

# The Franklin Press

and

## The Highlands Maconian

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NOVEMBER 5, 1953

## Freedom To...

"We need also to know what we are free from and what limits we shall put upon ourselves. Mere freedom is an ideological vacuum."—Newspaper Columnist Raymond Moley.

"VACUUM: An unfilled or empty space"; that is to say, nothingness.

So that, Mr. Moley, is the goal toward which all our aspiration and struggle and sacrifice, down through the centuries, has been leading us—toward nothingness.

And so freedom is something we can dismiss as "mere"!

And so freedom is a thing that must have limits put upon it!

And so we are free only **from**: that is, freedom is just a negative thing!

You could as well say goodness is the mere absence of evil; that truth is the mere absence of error; that beauty is the mere absence of ugliness.

And some men, in America today, do say those things!

They say them because they are afraid. Timid souls, they dare not leave the security of the familiar; and they sense—though they never will admit—that truth and goodness and beauty are positive, dynamic forces, and hence inevitably bring **change**. So, too, does freedom—freedom most of all!

\* \* \*

Of course we must put limits on freedom. But we must limit it only to the end, and only so much as is necessary, that there may be the maximum of freedom for **all**.

Freedom for all; there's the rub! That is what the shrinking ones, those who draw aside their robes lest they be contaminated by ruder men—that is what they would be free from. They fear too much freedom, freedom for too many.

And freedom for the few among the many. That is what the timid ones, those who dare not go far from shore—that is what they would be free from. They fear the strangeness of new ideas, the freedom to dissent.

\* \* \*

It is true, too, that we all do seek freedom **from**; freedom from such things as want and fear? But is that all?

Was Socrates thinking of a purely negative thing, a mere freedom **from**, when he drank the hemlock as the price of intellectual freedom?

Did Jesus have in mind a mere freedom **from** when he said "the truth shall make you free"?

Were the men, on the Continent of Europe and in Great Britain, who slowly, laboriously, painfully created the concept of political freedom—were they driven by an inner urge to fight on for a purely negative thing?

Were the authors of the Declaration of Independence inspired by the dream of a mere absence of slavery when they declared that all men are endowed with the inalienable right to Liberty? (For is a right the mere absence of a wrong?) Or the authors of the Constitution of the United States when they sought to "secure the blessings of liberty"? (For is a blessing the mere absence of a curse?)

Did the Americans who died at Valley Forge and at Gettysburg and on the Normandy Beachhead die for a mere negative freedom, one that one can lead only to "an ideological vacuum"?

Was it mere freedom **from** that enabled America to create the technological and industrial miracle of the ages? That made it possible for this nation to produce its Walt Whitmans and Abraham Lincolns and George Washington Carvers?

Was it?

Or was it, instead, the unleashing of the limitless

forces within men's minds and imaginations and spirits?

\* \* \*

Real freedom is not freedom **from** but freedom **to**—

Freedom of a man to worship God, in his own way.

Freedom to inquire and to know and to think.

Freedom to speak the truth, as each man sees the truth.

Freedom of the child to "burgeon out all there is within him".

Freedom to dream and to work and to achieve. Yes, and freedom to differ—a freedom broad enough to encompass the timid who would limit its boundaries and the bold who would burst them.

\* \* \*

Not just freedom **from**, but freedom **to**—that is what has made America great.

It was toward freedom **to** that man stumbled up through the darkness of yesterday. It is toward freedom **to** that he gropes through the terrible darkness of today. And it is freedom **to** that beckons him on toward a brighter, because a **freer**, tomorrow.

## Ambitious

This newspaper knows nothing of the merits or demerits of the church controversy that led Bishop Homer Tomlinson to seek to destroy the concrete letters that spell out the Ten Commandments, on a mountain near Murphy.

But we will say one thing for the good Bishop: he is ambitious.

Most of us, in the course of our lives, break one or more of the Commandments, but Bishop Tomlinson must be the first man in history to try to break all ten at one time.

## Bouquet

Congratulations to Mr. R. E. McKelvey on his election as a vice-president of the North Carolina Independent Telephone Association. This recognition from a state group is an honor not only to Mr. McKelvey, but to his home town as well.

Flowers, too, to Mrs. E. M. McNish for sharing her experiences on the trip to the U. N. Mrs. McNish's vivid account, which appeared on the editorial page of last week's Press, did just what it evidently was meant to do—left the reader with the feeling he had been along.

