

Wallace Calls 'Lunatic Fringe'

ONE of our correspondents is a thoughtful lady who welcomes Henry (Gideon) Wallace's crusade for "peace and prosperity" and "the way to the future of the thing that ever happened to America," she writes.

"Here's why: I always believed that it could happen to America. That a united 'lunatic fringe' was the most dangerous thing in America. What I've always wanted to know is how large a 'I' we have. It seems to me that Mr. Wallace should certainly bring out the 'I' in every section of the country. He brought it out in the deep South, Townsend in California, etc. Now we have a national 'lunatic fringe.'"

We doubt very much that it will be useful to have a demonstration of the size of America's "lunatic fringe." For one thing, it will turn out to be uncomfortably large, to judge by past experience. For another, "lunatic fringe" is a misnomer. It isn't a "fringe" that can be isolated from our whole population but is an element that is diffused throughout our social body. In other words, there is no dividing line there is a bit of lunacy and we can maintain a fair degree of national sanity only so long as we recognize that fact and refrain from unduly agitating the irrational emotions and notions which all of us have in varying degrees.

The most significant feature of the "lunatic fringe" in America is not that it is irrational or revolutionary but that it is made up of people who believe in miracles, and that class includes many simple, good-hearted and essentially conservative citizens as well as a few violent and fanatical contents. This has been demonstrated every time a colorful or dynamic demagogue has arisen in America. Each time we have

been surprised at the number of ordinarily sensible or normal people who trail along with him. We are surprised because we have failed to realize that there is a great deal of nonsensical and wishful thinking going on daily in all levels of society. All of us want to believe we can be kings or that perpetual happiness is within reach of our grasp.

Wallace's appeal to our "lunatic fringe" may be quite large because he is promising a miracle — "peace and prosperity" — which has been the dream of men and women throughout the ages. Many Americans feel like the intellectual lady quoted earlier in this piece, who writes "that the realistic made such a mess of things it's like to see the idealists get a chance." The question is how many will now, like her, see "that Mr. W. is an idealist gone haywire."

An idealist has gone haywire, it may be added, when he proclaims that he has discovered the one way to direct us to the millennium overnight or even in a generation. His experience tells us that he is in the midst of a great transition and the goal of a happy, prosperous humanity will be attained only by the slow and painful process of trial and error, and by what Wallace euphemistically calls the "choice of the lesser evils."

This realistic, or sane, or practical view admittedly isn't a completely reliable guide but at least it is the only one we have. Communists in Wallace's following do not properly belong in the "lunatic fringe." They are realists who manipulate the hope and faith of simple people for their own worldly purposes to bring not peace and prosperity on earth, but more power to the Soviet Union.

General Electric's Statesmanship

GENERAL ELECTRIC'S price reduction is a noteworthy event on several counts. For the purchasers of GE refrigerators, radios, electric ranges, gas and oil furnaces, electric mixers, and other listed products it means an estimated saving of \$50 million in 1948. That is no small item even in this boom year. Reduced prices on the long list of consumer goods range from 3 to 10 percent.

For the country as a whole, this is a healthy demonstration of corporate statesmanship and efficiency in Big Business. We have moved a considerable distance out of the age of "all the traffic will be on our ladders" corporations take the lead in placing their prices on the best for all. This is not the first voluntary price cut from one of our industrial giants. Ford took a similar step not long ago but failed to back up since then there has been a wave of discussion in business circles reflecting a growing trend toward the idea of voluntary regulation of profits. General Electric's action encourages the hope that this movement has matured to the point where others may soon follow GE's lead.

For business, no one action can be better calculated to draw attention to the op-

portunity for self-regulation which exists at this time and which, if utilized, will do more than any one else to check the inflation. The over-all economic significance of the price cut is pointed out by Charles E. Wilson, president of the corporation, who states emphatically that "this action by General Electric is not a price-cutting exercise. It is, instead, a far-sighted measure designed to preserve the present large market and stabilize the whole economy."

"It is our conviction and belief that only voluntary action and self-restraint by individual companies can bring about the tide of inflation," Mr. Wilson says. "We earnestly hope that others will join in this effort."

