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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THE ROAD AHEAD

This is the age of confusion. But that does not mean it need be an age of cynical resignation to failure—and of the gradual abandonment of rights and principles that took two thousand years of almost continuous conflict for mankind to secure.

No one can minimize the problems that now confront the nations, ranging from the terrible specter of unleashed atomic energy down to such temporary difficulties as shortages of materials. The very extent and number of these problems have added to the confusion. They have, as the old French proverb says, made it hard to see the forest because of the trees. They have obscured the fact that there is really only one basic problem, and that all the rest hinge upon it in one way or another.

That problem is easily put: Sooner or later, the peoples of the world, including the United States, will have to make a complete and final choice between the chimera of "security" and the reality of freedom.

There is a danger in using such words as "freedom" and "liberty" these days. Dictators and tyrants have attempted to pervert them out of any semblance to their true meanings. Hitler, after all, established his slave state and fought his disastrous war for world enslavement with "freedom" and "liberty" as his rallying call. Even so, the real free man can be described. He is free to express his opinion, whether or not it is in agreement with the majority or with the government in power. He is free to worship as he pleases. He is free to print what he thinks in a newspaper, or elsewhere, subject to the old-established laws of libel and public decency. He is free to work or not to work, and to change jobs of his own volition without dictation from employer, labor leader, or politician. He is free to run for public office on any platform he devises, or to vote for the candidate of his choice. He is free to engage in business under a competitive system which penalizes and favors none. He is free to determine his own destiny, and he is not the tool of the state or any other interest.

These are not separate, unrelated entities. Every last one of them is dependent on the others. When one freedom is lost, all the rest are endangered. No dictatorship has ever been established all at once. A right is abrogated here, another there; the state seizes business, then takes over the labor unions; new "interpretations" are placed on the rights of free speech and assembly—so it goes, step after step, until the job of despotism is completed.

Dictators trade on fear—fear of want, fear of hunger, fear of cold, all the natural, material fears. They promise a maximum of material "security" to the tragically confused people they entice. And this poses another question: Can a people, in return for the surrender of their freedoms, obtain more goods, a higher standard of living, a greater measure of protection from adversity?

The question answers itself. The greatest material advancement in the history of the world has been in the nation where there has been the greatest amount of freedom for the individual—the United States. It is not accident that the pay of the average American worker, measured in terms of purchasing power, is ten or a dozen times that of the average Russian worker. A still better comparison is

found with present-day England, the country to which we are bound the closest by the ties of a common language, inheritance and tradition. Socialism—which can be the vanguard of dictatorship has aggravated every English economic problem. It has produced less goods for export, not more goods for export; less coal, not more coal; less agricultural production, not more agricultural production. Worst of all, it has sapped the energies and ambitions of the people. There can never be progress in a state where individual opportunity, initiative and enterprise are discouraged, and the government does all the thinking.

The super-state is not only spiritually barren but materially inefficient. When we attempt to trade freedom for security, we lose both. This thought was perfectly expressed by Somerset Maugham, the most distinguished living British novelist, when he said: "If a nation values anything more than freedom, it will lose its freedom; and the irony of it is that if it is comfort or money that it values more, it will lose that too." That says it all in a sentence.

The hope of this nation is that our people will profit by example. The hope of the world is that it will be able to break the shackles of oppression. The hope of mankind lies in a reaffirmation of the rights and dignity of the individual.

A New York juvenile court kept jurisdiction of a married 15-year-old boy on the reasoning that "marriage does not emancipate." Why didn't the judge let the kid find that out for himself?—Greensboro Daily News.

"Jenkins Sold Liquor Cargo to Slim Fellow" Pitts Says.—Headline from Hickory Daily Record. Could "Slim Fellow" be the same one who used to be identified in prohibition days as "the dark-skinned man with two gold teeth"?—Greensboro Daily News.

