

THE PILOT

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AMERICANISM

Communism is a danger to America, but not as great a danger as we make out, and not only because its disciples are so relatively few in our country.

75,000 at the most. The danger from communism is mild compared to the real danger that faces us... the danger that we will be untrue to our American heritage.

Not long ago a liberal organization was the target of a communist attack. With typical maneuvers the communists tried to infiltrate and take over the organization, twisting its slogans of equality, justice, world brotherhood for their own ends.

What happened? At the first outright attack, many of the affiliated chapters withdrew. Uttering loud cries of "Down with communism, America forever!" the chapters quit cold. Here was the perfect chance to fight communism, but to do so they had to stand by their guns and show that their slogans were more than just words.

And their actions showed only too clearly that they weren't. They didn't really believe them and they were scared. Just the way our country is scared now.

And if we are really like that, we Americans, there is reason to be scared. If we are ready to give up our slogans of equality, fraternity, liberty, justice because all of a sudden they sound too exciting, too impassioned, too dangerous, we are going to be in a bad fix.

If we stop being a daring adventurous people and begin to hide behind Un-American Activities Committee and anti-subversive laws instead of depending on our Bill of Rights and our own good sense and courage, then we are in far graver danger than from communism.

Lately before the Un-American Activities committee, appeared a familiar figure; horribly familiar. Hamilton Fish, former representative from New York and former convicted dilly-dallier with Nazi agents, was listened to with respect by the senate committee, this only two years after the end of the war.

How can this be in a country that is so worked up over "Americanism"? How can it be that the large group of obvious fascists, whose wartime trial for subversive activities was halted, has never been brought back for trial? How can it be that Tallmadges, Bilbos, McKellars, Rankins become leaders in our government? How can it be that a man like McKellar, the known head of a corrupt political machine, can pillory such a public servant as David Lillenthal? How can one of our greatest cities have as its mayor a man who has been convicted and should be serving a jail sentence?

It is the American people themselves who should be brought up before the Un-American Activities committee, for it is their forgetfulness of what is American that is the danger. Blinded by greed, we have laid waste the resources of our beautiful land; we have let petty politics and selfish interests dim the vision of that heritage bequeathed to us by the Founding Fathers; the great slogans under which and through which our country grew are becoming words.

Across the pages of our history the march, the great words of the American spirit. Written by our leaders, spoken by statesmen, sages, soldiers, preachers, simple countrymen, these bright banners of the spirit have led our people since the founding of our country. They tell of the justice, courage, and love of liberty for one and all that has been America.

But there are a few who oppose such drastic measures. They profess to fear that Southern Pines will be hurt by adverse publicity if arrests are made. "We will be known as a police-trap for speedsters" said one.

That is possible. On the other hand it is also possible that we would become known as a town that values human life, a town that believes in law enforcement and is lined up with those forces which are trying to reduce the dreadful death toll of our highways.

It comes to a choice between publicity through motor accidents and violent death or publicity through law enforcement the decision would seem to be an easy one.

And, after all, the publicity angle is a rather unimportant one when it comes to saving lives.

BOO!

So North Carolina has joined the rest of the fraidy-cats.

It was a disappointment. Somehow it seemed against this state's tradition of good sense, not to say plain ordinary courage. Maybe it is to be expected of the big urban states, whose makeup is composed of many foreign strains, and who have all sorts of problems within their borders, to be afraid of communists, but not North Carolina. Not our steady level-headed Anglo-Saxons, our Scots of the pine barrens and the mountains, our country-folks. They aren't the kind to be afraid.

But they've done it, just the same. Their representatives in the legislature have gone on record as favoring a communist-hunt. "It is time," proclaimed Representative Kerr, "for every communist to stand up and be counted."

It may be time, Mr. Kerr, but is it reasonable? A communist who has so little sense that he will stand up, at the invitation of the legislature, and let himself be counted cannot be a very dangerous individual. What earthly good would it do to count such come-ons? All this talk of counting does is to send this menace further underground than it is already, while disfranchising the communist party, as Edgat Hoover, for one, has pointed out, would make it just that much harder to spot the enemy within our gates.

Such as he is. And he is an enemy: a very real one, a very tough one. He is disciplined, he is an indefatigable worker, he is unscrupulous, he is out to make trouble everywhere. He sincerely thinks the world would be a better place if communism were everywhere accepted and he will use any means for such an end. The end itself would mean the overthrow of democracy and the rights of man.