## The Dream Step

L. P. Cross, the hardworking editor-publisher of The Clayton (Ga.) Tribune, has taken the step all newspaper publishers dream of, but seldom get around to doing.

Mr. Cross has sold his newspaper, explaining with a frankness that has marked his 30 years of publishing the Georgia weekly, "... I am not anxious to leave off the editorial toga, but I am tired and time just won't wait for me to catch up with things."

We wish Mr. Cross the very best and hope he can find time to cross the state line and visit with us.

To the new purchasers of The Tribune, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Edward Barker, we extend a welcome across the line and wish them all the success in the world in their new venture.

## Others' Opinions

### IT WOULD BE!

(New York Sun)

Scotland is drifting westward at the rate of seven or eight feet a year. The significant thing is that it is a free ride.

### BATS, GOING AND COMING

(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

Scientists report a mysterious decline in the bat population. The question, then, is where did they go? We've known for years where they came out of. And fast too.

### HISTORICAL PERSONAGE

(Raleigh News and Observer)

Mary Pickford, who so long was America's first favorite movie actress, has been visiting in Southern Pines and while there went to see a child at the Moore County Hospital.

"Though the children in the hospital," says a news story, "did not recognize the lady who was 'America's Sweetheart' in former years, the nurses did and there was considerable excitement."

This obviously is an item on old age. Of course, the children

can't remember Mary Pickford. The wonder is that the nurses can. Her fame was made in the old silent picture days. It has been 20 years or more since she appeared in her last picture, which was a "talkie"—a word itself now lost to the language.

Miss Pickford is an historical character who was in the movies when the movies began.

It was nice of such a personage out of the past to go to see the child in the hospital. It is also a little appalling to notice that the little old lady whose career covers the whole history of the movies is still just 60 years old.

## AIR FORCE FARCICAL HEARING

(Des Moines Register)

Many persons were shocked last week to find that an Air Force board had recommended (subject to review) that a reserve lieutenant, Milo Radulovich, be discharged as a security risk solely because of some activities on the part of his father and sister. Many others are likely to be even more shocked at finding how the board came to its decision.

As described on newscaster Edward R. Murrow's television program, Radulovich's trial was in the form of a hearing before three Air Force officers. The statement of charges consisted of a list of 12 allegations—eight against the sister and four against the father.

But while Radulovich's attorney was able to present witnesses and question them to answer the allegations, that was the extent of the hearing. The Air Force presented no evidence at the proceedings. Radulovich's attorney could not cross-examine witnesses because the Air Force offered none. The whole case against Radulovich was contained in a "confidential investigative file", which no one had the right to examine. Radulovich's attorney observes that in more than 30 years of practice he has never encountered such a "farce and travesty on justice."

The justification for proceedings of this sort is that no one has a constitutional right to a government job or a military commission; nor is the government accusing anyone of a crime, in the usual sense. It follows that no one has a right to traditional constitutional safeguards—such as the right to be confronted by the witnesses against him—in hearings which are solely to determine fitness for a post.

All of that may be perfectly logical and acceptable from a legal point of view. But most Americans are apt to feel a sharp sense of dismay that a person can face being branded a security risk and recommended for discharge on the basis of the kind of flimsy hearing the Air Force offered.

## Poetry

Editor  
EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE  
Weaverville, North Carolina

### PETUNIAS IN NOVEMBER

The orchard trees stand idle,  
Or flutter lifeless leaves;  
The sunbeams hint of Summer,  
So does a gentle breeze.  
I pause, to stare in wonder  
At blossoms by the wall—  
Petunias richly flowering  
In the apathy of Fall.  
Against the somber landscape,  
These colors left by chance  
Are like a bit of harmony  
In Autumn's Dissonance.

LOUISE GODFREY OGLE

## STRICTLY

### PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

CHAPEL HILL.—Wonder how that expression, "independent as a hog on ice," ever got started. As we use it, it means standing on your own feet, asking no favors.

It must have come into use long before run-of-the-mill folks had enough ice to be able to put a slaughtered animal "on ice"; so it surely means as independent as a hog standing or walking on ice. The phrase brings me a picture of a hog standing on a sheet of ice floating down a river.

I can imagine nothing that would be more UN-independent than a hog would be under such circumstances. Rather than being independent, my guess is he'd be squealing for dear life for somebody to rescue him. Hardly a picture of independence.

Has anybody any idea about where we got this phrase?

Of all the various kinds of discourtesies, the one that gets under my skin worse, I think, is the way some persons, particularly women, completely ignore an apology.

