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Another Dark December 7

TODAY is the anniversary of that dark day in 1941 when the Japanese struck at Pearl Harbor, and the United States found itself a participant in World War 2.

At a terrific price, in treasure and lives, we won that war. Now, just nine years later, the world teeters on the brink of World War 3. And if December 7, 1941, was a black day for the United States, is December 7, 1950, any less foreboding for America, and for the world?

Today the United States and other members of the United Nations already are engaged in an undeclared war with Soviet Russia's most powerful satellite, Communist China. Far outnumbered, our forces in Korea are in retreat. As this is written, the time has come when we must make a choice:

We can withdraw from—or possibly be driven out of—Korea; that would be the first step toward isolationism. We can do the militarily obvious thing, and bomb the Chinese points of concentration of men and material, across the Korean border in Manchuria, and assure an all-out war with China's millions—a war that might last for decades. Or we can have a show-down with Soviet Russia itself, with all the dangers of a world war that such a show-down would entail. Possibly there is still one other choice, a holding operation in Korea that might last for years, and that would gain us nothing but time.

If the layman finds himself baffled by the situation, he can find comfort—or more likely, fear—from the fact that his leaders are baffled, too.

There are great differences between 1941 and 1950. Perhaps the most marked one is the fact that, in 1941, the nations fighting Nazi Germany were praying we would enter the war. This week, by contrast, Clement Atlee, Great Britain's prime minister, is in Washington to urge a stubborn Harry Truman, whose patience obviously is becoming frayed, not to let the United States get involved in World War 3. Europe, virtually unprotected, quite naturally is in mortal fear of a Russian invasion.

And if the United Nations are not agreed on a course of action, neither are Americans. There appear to be two schools of thought on what our policy in the Far East should be.

One, which can best be described as the MacArthur philosophy, assumes that the only language the Oriental can understand is force. The worshippers of General MacArthur—and he rather pointedly permits them to use his name—would use an iron hand in the Far East, regardless of consequences. They put primary emphasis on the military security of the United States; with the hope of world peace, though some such organization as the United Nations, forgotten. They would "get thar fustest with the mostest"—though they seem to forget we do not have the "mostest" of anything, with the possible exception of the atom bomb. Meanwhile they scream that "Acheson" must go.

The reason for that cry is not entirely personal. For Acheson's program is something entirely different. His policy appears to be based on the assumption that almost nothing could be worse than a third world war; that the best preventive of war is to offer cooperation and friendship to those who will accept it (and thus gain friends, too, in case we need them in the event of a world war); and, finally, that so long as the fighting has not become world-wide, there is hope; that every effort must be made, every precaution taken, to prevent its engulfing the whole world in a holocaust.

However idealistic Mr. Acheson's efforts to work through the United Nations may appear to the MacArthur advocates of direct action and use of the mailed fist, the Secretary of State has this much of common sense on his side: The war in Korea, even before the Chinese intervention, proved beyond doubt that the United States is not prepared for a world war.

Between the two extremes stands President Truman. So far, he appears to have tried to steer a middle course, to keep both sides satisfied. But the time has come when he must make a decision—just as he had to make it when we used the atom bomb in Japan in 1945.

Meanwhile, the President last week asked con-

gress for vast new sums for the beginning of what promises to become all-out mobilization. In his message, he called the Chinese intervention in Korea "naked, deliberate, and unprovoked" aggression, adding that, whatever happens, "we shall not falter or turn back". While that is typical of the fearless stubbornness that is Harry Truman's strength, it also has something of the sound of a small boy's dare as he draws a line on the ground in front of him.

And down at the level of the individual citizen, there is fast-growing public pressure for an action that would make a world war inevitable: "Why", more and more people are asking, "not use the atom bomb on Russia itself?"

It is another black December 7. And whether it is to be all-out war now or later, of a long period of armed truce and undeclared skirmishes, of one thing we can be sure:

If Americans are to save their freedom, they must be prepared for sacrifice, and more sacrifice, and yet more sacrifice.

Another thing is almost equally certain: Unless we find a solution—if we have to fight another world war, when it is over we'll have little left but freedom.

Marks Era's Passing

The death of E. C. Greene in Asheville last week removed not only an interesting and colorful personality, but also a man who typified a political philosophy.

To "Deacon Greene", as he generally was known, politics was a game; it was a game he played with zest and consummate skill. And in his formula for political success, a cardinal rule was: Give the people good government, and they will continue to give you the power to rule. The second rule in his formula was: A political favor, such as an appointive office, demands repayment in unquestioning loyalty and support by the appointee and by all his relatives and friends.

