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JANUARY 8, 1953

When Will We Learn?

The McCarran-Walter immigration act, which became effective January 1, has been the subject of severe criticism on the ground that its quota provisions are discriminatory against South European and Oriental countries.

But little has been said about what seems to us a far more serious danger in the act—its effort to screen immigrants on a basis of their records and, more important, of their political views.

In practical application, this means that the entire crew of every incoming ship must be carefully screened before crew members may come ashore.

But whether practical or not, how strange such legislation would have seemed to the founders of America!

What would General Oglethorpe's settlers of Georgia, men recruited from English prisons, have thought of a law forbidding a man with a prison record to enter this country?

What would the men who came from France, the home of the hated French Revolution, have thought of a law forbidding them to enter this country because of their radical political ideas?

What would the New England Puritans—men of such unorthodox views as to have been driven out of England—have thought of a law forbidding them to enter this country because they were not members of the Church of England.

What would William Penn's persecuted Quakers have thought?

And it was groups like these that built America!

When will Senator McCarran and his ilk realize that you can quarantine or imprison or kill a man, but that you can do none of those things to an idea? that the only thing that can destroy an idea is to bring it out in the light, where it can be compared with other ideas?

Jesse Ray

In the death of Jesse Ray, Macon County loses a lovable and colorful figure. His passing, too, underscores a great change in intellectual approach that has taken place in the last half-century.

In today's highly practical world, both the individual student and the men who fix educational policies are more and more inclined to ask of any bit of knowledge: "Is it immediately useful?" If not, it is likely to be ignored.

That was not always true. There was a time, and not so long ago, when knowledge—any knowledge—was prized for knowledge's sake; and Mr. Ray's keen intellectual curiosity typified the attitude of reverence for knowledge that marked so many of his generation.

In Macon County, at least, it was not uncommon for a man or woman of little formal schooling to be possessed of a great store of information—on history, or geography, or religion, or minerals, or any one of scores of other subjects; some of them read the encyclopedia, not to find a single bit of information on a particular subject, but for pleasure and enlightenment. They not only took pride in their knowledge; it was a source of intellectual satisfaction in a day when amusements were rare indeed.

Whether today's method of evaluating knowledge on a basis of its practical usefulness is progress or retrogression is a purely academic question—for the change has taken place. And whether there will be a swing back to the older attitude is a question that only time can answer.

Flattering

About the last thing a singer needs to be popular today is a voice, says Bing Crosby.

What counts today is "an unusual style or trick delivery."

"Volume is also important, it seems. If you can sing loud enough, you're made."

Many of us, listening to popular singers who appear drunk or crazy or suffering terrible pain, had suspected this—but lacked the courage to say it. It is highly flattering to have such an authority as Mr. Crosby confirm our suspicions.

Letters

WILL BE MISSED

Editor, The Press:

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark, unfathomed caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

That was Jess Ray to me. He will be missed by all of us who knew him.

A phenomenal memory of geographical places and historical detail was augmented by a big heart and a wealth of common sense.

Perhaps it doesn't matter "where the Tennessee flows into the Mississippi" or "how the man divided his 23 sheep among his three sons" or about "the beauty of Dolly Madison" or that "President Cleveland wore a size 23 collar" or George Washington "a 13 shoe" or "how high Abraham Lincoln was" (6', 4 1/2"). I think; Jess Ray would never understand how I, as an ex-school teacher, could forget it.) But such things were a source of unending interest to him.

Along with everything else, he had character, honor, integrity, an abiding love of the past, patriotism of a degree that could only thrive on great love of country, and an understanding mind.

E. J. CARPENTER.

Franklin, N. C.

Others' Opinions

TIMELY WARNING

(Raleigh News and Observer)

An Alamance county man's fourth charge of operating an automobile after his license had been revoked before he could be brought to trial on the three previous charges served as a timely warning for the General Assembly convening next month to tighten the driver's license law.

This man faces a possible permanent revocation of his license because of the State law which calls for indefinite revocation upon a motorist's third conviction of driving without a license. His attorneys may argue that their client had not been convicted on the first offense when he was arrested on the same charge three additional times. But revocation should mean revocation.

IT'II STILL BE 'IKE'

(Centralia (Wash.) Chronicle)

Some persons have been asking what will become of 'Ike' as a designation after General Eisenhower has been inaugurated. Their concern is whether it is a sufficiently dignified appellation for the President of the United States. He will be addressed, of course, as "Mr. President."

