

Editorial and Opinion

Red Cross Needs Your Help

The month of March, 1949, has been designated by President Truman as "Red Cross Month," and the organization seeks to raise, by voluntary contributions, in a nation-wide campaign, a fund with which to carry on its work while the foundations of peace are being established, and, in its humanitarian service, to express the spirit of universal good will which recognizes no barriers in human welfare.

The Red Cross, one of three national organizations chartered by Congress, undertook and successfully accomplished a tremendous task during the active participation of this nation in the first and second World Wars. It still has many duties to perform if proper attention is to be paid to our veterans overseas.

In addition, it has a long record of relief work in the peaceful years of our national existence, bringing aid, treatment and rehabilitation to victims of disaster. It also makes its contribution to the war against sickness, accident, suffering and death.

We call attention to these things so that the people of Orange County will be advised of the appeal and be prepared to make a financial contribution which will enable the Red Cross to continue its work. During the war years, there was general desire to take part in the work of the Red Cross by a financial contribution if not through personal service. A continuation of this spirit will assure the success of the campaign because our people are just as anxious to help suffering humanity in times of peace as in times of warfare.

Heart Disease Greatest Killer

Heart disease is rapidly becoming the chief cause of death in the United States, being far ahead of cancer, the second on the list of diseases which kill the greatest number of people in the United States every year.

Incidentally, of the ten leading causes of death in the country, only one—tuberculosis—has shown a steady decline during the past few years. Whether this is to be attributed to the steady campaign which is waged against the white plague, or not, we have no way of knowing, but we suspect that there is some close connection.

Concerning heart disease, a recognized authority reports that coronary sclerosis is sometimes called the "disease of the intelligentsia" because of the susceptibility of physicians, bankers, lawyers and clergymen. The characteristics of the disease including the hardening of the nerves, ligaments and blood vessels around the heart and its incidence is highest among those who do mental work and lowest among those who do manual labor.

The News naturally hesitates to attempt any conclusion from these observations but, apparently, the disease attacks individuals who are prone to forget the importance of or are denied physical exercise while consuming their energies in the anxiety of mental worries. It would therefore appear that, somewhere along the line of popular education in this country, the physical nature of man has been neglected.

If this is true, and we believe it is, we might save the lives of future professional men in this country by stressing athletic interests during childhood, with the hope that, when these individuals reach maturity, they will have sense enough to continue what has been wisely begun.

Is Your Home Dangerous?

We have called attention many times to the danger that lurks in the average American home, pointing out that statistics show that about half of all the accidental deaths in the nation are due to missteps within the home.

One survey of a large city reveals that more than half of such deaths are caused by falls. Analysis reveals that nearly half of the falls occurred on the same level, more than one-third of them on stairs and about one-sixth from one level to a lower level.

The safety experts suggest that the number of accidents caused by tripping over objects and rugs on floors is of such size as to suggest caution in every home. Moreover, the need for well-lighted stairways is important and everyone should exercise care and patience in using stairs.

We call these facts to the attention of the residents of Orange County in the hope that we may help prevent accidents in the home. It will take only a few minutes to look over your home and eliminate some of the accident hazards. Parents who do this may save their children from suffering and themselves from unnecessary expenses. In addition, they may save their own lives.

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PRESS COMMENT

Another Side To Road Plan

(From the Winston-Salem Journal of February 9, 1949)

One of the arguments made against Governor Scott's plan to authorize the issuance of \$200,000,000 in bonds for highway construction is that it would be impossible for the State Highway Commission to spend that much money during the Scott Administration.

In an editorial opposing the Scott program, the Charlotte Observer advances this argument. That paper says: "In the first place, it is extremely doubtful that the State Highway Commission can spend that amount of money wisely in the short period of four years that the Governor has fixed for his rush program of road building."

The answer to this is that there is nothing in the bill providing for the new highway bond issue which requires the State Highway Commission to spend all of the money "in the short period of four years."

