



## EDITORIALS

*Never Forget That These Editorials Are The Opinion Of One Man  
— And He May Be Wrong*

### English Courage

An act of magnificent courage last week by George Brown, Minister of Economic Affairs in the new British Labor government ought to be engraved deeply in the minds and actions of union leaders on this side of the Atlantic.

Brown is a product of British trade unionism, and this government is the culmination of trade unionism power in that tight little isle. But in a meeting last week he told his fellow workers:

**"We all know what happens when wages go up faster than production, and we all know, if we are honest with ourselves, why wages go up faster than production."**

There are just three ways to avoid the abyss of runaway inflation in any economy: The Russian method of completely controlled wages and prices, the "Laissez Faire" method when management slows down production to that point where a pool of unemployment forces workers to become more interested in finding a job than in what the job pays, and finally the method toward which free societies are groping, in which labor and management try to find

an area of mutual respect in which they each restrain themselves for the good of the entire people.

The industrial society of man is just over two hundred years old and collective bargaining less than half as old. The calculated brutalities of unbridled capitalism brought the union movement into being. Today the calculated cunning of union leaders has forced this question to be of vital concern to everyone.

As our industrial base has grown smaller, with an ever increasing percentage of our national production merged into few corporate structures the power of unions has grown in the same ratio.

And now we have the super-powerful union and the super-big industry.

And with the emergence of such colossi there inevitably comes the danger of a wedding of the two, which in the final analysis could be much more dangerous than either if left alone.

Minister Brown's words have a timely, as well as courageous message for those who will hear.

### No Surprise

There was surely no surprise involved in the decision of the supreme court upholding these things called civil rights laws. Even the blindest person in America could not avoid knowing the temperament of these nine sociologists who call themselves judges.

But the entire mess is ridiculous in practice because what person of reasoning intelligence wants to force another person to cook for him?

What person would want to sleep, shop or eat in a place where he knows his presence is unwanted?

Forcing a barber to use a straight razor around one's face or making an angry cook serve one food is risky to say the frightening least.

No good, or bad cook would need much imagination to keep such forced feeding from becoming habit forming. A slip of the salt box, or of the tabasco

sauce would make a can of sardines and a box of soda crackers taste mighty good to any roving civil rights missionary.

Then there is the matter of price. New York restaurants have for years kept out any riff raff they didn't want — white, black, blue or pink — by having two prices.

Efforts of the federal government to enforce equality are impossible and, of course, the nine nitwits on the supreme court know this but in order to keep the negro vote happy, and voting for the right people, such gnawed-clean bones have to be thrown in their direction from time to time.

None but the sorriest element of negro society, or white society wants to impose itself on anyone; so what government is doing in such an instance is making itself even more ridiculous in an effort to placate the implacable.

### Continuing Challenge

Last week tobacco farmers overwhelmingly indicated that they still wanted a government program for their crop, but it would be an expensive and dangerous mistake to assume that they are completely happy with the program as it is.

Considerable effort is being made to correct some of the deficiencies of a system that has served the tobacco farmer well. Whether this effort will result in a switch from acreage to poundage quotas or modifications of the acreage system remains to be seen.

We all know that production has not been kept in line with use of tobacco in recent years so we have to admit that the present system has failed in this first instance.

We are told, too, that quality has suffered because of the crowding of more and more tobacco on less and less acres of land, so, in the two most basic areas — quantity and quality the present system is a failure.

Some suggest that acreage allocations are all right if a limit were placed on the number of plants per acre that could be planted. They say this would be more fair to the good farmer and to the farmer who is lucky enough to have superior tobacco lands.

Their argument is that a flat poundage quota could possible penalize this good farmer with the excellent tobacco land.

We do not pretend to be expert enough to know exactly what would be best, but we do know, without pretension, that something must be done or the tobacco program will be dropped by congress — no matter what per cent of tobacco farmers vote for it.

### Lay Off McNamara

Assorted wounded constituencies are screaming and plotting against Defense Secretary McNamara, but such scalping parties are sharpening their tomahawks for the wrong man.

Every offended congressman knows without doubt that McNamara would not have touched such sacred cows as the Army Reserves and the National Guard without first dropping a little hint within earshot of Lyndon Johnson, who is the kind of fellow who likes to know what's going on around the old ranch house. The same is true with the closing of surplus military bases. No person with the political disposition of President Johnson is going to have men working under him doing things of major political significance unless he agrees.

So all of these lobbyists who are getting ready to burn McNamara at the congressional stake had better take judicial note of the fact that they're only going to get to the defense secretary over the clever and formidable defenses of his boss, the president.

If this reasonable approach aimed at economy in the military is carried forward with determination there is a strong likelihood that Johnson may come up with a balanced budget before his term of office expires.

We surely hope so.

There are now new ways to say the things that need to be said about sensible revelry at this particular season of the year. We trust that those who read this page already know what common sense and moderation both mean. And we trust that they will put into practice this knowledge. Beating the public over the head with fierce phrases may be the current method, but we support the belief that those who won't aren't and those who will are, and by the time you decipher that phrase the holidays will be over and you'll be suffering nothing worse than a syntactical headache, which may be no worse than the usual holiday hangover.

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### PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

BY JACK RIDER

This is the season of greatest happiness for the majority of us, and I use this personal method of hoping for each of you who read it nothing but joy and happiness in this Christmas season.

And I wish you to enjoy yourself in the way that will make you most happy; providing, of course, that your own search for happiness does not make somebody else unhappy.

Too, whether you are a Christian or not, you should not have the lesson lost on you that Christmas is a celebration of the Birth of Christ. And whether one is Christian or heathen, none can deny the gentle warmth of the philosophies of Christ which have been handed down to us.

If all the philosophies ever spoken, or written were forgotten or ignored the perfect world could be possible if everyone were to practice the simplest philosophy of Christ, which is the very heart of the religion founded in his name: "Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You."

The churches could be turned to more useful purposes and preachers could leave their pulpits if this creed were practiced by us all. But man is a victim of his inherent instincts. Too many of his acts are still rooted in the savage lust for what he wants, to the peril of all who get in his way.

Christ knew the weaknesses of man, so his is a philosophy of both gentleness and forgiveness. Each person must read his own meaning into the teachings of Christ, and it is most un-Christian for one person to attempt to force his own interpretation down another's conscience.

But if Christ's teachings did point up the virtue of forgiveness they also accentuated the nature of responsibility, and to me, none of the cowardly things done today in his name can be found among his teachings. Christ had to be a man of unbelievable courage before he could be anything else. He faced the mobs, the governments and the passionate fears of his own people without flinching and died in a most cruel fashion, still able to ask forgiveness for his murderers.

So his courage had to come before his compassion and he never backed down in the face of even the ultimate enemy. That is why my own picture of Jesus Christ does not include any image of weakness before one's enemies, whether they be personal or spiritual. And since each of us has the right, and the duty to interpret Christ and his teachings in our own heart; that is the image of Christ I prefer, and actually the only one I can tolerate.

High crimes and unspeakable heresies have been and still are being committed in the name of The Nazarene, but his is still a simple creed that even the most backward savage can understand. Perhaps the basic reason so many savages in both the green and asphalt jungles do not understand this message is because it becomes so complicated in the mouths of those who try to twist it to personal or sectarian ends.

In this happy season memorializing the Birth of Christ none of us can make a more lasting contribution to his own peace of mind and to the ultimate peace of the world than to adopt in practice and in principle the brief, beautiful advice he gave to "Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You."

With this creed each person will have a Merrier Christmas and a much Happier New Year.