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Red Dawn

The New Year Will Be Hard, But Bright With Victories

Today, certainly, is no man's Happy New Year. Ahead there can only be death, suffering, hardships and irritations; but 1943, A. D. can take us only nearer to victory and peace. Americans have not begun to do their jobs or pay the price; but the working and fighting will be easier now, that we know they will not be in vain, as was the desperate heroism of Bataan and bitter retreat in the Pacific.

Undersecretary of War Patterson has already spoken the keynote for our new year, in words Americans should remember:

"The year 1943 will be a fighting year for American troops. . . . We will seek out the enemy and we will find him. . . . on any front where Nazis and Japanese can be engaged in combat. It will be a year of heavy casualties. It takes loss of life and loss of blood to attack the enemy and to force the enemy, to win momentous battles."

Americans will agree, but they will not flinch. This is the coming of the time for which the nation prayed in the dark months of 1942. The time to which it has dedicated its life. With all the sorrow that the year is to bring, it should be a happy one for the peoples pledged to defend human freedom.

And as the year progresses, the spirit of the American people will rise; for temporary setbacks on the battlefield, during Winter and Spring cannot turn the rising tide of Allied power. Our very weapons reflect the change of time. We no longer use the tactics of the conquering Axis armies, but are building a force of our own which will prove more devastating in the field than ever was Hitler's Blitzkrieg.

This is Winston Churchill's day. . . . "The dawn of 1943 roams red before us. Red with blood, and with the promise of a new day for the world."

The Ghosts

America First Committee Raises Its Head Again

The America First Committee, preposterous phenomenon of national isolationism, died without a whimper after a year—but today its ghost walks again. Never in the days to concede a defeat or hesitate at public hostility, the same old sterling characters are piddling with pro-Axis propagandists again. The Committee has not learned its lesson.

First sign that the Fristers were active again, and that they had never given up the skeleton of their organization or their hopes, was the inflammatory outburst of Michigan's Clare Hoffman in the House early this month. For an hour (and eight pages of The Congressional Record) he blasted away at anti-Axis individuals, publications and organizations. He declared those forces were conspiring against Congress.

Targets of his attack, among others, were Assistant Attorney General William F. Maloney (director of FBI's anti-Axis drive which netted 28 alleged conspirators along the U. S.), Walter Winchell, Rex Stout, The Washington Post, The Chicago Sun, and P. M. Hoffman, small potatoes in the America First ring. He is interested in the trial of the 28 charged as saboteurs of morale in the armed forces, because his Congressional frank was one of those freely used in that propaganda campaign.

But the four ringleaders of the Committee are still Senators Gerald Nye, Burt Wheeler, Robert Tamm and Robert Reynolds. When they began to speak loudly and often in behalf of the accused 28, Editor Albert Kahn of The Hour, an old anti-Fascist warrior, charged that American Firstism was with us again. The Nye-Wheeler-Tamm-Reynolds board of strategy was convened by the conspirators' trial, he pointed out, because America First was one of the organizations through which the sabotage of morale was allegedly routed. The franking privileges of all four were freely used.

Nye and Reynolds have vigorously defended Gerald Smith's The Cross and the Flag, a seditious little Silver Shirt Journal which is involved in the cases of the conspirators. Editor Kahn makes further allegations, and though he has a remarkable record for being where

anti-American elements are concerned, there's no need to follow him all the way. The strings of the old crowd are enough. If the Department of Justice would get to the bottom of the propaganda mill, it may turn its attention to the Congressional clique of America First, for complete investigation.

War Lesson

Sober Army Finds Dry Areas Hinder Control of Liquor

The Army's drinking habits, according to the OWI survey, are good, and we find no reason to discredit the Government report. All previous private investigations have revealed that our fighting forces were temperate; that U. S. soldiers have reached a new high in sobriety. That is as one would suspect, for in this war there is no widespread system of frozen control. The sale of beer in encampment areas is credited with making a great difference in Army liquor consumption.

But the exhaustive study, obviously made carefully and at great length, reveals a situation which The News has long deplored. In areas where state or local control of liquor exists, the Army has found control of men and drinking a simple matter; but in dry or bootlegging areas, it has met with difficulties. There, it seems to us, is the liquor question in a nutshell. It is not wet vs. dry; it is a question of the method of control.

