

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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Triple Threat To Freedom

As this nation grids for war with the Soviet world, Americans would do well to keep in mind that they face not one threat to their liberties, but three—

one from outside, two from within. The first, of course, is the threat of defeat and conquest by the Communists. That danger, great as it is, is the smallest of the three.

The second is the danger of the moral disintegration that goes with appeasement and isolationism—the surrender, little by little, of our principles and our courage and our self-respect, until finally we have lost not only all of our friends, but the will to resist. How serious that threat is was illustrated by the recent speech of ex-President Hoover.

The third and greatest is even more intangible and insidious. It is the danger that, in order to win the battles (cold or hot) with Soviet Russia, we may lose the war, by sacrificing all the things we are fighting for; that, as a means of defeating Communism, we may adopt as permanent the very methods and thinking and kind of life we fight to keep from having imposed upon us. It is so easy to become accustomed to the loss of a liberty! to accept a method or a line of thinking or a way of life, in the interest of "greater efficiency".

Scores of examples of this danger could be cited. Two or three will suffice.

Universal military training may be necessary now. It may be necessary for a decade, or even for a quarter of a century. Furthermore, there are many things to be said in its favor. But if we adopt it as a permanent policy, we shall have accepted as inevitable one of the things the founders of this country fled Europe to escape.

Far more important is the tendency to invade personal privacy and to revoke personal freedoms.

The men who wrote the Constitution of the United States would not for a moment have countenanced the modern spying of the wire tapper. If even there was a practice that is in conflict with every American tradition of the right of the individual to be free from spying, it is wire tapping. Yet wire tapping by the FBI has come to be taken for granted!

And already we have on our statute books laws that penalize men not for what they do, but for what they think. As the tension mounts, more and more such laws are likely.

But even without legislation, it is becoming increasingly hazardous for a man to voice a thought that is outside an established pattern. Any idea that is not completely orthodox is likely to be pounced upon, with a great hue and cry, and labeled "Communist". Senator McCarthy, with his lynch law of the mind, embodies that attitude. And it is an unhappy fact that Senator McCarthy has great influence, and that he has that influence because he represents the emotional attitude of a large number of Americans.

If that emotion—and it is emotion, closely akin to that of a mob—ever gains control in America—if the time ever comes when Americans have no privacy, when a man cannot "say what he thinks, and think what he pleases", we shall have lost a right so basic that there will be little point in fighting the Communists. Already we shall have surrendered our freedoms, not to the Russians, but to our own fears.

Doesn't Hold Water

Thad Eure, North Carolina's secretary of state, proposes an amendment to the state constitution to permit 18-year olds to vote.

Pointing out that youths of 18 register for the draft, Mr. Eure argues that "every individual required to bear arms in the defense of his country should at least be privileged to participate in elections wherein public officials will be chosen who will write the terms of peace under which they must live".

Mr. Eure's proposal to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 may or may not make sense, but it seems to us his reason for the proposal does not.

While it is true that the ballot is a priceless privilege, it is not chiefly a privilege. It is primarily a responsibility, and the qualification for

voting should be the ability of the citizen to meet the responsibility the franchise carries with it.

That the right to vote should not be conferred as a privilege, as a reward, is proved by simply carrying Mr. Eure's argument to its logical conclusion. If we are going to give the ballot to every teenage serviceman as a reward for his sacrifice in bearing arms in defense of his country—if justice demands that; then justice would surely demand a greater reward for those servicemen who make extraordinary sacrifices. If the boy who merely spends a few months or years in the armed forces is entitled to one vote, then, to carry Mr. Eure's argument to its logical conclusion, the boy who is wounded surely is entitled to several votes; and the boy who is permanently disabled is entitled to a score or more. And how many ballots would we have to permit a "basket case" to cast in order properly to reward him for his sacrifice?

This whole idea of rewards—and the idea is widespread—calls attention to the long overdue need for a change in thinking:

It is high time we put more emphasis on what the citizen owes his country, less on what his country owes him.

There are times when a nation has no choice but to fight. But war rarely is a solution of problems. Instead, it is an admission by national leaders—of one side, or of both sides—that they are unwilling or unable to find a solution. When an individual finds his personal problems too much for him, he resorts to suicide. When statesmen find international problems too much for them, they resort to war.

Others' Opinions

BATTLE GRADUATES

A certain general stormed into the office. "What's the idea of putting Captain Smith on my staff?" he shouted.

"Those were Headquarters' orders, sir," he was told.

"Well, I won't have him. He's nothing but an idiot with bars on his shoulders."

