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Editor's Note: While Winchell is on vacation, Jack Lait is acting as guest columnist.

Unshackled in a Garden of Eden

Best American Divorce, and fastest, is the decree issued by Federal Judge Moore in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands, U. S. A. . . . It takes eight hours to get to St. Thomas from New York via plane, flying the new nonstop route. . . . By a new regulation, after six weeks' residence, the decree is signed, eliminating long periods of publication and other delays pertinent to Reno or Miami divorces. . . . The Virgin Islands are a practically unknown paradise — few tourists, best Scotch on earth at \$2.50 a fifth, cigarets 50 cents a carton, shopping for native woven products at prewar prices and your buck worth 100 cents. . . . Two American hotels — Hotel 829 and the government-run Bluebeard's Castle — total accommodations 60 people! . . . The Virgin Islands divorce decree is the only one in the country signed by a federal judge, who is appointed by the President. . . . No V. I. divorce has yet been contested by any state. Lawyers feel that the federal character of the decree puts it above protest. . . . In this tropical Capri, the city-harassed American finds new world comforts along with authentic old world atmosphere like the South Sea Islands once had. . . . Natives live in tiny huts, the beaches are blue and coral, the water crystal clear, with vast acres wild, awaiting settlement. . . . The government—local and national—is eager to sell at ridiculously low figures. . . . At Caneel bay, on St. John (one of the U. S. Virgin group), the most breath-taking beach on earth rests its spreading white arms in cool tropical splendor — with an average of three bathers a day! Cabanas, furnished by the U. S., are usually empty.

Atlantic City shut up tighter than ever

The cops just sent the sad word around, and the wheels stopped rolling. . . . Jack Lynch, who lost his historic club on Philly's Walton hotel roof when sudden fire regulations closed it, is hunting a new street-floor spot there; meanwhile, he wants to take over the now dark Rainbow room, in Radio City—but the Rockefeller don't seem to need the money.

When George White, whose "Scandals" rivaled Ziegfeld's "Follies," ran into hit-and-run trouble in San Diego, the supposedly hard-hearted Broadway boys called a meeting and chipped in for a defense fund.

Buddy de Sylva was the leader. . . . The kitty went to \$50,000!

Faye (Mrs. Roosevelt) Emerson returns to the stage at Cape Cod, Mass., August 12, in "Here Today," a warmed-over Ruth Gordon starer of 1934. . . . It's official—Joan Crawford's next is "Possessed," with Van Heflin, based on a Cosmopolitan magazine novelette, "One Man's Secret," by Rita Weiman. . . .

Civil aeronautics bureau may not know this: When it approved an around-the-world route for TWA linked with Northwest Air-Line, Howard Hughes, who owns TWA, had an option on control of Northwest. . . . TWA is to fly N. Y. to Shanghai, via Europe; Northwest is to pick up there, flying to Alaska and Seattle. . . . Hughes' option was to become effective if, as and when Northwest got government permission to fly the Pacific. . . . So it appears Hughes, who broke the around-the-world air record, has in hand the around-the-world route he laid out on that famous four-day zoom. . . . And, with announcement of the globe-circling license, plus the approval of the Constellations with changes, TWA stock leaped so that Hughes' holdings have been rising at a rate of about \$1,000,000 a day—as he lies and listens to his ribs knitting.

Jack Dempsey and Jake Amron, former Hollywood restaurant boss, have made a flossy offer for Henry Lustig's Longchamps tax-tainted restaurant chain. . . . "Tobacco Road" earned a fortune largely because Harry Oshrin doesn't go wild on payday. John Barton will draw \$350 a week starring as Jeeter Lester on tour next season, which gives you a rough idea of what the lesser hillbilly performers will rate.

Saratoga bit deeply into New York nightlife. . . . The best and steadiest spenders have flocked to the Spa, which, with all its hopes, didn't anticipate such a gold-rush. . . . The OPA doesn't seem to have penetrated there. . . . Prices were pegged steep for a short season. . . . But when the New York influx fluxed in, the natives took up some notches in the jacks. . . . Now the common man with a \$5 bill doesn't know whether to lay it on the favorite to show or buy a hot dog.

Family Allowance Order Book. Includes cancelled forms for families with children, with fields for name, address, and dates.

BONUS FOR BABIES . . . In an effort to encourage parenthood, the British government now is paying mothers five shillings (about a dollar in American money) per week living allowance for every baby after the first. Payment is authorized by family allowance act of May, 1945. System went into effect Aug. 6, 1946.

