,304 new cases of syphilis among young men and women from 20 to 25 years old. So, you see, syphilis, gets in its most deadly and extensive work among adolescents and men and women of early maturity. The same is true of gonorrhoea, of which there were 9,620 new cases reported to the North Carolina State Board of Health in 1942, including 2,149 cases among boys and girls through nineteen years of age.

"Syphilis, up to the age of puberty, is assumed to be congenital, and gonorrhoea the result of a child's being nursed or handled by a person afflicted with that disease. Truly, "the wages of sin is death", any way you look at it, whether those wages are acquired by men and women who have reached the age of physical and moral responsibility, or are paid to little children by disease-ridden parents who ought to be ashamed of themselves for not preventing the preventable and correcting the correctable before it is too late!"

Give Liberally—

Workers are calling on the people of Wilkes county to give to the National War Fund.

Many people are not well acquainted with the National War Fund.

Briefly, the National War Fund will furnish money for operation of United Service organization and for the many relief societies helping to keep people from starving in nations allied with ours in the war.

What more worthy causes could be included? The American people should be grateful for their blessings and should reach out a helping hand to those who suffer and starve.

And locally the fund for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have been combined with the National War Fund quota, making a grand total of \$12,000 to be raised.

This means a contribution is necessary from every person in the county who can give, whether it be a small or substantially large amount.

Credit Due Local Merchants—

Probably no business has had more burdensome detail to comply with in carrying out rationing and price regulations, than have the retail stores of the country. Almost overnight, their buying and selling methods were revolutionized, and their banking and bookkeeping greatly complicated. On top of that, they have faced a manpower shortage more serious than most businesses. Only the inbred ingenuity and determination of the American merchant could have met the impact of such drastic changes, and at the same time maintained service to consumers.

Official data appears to demonstrate that retail food distributors have fared worse and performed better than other more articulate and better organized groups.

It is apparent from the Index figures that retail food distributors cannot properly be charged with "profiteering" and the Index may well indicate the justification for certain price adjustments. It is but fair to give credit to any industry that has made such a record as have the retail stores under such drastic operating conditions as they must meet.

Paste This In Your Hat—

What is the matter with our so-called business and political leaders who chant: "Capitalism has one more chance", or, "Private enterprise has one more chance after the war," or we will have a totalitarian government? Do they really believe what they say? If so, they better not advertise their panic.

We are fighting a war to preserve freedom. We wouldn't be licking the Axis if we would surrender the right to say and do what we please, and raise our families as we please, because someone promised to fill our stomachs.

Borrowed Comment

THE WHY OF SHORTAGES

(Charlotte Observer)

There's more butter in the United States today than ever before in its history, but butter is among the major scarcities in the markets.

There's more meat of all kinds on the hoof than ever before, but we must have meatless meals every day in the homes of civilians.

There's more corn bursting from the bins of the farmers than the fields of the country have ever produced before, but you can hardly find a pound of grits anywhere.

Nor is the full answer to the riddles to be found in the vast supplies of these goods which are going to the armed services and which the people of the country are entirely willing to deny themselves in order that the boys in uniforms may have all they want and need, and to spare.

One of the major reasons for such contradictory situations is that the government agencies which are trying to function in the regulation of these markets and the control of these prices are not on top of their jobs in bringing about wise and workable adjustments.

Some of our widely publicized shortages and scarcities would seem to apply not so much to the commodities themselves as to the inefficiencies and inabilities of those in political control to manage the situation in the public interest and to the protection of the national economy.

One thing you will not give your wife for Christmas is a couple of dozen nylon hose.—Charlotte Observer.

ABNORMAL ABSURDITIES

By DWIGHT NICHOLS



START AND HOPE—

It has been said that in order to write, a person has to be inspired. Others say that the way to write is just to start writing and hope. Lacking in inspiration today, we are choosing the latter course of just starting and hoping.

We have just been reading about all the things a fellow has to do these days to pull through, and the more we read, the more we get confused and wonder if we can do it.

For instance, we are told to keep our back to the wall, and at the same time to keep an ear to the ground. How do you do it?

And while keeping our back to the wall, and an ear to the ground, we are supposed to keep our chin up (if a prop is handy) and at the same time keep our nose to the grindstone.

And while keeping our back to the wall, an ear to the ground, our chin up and our nose to the grindstone, we are supposed also to keep our snout to the wheel, keep a level head, and have both feet on the ground.

And all that has to be done in order to keep our head above water.

Just try being enough of a contortionist to be in all those shapes at one and the same time.

THIS AND THAT—

The difference between a church bell and a politician is that the church bell peals from the steeple and the politician steals from the people.

REPORT EXAGGERATED—

This one was told on us several years ago, but don't you believe it. We grew up on a farm and came to town on very few occasions. Once when we went home someone who was along told that we got off the wagon here in North Wilkesboro, scraped a bare foot across the pavement and said: "Well, I don't blame them for building a town here. The ground is too hard to plow anyway".

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