

PETTENGILL

The Gentleman From Indiana

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS REWARD

This column offers three prizes of fifty, thirty and twenty dollars for the best answers to the following question:

In the long run, are dictatorships more efficient than republics?

Limit your answer to two hundred words. Mail it within one week after this column appears to Samuel B. Pettengill, Shoreham Building, Washington, D. C.

This contest is open to the rank and file American, to all except lawyers, teachers, professors, economists and professional writers. The names of the winners will appear in the first column published in February, together with excerpts from the winning answers. At a time I shall submit another question with like prizes. And so on for several months, perhaps throughout the year.

There is no catch whatever in this. It is on the up and up. There will be no trick questions.

This is my own idea. No one suggested it. But, of course, there is a reason, in fact, two reasons.

First, for my own information I want to know how well certain basic facts are understood. Facts which lie at the very foundation of our system of government and social and economic structure. I want to know how well or how poorly our public schools have contributed to that understanding. I want to know what high school boys and girls, workers, farmers, and housewives are thinking.

Second, it is my hope that this column will encourage newspapers, luncheon clubs, veterans' and patriotic organizations all over this country to stimulate similar searches for truth and common understanding of our common problems. I am certain it is needed.

I will tell how I came to do this. Three months ago I was talking with a friend of mine. He said, "Every office building, railroad, factory, farm, store, and home in America is held in the hollow of the hand of the 'mass man'." He can crush the whole system like an egg shell. Or he can guard it against the world.

"We spend millions to advertise the things this system produces—automobiles, radios, ginger ale, motion pictures, butter and bread. We spend more millions to insure our factories and farms against fire, windstorm, embezzlement, credit losses, etc. But what are we doing to advertise the system itself? And what insurance are we taking out on the foundations upon which the whole structure rests,—the understanding of the millions who have the power and the votes to uphold or destroy?"

"We endow colleges and pay taxes to support the public schools. But what are the colleges and schools teaching? And how many go to college, or finish high school?"

"But this system of free government and free enterprise is in peril. It has vanished in Russia, Germany, Italy. It is going up in flames elsewhere. And sparks are flying across the Atlantic.

"Business men and investors, of course, want to save it. But there are hundreds of labor leaders also who want to save it, men who think as did old Sam Gompers. They are struggling men in their own ranks who think they want to scrap the works. What help are they getting?"

"We get all heated up once in four years when a political campaign is on. Democrats and Republican alike, we blow millions in six weeks' time to 'educate the voter'. Most of these millions are wasted. And then we sit on our hands for another four years and do nothing but groan.

"In 1787 some men decided to try to sell constitutional government to our forefathers. They wrote the Federalist Papers. And for two years these men and their friends argued the question in every city and hamlet and hearthside in the thirteen original states. Not to win a political campaign. Not to elect anybody to the pay roll. Just to bring a strong free government to birth.

"That's all. But it was the most successful advertising campaign this world knew until Karl Marx and Hitler and Stalin started another to attack their work and destroy it.

"But that was 150 years ago. It's like advertising Ivory Soap once in a century and a half. Is it any wonder people are buying other goods? Everybody is busy doing everything else except to look after the biggest business in the world today—and the most important to him and his boys and girls—the United States of America.

"I understand", he concluded, that a stone has been erected over the grave of the French Republic. There are two words on it—'Too Late'."

And that is the reason I am asking these questions and offering these prizes. I want to do my bit for the country that gave me my chance. It is my New Year's

Our world...

Are European Assurances Sure?

London.—Balkan sources said yesterday that Turkey six weeks ago informed Bulgaria she would enter the war on the side of Britain if German troops occupied Bulgaria and that Germany is aware of the Turkish pledge. They added that Germany is not yet sure Bulgaria would not resist a German occupation.

Russia Holds Several Answers

Sofia.—Bulgaria looked to Russia again tonight for an answer to whether German troops massed along the northern frontier mean war or peace. Premier Bogdan Philoff's return from a "health trip" to Vienna shed no official light on the situation. He hurried from the station to his office without comment on the threatened Nazi march across his country toward Greece and the Dardanelles.