"Really, sir, he isn't that bad", spoke up a colonel. "After all, he's been through dozens of battles."

For several seconds the general eyed him coldly. Then he said with dignity, "Come over here to the window, colonel."

The colonel did, and the general pointed outside.

"See those mules? Every one of them has been through a dozen battles, too. But they're still jackasses."—Morganton Pocket Book.

WOOD FIRES

I like a wood fire.

It sings as it burns. It sheds a fragrance in the room and casts soft dancing shadows on the floors and walls at night.

Surely it is in league with the goodness of sleep. For who can resist its mellow glow and gentle crackle when the hour is late!

Yes, dreaming is easy when the embers glow and the flame flickers as darkness and cold grip the out-of-doors.

And what snugness there is by the warm hearthstone when nights are long and the gales of winter blow!

Apples from the cellar, peanuts a-roastin' on the hearth, 'taters a-cookin' in the ashes, popcorn a-poppin' in the skillet, many reading by the lamp, mother a-knitin' or darnin' in the corner, kids layin' on the floor, and a gentle fire bringing comfort and solace to all!

Let me hush, go home, and cut some wood. For the winter clouds are heavy.—J. M. Eleazar in Timmonsville (S. C.) Times.

NEED PATIENCE

George Washington, according to Dr. Douglas S. Freeman, famous writer and historian, had many great qualities—ability, character, courage, etc.—but his outstanding quality was patience. This opinion was expressed by Dr. Freeman in an address delivered at Wake Forest college on the subject, "The Great Dilemma, East or West."

The speaker had given a brilliant and interesting interpretation of the military situation in the Far East and in Europe today with an outline of the prospects for the future. He expressed the strong opinion that the United States could not fight a big world war on two fronts, both the Far East and Europe, against Communism. He said not only we cannot do this but it is absolutely unnecessary.

We shall have to be content to live in two worlds, he said. We must be ready to defend our western civilization of freedom and culture. We should mind our own business and see that others do the same, but we do not have to go to war. We must believe in peace, and work for peace. In his climax at the end he urged that Americans and the people of the western world seek to remain strong and firm for peace and at the same time practice patience and then more patience, the great virtue of George Washington.—Biblical Recorder.

MANY PREFER SEGREGATION

Many Northern Negroes prefer Southern all-colored colleges and universities to Northern institutions where the races are mixed. This may come as a surprise to some persons, but it is abundantly proved by statistics. The fact is especially interesting, in view of the recent decisions of the Federal courts affecting the admission of Negroes to Southern institutions of higher learning hitherto reserved for whites.

Professor Alonzo F. Myers, of New York University, a native of Ohio who favors the abolition of segregation in higher education, wrote an article in the Survey magazine for May, 1960, in which he reported his findings after a three-month visit to the Negro colleges and universities of the South. Said Dr. Myers:

"I observed that

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat



AT VALLEY FORGE THE CONTINENTAL ARMY LACKED FOOD, SHOES, CLOTHING, ADEQUATE SHELTER AND AMMUNITION—EVERYTHING BUT COURAGE.

TO A GREATER OR LESSER EXTENT, AT THE START OF EVERY WAR, THE COURAGE OF OUR FIGHTING FORCES HAS HAD TO MAKE UP FOR SHORTAGES OF SUPPLIES—BECAUSE WE ARE A PEACE-LOVING NATION AND HENCE HAVE NEVER PUT OUR NATION ON A WAR-FOOTING IN TIMES OF PEACE.



TODAY, IT IS OUR JOB ON THE HOME FRONT TO SEE THAT OUR MEN, WHO HAVE NEVER LACKED COURAGE AND FORTITUDE, SHALL NOT LACK FOR THE MATERIALS AND THE MACHINES TO POWER THEIR VALOR.

were enrolled in Southern colleges. I asked a number of these young people from the North why they were there. Generally they replied that they felt more comfortable and more welcome than in the Northern nonsegregated colleges. Some told me that they had a better chance to take part in campus activities, and to develop whatever leadership talents they possessed.

More than half of last year's student body at Meharry University in Nashville, Tenn., an all-Negro medical school, is said to have been from the North. A survey of Fisk University, Nashville, about a decade ago showed that 42 per cent of the student body came from the North.

All of which should reassure those who fear that Federal Court decisions will result in flooding Southern institutions of higher learning with Negro applicants in graduate and professional fields.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

THREE EDITORIALS

Three of the state's newspapers recently included editorials concerning the "lack of teaching the fundamentals in the public schools".