The communist is a dangerous individual. Because of that fact, we are fools if we don't fight him, but we are greater fools if we don't fight him right, and that means keeping our shirts on, studying all the facts and planning our attack where it will do the most good. The point of that attack is definitely not a communist witch-hunt and the time to start such a thing is definitely not at the precise moment when our representatives at the Moscow conference are racking their brains to find some way of working out with Russia and the other big countries the problem that is Europe. This sudden attack of terror at home is surely a very poor way of backing up a "get tough with Russia" policy, while as an exhibition of silliness, stupidity and timidity it is beyond words depressing.

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FRANK BUCHAN

"I feel that I have lost my best friend."

The phrase was on many lips on Tuesday as the people of Southern Pines and Moore County joined in sorrow over the death of Frank Buchan. It was on the lips of some who, one would have said, scarcely knew him, but so deep was his affectionate interest in his fellowmen that the warmth of his personality reached out and enfolded every one in the mantle of his friendship.

He died on the first day of spring. Under the warm sun, the blooming things in the countryside he loved spread their blossoms in the soft air, in the promise of summer coming.

ed. Keenly interested in all that went on around him, enjoying to the full his devoted family and friends, he was yet deeply and ceaselessly aware of what lay ahead. He had the builder's spirit, the dreamer's keen imagination, intent always on potentialities. He had the vision to see what could be done and the spirit to want and to work for what he saw. And what he wanted was the best. There has never been a son of Moore County and a citizen of Southern Pines whose hopes for his home were any higher.

During Frank Buchan's years as postmaster his efforts were concentrated on his work. Under his management the Southern Pines post office became one of the finest small offices in the country. During the war years it handled, with no loss and no confusion, several millions in funds and an enormous quantity of mail. Its rating was consistently high.

But while the post office was Frank Buchan's immediate interest, his affection embraced the entire section and his knowledge of local affairs, of people high and low, prominent or obscure, was amazing.

How often in answer to a question did one hear the phrase: "ask Frank Buchan; he can tell you". And he always could. Whether it was about some phase of early history or about negro spirituals or state politics or an inquiry about some poor sick old man, Frank Buchan knew the answer. And, if it was a question of help and advice, none was more readily given or more valuable.

His interest in his colored friends and his kindness to them was an example of Christian brotherhood. His understanding, his tolerance, his fairness, and his hatred of falseness, arrogance, meanness, showed the true democrat.

That was the sort of man he was. And the sort of impression he made? It is hard for an old and devoted friend to write of that: Kindness first, and courtesy; a vivid originality of phrase and turn of wit that made listening to his stories an utter delight; a world of hard, clear, common sense; keen understanding of human nature; a rugged rock-hewn look that covered quick sympathy.

There have been few among us whose passing from our midst will be felt as the loss of Frank Buchan.

TRIBUTE

Frank Buchan was one of the finest men I have ever met, and I have lived in many places and met many men. I am proud indeed to be able to call him one of my dearest and best of friends. I shall miss him beyond measure and so will the town of Southern Pines.

Generous with his time, his energies, and all he had, far- visioned and quick to see what was good and to act upon it, no man had more to do with the progress and the beauty of Southern Pines, no man ever did more kindly acts. No man was ever more modest about them.

He leaves behind him a legion of those whom he helped in one way or another. He leaves behind him in the hearts of all who knew him well a love that time will not erase.

Struthers Burt.

The Public Speaking

Steve Court Cameron, N. C. March 8, 1947

The Pilot

Dear Editor, I was reading with great interest, in The Pilot of Friday, February 28, a letter concerning the ABC liquor stores, from "A Worried Mother," Pinehurst.

May I speak of liquor, first, from what Our Lord says in the Good Book, and second, from a practical point of view?

If you will turn to First Corinthians, chapter 6, verses 9-10, you will see that no drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God!

Our Lord says definitely that those who would put a cause of stumbling in the way of a weaker brother will be punished.

In the course of my many years' teaching, I had opportunity to see the hardships and suffering of the children when the father or mother, or both, were drunkards, but I will only mention one case. There were two little sisters in my room, whose father was a drunkard. They came to school in below-zero weather in ragged clothes, and their shoes and stockings worn right through to the ground! It was pitiful and tragic to see the way they would cringe when any adult came near them.