Those Energetic Greeks Do A Trick

Athens.—Greek destroyers churned into the Adriatic, penetrated by night into the Albanian Gulf of Valona and shelled the Italian-held city with 60 rounds without even so much as sighting Italian warcraft, the Greek marine ministry announced last night. (Greek destroyers have been built both in Italy and Britain). Then, said the commander, the squadron loafed back to its bases "at reduced speed."

British Humanitarianism Again

Washington.—British authorities have agreed to relax the blockade, reliable sources said tonight, to permit the American Red Cross to send some condensed milk to unoccupied France and wheat to Spain.

British Press Hard On Tobruk

Cairo.—British forces smashed at the outer defenses of Italy's big Libyan base at Tobruk after capturing the El Adem airdrome 15 miles south of the Fascist stronghold. The British drove upon the outer defenses of Tobruk after capturing or destroying 94,000 Italian soldiers in their smashing drive across the western desert. Armored units racing ahead more than 50 miles from captured Bardia found that the Italians had evacuated the air base, abandoning 40 planes which had been disabled by a heavy British bombing raid. The Rome version of the Fascist disaster at Bardia hardly squares with known facts as reported by neutral eyewitnesses on the spot. These eyewitnesses concur in British reports that the Italians surrendered on a scale that embarrassed the victors.

A Ringing Hopeful Note In Britain

British comment on President Roosevelt's speech strikes a ringing note of confidence that the critical corner of the war has already been turned. "Fresh encouragement" has come from the United States, the London statement said, "at a time when there is good cause to believe that the tide of war is turning." Behind this lies the conclusion of British war leadership that Italy has already been knocked out of the war in effect, and that disaster awaits Germany if she strikes to retrieve the situation, either against England or in the Balkans.

Loan-Lease Plan Will Win

Washington.—President Roosevelt's proposed plan of loan-lease aid to Great Britain, China and Greece will win congressional approval with a minimum of opposition, private surveys indicated last night. At the same time, it was disclosed that Mr. Roosevelt plans to ask Congress from time to time for money to finance the program under which armaments, ships and planes would be lent or leased.

Bullitt' Says Give What They Need

Chapel Hill.—William C. Bullitt, former ambassador to France, declared last night, "we know that the surest way to defeat the axis powers is for us to go to war in support of Great Britain, Greece and China," but that the American people "at this moment" prefer to take the risk of a totalitarian victory "rather than go to war." To diminish that risk, Bullitt told the International Relations Club of the University of North Carolina, the United States must give those nations "what they need—not what we think we can comfortably spare."

New Board With Wide Powers

Washington.—President Roosevelt yesterday formally set up his new super defense board which immediately warned the nation that everything in national life soon must be subordinated to the necessities of preparedness.

The New Year National Defense Needs

Getting the skilled men needed for National defense jobs continues to be one of the greatest problems of the new year for the Civil Service Commission. Thousands were appointed during 1940 but thousands more are going to be needed during the coming year at the arsenals and navy yards and in the air service. Tool makers, instrument makers, and machinists are especially in demand, and they are especially necessary to the National defense program. Among others also urgently needed are: Aircraft instrument mechanics; aircraft mechanics; metal-smiths (aviation); coppersmiths; lens grinders; loftsman; ordnance men (torpedoes); shipfitters; and ironworkers (shipfitting duty). If you are skilled in any of these trades, and want a Government job, write to or call for information at the office of the Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners at any first- or second-class post office.

wish that thousands of others will join in a continuous non-partisan campaign to resell America to Americans in the American home market.

SAMUEL B. PETTENGILL

office. You may also learn about these jobs by consulting the notices posted in the third-class post offices.

Lucille Ford Circle To Meet Next Tuesday

The Lucille Ford Circle of the Baptist W. M. U. will meet Tuesday night, January 14, at 7:30 o'clock, with Mrs. T. Roy Burgess, the program leader to be Mrs. Ben Reeves.

