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THE NEW YEAR

New Year's prospects for Southern Pines look bright to the Pilot. As he takes a squint from his post on the bridge, he sees several welcome signs of good things to come.

There is the bus station situation, for instance. Long a strong advocate of a good bus station for his home town, the Pilot can't restrain a cheer to see that both local opinion and the bus company now agree with him that this is a matter of first importance. It looks, now, as if the New Year might see a new station for our bus-riding citizens and visitors.

And what about the new grade school? If that isn't about the best New Year's present this town could have! It is getting better-looking every day that it grows near completion. The town will have a right to swell with pride on the day its doors open. And while the opening of any school-house door is a matter of gloom for those who enter, there isn't a doubt of the blessedness of the change to take place in our children's lives, when they move over to their new building. The expansion in health, pleasure and grey matter due to take place in our youngsters during the coming New Year is beyond estimation.

Then there's the new library wing. That should be completed by spring. E. J. Austin and Al Yeomans between them have done a wonderful job, in the Pilot's estimation. The North Carolina room is already lovely, even in the present rough state, while there isn't a doubt that there will be many and many an interesting exhibit held in the little gallery during the year of 1948 and those to follow.

What else? Well, today, the Pilot spotted the most exciting scaffolding being erected on top of the Presbyterian church. It looked to him like a steeple, and a mighty high and fine one. That's an event of the first magnitude to welcome in the New Year.

What else? Well . . . what about the wonderful new scout camps being organized and built for our Boy Scouts, one of them in Moore County? They will surely be dedicated in the New Year.

Then there's the hospital planning to enlarge. That is a project already on paper, and just waiting for the signal to get going in fact; 1948 should see the first bricks laid.

Are there other things? Most likely there are. There is the gleam of promotion . . . good promotion. . . in many an eye these days and Southern Pines has never been a place to rest on its laurels. The Pilot knows that his people are not self-satisfied, but are always on the lookout to improve their home town in every good way. He likes to think he is that way himself and he wants to work with them always to make this town and this county, so beloved, the best place possible to live in.

That is a good wish on which to close the old year and open the new one. And so he says: A Happy New Year to one and all, and may we work together during the coming year and all years to come, for the good of our town, of our Moore County and our Carolina and of our nation in America and in that farther sphere of world fellowship into which we have been called!

TO SEE OURSELVES . . .

In an adjoining column is the text of an address made recently by Robert H. Jackson, associate justice of the Supreme Court, at Dartmouth College. It strikes us as being as fine an analysis of the American position as regards Europe and Russia as we have yet seen.

Not long ago we listened to a recently returned American describe her experiences while visiting friends in Europe last summer. She was shocked by the hunger, the misery, the desperation. But she had expected them. But what shocked her in a peculiarly personal way was a statement which she heard made many times regarding the American forces in Europe.

"There are many fine young men among them," she was told, "many acts of kindness are done, but . . . well, do most Americans get drunk a great deal? And, is it customary for all Americans, when they are seated, to place their feet on the table, and not take them down when callers

will we make it?

The New Year is ahead of us once more. Once more we are looking at the fresh pages, wondering what, at the end of 1948, will be found written on them.

The record of the past year is full of ups and downs, as such a history always is. Looking back on it, we are inclined to feel the down-drops are steeper than the climbs upward, or perhaps that feeling is intensified, now, by the contrast with last year. For, while there have been many gains, which in moment of depression we are too inclined to forget, it is certainly true that the place where we are standing now, the jumping-off place for this new year, seems to be at a lower level than it was when we were poised to jump into 1947.

Part of the reason for that feeling is that we set our hopes

for last year too high. Not in themselves, but in the time we gave them to come true. The past year was a time to be spent getting back a bit into the stride of living, but also it was a time of pure trial and the errors that inevitably go with trials. The UN for instance, was just starting, and, though there have been many errors, our most pessimistic internationalists will have to admit that that mighty engine is still turning over. Its wheels are moving slowly, they certainly are not yet in proper alignment, the brakes are a thousand times stronger than the forward motive power, but it got going and it is still going. That's a definite upward landing among the ups and downs of last year.