The Army's millions, easily checked despite the "various imponderables which do not lend themselves to statistics," presented the opportunity for study of the nation's liquor problems under laboratory conditions, and the findings show that the one hand, where bootlegging areas, only 10 per cent of the troops drink hard liquor, 50 per cent drink only soft drinks, 40 per cent drink beer.

Such an improvement in Army drinking habits since 1918, however, does not obscure the fact that, where bootlegging areas, control of liquor by the Army breaks down, moderation begins to disappear. Perhaps these are not the times for pushing universal local control of liquor—but neither are they times for a crusade in behalf of the second Prohibition.

If the logic of our stand was not previously demonstrable to groups which are not of our persuasion, we take heart from the Army survey. Its facts are indisputable, and we hold that one of the most vitally important of them all is that dry areas mean, more often than not, no control at all.

Face-Lifting

Chief Anderson's Police To Carry A New Responsibility

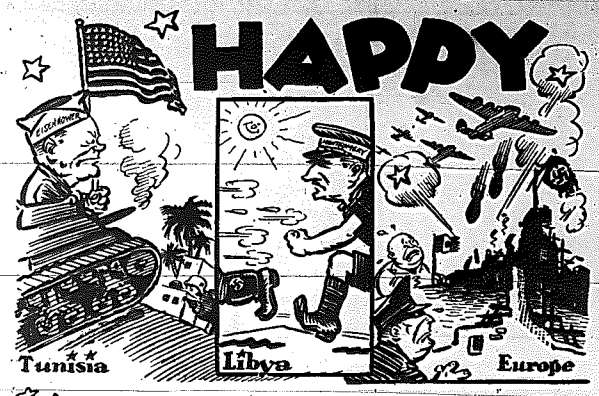
With every new move in his efficiency campaign within the City Police Department, Chief Walter Anderson breaks a record. In an organization which has not been renewed for a high level of efficient operation over the years, his plan to select officers by merit, and hand down responsibility to his captains, lieutenants and sergeants is nothing less than the opening of a new era.

For a number of years the Fire Department, a model of sound operation, has followed such a program of divided responsibility, and its smooth operation has given Chief Hendrix Palmer a wide reputation as a chief executive. Any successful business organization, we hasten to add, must operate on the selfsame theory. The chief executive, if he attempts to carry the burden aloft, is doomed to failure.

Sharing of responsibility with his lieutenants is in no sense a passing of the buck by Chief Anderson, but a putting of every man on his mettle, an attempt to bring the department up to date, to make it of age. And the fact that officers are to be chosen on merit alone also presages a new day.

It seems a good guess to us that the new officers of the department will not be all veterans of the harness at all. The youngsters, in age and experience, are likely to stand high on the list, and be ready to assume the new responsibilities of the reorganized department.

One of these days, the Charlotte Police Department is going to be suddenly unrecognizable to the citizens of the community. That will be Chief Anderson's doing, his efficiency program. And who is there to say that the great changes will not be all for the best?



AROUND THE WORLD



Whoa, Eleanor!

What's Useless Knowledge?

By Dorothy Thompson

MY MIND keeps going back to a statement made by Mrs. Roosevelt at one of her press conferences two or three weeks ago. A feminine reporter from a college newspaper asked what girls in college could do to help the war effort. Mrs. Roosevelt is quoted as replying: "I believe girls had better get out of college and go to work. Their college training is helping fit them for some specific task. Few have the right now to train themselves for nothing in particular. I don't believe people can get by without working in the world of the future."

The bold type in this quotation is mine. It points to the contrast in Mrs. Roosevelt's words. On the one hand, she praises training—for something in particular. On the other, she outlaws study for "nothing in particular." And she implies that the one form of study will create people who can work, and the other won't.

Now, what Mrs. Roosevelt advocates is that everybody be trained and nobody be educated. For the difference between "training" and "education" is that the one is undertaken to fit the individual for a job, and the other in the hope of fitting him for life. The one tries to make an efficient mechanic, doctor, salesman, or farmer; the other tries to create an efficient person—for instance, an intelligent citizen.