Even if they should not do so, it will always be remembered to General Electric's credit that it performed the first public service in pointing the right way. It is, however, difficult to believe that other industries will fail to recognize the wisdom of the General Electric program. We have been given another good sign that there are men in our business leadership who are thinking of the national welfare and this enlightened self-interest may well set the pattern for "good business" in 1948.

Frank Graham Goes Right Along

A DISPATCH from *The Durham Morning Herald* from *The Herald's* Washington bureau revealed Saturday that "reports reaching Washington from the State" indicate that Dr. Frank P. Graham is "on the way out" as president of the University of North Carolina. The report said Dr. Graham's support of the Truman Civil Liberties Committee recommendations is the straw which may break the camel's back.

This revelation was passed along by *The Herald* in a relay from the usual "informed sources" and "reliable informants" whose confidences are expected to add dignity to any intricate rumor.

On Sunday, however, *The Herald* confessed editorially that "Frankly, it is nothing new to learn that President Frank Porter Graham of the University of North Carolina may be on the way out... (but) He will go on being Frank Graham, and president of the Greater University of North Carolina as long as he wants to be."

With the editorial statement, we are inclined to agree, and heartily. It is indeed no longer news that certain individuals in the State would prefer that Frank Graham be ousted, but it is dubious that they

are in a position to eject him, or that mysterious "sources" and "informants" *The Herald's* Washington man exhumed can speak with any semblance of reliability. At the very least, any citizens can turn half a day's free time can connect an interesting story saying "Frank Graham will get the heave-ho" by the simple expedient of circulating opinions from Dr. Graham's adversaries.

We think the determination of Frank Graham's enemies, with few exceptions, to remain cloaked in anonymity gives ample evidence (1) that their efforts are destined to fail and (2) that their motives result from disagreement with his political beliefs, which, after all, is scant justification for his removal. They know all too well that North Carolinians will not allow Frank Graham to be persecuted for having the courage to express his convictions. Until Dr. Graham provides more specific ammunition for the attack, he has more than enough to date, it is quite likely that new dispatches reporting his "removal" will continue to have their source in the vague half-world of rumor.

From The Greensboro Daily News

A Thinker Who Could Write

THE death of Alfred North Whitehead, Harvard professor emeritus of philosophy, removes from this one of the three living philosophers who had a habit of writing philosophy as it should be written — and almost never is — with clarity, brevity and wit. The other two are Bertrand Russell and George Santayana. It may be worth noting that Russell was Whitehead's pupil in England and Santayana was his colleague on the Harvard faculty.

To bolster our assertion that Whitehead was a thinker who could write, we introduce as evidence the following excerpts from his *Introduction to Mathematics*.

Wherever ideas are effective, there is freedom. Thinking can flourish in the lower stages of life with merely barbaric flashes of thought. But when civilization culminates, the life of a community is spread throughout the community, spells endurance, boredom, and the slackening of effort.

Systems, scientific and philosophic, come

and go. Each method of limited understanding is at length exhausted. In its place, the next method is proposed. In its decay it is an obstructive nuisance, and the next method is proposed. In its decay it is an obstructive nuisance, and the next method is proposed.

When you have grasped where Beauty dwells — with a real knowledge and understanding of the metaphysical in some poetic, scientific, or philosophical version — when you have grasped it, the next method is proposed. In its decay it is an obstructive nuisance, and the next method is proposed.

At the heart of the nature of things, there is always the dream of youth and the

Philosophy is — as such German metaphysicians as Kant and Hegel best illustrate — the dream of youth and the

The main question is not whether or not the world will come to an end but what kind of an end will it come to — *Charleston News & Courier*.



People's Platform

WHEN the free mind forms the state we have democracy; when the state shapes the minds of its citizens we have totalitarianism. Let us consider.

It has been stated that Abraham Lincoln's greatness was accomplished notwithstanding the lack of a college education. I am here making the statement that the education of the citizen is the key to his never did go to college. Most colleges, and certainly all sectarian and endowed schools, are devoted to certain fixed doctrines, beliefs or policies which they propagate by "educating" them into their students.

