

The Franklin Press  
and  
The Highlands Maconian

VOL. LXVII Number 10

Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press  
At Franklin, North Carolina  
Telephone 24

Entered at Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter.

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BOB S. SLOAN Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Macon County—	
One Year.....	\$2.50
Six Months.....	\$1.75
Three Months.....	\$1.00
Single Copy.....	.10
Out-of-County—	
One Year.....	\$3.00

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Let's Take It Easy

As congress and the country debate universal military training, the most important consideration to keep in mind is that UMT is proposed not as a temporary substitute for the draft, but as a permanent, peace-time national policy.

In the light of that consideration, at least three major objections should be answered to the complete satisfaction of the American people before congress goes any farther with the project.

1. If we proceed to put universal military training, as a permanent policy, into effect now, it will be a cynical admission that we have no faith that a real peace can be achieved, ever; that the best we can hope for is a temporary armed truce.

Such an attitude is to be expected from the nation's military leaders. For it is their responsibility to assume the worst, and to be prepared for it; their job is not to work for peace, but to be ready, at all times, to wage successful war.

But when the United States, made up chiefly of civilians, embarks on a permanent program of universal military training, it will be serving notice on the rest of the world that all our talk of peace is sheer hypocrisy; that the present situation really is what many in Europe already believe—not an effort to build a peaceful world, but a conflict between the United States and Soviet Russia.

It will be serving notice, too, on the youth, and the parents, of this country that war is ahead. Because, though it is true that being prepared sometimes may temporarily avert war, every sustained international arms race in the history of civilization has ended in war.

2. When we launch a program of universal military training as a permanent policy, we shall be placing a heavy mortgage on freedom, in an effort to buy a little temporary physical security for the nation.

That is true because freedom depends upon democracy's working, and the most important essential if a democracy is to work is both the freedom and ability of the individual citizen to do his own thinking. And military training is hardly the school in which to learn independent thinking!

On the contrary, one of the first things a man is told, when he enters the armed forces, is that he is "not supposed to think". Of course he isn't supposed to think! Thinking means questioning, and to question authority is—and probably has to be—a crime in the armed forces. He is supposed to do just one thing—carry out orders, blindly, unquestioningly.

Yet it is proposed that we place every able-bodied youth in the land, at the impressionable age of 18, under the dominating influence of men whose entire training teaches them not only that might makes right, but that obedience to authority is one of the supreme virtues. To say that such a system, over a period of years, would not have an adverse effect on independent thinking in America is to deny the force of environment. Carried to its logical conclusion, the doctrine that it is a virtue to give authority blind obedience could lead to voluntary acceptance of dictatorship.

A favorite argument of proponents of universal military training is to cite the fact that almost every military and veterans organization in this country has endorsed it. That fact is proof not that UMT would be a good thing, but that military training does greatly influence the thinking of those given that training. Otherwise, military men and veterans would be divided on this question in about the same proportion as civilians.

3. There is considerable evidence that advocates of universal military training are hurrying to get it in effect during this period of crisis, on the theory

A Lift For Today

★ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.—Ps. 51:17.

IF OUR NATION—and the peoples of other lands—would muster the soul-force of prayer to the breaking down of the walls of hate and suspicion, the result would be more awe-inspiring than the explosion of an atom bomb.

Tid our hearts, O Lord, of rancor and distrust, and make them fit for the indwelling of the Spirit of the Prince of Peace.

that, unless the country becomes accustomed to it, the system will not be tolerated in more normal times. And there is even more evidence that advocates took advantage of the emergency to get the original UMT law on the statute books.

But if neither of those things is true, this one is: During a period of crisis and of hysteria, we have adopted a permanent, peacetime policy that is in conflict with every tradition and every practice of American democracy.

"But the policy has already been adopted by congress", advocates cry; "let's go ahead and put it into effect". As though sticking to a mistake would remedy it!

Would it not be wiser to repeal the act adopting UMT in principle?

Not because it necessarily is a bad policy—there are good arguments on both sides. But because a period of emergency is not the time to change a fundamental peacetime policy.

Let's meet the problems of the emergency with emergency measures.

But let's wait until we are a little cooler, and our heads a little clearer, to legislate for normal, peacetime needs—especially since nobody has any idea of what the world will be like in five or ten or twenty years.

Needs Examination

The editorial, "War Without Reason", from the Charleston News and Courier, reprinted on this page, appears to us to be both unfair and extreme. It is reprinted, nevertheless, as a forceful statement of a viewpoint that is widespread. Because it does express the attitude of many persons, it should be given careful consideration—especially by those who disagree. If it is wrong, it will be proved so when—and only when—it is examined. If, on the other hand, the U. S. policy in Korea is right, that policy can, and must, be explained so simply and frankly that the thousands of mothers and fathers and youths typified by this Texas mother will understand why it is right.

It May Mean Something

In the old days, when a revival ("protracted meeting", it often was called) was in progress, it was the custom in the village that Franklin then was for all the business houses to close during the morning or afternoon hours of the week-day services.

