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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Holiday Season Not Seriously Marred

The people of Wilkes county are to be congratulated upon their conduct during the Christmas holiday season.

John Walker, North Wilkesboro police chief, made this comment: "The quietest Christmas I have ever worked with the police department."

Wilkes Sheriff C. G. Poindexter stated that his office had a quiet Christmas with no more calls than usual for a week-end. In no cases were there calls because of violence.

The highway patrol had a number of automobile accidents to investigate, but in no accident in Wilkes were there deaths or critically injured.

Traffic was very heavy on the highways in spite of inclement weather, but motorists had the good sense to avoid speeding for a bang-up Christmas and did not to any great extent mix alcohol and gasoline in their holiday observance.

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.—Mathew 6:33.

- THE - EVERYDAY COUNSELOR

By Rev. Herbert Spough, D. D.



As 1949 comes to a close we should look back and count our blessings—blessings which have come to us from God in one of the few countries where man still has a goodly amount of individual freedom.

But we also should be thinking about the direction in which we are going and what we are doing to preserve the freedom of the individual man. T. D. Kemp, Jr., in his column NOW which I make a habit to read profitably, offers some very serious food for thought in his December 11th column.

"Two powerful warnings against the road we are traveling came from important men last week. Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., head of General Motors, one of this nation's greatest organizations, tells a Chicago audience that we are 'slowly but surely losing our liberties and are traveling the road to slavery. If we turn back the pages of history we find indelibly inscribed thereon the fact that human progress is synonymous with human freedom. It is only when men were free to exercise their initiative, their talents, their ambitions, and the incentive of individual advancement that civilization really began and has since developed.'

"And Dr. Vannevar Bush, the eminent scientist, tells an audience at M. I. T. that Soviet Russia is building a big war machine and will use it against us when and if 'the Kremlin gangsters' think they can defeat us. 'And a people bent on a soft, security, surrendering their birthright of individual self-reliance for favors, voting themselves into Eden from a supposedly inexhaustible public purse, supporting everyone by soaking a fast-disappearing rich, scrambling for subsidy, learning the arts of political logrolling and forgetting the rugged virtues of the pioneer, will not measure up to competition with a tough dictatorship,' he said.

"When, you wonder, will the American people awaken? . . . We are the last great nation on earth seeking to preserve the private enterprise ideal, the last that stands against world domination by the Communists. It seems incredible that so many listen to the politicians and propagandists who would soften us up for the kill.

"In Washington's Smithsonian Institute . . . there is displayed a completely reconstructed dodo bird, the last of which died in the 17th century. The dodo bird, once powerful, became extinct because its life was too easy . . . Though not pleasant to think about, what happened to the dodo could happen to us."

Too many of us are being taken up with the idea that the world owes us a living, looking to a benevolent government to provide those things which our own initiative, effort, and courage should provide under the direction of Almighty God. We need to remember the advice of Oliver Cromwell, "Trust God and keep your powder dry." The national motto, "In God We Trust," is still on the coin of our land. We had better practice these mottoes and practice them hard.

Bethany News During Week

Rev. L. T. Younger filled his regular appointment at Bethany church Saturday and Sunday.

Bethany church gave a very interesting Christmas program Saturday night. A number of carols were sung by the training union boys and girls. Carol Grey Hendren, young son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hendren, sang "Holy Night," which was very enjoyable. Old Santa, of course, was the most welcome guest here.

Mr. Ralph Tedder, of Wilkesboro, spent the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Tedder.

Mrs. J. A. Costner and son, J. D. Costner, spent some time Sunday with Mrs. Costner's mother, Mrs. J. M. Barnette, of Hiddenite, who has been ill for some time. Her condition is very much improved, we are glad to learn.