LIFE'S BETTER WAY
WALTER E. ISENHOUR
High Point, N. C., Route 4

FACING THE NEW YEAR

Dear Fellow Pilgrims: Let me take this privilege to thank each and every one of you for your kindness and helpfulness to me through the past year, and the past years of my life and ministry. I greatly appreciate your prayers, your letters and cards, and the liberal offerings you sent toward helping me in the work I am doing for the Master. It was so encouraging to receive scores and scores of Christmas cards, quite a number of which contained offerings, thus revealing to me that you indeed appreciate my articles, messages and poems, and that you are truly interested in the cause of righteousness and holiness. May God richly bless and reward you for this, and for all you have done, and are doing, and may do, for the salvation of precious souls and for the advancement of His cause and Kingdom. Amen.

I am glad to say that we are serving some fine people here who stand by us very faithfully. This makes a pastor and his family feel happy, and encourages us so much to go forward for God and the salvation of men. In my thirty-five years of ministry, as pastor and evangelist, I have never served a finer and more appreciative people than here. Thank God for every one of them, and thank God for every one of you. It will be wonderful and exceedingly glorious to meet thousands in heaven to whom I have preached and served through my writing across the years of life, or across many years of life. I want you to know that I sincerely appreciate you, as well as all that you have done for me. Please continue to remember me in prayer and I shall pray on for you. Write me as you have time, for it is very encouraging to receive appreciative letters from readers, friends, brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Now we are facing a New Year. Let's enter it with much prayer, deep devotion to God, faith in His promises, and with a very sincere desire to do our best for His cause and kingdom among men. Let's pray that God will make us more spiritual and holy; that He will bless us and make us a blessing one to another, and especially enable us to win many souls into His fold. If we are permitted to live through 1948 it ought to be the best year we have ever spent thus far in life. Greetings and best wishes to each and every one of you for the New Year.

ABNORMAL ABSURDITIES

By
DWIGHT NICHOLS
et al

SCANNING THE ADS—

Looking over this newspaper here before us we find a firm advertising an overcoat for \$3.00, which they say is better than coats selling at \$4.00 at most stores. A grocery ad lists 17 pounds of sugar for one buck, with high grade sheeting at 4 1-2 cents per yard.

No, don't get in any rush, because the ads are slightly out of date. The paper we are quoting from is a replica of the McGregor News published April 14, 1878, in McGregor, Iowa.

One ad offers to sell Pricky Ash Bitters for the cure of everything from pains in the back to costiveness, whatever that is, while still another expounds the virtues of Buckingham's dye for the whiskers, guaranteed not to wear off or wash off. Goog beef animals were quoted at three cents per pound in contrast to the 41 cents received in Chicago last week.

In another ad a new sensation was revealed. It was a watch winder that could be operated in the dark as well as daylight.

In the news columns the editor was distressed about the absence of Dr. T. W. Wood, worm destroyer deluxe, so he wrote his epitaph as follows: Within this wood lies Dr. Wood, The children's greatest friend, He spent his life destroying worms,

But they've got him in the end. The editor stated that he had missed a great opportunity to boost his circulation. He stated that he should have stood at the entrance of John Robinson's circus with a club and took in subscriptions. He also said that it was discovered during the circus' visit to the town that horses didn't like elephants, and that many horses when they saw the elephants exceeded the speed limit and driving conditions were dangerous.

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Jewel Box

Next Door to Liberty Theatre
NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C.

And here is another gem: "A farmer near McGregor ran his mowing machine into a steel ribbed parrot that someone had left lying in his timothy meadow and it cost him \$6 for repairs. He swears that he will shoot the next couple he sees meandering on his fields."

'Sea Monster' Is Reported Seen Off N. C. Coast

New York, Dec. 30.—A "sea monster" 45 feet long with an "eel-like head" was reported by the captain of a ship off the North Carolina coast today, the Coast Guard said.

The Coast Guard said a message from the master of S. S. Santa Clara reported that the ship struck the "monster" and either killed or badly wounded it, leaving the animal "thrashing in a large area of bloody water."

The captain said the monster was sighted by Chief Officer William Humphries and Third Officer John Axelson, who described it as having a body about three feet in diameter.

The Santa Clara was bound for New York from Baranquilla, Columbia, South America, the Coast Guard said.

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Register early during Registration Week to be assured of a place. If you are a veteran, bring your discharge when you come in to register. Applications accepted by mail if you cannot come in person to enroll.

CLEVENGER
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Hollar Bldg. Midway
Hickory, N. C. North Wilkesboro, N. C.