G I Questionable Claims Checked

5,222 World War II Veterans Filed Claims In July

RALEIGH, Sept.— Questionable claims of 5,222 World War II veterans filed in North Carolina in July for servicemen's readjustment allowances under the G. I. Bill of Rights were investigated and determinations were made, it is revealed by Henry E. Kendall, chairman of the State Unemployment Compensation Commission. The 17 UCC claims deputies in the State making investigations and determinations in these cases allowed about one-half of the number, 2,657, to draw these allowances without penalties. In 954 cases penalties were imposed against the veterans, while in 1,611 cases claims were disallowed entirely. Chairman Kendall points out

that only 310 appeals were taken by veterans in the 2,565 cases in which they were penalized or disallowed claims entirely, or about 12 percent of the total, indicating the overwhelming number of veterans who were satisfied at the fairness and justness of the decisions of the UCC claims deputies. Investigations and determinations were made in July in 1,870 cases of non-veterans, unemployed workers seeking the regular unemployment benefits. Benefits were allowed without penalties in 884 cases, less than half of the total, penalties were imposed in 374 cases, while claims were disallowed entirely in cases of 611 applicants. In cases of 985 non-veterans against whom decisions were rendered by the claims deputies in July, only 135, or 7.2 percent of the total filed notices of appeals.

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Lesson for September 8

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JESUS AND SINCERITY OF SPEECH

LESSON TEXT—Exodus 20:16; Proverbs 26:23-28; Matt. 26:69-75. MEMORY SELECTION—Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor.—Ephesians 4:25.

God is truth, and therefore any kind of lie is evidence of godlessness. Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44) and the father of all liars.

I. The Prohibition of Lying (Exod. 20:16).

This "thou shalt not" of God has to do primarily with perjury; that is, the telling of an untruth in court.

This is one of the worst forms of lying, because it may result in the one against whom it is practiced losing his liberty, his life or his property, or the destruction of his good reputation.

It is obvious, however, that the commandment covers all forms of lying, whether in business, in social contacts, in the home, or in the church. We might do well to consider what the Bible has to say about whisperers, talebearers, backbiters and others (see Lev. 19:16; II Cor. 12:20).

II. The Purpose of Lying (Prov. 26:23-26).

Sometimes as one hears the continuous stream of lies which flow from the lips of some men, one is apt to feel that it is just a bad habit of careless talking which has become a part of the life.

There is, however, a real purpose behind the lies of men, and that is to deceive in order to gain or advantage, or to cover up hatred.

How much of all this there is in the world today—yes, and in the church. Those who profess to be the followers of Christ use the devices of the devil in their relations with fellow members of the church. Christian workers who wish to appear greater than they are, or to look greater than others, use deceit and lying. With what results?

III. The Punishment of Lying (Prov. 26:26-28; Matt. 26:75).

One lie leads to, in fact calls for, another, and soon the liar has dug a pit so big that he stumbles and falls into it. He is like one who starts a great stone rolling, and lo, it rolls back on him and crushes him. Yes, in due time he is shown up before the entire congregation (v. 26).

Then, too, the lie does harm to others. No matter what its nature—a half truth, or a truth used to deceive, or an outright falsehood—it bears awful fruit in the life of the one toward whom it is directed, or whose name is involved (v. 28). Once started, it is often impossible to stop. One cannot ever catch up with a lie.

But there is also a horrible and bitter fruitage of lies in the life and the heart of the liar. Lies do "come home to roost," and they make the heart and life of anyone who has a vestige of decency and honor left, miserably unhappy. Consider Peter (Matt. 26:75).

It is of the utmost importance that we stress before children and young people the awful results of lying, as well as its sinfulness. Lying and deceit are so commonly accepted in our day that many regard it as all right—if you don't get caught. But the fact is, you always do get caught by God—yes, and by your own lie.

IV. The Practice of Lying (Matt. 26:69-74).

Sadly enough, the constant lying of the world seems to have infected the minds and hearts of Christians. Instead of being cleansed from this worldly defilement they carry its awful tendencies into the church.

The great lie within the Church, and one of Satan's prize exhibits, is the falsehood of modern religious liberalism (so-called), which is essentially a denial of real New Testament Christianity. Jesus said (v. 42) that if God is our Father we will accept him as the Christ. The one who speaks sweet words about the example, the manhood, the leadership of the Master, and who denies him his place as God, is clearly in mind here as the follower of the father of lies.

Someone has suggested that the great spiritual problem of our day is not the conflict between the Church and the world; nor is it to determine how the Church can best serve in the world, but rather what to do about the world which has gotten into the Church. How did worldliness get into the Church? The members brought it there after they had gone out and warmed themselves at the world's fire, and fellowshiped with the world in ungodly living.

The denials made by Peter seem almost unbelievable in the life of one who had been in immediate fellowship with the Lord and who had seen his glory. We have here a revelation of the fact that "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9).

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