Friends and relatives of Mrs. Carl Moore, of Statesville, who has been a patient at Long's Hospital, are glad to know she has returned home and is greatly improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Moore and family spent some time Saturday with Mrs. Moore's mother, Mrs. J. M. Barnette, of Hiddenite, who is ill with virus pneumonia.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hendren entertained at their home Saturday evening a number of Bethany Training Union girls and boys. A good time was reported.

Mr. and Mrs. Israel Hayes, of Hunting Creek, and Rev. L. T. Younger, of New Hope, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Costner Sunday.

Friends of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Tedder regret to learn they are moving from Bethany community. Mr. and Mrs. Tedder are very popular with the younger set, as well as the older ones and they will greatly be missed.

Mr. and Mrs. Homer Costner, of Bethel community, were welcome visitors at Bethany Sunday.

Miss Betty Hayes, of Hickory, spent the week-end with her aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Costner.

Mr. Ernest Tedder has accepted work with the Goodwill Department store.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hayes, of Hickory, spent the week-end with their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Costner.

Little Helen Costner spent a few hours Saturday afternoon with her Sunday school teacher, Miss Marion Hayes.

Mr. Hix Hendren, of Hiddenite, who has been ill for some time, improves slowly.

Mrs. Morris Hendren and Mrs. Herman Moore spent Monday in town shopping.

Mrs. John Hendren was in town Monday shopping.

The Baptist Foreign Board reports that 98 of its total staff of 200 missionaries in China are still in the Orient. There are 20 Southern Baptist missionaries in and near Canton, which was recently occupied by the Chinese Communists. There are now 38 missionaries under appointment to Japan, double the previous high figure. The Japanese Baptist Convention has asked that 20 Southern Baptist ministers spend a month in Japan next spring on a preaching mission.

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Outlook Is Very Bright For The New Year - 1950

Saturday midnight the curtain will ring down on the first half of this turbulent century, which has witnessed more progress than any like period in the history of the world but has been marred by the two most awful wars in the knowledge of man.

In the first half of this century man has learned how to master many obstacles. Great strides have been made in scientific advancement. In this fifty years man has conquered the air, and has learned how to bring the world close together with transportation to any point in a matter of hours instead of weeks and months. Man has learned how to conquer diseases which through many centuries had killed a large percentage of the human race. Man has learned how to alleviate suffering and to better care for the unfortunate. Man has learned how to make machines do the work which formerly had to be done with human energy. Man has made it possible to remove from life many of the disagreeable phases which had plagued the human race throughout its existence.

Truly, the human race has learned much in the past fifty years.

But one cloud of despair today hangs over the world.

With all the knowledge accumulated during the past half century, man has not learned to live together in peace.

Today there is a very definite threat of war in the world, a threat of war so devastating as to tax the imagination.

There are two schools of thought in the world. One is centered on the free enterprise system which we enjoy and which has been responsible for man's material progress. The other is communism, which is the opposite and which represents a retarding of all civilization. The doctrine of communism does not recognize the sovereignty of the individual.

If the present disagreement between the two schools of thought can be weathered short of war, the world can look forward to greater progress during the latter half of this century.

Americans face 1950 with bright prospects for a prosperous year. Business experts show no gloom in talking about the coming year. Much of this optimism is based on sound logic. In America today is a great backlog of need. Meanwhile industry and agriculture are able to supply those needs with better products than ever before. And what is more important, the people have the earning power to make incomes sufficient to buy the products of the farms and factories. The only cloud on an otherwise bright horizon is the unsettled international situation, with cold war strife between the nations of free people and communism.

America today remains the bulwark of civilization, the land of opportunity and subsequently the land of plenty. Fortunately indeed, in the American citizen with rights guaranteed as in no other nation on earth.

Just why there are those who would change our system to a lukewarm communism is difficult to understand, when under our system our nation in the short space of less than two centuries has forged to the point of leadership in the world.

For the new year the picture is bright, and Americans everywhere should be grateful of their opportunity and eternally safeguard their rights against all aggressors, foreign and domestic.

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