Then what happened. Prohibition came into effect, and bootleg liquor was out of the father's price range so he stopped drink-

Let's Give Youth A Square Deal

Against Delinquency Temptations

J. Edgar Hoover lists as an important factor in juvenile lawlessness the breakdown of the American home. This phase of the question is also in the hands of those who are concerned about this problem in our own locality.

Not long ago Superintendent of Schools Philip J. Weaver spoke before a group in West Southern Pines on this subject. Opening his talk with the arresting remark that "there are no delinquent children, there are only delinquent parents," he held his audience at a high pitch of interest by his eloquent appeal for better homes and greater parental concern over children's welfare. His audience was so impressed with his remarks that he was later invited to speak also before the West Southern Pines Parent-Teacher association.

The problem of juvenile delinquency to be found everywhere in our land is ours also, and we have citizens who are concerned with it and are doing their best to handle it. There is not a doubt that our school people are on the right track. The program they are trying to carry out deserves the support of us all.

In the first three months of 1947 juvenile delinquency cases brought before Clerk of Superior Court John A. Willcox totaled 22—the exact number of all those heard during 1946.

This may look as though juvenile delinquency is on a sharp upgrade in Moore county, but this is not the case.

It means that juvenile delinquency is being better and more efficiently handled since the addition last July of a special child welfare worker to the welfare department staff; and that many more cases are being taken care of.

Miss Sarah Catherine McInnis, the new case worker, has as her main job the investigation of all school truancy cases, with their contributory causes. She keeps busy, but even so Moore county has a smaller number of cases in proportion to the population.

However, before we start congratulating ourselves, saying like the Philistine, "Thank God, we are not as others are," let us take a look at the cases which have already this year come up before Judge Willcox.

Parental Neglect

In four of the cases, it was the parents who were on trial, charged with neglect, for violating the state law which requires them to see that their children attend school until the age of 16.

In other truancy cases, numbering 14, it was the children who were tried, as the parents had been unable to get them to go to school.

Two cases were listed as "uncontrollable," and there were 10 listed as "delinquency," involving both truancy and uncontrollability along with a variety of other forms of wrongdoing.

Two juveniles were tried for forgery, one for aiding and abetting in the wrongdoing of someone else, one for arson.

Checking with Mrs. Walter B. Cole, welfare superintendent, we find that these represent only a small number of actual cases, because every angle is tried, and a solution found if possible, before a case is permitted to come to trial. Often a revision can be made in home conditions which produce child crime; or the environment can be changed entirely, with the children placed in foster homes.

Undirected Energy

"Those aren't bad children," says Mrs. Cole, who has probably seen more of the seamy side of life in our county than anyone else you could name. "They are simply undirected. Often both parents work, trusting the children to look after themselves, get themselves to school, behave themselves after school—and the kids, hunting the kind of excitement which appeals to them more, just don't do it. In many of the Negro cases especially—and white and Negro cases run about fifty-fifty—the father has vanished, the mother has gone to some other state to work and the children are in the care of grandparents who are unable to look after or control them.

"You can't always blame parents, for often they themselves are ignorant, handicapped or bewildered before the complexities of making a living and coping with adverse conditions.

"Children crave excitement, and some sort of release for their boundless energies and inventiveness. Where proper channels are not presented, they find the wrong ones, and the first thing

ing. In three months' time the transformation was nothing short of a miracle!

The children had nice little lunches to bring to school, attractive warm clothes, dainty little patent leather shoes and socks, with rubbers for stormy weather. And best of all, the children began to tell what happy times they had when they went to the parks and beaches with mother and father.

Yet some will argue for liquor for its source of revenue. Our Lord says "The love of money is the root of all evil." Is revenue from an evil that traffics in human souls, worth it?

Very truly yours, Helen H. Farnham

program of cultural, athletic and social activities, he has cooperated in the formation of a Boy Scout troop under E. M. Gentry, shop manager; basketball teams of both boys and girls which played a full series of interschool games; a play yard with swings installed, and other equipment planned and hoped for.

A school band, with good instruments and uniforms, is his cherished dream for the school, where he has found much musical talent. This he believes would be a source of pride not only to the students but to the whole community.

School authorities, welfare workers and volunteer leaders struggling along without parental cooperation cannot get very far, no matter how fine are their intentions. Parents working and worrying, and failing to support community efforts, are also at a standstill. The ideal is cooperation between community and parents in behalf of every child—not just your own, but your

neighbor's as well.

The agencies which are working together to make our town and county a better place to live must receive the support of every citizen if our youth is to have a fair deal.

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