In an editorial several days ago, we pointed out that the money would be spent only as rapidly as it could be wisely and economically used in the building and improvement of roads in all the counties of North Carolina. While the bonds would be authorized, they would not actually be issued except by the approval of the Governor and Council of State. And no funds would be expended without the approval of the State Highway Commission.

We believe the people of North Carolina can trust the Governor and Council of State to authorize the issuance of road bonds only as rapidly as the funds derived from their sale can be used efficiently in improving our highway system. They are men of highest integrity, recognized ability and possess excellent business judgment. They were elected by all of the people of North Carolina, and can be trusted not to forget their responsibility to all of the people.

We are also sure that the State Highway Commission which Governor Scott will appoint will be composed of men who can be counted on not to waste any of the money which the Governor and Council of State gives them authority to spend in this new road building program. We do not believe they will ask for funds which they won't be able to use wisely and economically in the construction and improvement of roads.

We are sure Governor Scott had all this in mind when he made his stirring and thoroughly convincing appeal to the people of the State this week for the support of his road program. In that appeal he said:

"If the General Assembly lets the people vote on the program and they favor it, the bonds won't be issued until they're needed and until the money can be spent wisely and economically. If we discover prices are being jacked up for highway materials and producers are trying to bleed the State, then we'll order the program cut till the market situation improves. I won't allow the State to pay interest on funds we can't use in a businesslike way. Even if all the roads aren't built by 1953, the money will be there to do it and the plans will be ready. That's why I'm fighting to get authorization now."

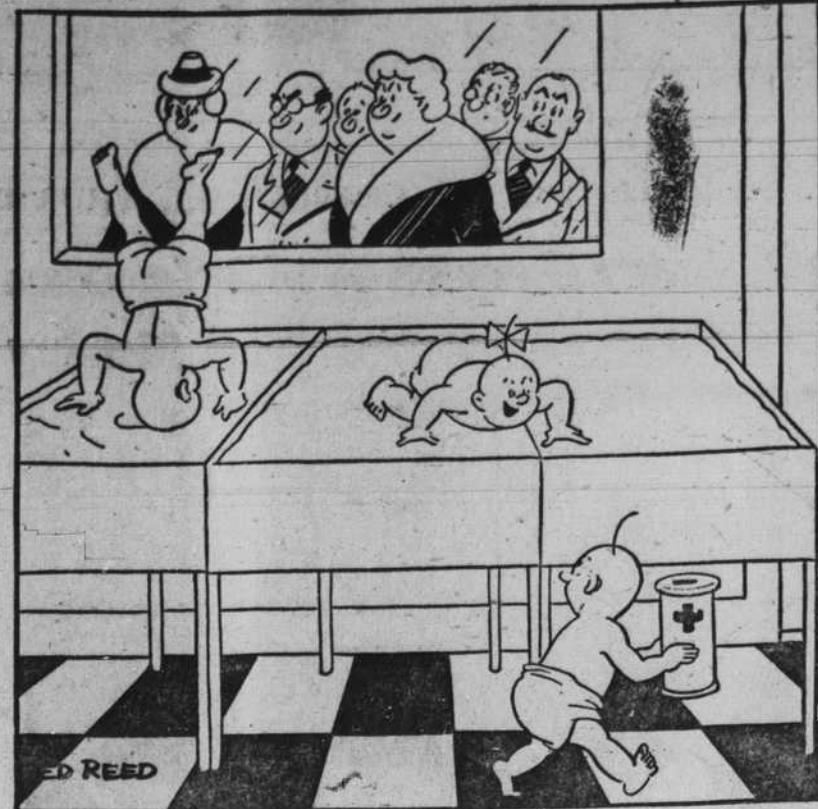
The Governor took pains also to make it clear that his plan for building secondary roads would not interfere in any way with the construction and improvement of primary highways in North Carolina, and that the two programs could and would be carried out simultaneously.

We are confident that the more they learn about the great highway building and improvement program Governor Scott visualizes for North Carolina in the years ahead the stronger will become the support of the vast majority of the people of the State for that program.