There are others, among them less labor strife than ever before, far greater responsibility and true leadership being shown among the younger labor leaders. This seems to us one of the most hopeful signs of recent times in this country.

But it would be too long and too complicated a task to try to measure the hills and valleys of the past; better to take a look, now, at that flat surface that stretches before us. Is it going to climb up or down? Will our jumping-off place, for 1949 be higher than our present precarious foothold?

There is no telling, of course. But one thing is sure: A precarious foothold is a bad start for a sure jump. Speaking solely of our own country, it is essential that we mend our fences and strengthen our own position. Circumstances, over which we had little control, have thrust us into a position of world leadership. Whether we like it or not, that is where we are and we must do the best we can. It is a case of sink or swim, for ourselves and for the whole world.

In itself that may be one of the best things that has happened to us, if only we can realize it and act accordingly. Americans have been slow starters. With all our boasted confidence and vitality, we have usually hung back as a crisis approached, taking action only at the last possible moment when it could not be avoided. But when forced into such a position we have done well. There is no reason in the history of our country for the present lack of self-confidence. That fact should be grasped, for in taking this stand of ours for the jump ahead into the new year a knowledge of our own powers is essential.

We must know where we stand, first of all. And that means taking heed of any deficiencies in our country, of any weaknesses in our democracy, its leadership or its body politic. We've got to see that we stand firm on the principles on which this country was founded, first of all.

Next, we have got to look straight and clear at the goal we are trying to reach. It is a goal in sympathy with our traditions; and it is right before our eyes so that we cannot possibly miss seeing it. It is the goal of helping the starving desperate world to get back on its feet again, and then going in full force, to the international organization which we and all the other countries have brought into being.

A big job; yes. But we've done big jobs before. We ourselves know that we have the power and the ability. Is the will lacking?

That is the challenge that faces us now.

There used to be an old fox-hunting phrase that suits this present situation: "If you want to jump a big fence, you've got to throw your heart over ahead of you."

Americans have the knowledge, and the power; have we the heart? Upon the answer to that question depends what will be written on the pages of tomorrow.

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If Democracy Would Succeed . . .

By Robert H. Jackson
Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States

(From a speech delivered at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.)

I think the premise that war is inevitable is an unprovable and vicious one. What does Russia have that we want? What do we have that a country so rich in natural resources as Russia wants? Neither has anything vital to the other's existence and nothing worth a fraction of the cost of taking it by war . . .

It would be wholesome, too, if we realize that we, as well as other peoples, are susceptible to errors of judgment and misleading information. We are far from Europe, generally unversed in its history, geography, and its many languages, interests, and conflicts. Lack of understanding and interest is easily the characteristic of our democracy most likely to lead us into jeopardy . . .

For those who believe ardently in our system and way of life, it is baffling and deflating to find so much of the liberated world, which we had thought to be our debtors, rejecting our leadership and example in economic, political, moral and intellectual matters . . .

The prevailing American view of the choice we offer to troubled people is simple. It is a political system founded on a majority rule, with toleration and civil rights for minorities and individuals, including freedom of press, screen, radio, speech, religion, and assembly, and an economic order of free private enterprise which in the American environment, has proven the greatest producer of goods and wealth and the highest standard of living the world has seen.

What is Wrong?
We are just as fully convinced that Soviet leadership offers nothing but dictatorship, suppression, and poverty. Our citizens, viewing the choice to be as simple as that, cannot understand what is wrong with countries that reject our beneficent and unselfish proffers to expand the area of our way of life. What is wrong?

In the first place, we have put Russia in a position of tremendous advantage in dealing with timid, demoralized and war-weary peoples. They know that she has armed forces in the occupation areas several times the number of our own; that delay in making peace defers indefinitely the departure and demobilization of the Red Army, and that even then Russian influence will be permanently backed by armed forces near by. Counsels of prudence and expediency are whispered by leaders everywhere that the smaller countries must get along with Russia, even though the behavior of the Red Army makes many silent enemies.

Russia and the United States pursued opposite policies after the

arrive?
The questions sounded fantastic, but they were asked in utter seriousness and by people of different social spheres. It appeared to the American listener an incontestable fact that American soldiers acted in this fashion very often.