Chevrolet Sold A Million Cars In 1940

Chevrolet sales of new passenger and commercial cars for the calendar year of 1940 passed the 1,000,000-mark December 26, it is announced by William E. Holler, general sales manager. This is the third time in the history of the division that sales in any calendar year have exceeded 1,000,000. Only in 1929 and 1936 did Chevrolet dealers retail in excess of one million cars and trucks, and 1940, according to his estimates, will surpass 1929.

Chevrolet dealers have maintained first place in automotive sales in nine of the past 10 years, Mr. Holler added.

ALLEGHANY STAR TIMES

OVER HALF A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY

52nd Year. No. 20.

Sparta, N. C.

Thursday, January 9, 1941.

President's Speech To Congress "Magnificent"

On Monday President Roosevelt delivered in person to a joint session of the National Congress his annual message on present conditions and policies and needs. After the address Senator Barkley of Kentucky termed it "magnificent."

Congressman Doughton of N. C. said "It was a great message. I believe the American people are in accord with his message in respect to international affairs. It is a big order, but we are a big country and our needs require and demand and we leave nothing undone, in our direct defense, in helping the countries attacked by dictators who are now fighting our battles. The price will necessarily be heavy but the objectives more than justify the expense and sacrifice."

The President's message was concerned largely with international affairs, and particularly the danger to this nation unless we stir ourselves now to forestall greater dangers later. His address was received with repeated and enthusiastic ovations, and probably the most emphatically spoken passage was the one delivered slowly and with ever rising tone, which said,

"Let us say to the democracies, we Americans are vitally concerned in your defense of freedom. We are putting forth our energies, our resources, and our organizing powers to give you strength to regain and maintain a free world. We shall send you, in ever increasing numbers, ships, planes, tanks, guns. This is our purpose and our pledge."

The President had begun his message with a brief review of the crises which have arisen in United States history, and quickly arrived at the conclusion that no crisis has ever approached the magnitude of danger that faces us today. He spoke of the new order of tyranny which has arisen since Munich, and said,

The American people have unalterably set their faces against that tyranny.

"Every realist knows that the Democratic way of life is at this moment being directly assailed in every part of the world—assailed either by arms, or by secret spreading of poisonous propaganda by those who seek to destroy unity and promote discord in nations still at peace. "During sixteen months this assault has blotted out the whole pattern of democratic life in an appalling number of independent nations, great and small. The assault (turn to page two, please)

Census To Give Aid To Farmers

Progressive, business-minded, fact-seeking farmers who desire information to enable them to plan their agricultural program for 1941 will be called upon this month to report their crop acreages, livestock and poultry population, and give other information for the Farm Census which will be taken for the 24th time by tax listers, Frank Parker, federal statistician with the State Department of Agriculture, announced today.

"North Carolina's leading agricultural authorities are unanimous in their appreciation of the farm census as a medium for intelligent planning of farm programs and as a source of accurate information that can be used as a yardstick in measuring agricultural progress," Parker emphasized. The 1941 farm census summary will be sent to farm leaders and workers throughout the State and will be available to all communities.

Parker, urging all of North Carolina's 300,000 farmers to cooperate in furnishing information for the farm census, explained that some of the uses of the Farm Census are: (1) To provide a foundation for county estimates of crop production; (2) To serve as a check on the state acreage estimates published by the United States Department of Agriculture and research material; (3) To provide reliable educational and research material; (4) An aid in locating crop supplies and markets for farm products; (5) For planning future agricultural programs; (6) For state and county advertising material.

Commissioner of Agriculture W. Kerr Scott commented that "the uses of the farm census in planning a more substantial marketing program alone will more than justify any cooperation that growers can give in this attempt to gather statistics vital to agricultural planning."