You unintentionally bump into them on the street, or step on their feet in a crowd, or otherwise do something you are sorry for, and you involuntarily exclaim: "Pardon me" or "I'm sorry" or "Please excuse me." And you get no answer whatever—not even a glimmer of acknowledgement in the eyes.

All snobbishness, of course, is discourteous, but this, it seems to me, is carrying it to the nth degree.

I had it happen the other day. A cafeteria was crowded and I unintentionally touched the foot of a woman who was seated at the front—barely touched it, that was all. I apologized in my best manner. But

nothing happened; not so much as a smile, or even a frown.

Such ungraciousness seemed inexcusable, and I made up my mind I would force her to acknowledge the apology. So I stood perfectly still and repeated it. No reply. I repeated it again, in a louder tone. She looked straight through me; it was as though I did not exist. I kept on, four or five times, getting louder all the time.

I was so mad I was on the point of stepping on both her feet and just standing on them. Then I suddenly realized—she must be deaf!

My room here is in the home of an elderly French couple. They have been in this country only about six months, but the wife speaks excellent English and I have had several interesting conversations with her. She coaches a number of college students who are deficient in their French; and I wondered why, if she were interested in teaching, she didn't apply for a job as French teacher in one of the public schools here or in some town nearby.

The answer: She hasn't a North Carolina teacher's certificate.

We have hundreds of persons teaching French in North Carolina's public schools whose French conversation probably no Frenchman could understand. But a native of the country, a woman of culture, who presumably speaks excellent French, can't teach that language in the North Carolina public schools because she lacks a certificate!

I like an expression of one of the journalism professors here; it sounds very much like the kind of thing we would say in Macon County.

When he wants to discount

something that is chiefly talk, with no concrete results—something we in the old days would have described as "windy" or "hot air"—Phillips Russell dryly remarks: "There was a blast of trumpets—but nothing happened!"

## News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Many military leaders with experience in World Wars I and II say that the fighting of the American troops in Korea has been as valiant as any they have ever witnessed. Since many of our people have never clearly understood the issues involved in the Korean war there has been a doubt in their mind concerning the war. Perhaps this doubt was also in the soldiers' minds. Then why did they fight so well? I think the question was best answered by Eric Sevareid, veteran news analyst in a broadcast one day after the Korean truce was announced. Below is part of Mr. Sevareid's broadcast on "Why Did They Fight?"

"Why have these youths behaved so magnificently? It was true, as many said, that rotation was a substitute for victory in this war. But that was not all the answer. The rest of it lies very deep in the heart and tissues of this American life, and none among us can unravel all the threads of it. It has to do with their parents and their teachers and their ministries; it has to do with their 4-H Clubs, their Scout troops, their neighborhood centers; it has to do with the sense of belonging to a team, with the honor of upholding it, the shame of letting it down. But it also has to do with their implicit, unreasoned belief in their country, and their natural belief in themselves as individual men upon the earth.

Whatever is responsible, their behavior in this undefinable, unrewarded war outmatch, it seems to me, the behavior of those Americans who fought the definable wars of certainty and victory. For this is a new thing in the American story; and for those of us who write the story, as they live it, this is a thing to be put down with respect and some humility."

In addition to what Mr. Sevareid has said I think that our churches are having a growing influence in spreading the cause of justice and righteousness. Many of the soldiers would be the last to admit this but faith in those things which the churches stand for was the undefinable thing which in many cases helped the soldier to make the extra sacrifice.

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Burton Lyle reached home last Wednesday at noon from Birmingham, Ala., where he had been working in a printing office for several months.

The county commissioners have purchased three road scrapers, which are here, and propose buying two more.

Revenue officers Shope and Ensley raided a sow-paw factory on Cowee last Saturday night, and captured a still and a lot of beer, which were destroyed.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Those who oppose building a jail for Macon County have obtained an order effective until the first day of the November term of Macon County court restraining the commissioners from proceeding with the construction of a new jail.

Anyone in Franklin who is absolutely certain that he can't be wrong about anything should try his hand at running a newspaper.

Vermont is said to have a breed of barkless dogs. Now there's hope that some day Franklin may have a breed of honkless horn motorists.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Miss Daisy Caldwell, formerly with the Swain-Graham county unit of the Farm Security Administration, is now home supervisor for Macon and Swain counties.

Miss Carolyn Nolen has been in Franklin this week. She is now assistant administrative supervisor for the F. S. A. Macon in one of the 23 counties in her area.