But in the minds and mouths of the people of the United States who was "Ike" in boyhood, at West Point, in two world wars and throughout the presidential campaign will be "Ike" still.

This nickname unquestionably will persist in newspaper accounts of his administration. Those three little letters are the joy of all writers of political headlines—just three little letters as a substitute for the 10 in "Eisenhower."

It just happens that through the years the American people Mr. Eisenhower likes the name. And it will stick to him.

SURPRISING

(Elkin Tribune)

The first nation-wide survey of religious beliefs and practices ever made in the United States was recently completed and showed that only 35 million Americans go to church every week. An equal number, 35 million, never go to church. A slightly larger number, 38 million, go to church periodically.

The survey showed that although only about one-third of the population goes to church regularly, 99 per cent believe in God. It is interesting to note that of the 35 million who never go to church, many nevertheless identify themselves as either Protestants or Catholics, or members of various denominations.

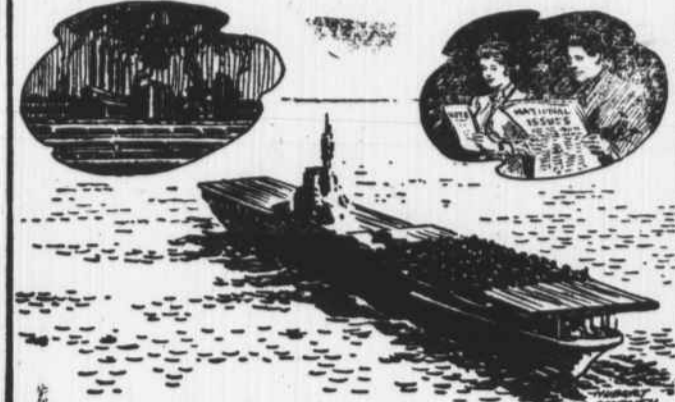
The survey indicates the attitude of many Americans toward the church is a casual one. Nevertheless the fact that

Christ built no church, wrote no book, left no money, and erected no monuments; yet show me ten square miles in the whole earth without Christianity, where the life of man and purity of women are respected, and I will give up Christianity.—Drummond.

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Max



FREEDOM RODE A HORSE ONE NIGHT WHEN THE REDCOATS WERE COMING, FREEDOM LOADED A MUSKET AT LEXINGTON, WRAPPED ITS BLEEDING FEET IN RAGS AT VALLEY FORGE, SIGNED A HOPEFUL CONTRACT AT PHILADELPHIA—OUR CONSTITUTION.



IN ALL THE 175 YEARS SINCE THEN, IN WAR, IN PEACE, IN GOOD TIMES AND BAD, WE HAVE STRIVEN TO UPHOLD THAT CONTRACT, SOMETIMES AT TERRIBLE COSTS. THERE IS NO CUT-RATE PRICE ON FREEDOM.

99 per cent of the population believes in God is a strong indication that the United States is a bulwark of Christianity.

Even so, it is a bit surprising that so many Americans never go to church and this fact is a challenge to all churches in this great country.

HARD TO PLEASE

(Eric Rogers, Scotland Neck Commonwealth)

Talking about this matter of trying to please everybody and how far it gets you, Mrs. Mitchell Alkazin relates an old story as follows:

An old man and his much younger wife and their 12-year old son were making a journey. They had bought one mule to make the trip easier for them. When they started off, the old man told his wife to get on the mule and he and the boy would walk; and this she did.

Presently there came along a stranger, and he asked the young woman if she were not ashamed of herself to be riding the mule while she let the old man and the little boy walk.

So she got off the mule, and the old man mounted and rode for a while, until another stranger reproached the old man for appropriating the mule for himself and letting his wife and son walk, so immediately the old man dismounted and he and his wife walked behind while the boy rode the mule.

Presently another stranger came along and reproached the child for his selfishness in allowing his father and mother to walk instead of utilizing his young legs for that purpose. So off the boy got.

After some consultation, the three decided that to avoid criticism they should all ride the mule and so they mounted. No sooner was this accomplished, than they met another stranger who criticized the family for overloading the mule.

The three got down quickly from the mule's back and walked along the road, leading the mule, and as they passed through a town they could hear laughter from all sides as people made fun of them because they had bought a mule and made no use of him in their weary journey.