Justice Jackson called attention to the European confusion of mind over the American versus Russian picture, especially regarding America's superb performance during the war and subsequent apparent charge of heart as shown in withdrawal of so many troops, in cessation of democratic propaganda and so forth. He urged his hearers to try to see all this from the European viewpoint. It seems that he might well have added: the grave disillusion experienced by Europeans as regards the American soldier.

We think with horror, and properly so, of a country in the power of the Russian army, with its brutal soldiery and its ruthless policies. Perhaps a certain sympathy should be extended, also, to those who have to deal with our young men. Not that the comparison is fair: Europeans expected young Galahads of these savours of their country and part of their present disappointment is due to that, but we must not laugh it off. There is too much behind it.

The secret trails now being conducted by General Clay are proof that a deep deterioration has taken place among our soldiers, that discipline has dropped and morale is low, while, in this civilian-recruited army, officers are too frequently unfit for the responsibilities of command in an occupation force.

Here is another point where Americans would do well to modify the holier-than-thou attitude, so infuriating to all it touches, and to admit that far too often we fail to practice the democracy and the idealism we so glibly preach.

German surrender. The lot of Russian occupation soldiers, who live as much as possible off the land and are paid in occupation marks printed in Germany, has been sufficiently comfortable so that there was no overwhelming demand among them to return home. It has been comparatively easy, as well as good for her prestige, for Russia to maintain strong occupation forces.

They Began To Doubt
We, on the contrary, without waiting settlement of any of the war problems, embarked on a re-employment program. . . . I witnessed its effect on the attitude of our late enemies and our Allies. They had admired the American Army as a matchless fighting army. But they began to doubt American understanding of the magnitude of the reorganization that was pending in Europe, and to question our determination to stand by the really democratic forces until they could establish themselves . . .

But, most important of all, it seems to me we fail to appreciate the skill and effectiveness of the Soviet propaganda appeals to the depressed people of the world, and overestimate our own. Tyranny and poverty, which we say are Russia's only contributions, are not so shocking or fearful to people who have never known anything else. This is the case in Greece, the Balkans, Hungary, and the Near and Middle East.

Also, our liberty and prosperity are presented to the masses of Europe in a very different light than we see them. Of course, all have been impressed with our productive capacity as demonstrated by the war. But our minority problems and injustices are played up, our industrial strife is magnified and capitalized, the extravagance and vulgarity of our wealthy are caricatured, the conflict and indecisiveness of our political system is pointed out, and, most of all, our alternating periods of depression and activity, deflation and inflation, are pictured as cause of much of the world's distress and woe . . .

We must not forget that those who dwell on the periphery of Russia are poor peoples, and with the Soviet they have a fellowship in poverty. They have been governed by weak, tyrannical, and corrupt governments. Upper classes have been discredited by collaboration with the Germans in many cases, or can be plausibly, if wrongly, accused of it in others. The anti-Communist forces are weak. The Soviet propaganda is skillful in identifying us with discredited regimes and in arousing prejudices against our influence. The Soviet understands these people and these tactics better than we do . . .

We Can Reach Working Understanding

My experience in getting along from day to day for nearly a year and a half with leading representatives of the Soviet legal world, in an enterprise as difficult as reconciling our widely separated legal concepts into a co-operative trial procedure and prosecution, leads me to believe that we can reach working understandings with them. May I make a few commonplace and general suggestions:

We cannot appease or flatter our way to understanding. I agree fully with Gen. Mark Clark, and others, that our policy must be firm and definite. But we cannot be firm if we take weak or indefensible positions; we cannot be definite with others if we are confused among ourselves.

We cannot hold to an intelligent and consistent policy in this democratic country if we do not have a public mind open to information and reason. If every public man who differs with prevailing conceptions or misconceptions is to be branded a Communist and thereby disposed of, you may as well give up the effort to keep peace. Prejudice, stimulated by passion, is the most immediate enemy of America.

The Most Valid Rule

Peace will require great wisdom and some forbearance on our part. For instance, can we simply say that Russia must take no interest in the kind of government that is to control certain of her border states, which again and again have been highways for invasion of her country? Must we not appraise her claims and conduct in the light of her history and experience? . . .