"We should not forget that this is not the first time objection has been raised to such a program by men who said the

The Three Bares

By Ed Reed



"Tucker's got a good crowd—now go out and take up a collection for the Red Cross."

money could not be spent within a given time. When Governor Morrison proposed his \$50,000,000 road bond issue in 1921, there were men who opposed it on the ground that it would be impossible to spend that amount of money during the Morrison Administration. But the Legislature of that crucial period refused to follow the leadership of these timid souls. Instead, it courageously launched the gigantic highway building program that marked the beginning of a new era in the economic and social progress of North Carolina.

We have faith to believe that the Legislature of 1949 possesses the same brand of courage that characterized the General Assembly of 1921, and that the Scott "Go Forward" program will receive equally as strong support now as the Morrison "Program of Progress" was given then.

WHEAT MARKETS

The Agriculture Department is warning farmers that the United States may find a much smaller market for its wheat after the European aid program ends. A growing trend by wheat-importing countries to enter separate long-term agreements with wheat producing countries, other than the United States, for future grain supplies, is seen. During the past marketing year, such agreements accounted for 78 per cent of all non-American wheat moving in world trade.

RAILROAD REVENUES

Railroad operating revenue dropped an estimated 2.7 per cent in January as compared with January, 1948. The estimated drop in freight revenues of representative Class 1 railroads was 3 per cent and the decline in passenger revenues 1 per cent.

EISENHOWER

The first and foremost task of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, in his new role as presiding officer of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will be to keep the armed services "in line on the military budget for the fiscal year 1951." General Eisenhower will direct the Joint Chiefs in drawing up what they regard as necessary defense requirements for the services and then fit the total needs to a monetary ceiling to be fixed by President Truman at a later date.

Sunday School Lesson

PARABLES OF JESUS
Lesson Text: Mark 4:1-9; Luke 15:11

As the hostility of the synagogue leaders became more pronounced against Jesus he changed his method of teaching. Until now he had spoken plainly and proclaimed great truths so that all might understand but, with the Pharisees seeking to entrap him, Jesus began to speak in parables.

"Parables are scenes or short stories, taken from nature or from common life," says Hastings' Bible Dictionary, "which present in a picturesque and vivid way some thought or principle which is capable of being transformed to the high spiritual life of man." The parable teaches by comparison. The object of nature or human happening is placed beside truth so that it illustrates and Jesus explains the latter.

To the large crowd which gathered around the Sea of Galilee, Jesus gave these parables, seated in a boat near the shore to avoid the crush of the multitude which had followed him and awaited his word. Our lesson this week considers what is generally accepted to have been the first parable used by Jesus, one which he explained himself in detail to his intimate followers and disciples.

From his seaside seat Jesus doubtless looked over a field and this comparison came to his mind. The sower of grain depended largely upon the nature of the soil upon which his seed fell for the harvest which would follow. So,

as seed was generally scattered by the sower, Jesus said, it fell on four kinds of soil, on the trodden path of shallow ground underlain with rock, in the midst of thorns, and on good tillable soil. In his explanation of the parable he likened each kind of soil to a kind of hearer of the word of truth spoken by him.

Seed which fell by the wayside had no chance to germinate because the birds found it easily and ate it. So, in life, many have become hardened and if the word reaches them it is quickly destroyed and taken away by evil influences.

Happily for the sower, some seed falls on good ground, takes root, grows into maturity and yields a rich harvest. So with the life of those who hear the word, accept it fully and completely pattern their lives according to truth and become a benediction and a blessing to those who come in contact with them.

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is related in Luke's and no other gospel. To many it is the outstanding parable of the New Testament. It tells the story of a younger son securing from his father his share of the inheritance and the thoughtlessness and wastefulness of it. Finally, to poverty and dire want he decides to return home, repent and seek the inferior place of a servant in his father's household. He was surprised by the loving welcome which his father gave him and the generous treatment he received.

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