And so, the story concludes, it's hard to please everybody.

NEED TO KEEP OUR HEADS

(Smithfield Herald)

Has Senator McCarthy scored again? Prof. Owen Lattimore of Johns Hopkins University, who for years was considered an authority on Chinese affairs, has been indicted on seven counts, one of which is that he was "a promoter of Communism and Communist interests."

That sort of charge opens the door to all kinds of wild accusations which, even though without foundation, might place a suspicion against any professional man's career.

Who is to decide what is meant by "promotion" in such a sense? For example, when General George Marshall was sent some years ago to investigate the Chinese situation, he returned with a recommendation that Communists be admitted to some posts in the then Chinese government. Does that make him liable to prosecution ten years later on the ground that he was a "promoter" of Communist interest?

It is old and sound American doctrine which declares that a man is accountable only for his acts, and that he can hold whatever opinion he pleases so long as they do not eventuate harmful acts.

However, the McCarthy forces see guilt not only in holding certain opinions but in being seen in the company of certain individuals.

No wonder that foreign nations think we have worked ourselves into a kind of hysteria about Communism, although we are much further from it than some of them are.

The continuous effort to keep us bathed in an atmosphere of suspicion may finally create the very state of fear which we accuse the Russians of having. There is some evidence that the incoming administration is preparing to sharpen the war in Korea. If that happens, we need to keep our heads level and our emotions in balance.

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

© BY BOB SLOAN

There is a saying that "The Leopard can change his spots" and that "The worm will turn." I have always in the past been a big doubter in these sayings, but a recent happening has caused me to decide that almost anything can happen. Anyway the American Press, particularly the "slick", cover news periodicals such as Time, Newsweek, and U. S. News and World Report, are beginning to sing a different tune.

For the past five years and longer these so-called news magazines have slated their news and editorialized to convey the idea that: all New Deal legislation was harmful to the economy of the country, that the country was rapidly approaching economic chaos, and that statements made by Truman concerning the welfare on the nation were nothing but political propaganda. Because (this I can't prove, but strongly think) the candidate, who was, and is the choice of their advertisers, is going to take over the reins of government they are beginning to sing a different tune. They want to build up confidence in the future because without it you don't have economic advancement.

To prove my point I would quote a few excerpts from the most recent issue of Time magazine concerning the economy of the country:

Speaking of the year 1952, "It was the most stable year in the last decade." "Despite the great production of goods the limits of expansion were not reached." Remember when Henry Wallace was called a dreamer for expressing this idea?

Concerning the personal income of individuals (a point which many said was only fiction, Time had this to say:)

"Personal income after taxes soared to a record \$235 billion, industry's profits rose from \$9 to \$9.3 billion dollars last year, consumers managed to salt away more in 1952—\$1.5 billion more than '51. The majority of citizens have bigger actual incomes than ever, despite the depreciated dollar. (Doesn't that sound more like a quote from a Truman speech than from pre-election Time magazine.) The average worker can now buy a Ford with only 925 hours of labor vs 998 hours in 1932—even though the cost of the greatly improved car has risen from \$445 to \$1,526. He can buy a \$10,000 home for 6,024 hours of

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Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

It is estimated that there are about 10,000,000 Smiths in the world. Frank T. is one of them.

Hons. Sam L. Rogers and H. H. Jarrett left Sunday afternoon for Raleigh, the former to meet with the Corporation Commission yesterday, and the latter to take his seat today in the House of Representatives as the representative of Macon County.

Mr. W. R. Stallcup left Saturday for Raleigh. He is a candidate for door keeper of the House of Representatives.

25 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Hunicutt arrived in Franklin Friday after having spent several days in Washington, D. C., on their honeymoon.

Mr. John Trotter, of Cullowhee, was shaking hands with his friends in Franklin Wednesday of this week.

Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Fouts spent last week-end with their son, Attorney Dover Fouts, and his wife, at Burnsville.

10 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Lydie Passmore, of Cartoogchaye, came to town this week for the first time in 14 years.

On New Year's evening Bill Moore gave a dinner at Cagle's Cafe in honor of the men operating and the men working in the Jim Moore Mica mine on the Moore estate.

Mr. Jack Wilcox and Mrs. Tudor Hall were hostesses at a New Year's dance Friday evening, entertaining a number of friends at the home of the former, Mrs. H. D. Randall, on Billy Cabin Mountain. (Highlands Highlights).