As a large part of the printed word, the theater, and most periodicals are to some extent propaganda; as a large part of all organizations, churches, and political parties are to some extent propaganda, it can hardly be that any person can be "educated" in the current acceptance of that term without becoming imbued with some particular doctrine, belief or faith. We might say figuratively that the theater and the church are the infantries, and the colleges the artillery, of propaganda. It is known that education does not add intelligence, but knowledge and attitude. Education is the art of directing the intelligence. It follows, then, that if a person is given a particular tool, he will use that tool. If his thought is directed into a particular channel he will follow that channel. To illustrate.

Why do we have Catholic schools? To make Catholics? Why Methodist schools? To make Methodists?

Why did Cecil Rhodes endow certain scholarships in English universities and make them available to American boys? To help to "imperialize the Americas" and to spread the influence of the British Empire, the correctness of British principles, and the desirability of the British way of life.

Why did Moses journey in the wilderness? Of course in order to rear a generation imbued with the faith that the Lord had given them Canaan, and to install in them the point of view and the psychology of warriors.

Let us approach this matter upon a little broader plane.

If the battle of Waterloo had been won by Napoleon there would today be a United Europe, England would be a second-rate power, and France would have been pushed back into Asia. What would have happened during the intervening years, no one knows. Again, if Charles Martel had not won the battle of Tours to the Saracens we today would be Moslems.

Let us return to the present. We are living in the midst of a great transition, and the governments of Western Europe were founded by the Saracens. These facts are simple and important. They are the facts that we know. The point is too plain to argue.

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The Southern 'Oligarchy'

about the state? It is not propaganda by the state but the state, because it changes and can change the thinking of peoples and populations. Now we have in North Carolina a political oligarchy that has been in power for 75 years and continuously for 47 years. The oligarchy has control of the teaching of the children in the public schools of North Carolina and the oligarchy teaches its own virtue.

Everything that has been done by the oligarchy was right. Everything that has been done by its opponents was wrong. All things that were good and of benefit were accomplished by it, and all things done that were bad and were the fault of its opponents. The image of a wrong South is built up in the minds of a million school children and the oligarchy became the image of the Southern oligarchy. The oligarchy and the oligarchy became the image of the Southern oligarchy. The oligarchy and the oligarchy became the image of the Southern oligarchy.

It is easy to give an illustration of a self-evident fact. The notion that the Solid South is a political party, or that it represents any principle, except sectionalism, vanishes when a man elected under its banner is elected to the Senate. The oligarchy and the oligarchy became the image of the Southern oligarchy.

That sectionalism and nationalism are antipathetic terms is as true as that you cannot go up and down at the same time. To accept the national concept we must reject the sectional. The national political concept embraces the idea of democracy which demands the expression of informed opinion and on all public questions that concern the nation, the oligarchy and the oligarchy became the image of the Southern oligarchy.

Therefore from the Potomac to the Rio Grande over one-third of the United States, where democracy has been replaced by oligarchy, the oligarchy and the oligarchy became the image of the Southern oligarchy. The oligarchy and the oligarchy became the image of the Southern oligarchy.

So it is.

—HOTT H. EAVES.

Drew Pearson's: Friendship Food Distributed Efficiently

WHEN I left the United States I promised various Italian friends that I would bring back to them the Friendship Food which had been distributed to the Italian people in the United States.

In cities which had contributed to the Friendship Train the food had been distributed to the Italian people in the United States.

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Warnings Of Danger

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Warnings Of Danger

ing as a result of the dropping of price control by Congress. All regard the increased flow of dollars they are pouring into the economy and as a result the cash register is ringing and the economy is booming.

But these year-end remarks by the retailers are almost drowned in a sea of optimism. There are stories in the New York press about almost every industry you could name, steel, oil, textiles, transport, rubber, motors, almost all talking of increased output next year, about several auto factories about "feeling", or "dreading", or "expecting" or "warning" that they may, of course, have to solve some of their problems by—guess what? By raising prices, of course.

This has become the general cure-all of our time, good re-mobilization of capital to have some of the retailers snatching at their thumbs.

It is rare that one sees such clear warnings of danger and such demoralizing unconcern about it all mingled and stewing together on the same page. The most constructive note is General Electric's action in cutting prices an average of 5 percent on a large portion of its output.

Here, perhaps is a tip for the retailers. They should consider the voluntary way, as the GOP wants us to, why not do it on a voluntary basis? Why not do it on a voluntary basis? Why not do it on a voluntary basis?

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