That custom long since has passed. Which made it remarkable when business houses here closed for one hour last Friday afternoon for the World Day of Prayer service. It was noteworthy, too, that the Presbyterian church, where the interdenominational service was held, was packed. Similar programs were held elsewhere in the county, and many of the schools interrupted their classroom work to take part in this world-wide observance.

What the significance of all this is is problematical. It could mean that people here, and throughout the world, are becoming desperate in this dangerous and complex age, and are turning to a power outside themselves for help. Today's problems are serious enough to warrant that—and few of us, certainly, ever turn to prayer until desperation drives us to it.

The Children Show The Way

If there are those who have wondered if the annual children's concerts here of the N. C. Little Symphony orchestra are worth while, whether they really mean anything to the children, they are getting their answer.

This year only those children will attend who express a desire to go. And they are asked to give concrete evidence of their interest by bringing a quarter each to school.

When a school boy or girl puts up some of his money for a thing, he really wants it. And already approximately 1,000 children from schools throughout the county have signified their intention of attending the children's matinee.

Of course the children alone, for all their enthusiasm, cannot finance the appearance of a symphony orchestra in Franklin. And whether Franklin continues to have these annual concerts will depend upon how many adults buy \$2 memberships and attend the adult program March 14.

The children have taken the lead, and if this newspaper knows its Macon County, the adults once again will fill the Methodist church for the evening concert—Friday of next week.

Our American Civilization

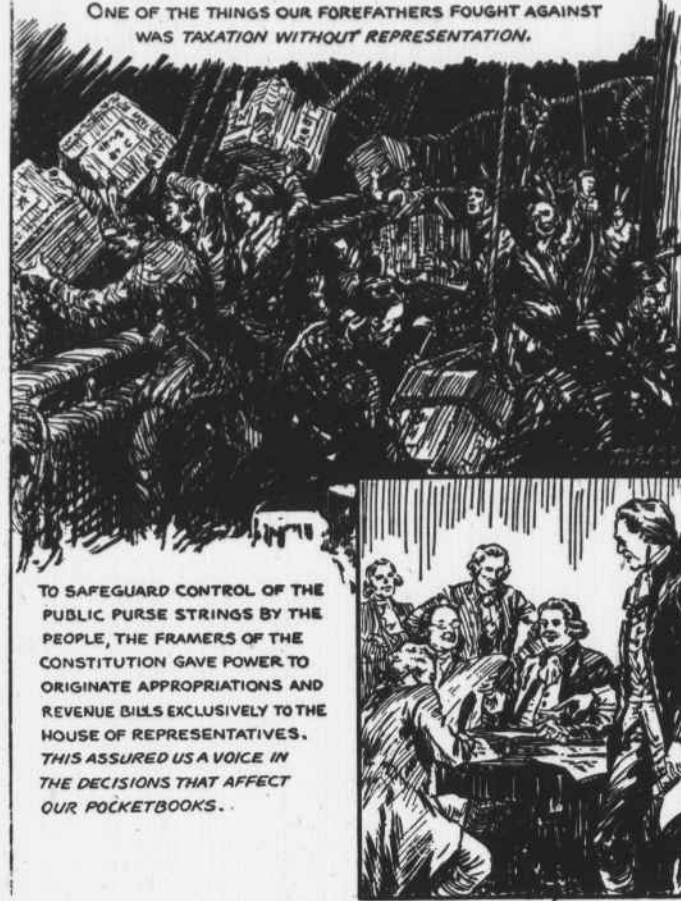
Suffering from unemployment, an industrial disease; seeking to cure the disease by more and more industrialization.

Shouting from the housetops for lower taxes; glutting the mails with pleas to our congressman for expenditures in our district.

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

OUR MONEY and OUR RESPONSIBILITY

ONE OF THE THINGS OUR FOREFATHERS FOUGHT AGAINST WAS TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION.



SO IF WE SHOUT FOR GOVERNMENT ECONOMY AND DENOUNCE EXTRAVAGANCE, BUT AT THE SAME TIME PRESS FOR FAVORS FOR OUR SPECIAL INTERESTS OR OUR COMMUNITIES, WE CANNOT ESCAPE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RESULT.