Usually Mr. Greene and his associates gave good government. The "Deacon" himself almost never made a speech and rarely held office, but he was active behind the scenes, watching public opinion, keeping close tab on government policy, and advising those who were in office. One of the reasons he and his associates were able to give good government—and one of the reasons they remained in power so long—was Mr. Greene's far-sightedness and good judgment in searching out promising young men, whom he trained and pushed forward. Many, especially in Buncombe county, owe their start to him. Among his more successful proteges are Brandon P. Hodges, who today is state treasurer, and Weldon Weir, the present city manager of Asheville.

Generally, too, through careful selection of those given political reward, Mr. Greene and his associates got unquestioning loyalty from their supporters. Thus they perfected a political organization—for many years known as "the Ring"—so well oiled that all that was necessary to swing votes this way or that was to pass the word along to a few leaders in various communities; it then became their job to get out the votes of their families, their relatives, their friends, and of those under obligations to them.

By following those two rules, the so-called Ring became a tremendous power, first in Buncombe county, then in the mountain region, and finally in the state.

The slender, courtly, white-haired man who appeared so mild, but who could be so coldly ruthless on occasion, had a definite code, and he adhered to it scrupulously. He frankly and honestly believed in a benevolent dictatorship by the intelligent few at the top. Of democracy, as it is understood today, he had little understanding; with it he had slight patience, and in it he had no confidence whatever.

The passing of power from such a group was inevitable with the development of a new concept of democracy, and the upsurge of a new demand for political freedom—the belief that the average man is both honest and intelligent, and the demand that he have the right to make his own decisions about his government; the right to make them, even when he is wrong.

But what of the future? The death of "Deacon" Greene does not remove the philosophy he embodied. There is considerable evidence, in fact, that the powerful North Carolina group which always has had nothing but contempt for the opinions and the rights of the average man merely has changed its technique. There is considerable evidence that there has simply been a shift of policy; instead of passing the word down through channels to the bottom, the new policy, it appears, is to go direct to the bottom—an effort to win control by appeal to the ignorance and prejudices of the lowest stratum among the voters, a group that is relatively small, but which, in close elections, may hold the balance of power.

That danger raises a question that long has needed raising—the question of the wisdom, at this time, of universal suffrage.

It suggests two possible steps: First, to handle the immediate problem, the setting up of new standards of character and intelligence as a prerequisite to voting; and, second, as a motive toward universal suffrage as an ultimate objective, an intensive movement to bring this bottom stratum up to meet those standards.

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Matt

NOT-SO-DUMB ANIMALS

The Thrifty Squirrel is a Natural Saver.

The Industrious Beaver works with all his Might

The Stubborn Mule is stubborn in eating only what he Needs.

IN THESE DAYS, PATRIOTIC AMERICANS ARE CALLED UPON TO SAVE AS THRIFTILY AS SQUIRRELS— TO WORK LIKE BEAVERS AT PRODUCTION FOR NATIONAL STRENGTH—AND TO BE AS STUBBORN AS MULES IN BUYING ONLY WHAT THEY NEED.

Need 'Reexamination'

Following Senator Robert A. Taft's recent return to Washington, he was questioned by news reporters as to what he thought this "Lame Duck" session of congress should do. He laughingly replied, "adjourn!"

An account of this was carried the next day by many daily papers, playing up the facetious remark as representing Senator Taft's views on the matters facing congress.

Tuesday night of last week Senator Taft was interviewed over the Columbia Broadcasting System network. During the interview, he was carefully questioned by reporters.

- Among other things, he said that he:
1. Favored statehood for Hawaii, was opposed to it for Alaska.
 2. Hoped we would not have to use the atom bomb.
 3. Felt that we should not pull out of Korea.
 4. Did not know what to do about the international situation.

Here was a real expression of views on vital issues by a leading Republican. Yet the following morning there was no mention of the interview in the Asheville, Knoxville, or Atlanta daily papers.

Since the word "reexamine" is being used so often just now, it might not be amiss to suggest that the daily press should 'reexamine', occasionally, its definition of the word news.

Letters

TRUTH EASES UNCERTAINTY

Editor, The Press:
I commend you on your editorial, "It Happens Again". Nothing can take the place of sons. But equally important is truth. It somehow eases pain from suspense when cold reality sinks deep into the heart and tears and grinds. Decided, there is no longer mental uncertainty.

MRS. LOUISE STAMEY RIGGINS.

Griffin, Georgia.