Had Mrs. Roosevelt suggested that girls who would find necessary war tasks postpone their education, she would, I think, have made a constructive suggestion. But she drew a general conclusion between useful and useless knowledge, to the detriment of the latter.

Now, I should like to advance the proposition that the so-called "useless" knowledge is the most useful knowledge that anyone can possess, and that the mental processes involved in getting it, fit the person for almost any task that may come to his hand.

A so-called "liberal education" is training for "nothing in particular." It is presently a grammatical term. The advocates of "useful" knowledge have made terrible inroads on it, as higher education has become more and more vocational. "What good will Latin do my child? Or calculus? Or is she never going to need it?"

The object of education—in contrast to training—is to give the individual basic knowledge—for instance, of mathematics. Without this basic knowledge many technical skills are impossible to acquire. Now, not every person who studies mathematics intends to be a teacher of mathematics.

Platform Of The People

No Liquor Control

Editors, The News: In answer to the questions published in The News Platform of The People under the heading "Liquor Control," I would like to say that the majority of our Government officials favor the beer because the general public favors same. In fact, and deed, and our officials have no other course under Democracy. I don't know of any colleges or universities that have any liquor traffic and it would be just as well if they contributed to the cause. The church can do no better in preventing the whole truth concerning liquor. Our Government cannot control liquor to the last drop in or out of the country. Some of our people should spend a few weeks with our boys in the fighting front of jungle, desert heat and hot cars where beer is at times is not to be had and our boys are in a polluted state, and then wonder why or how they and oppose our boys a bottle of

malice or an engineer. Yet, suddenly, events may develop which demand many people of all classes who understand higher mathematics. Such a situation has developed in this war. Both the Army and Navy need navigators and artillery officers, for instance, and suddenly we discover that in the rank and file of college youth there are of late many who have any knowledge of higher mathematics.

Our intelligence services, suddenly need persons who can speak modern languages. Anybody who has had a sound classical education can master a modern European language with relative ease. But if he has never been subjected to strict grammatical discipline he has a hard time. A word can even be said for so-called useless hobbies. At the outbreak of this war, I read that we did not have a hundred non-Japanese citizens who spoke Japanese. A few had learned it "for fun," and today they have good and important jobs. But they could not possibly have foreseen the jobs when they learned the language.

Actually, therefore, what may seem useless today may prove useful tomorrow, in the strictest sense of the word "use," meaning that you can turn it into money and live off it. But suppose it never proves useful in this sense at all? Is there no usefulness in having a great deal of "chuckery"? Is it not useful to the citizen to be able to give an account of two thousand years of human history and know what in that history accompanied poverty and peace and what has accompanied poverty, misery, and war?

And what is the American Nation? Is it an aggregation of mechanics, doctors, artists, business men, teachers and housewives, each of whom expects society to provide him—or her—with exactly what he or she needs? Or is it a society of men and women commanding various skills, who all, nevertheless, share certain common ideals born of a common heritage, so that all live in a common frame of reference?

In contrast to Mrs. Roosevelt—and leaving the exigencies of the war aside for the moment—the abolition of such a knowledge of history, chances, and educated artisans. I see no reason why a workman should not have the inner comfort of a knowledge of history which gives a man. The often asked question, "What are we fighting for?" would not be asked at all if the people had a deeper and deeper background of "useless" knowledge.

So I would say to college girls: Educate yourselves. In the very difficult period that will follow this war, it will be to you a great blessing of your bearings—and "training" won't help you to do it. If you work at a lather, try and read at night, and don't mind going to college when you are 25 instead of 21.

For if the future world is not going to be a chaos, it will have to be made by people with "useful" education.

Ours is a Government of the people and not of any one privileged group. I'll admit that the Church of Jesus Christ has been grossly ignored, especially by the group called the churches. If you think liquor is public enemy No. 1, I juggle your figures again and don't cheat. You'll be surprised. P. C. BURKHOLDER RFD 5, Charlotte.