Others' Opinions

FUN CAN BE DANGEROUS

As March winds begin to blow, the young boys, and even some girls, remember that it is kite flying time again. Flying kites is fun, and perhaps as fine a recreation as a youngster can indulge in, when it is done with extreme care. The care comes in staying clear of electrical wires. Already, there have been two young boys electrocuted in this state this season when their kite became entangled in high tension wires. Kite flying was made for the wide open spaces and not the congested areas where wires span the area.—Waynesville Mountaineer

WAR WITHOUT REASON

The hearts of Americans will go out to Mrs. Doris Davis of Lubbock, Texas, whose husband has been shot down in Korea after destroying 11 enemy jet fighters. "If I could feel he lost his life for some good reason, I could feel better about it," says Mrs. Davis, "but this is a war without reason." In no other war in our history have the rank and file of Americans been so convinced that our country is embarked on a course "without reason." We are fighting the most senseless of all wars. We are fighting a slave people, who take their orders from someone else. We are fighting, theoretically, to show the world that we will resist "aggression anywhere"—and our policy has been so weak that actually we have shown the world that we can be humiliated by a third-rate military power. We are fighting without hope of victory—stalemate is the best we can hope to achieve under our plan of limited conflict. We are fighting a war which was thrust upon us by executive order. Neither the people nor their representatives have been consulted. Congress has not voted to declare war. Understandably, Mrs. Davis and thousands of other Americans who have lost members of their families in Korea feel that they have been betrayed. The Korean "police action" is, indeed, a war without reason. Many arguments can be advanced as to why we should have stopped the invasion of South Korea. But no valid argument can be advanced as to why our men were prevented from winning and thus ending the war. Day by day, Americans die in Asia while our government—which hasn't even the honesty to call the war a war—holds in check our military might. Meanwhile, our government plays international politics, around a phony peace table, with the evil servants of an evil master.—Charleston News and Courier.

Poetry

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE  
Editor  
Weaverville, North Carolina

OLD HOUSE

A long forgotten builder laid your stones,  
Rough-hewed the timbers, made the beams to hold  
Against the sprawling wind and quick night storms,  
The sultry sun and winter's driving cold;  
Your hearth made wide where pots and pans have hung  
Blackened from use and charred by frugal duty,  
Where bread was made and children warmed and fed.  
You had no gilded mantle framed for beauty.  
Now that your brood is gone, your thoughts are still  
Like an old woman with a noble face,  
You wear the haloed, wistful loveliness  
Of half-lost memories that legends trace.  
You stand aloof, with shuttered blinds of blue,  
The night wind sings an old song over you.  
MARIE HALBERT KING.  
Asheville, N. C.

Here's Another

Reason For Blue Mold Control

There's an extra reason why Tar Heel tobacco growers should spray or dust their plant beds this spring for blue mold control, says H. R. Garriss, plant pathologist for the State College Extension Service.

Mr. Garriss says a disease known as anthracnose was found attacking plant beds in a few counties last spring. It appears that the recommended dust and spray treatments for blue mold control will also control the new disease.

Anthracnose was first discovered in North Carolina in the spring of 1951. During the season it was found at seven locations in the counties of Carteret, Columbus, Craven, Johnston, Wake, and Davidson.

"Presumably, with these widely scattered sources of infection, the disease could spread rather rapidly," says Mr. Garriss. "On the other hand, no one can predict whether the disease will become a serious problem. It has been quite a problem in some other tobacco-growing areas, especially Maryland."

Infected plants may be dwarfed with puckered leaves. Circular, tannish leaf spots with reddish-brown borders develop. The lower surface of the mid-vein and main lateral veins have reddish-brown, elongated, sunken areas.

The disease is capable of killing plants in the plant bed outright. Damage in the field could occur if wet weather prevails after plants from "diseased" plant beds are set out.

"We don't want anyone to become alarmed about this disease popping up," says Mr. Garriss. "However, since it has the possibility of becoming a serious problem, let's be sure to take the proper precautions—which at present seem to be a good dusting or spraying job for controlling blue mold."

Here's New Way For Laymen To Learn About Art

"I know what I like," a new British television program, each week assembles eight or ten people who have only an average knowledge of art, and asks them what they like and dislike about three paintings displayed before them. An art critic suggests some points they might consider, and in the lively discussions which follow many opinions are confirmed or revised. Finally, the discussion leader gives an impartial summing up of the views expressed. A new group appears before the camera each week, and its members are selected from as many different types of people as possible.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Miss Charlotte Young has organized a class here for the study of elocution. She is boarding with Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Curtis.

The people of Franklin are getting very hungry for mail. We had no mails from Dillsboro Friday and Saturday on account of the weather.

Rev. T. Bright, of Sylva, came over Monday and is visiting among friends here.

25 YEARS AGO

Sale of the Franklin Pharmacy was announced here Monday. The business was sold by O. E. Kinsey to T. W. Angel, Jr.

The board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce, at their regular weekly meeting last Monday night, elected Z. B. Byrd as a director, to fill out the unexpired term of A. R. Higdon, resigned.

Editor Dan Tompkins (of Sylva) wants to know if all the wars in the world have suddenly been moved to the zone between the Georgia line and the Cowee Gap. No. There is still the weather war waged twixt editors east and west of the Balsam.

10 YEARS AGO

At the meeting of the county commissioners last Monday, reports to the jail were authorized which will amount to an expenditure of \$500 or more. RECORD BREAKING SNOW-FALL OF 13 INCHES COVERS MACON, Cars Stalled, Traffic Held Up, Wires Down, Schools Closed. (headline).