One, the Winston-Salem Sentinel, quotes the English teachers of the state in saying that "many North Carolina school children are not getting proper and sufficient instruction in English grammar," and that "they also lack adequate teaching and practice in English grammar." Two reasons for this situation are given: (1) Half the English school teachers of North Carolina believe that the basic text-books in schools are not satisfactory; (2) High school deficiency in teaching grammar and writing is due primarily to the heavy extra-curricula load that English teachers have to bear.

Another, the Enfield Progress, calls attention to the fact that State college has employed a professor to teach its students how to read and then says, "Isn't that an awful commentary on our public school system of education?" This editor makes the point that "extra-curricular activities take so much time that the students are not permitted to devote proper attention to the things for which the state is paying. . . ."

A third editorial from the Durham Sun comments on an editorial in the Charlotte Observer entitled "Educational Piddling" in which the schools and colleges are taken to task for "neglecting the fundamentals of education and spending too much time on trivialities which ought to be taught to children at home." This situation, he states, is due to "the confusion among educators as to what the schools' goals really should be and the pressure various groups put upon the schools to include in their program some pet project." And approving the Charlotte editor's call for "a re-examination of curricula", the Durham editor suggests the inclusion of "a rethinking of what the school's real purpose and function on today's society are and molding the school to those decisions".

There is one thing running through each of these three editorials—that is that the deficiencies found among some high school graduates in reading, writing and speaking are due to too much attention by teachers to extra-curricula activities and not enough time given to fundamentals. Not one of these editors seems to realize that there are wide differences among pupils in background and general ability to grasp, to learn, many abstract principles of the English language. No mention is made of the efforts put forth by some students as compared with others. Paradoxical as it may seem, students coming from small high schools were extra-curricula activities are limited because of smaller teacher staffs are found to be less proficient in reading and in speaking and writing than students graduating from the large high schools of the state where there is a wider choice of subjects and greater opportunity for participation in so-called extra-curricula activities. No, we don't think there is so much a lack of teaching the fundamentals as there is a lack of ability or application of ability on the part of students themselves. . . . accounts for some poorly trained high school graduates. . . . all of them.—N. C. Public School Bulletin.

BUSINESS Making NEWS

By BOB SLOAN

A hasty glance back through 1950 shows that while there was no outstanding development in the growth of Franklin business firms during the year 1950, there were many small expansions which were indicative of a good business year. Events in 1950 have caused several firms to plan for expansions of a large nature in 1951.

Here are some of the events which are indicative of our growth during the past year: Expansion of the Franklin Freezer Locker plant in order to enable it to take care of its expanding business, Macon Dry Cleaners moved into new and larger quarters, the establishment of Macon Construction Company by W. C. Burrell, Fred Moore, and E. J. Whitnire, construction of a new store building by Frank Leach, enlargement of Auto Parts and Equipment company to enable them to handle a large supply of auto parts, and the installation of a new meat market by Macon Grocery and Feed store.

Developments already announced which are signs of continued growth in 1951 are the purchase of a lot by the Nantahala Power and Light company for the purpose of building a new building, announcement by Harold Roper that he plans to open a new drug store during the month of January here, and the beginning of construction of a new feed mill by the Franklin Feed Mill company.

A very healthy business fact during the past year which we hope continues during the coming year was practically full time operation by both Zickgraf Hardwood company Van Raalte, two of Franklin's largest payrolls.

Do You Remember . . . ?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Mr. N. L. Barnard started south yesterday with a drove of horses and mules.

Uncle D. Cunningham tickled the palates of his boarders Friday at dinner with some fine venison.

The Franklin Pharmacy is a thing of the past. Last Saturday Dr. F. T. Smith purchased the stock that remained on hand and transferred it to his drug store. So Franklin has only one drug store now.

25 YEARS AGO

The thermometer registered 2 below Monday morning. The ice on the lake was thick enough to accommodate skaters.

Harry Higgins has just returned from Asheville with a new Ford truck. Wonder if he is going to Florida fox hunting?

A crowd of men folks in this section went wildcat hunting Christmas morning.—Briartown local.

The Christmas tree at the school house was a great success. Many children's hearts were gladdened by Santa's gifts.—Scroll item.

10 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Reynolds, Miss Mildred Cobe and Miss Ada Belle Sherrill spent Sunday in Andrews with Miss Fannie Mae Sherrill.

Rev. M. B. Stokes, Methodist missionary to Korea, will deliver two sermons on the situation in the Far East here next Sunday.

Exploding firecrackers, the clamor of automobile horns, and the ringing of bells officially welcomed 1941 to Franklin and Macon County Tuesday night.

The Sunday school gave a Christmas tree for the community at the Turtle Pond church.—Broadway local.

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