Others' Opinions

A MOUNTAIN LEADER

R. B. Slaughter of Robbinsville devoted the adult part of a rich 75 years to his community, his state and his nation. November 27 death removed him from a scene where he had been a fixture of good citizenship and sound leadership. The loss is all Western North Carolina's.

Mr. Slaughter was once a deputy U. S. marshal under the late Charles A. Webb. He was register of deeds in Graham county for 14 years and for 22 years he was mayor of Robbinsville. This later term of office had few to rival it in length anywhere in the mountain region.

Service, however, was Mr. Slaughter's code. In small and large things he gave always of himself to his people and his community. Robbinsville, Graham and Western North Carolina are the sadder for his passing but the better for his lifetime of loyalty to his progress.—Asheville Citizen.

SUGGESTS HUMILITY

We are naturally extremely important to ourselves. However, the latest look man has taken into the universe is likely to prick some bubbles of his pride.

Built on a lonely mountain top in Southern California, the 200-inch Hale telescope has enabled man to peer out into the space in which our world spins one billion light years.

What will we discover?
What we will discover is—we were tempted to say—comparatively unimportant. The knowledge we will gain of the infinite Room of the Creator's Mind in which our globe moves will not be unimportant. What we will say is: Now that we know there is an incomprehensible space through which innumerable galaxies of solar systems spin, we should be vain, indeed, to consider that the course of eternity depends upon the history of our nation.—Cleveland (County) Times.

"The United States . . . seeks to prevent the establishment of a world police state without a third world war and seeks to prevent a third world war without surrender to the threat of a world police state."—Former Senator Frank P. Graham.

BUSINESS Making NEWS

By BOB SLOAN

There are indications that a new drug store may be opened soon in Franklin. Since competition is the life of trade, we know that everyone will wish the new-comer well.

Frank Leach will soon have his new store, located at the corner of School street and Porter street, ready for opening. He is completing a small cinder block structure and plans to handle school supplies, candy, soft drinks, and other merchandise, with the idea of catering mostly to school children.

Congratulations are certain in order to all the persons connected with the Christmas decorations for this year.

Since it is the Christmas season, here are some things we would like for Santa to bring Macon county for Christmas, since it doesn't seem likely anyone else will: A paved road from Franklin to Nantahala, a better highway from Franklin to Dillsboro, an announcement that plans are being started now for a county fair next fall. We believe that each of these things would make a lot of business in Macon county.

Evidently there is a great demand in Macon County for heated hen houses. Eggs this past week-end soared to the price of 80c per dozen (price on Friday, probably higher Saturday) and the only apparent reason was that the hens just figured it was worth more to lay eggs on a cold morning. So it looks like we had better heat those hen houses. (Bill Sloan, please note and apply to your rural electrification program.)

Livestock Quotations

(From Frank's Auction Sale November 29 Number of head 75).
Cows: Per 100 lbs.
Fat
Medium \$15.50 to \$18.00

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Do You Remember . . . ?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Monday seemed to be Republicans day in town. Republicans from almost all parts of the county came to town. Perhaps they wanted to see the new Republican administration sail into office. They saw it.

You can get your green coffee, 8 pounds for \$1.00, Arbuckle's roasted, 15 cts. per package; flour 65 cts. per quarter; and salt at 90cts. per sack, at Trotters' Adv.

A diminutive strike at Corundum Hill yesterday. The mill hands were called out to repair the trough that brings the corundum from the mines. It was a damp raw day and some of the men said they would quit before they would work at it such a day. They were informed they could work or quit. They quit.

25 YEARS AGO

There was a box supper at the Burningtown school last Saturday night—with good salesmen and plenty of pretty girls, we made up \$75.39 for the purpose of buying an organ.—Stiles local.

Franklin must consider itself fortunate to have employed Roberts and Company, of Atlanta, to design its municipal dam and power house and to supervise the construction work.

10 YEARS AGO

The Franklin Glee club, composed of 16 voices, will appear in its first concert in the auditorium of the Methodist church Dec. 18.

Miss Virginia Ramsey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ramsey, of Tellico, who will receive her B. S. degree from Asheville college in June, has been selected as one of the representatives of Asheville college to be listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

Climaxing an impressive court of honor ceremony Monday night, the Rev. Frank Bloxham, who came here especially for the purpose, presented Scout Paul Lee Plemmons with his Eagle badge.

Carl Paul Mason and William Langford Welch, who both volunteered for immediate service rather than wait to be conscripted, will be the first Macon County men to be inducted into the army under the selective service act.