To Celebrate The President's Birthday

Robert M. Gambill has accepted the county chairmanship of the Committee for the celebration of the President's Birthday for the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. The State chairman is Dr. Julian S. Miller, editor of the Charlotte Observer, who writes that the hope is to raise some \$40,000 during this month's campaign, half of which will remain

Senator



EUGENE TRANSOU

Transou And Edwards Have Gone To Raleigh

Eugene Transou was chosen in the Democratic primary election last May to represent the Ninth District—Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties—in the state senate. In the November election he was unopposed. Now he has gone to Raleigh to serve in the present legislature which opened yesterday. Mr. Transou served this district once before, in 1917, as senator, and went to Raleigh once as Representative of Alleghany County, in 1929. He brings to the present office a wealth of experience in county affairs and a good background of experience in state legislative affairs.

The picture herewith presented locally for the first time is the only one approved by Mr. Transou and authorized by him.

W. Bert Edwards represents Alleghany County in the legislature because he won the primary race in a field of four, and in the November election was not opposed. It is his first trip to Raleigh as a legislator. No proper picture of him is available for publication.

for use in the local community and half go to the National Foundation.

New Buildings Add Beauty To Sparta

Three new buildings now nearing completion, add much to the beauty and dignity of Sparta. First is the Vance Choate's new home on the hill back of the water tower. It is beautiful and charming in its design and coloring and setting, and would be an attractive place in any town. The new Baptist Church has an imposing dignity that is very fine, and the combination of red brick and grey granite makes a fine front. The entrance is different from the customary design, and very effective. And the County Office Building has redeemed that lot back of the Court House and made it indeed part of the town. Again that fine grey granite from Woodruff's quarry shows off to excellent advantage, and the building has a very solid business-like air about it. These three fine buildings add much to Sparta.

"Billy's Goat," Next Faculty Play, January 18th

What do you demand from a good play? Humor? True-to-life characterizations? Love interest? Surprise? A bit of human drama? Clever dialogue? Fast action? Well, you will find all these ingredients in Billy's Goat, the play which has been chosen by the faculty as their production this year. Billy's Goat will be presented on the evening of January 18th in the Sparta School Auditorium at 7:30 o'clock. When a group has been rehearsing a play for a number of weeks, it usually gets rather stale to those taking part. But the cast are still laughing at the funny lines and amusing incidents in Billy's Goat, and their enthusiasm is still as high as when they first started rehearsing the play, so it assures the audience of a sparkling performance. If you have ever wished to manage a family belonging to some one else for just a day, then you must not miss seeing "Billy's Goat."

The cast of characters is as follows:

Henry Carter, a financial agent—H. H. Higgins; Violet Carter, a daughter—Mrs. A. E. Hamby, Jr.; Beulah, a maid, Miss Ivasek Taylor; Mrs. Susan Carter, Henry's wife, Miss Anne Truitt; Miss Davies, his secretary, Mildred Wagoner; Miss Cool, his wife's secretary, Miss Anne Sue McMullan; Billy Hay, a salesman, Byron Stuart; Madge Carter, another daughter, Miss Nina Grey Liles; Arthur Angel, a poet, T. J. Haigwood, Jr., and Harold Hollinghead, an Englishman, B. F. McCann.

HOME INDUSTRY

The retired coal dealer was selecting his library.

"Will you have these books bound in Russia or Morocco, sir?" asked the dealer.

"But why," said the patron of literature, "can't you have 'em bound right here in Chicago?"

Mother: "No, Johnnie, you can't have the hammer to play with. You'll hurt your fingers."

Johnnie: "No, mummie, I won't. Doris is going to hold the nails."

BASKETBALL TONIGHT

The Ronda boys and girls are coming over tonight to meet our Sparta teams in basketball contests beginning at 7:30 o'clock.

Advertisements for 'BASEBALL TODAY', 'GATE-CRASHERS AT BALL GAMES GET MANY A BRUISE', and 'BUT RAILROAD GATE-CRASHERS GET HEADLINES IN NEWS'

1941 JANUARY calendar grid

1941 FEBRUARY calendar grid

1941 MARCH calendar grid

1941 APRIL calendar grid

1941 MAY calendar grid

1941 JUNE calendar grid

1941 JULY calendar grid

1941 AUGUST calendar grid

1941 SEPTEMBER calendar grid

1941 OCTOBER calendar grid

1941 NOVEMBER calendar grid

1941 DECEMBER calendar grid