The Russians are a proud, sensitive, and patriotic people. They are more easily hurt and embittered by insult or scorn than most peoples. We should be candid with them, even blunt. They, themselves, have an unsophisticated directness at times. But we must not be oversubtle, overbearing, or disrespectful if we do not want to alienate not only the Rus-

sian masses, but the masses of other countries who feel their lot in life is closer to that of the Russian people than to ours.

One of the difficulties on this score is that, for propaganda purposes among these people, our adversaries will attach the same importance to unofficial and irresponsible utterances in America as to the most carefully considered official ones.

Above all else, we must make no threats that we are not able to carry through and ready to carry through at whatever cost. The Soviet will go to any ends to avoid "loss of face" themselves, for to them it means loss of respect. If we lose face, we forfeit their respect which, by our wartime performance, we had won. If we once pawn that asset, we will be a long time in redeeming it.

But, why go on? It was all summed up centuries ago in the Golden Rule. It is still the most valid and self-enforcing rule in our law. If we hold to it and the spiritual values it embodies, we will avoid the prayer of the thoughtless nations:

"For frantic boast and foolish word
Thy mercy on Thy people,
Lord."

The Public Speaking

The Pilot
Southern Pines, N. C.
Gentlemen:

It is possible you would be interested in an account of a rather successful activity that has been carried on here in a small way for a number of years. I refer to the work of the Moore County Educational Foundation, Inc.

This corporation was formed in 1930 to take over the student loan fund activities which at that time the Kiwanis club was handling. At various times the Kiwanis club contributed a total of \$1,797; \$1,342.15 was contributed by individuals; \$468.65 was collected from student loans previously made by the Kiwanis club. This gave the Foundation a total fund of \$3,607.80.

Using this fund, loans have been made to 35 different students in a total amount of \$7,710. These loans vary in amount all the way from \$60 to \$600, and all but eight have now been fully paid off.

The Foundation has cash in the bank \$3,379.87 and owns seven \$100 series F bonds. The amount of loans outstanding total \$1,490, but unfortunately it is probably that four of these eight loans totalling \$1,005 will never be repaid. However, if even none of the loans now outstanding are ever paid off it will be observed that help to students has been provided in a total amount of more than twice the original capital and that the Foundation still has assets in cash and bonds well over the amount of this original investment. This is of course explained by the fact that the loans have been revolving and that the interest has a little more than taken care of the losses.

For the most part, students have been conscientious in endeavoring to pay off the loans, one example of this being a loan which has been on our books 17 years and on which 68 payments have been made.

Richard S. Tufts,
Treasurer, Moore County
Educational Foundation, Inc.
Pinehurst, N. C.

(This is an excerpt from a letter recently received by a friend in Southern Pines from Miss Ida M. Fishburne, English teacher at St. Stephen's High school in South Carolina, who spent some time here this fall with Mrs. Yates of the Arcade building. We are happy to publish her kind words, and grateful to the owner of the letter, who brought it to us but wishes to remain unnamed.)

I liked your Southern Pines and I can understand your enthusiasm for it. It is unique as a resort, stimulating and at the same time restful.

It is enjoyable to linger in a place of this kind, which preserves the independence of the country while it affords the conveniences of the town.

A particular feature not to be overlooked at a certain stage is that it has a definite attraction for "oldies" and gives the suggestion that they may still be in the picture.

Ida M. Fishburne
St. Stephens, S. C.

INSTALLATION

Thomas Ray, of Robbins, was installed as a director of the Sanford Shrine club for 1948, at the installation of officers and directors held at the annual banquet meeting of the club at the Wilbur hotel, Sanford, Wednesday

evening. B. G. Minter, of Sanford, retiring president, was the installing officer. Dr. R. O. Humphrey is his successor in office.

HAPPY OMEN
Patch's is celebrating their 61st anniversary this week. That must make this leading

Southern Pines store one of the first to have been founded here, as the date for incorporation of the town is just 80 years ago this spring.

In these days of impermanence, with people seldom living in the same house, much less the same town, for more than a few years, Patch's endurance record is a

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