Unity By Murder

Our Plans Upset

By Samuel Grafton

NEW YORK—French unity can now be built, because an assassination took place that was wrong from the beginning. What kind of small potatoes are we, if our prospects are improved because of the accident that a wretched young man decided to commit murder?

All of a sudden, it becomes possible for de Gaulle to lead the French Imperial Council in North Africa; all of a sudden the air is cleared; all of a sudden, our chances are better, and we should be able to plan such benefits as French unity have been made to depend on the commission of a crime.

The thing that hurts is that these new demonstrations of French unity are taking place, not because we planned it that way, but because our plans were upset.

Our plans called for close co-operation with Darlan for a temporary (but indefinite) period. In pursuit of that plan, we set up Marshal Mauthier of the State Department as a Minister in French North Africa, just three days before the assassination. Had our plan succeeded, French unity would have been indefinitely delayed, not precisely because the State Department's plans failed, through the accident of a crime, that unity can now be achieved. What can we call this but a diplomatic failure?

There can be no excuse for assassination. It is a romantic and infantile political trick. It cuts the Fascists, not us. It is not our sort of thing.

And murder is horrible, but if it is equally horrible that benefits should flow from murder. Surely we have grown to man's estate, and we should be able to plan such benefits as French unity for ourselves, because we need them, because the war requires them, because we insist on them, and not have French unity happen blankly to an accident, catching us by surprise.

We are big boys now, and we ought to be able to shape the future for ourselves, making it utterly impossible for any anonymous young man with a gun to bring about such profound political changes affecting an empire, a continent and a Minister in other words, we ought to be able to have the benefits without the murder; we ought to be able to build, on a less dubious base, the happiness now so visible throughout British Parliamentary circles, among the Fighting French, among the refugee Governments in London, and throughout our own country.

For this is just another version of betting on Lady Luck, a habit which has been the curse of the democracies since the trouble began ten years ago. It has been suggested that one of the reasons for our continued dalliance with Darlan was that we were in a proportion of the French Department's setting up in Africa. It is Fascist-minded, and actually favored the Darlan type of leadership.

If that is true, how long will such men be allowed to rattle around loose in North Africa, with arms? It hardly seems the best solution of the problem presented by Fascist-minded troops, if any exist, to provide them with Fascist-minded leadership. The great majority of Frenchmen, in France, is democratic-minded, but one does not see the rise of a democratic-minded leadership to consolidate them. Why do these miserable "necessities" of conciliation seem to apply only to our side, in this total war?

There is no escaping from it: In this war we have to pick sides, and be ruthless in holding the fortunes of our side, and reducing those of the other. When the Nazis invade a country, Fascists rise to the top, and democrats stay in jail. It is an appalling example of uncertainty that when we reached North Africa, a Fascist rose to the top, and democrats stayed in jail. We can tolerate such similarities, however similar, in the special reasons, for they make the ultimate job of our intensely pro-democratic soldiers needlessly harder.

When we reach a country it should mean that the democrats leave the jails, and that the Fascists pack their toothbrushes, and go home. Europe is waiting for us, not because it admires our curly hair, but because it wants to see that happen.

It Is May

T. R. Showman

The Grim Reader Editor and Publisher

A new state editor of the Jackson (Miss.) Daily News had been instructed to identify communities whenever practical in his headlines. The m. e. was somewhat taken aback when the young man turned in an item delineated "Chunky, Miss." with the following: "FURNERAL IS HELD FOR CHUNKY WOMAN" It Slipped Out

A bride left no doubt about the situation when Miss Fuchs, society editor of the Belleville (Ill.) Daily Advocate, called her for details on her wedding. Her answer was, "Why, Miss Fuchs, that is an emergency wedding, you aren't supposed to say anything about it!"

Visitin' Around

The Russians Run True to Form (37 Years Ago, Transylvania Times) Their newly chosen representatives of Brevard and Asheville last Friday night to occupy one-half of the entire ball head row at the Grand Opera House, where they enjoyed the spectacular play, "In Darker Russia." Thirty-seven people were killed in each act.

Side Glances



"Well, I should say you can chop some wood, son! I've got to stop to doing your old chores I must have forgotten you were home on furlough!"