

The Birmingham Eccentric

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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have a bearing on the community. All copy must be received, however, to make such superficial changes in the text as are necessary to the readability of the article and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a strict limitation on the amount of space available, the editor reserves the right to delete or to shorten any article, without compensation, if the space is not sufficient to accommodate the article. The Eccentric is not responsible for the return of unsolicited copy.

Do you, as a parent, want your son to get into a foreign war? As a young man of conscription age, do you want to fight upon the battlefields...

Parents, Sons—Want to Go to War? The battlefields will be interested in the proposal of Rep. Lewis Ludlow, of Indiana, who proposes that Democrats and Republicans, in their coming national conventions, include a plank substantially as follows: We favor the policy of retarding the question of entering a foreign war to the final vote at a national election, except in the case of foreign invasion of our shores, or in areas of the Western Hemisphere where our Monroe Doctrine policy is violated. Such a plank, believes Rep. Ludlow, will eliminate the chances of Congress, itself, from herding out conscription reform canon fodder in Europe. If you favor such a plan, why not write your thoughts to Congressman George A. Dondero or Senators Vandenberg and Brown, at Washington? Or write letters to the Eccentric for publication. Here is YOUR opportunity, parents and young men, to gain the privilege of determining your fate in a troubled world!

Horror! Now They Will Teach English! The High School administration announces a change in the English curricula for the 10th and 11th grades. The new curriculum, which will be a course in Business English, more emphasis will be placed on written expression. The changes should be for the good, for too often have we noted high school and college graduates who can't write a grammatical sentence and can't spell, and what's more, don't have enough sense to consult the dictionary for words they are not sure about. It is also encouraging to note that the faculty and administration are endeavoring to improve all along the educational line.

Poor Citizenship In our opinion, efforts on the part of a real estate concern from Detroit to avoid the payment of \$1,700 in this year's city taxes is mighty poor citizenship. This man holds that, since they have not received their 202 lots from the State of Michigan, they cannot be taxed on Birmingham's books for the current year. A court case is pending. Birmingham holds that, even though the actual deeds are not in the hands of the concern, they do own the lots which, incidentally, were obtained at the Scavenger Sale for only a portion of the delinquent taxes on them. Here you have evidence of the consequences of human nature. These lots will receive municipal services and the owners want to avoid their financial obligation to the other taxpayers who loyally support the cost of local government.

Labor Should Repudiate Racketeers It is one thing for a man to be an official of a union and to represent the members of the union in negotiating with employers. It is quite another thing for a man to threaten an employer, telling him that unless he pays a certain sum an effort will be made to form a union among his employees or to tell him that unless he pays a certain sum a union of his employees, already in being, will make demands.

Labor Should Repudiate Racketeers The first paragraph, we think, correctly states the function of a labor leader. The second describes a labor racketeer, regardless of his affiliations with unions. As we understand it, the prosecutions of alleged labor leaders on charges of racketeering are based upon actions that resemble blackmail. The victim is advised that unless he pays he will suffer damages, either through sabotage, or through the killing of a strike. The difference is that when a labor union, through its leaders, makes a demand upon an employer the idea is to get a grievance corrected, but when a labor racketeer makes a demand, he wants no grievance corrected; what is after is a cash settlement.

Indeterminate Prison Sentences As astute leaders of labor will do well to assist in stamping out all rackets that have been built upon the foundation of the rights of laborers. Any incidental gain that labor has secured through the activities of the racketeer have been costly, especially in public opinion.

Current Truth: "Getting the baby to sleep is hardest when she is about 18 years old."

The City Commission deserves commendation for its hesitance in spending \$537 for aerial maps of Birmingham. These maps would be a fine thing, of course. No doubt they would be a convenience for the city manager, assessor, treasurer and engineering department, and over a period of years, they MIGHT save Birmingham money. But are they necessary and how much would they save?

For a city of this size, Birmingham already has an ample engineering force. Besides Mr. Corson, who serves in a dual capacity as City Treasurer and City Engineer, we have an assistant city engineer, a field engineer, a draftsman, a rodmann, a rodmann-inspector, and another inspector who also works part time at the sewage treatment plant.

Making Speed Safer Around regulations designed to control the speed of automobiles. Human lives could be saved, it was assumed, by compelling the drivers of automobiles to go slow enough to assure their safety.

When a citizen of Birmingham takes to the open road, even for a short journey, it is necessary to pass other cars hundreds of times the speed of automobiles. Consequently, motorists should understand thoroughly the stopping distances for various speeds.

Citizenship Day Oakland County's first Citizenship Day, held in Pontiac last Sunday, is an excellent example of what can be done for young people who have reached the age of 21, preparing them for citizenship. Self-government in a country like the United States requires an alert and intelligent preponderance of citizens, if democracy is to be maintained.

ALARMED over the European war situation, the United States furnishes its thought upon military preparedness. While we admit that every dollar spent for and on war is sheer economic waste, there is a time when human welfare demands such expenditures; we agree that such a time is here. In a comparable sense, looks on windows and doors are seen, but they serve to keep out possible prowlers. We only hope that our essential keeps a sense of balance in this war defense preparation; let's not become hysterical and emotional about it and, while preparing defense measures we shall also be more successful in keeping out of Europe.

IF PEOPLE would give as much time and thought to their economic problems as they give to their political differences the prosperity of his general area would be assured. The essential justification for the belief that it is a better life for living for all of our people. If business men generally would accept this responsibility and make the general welfare their goal, they wouldn't have to worry so much about political issues.

Real Diplomacy The man of the house saw coming into his neighborhood. He left the room and went to his den and left his wife to entertain the guest. After about half an hour he went to the door and called, "Oh, Martha, has that old gossip gone yet?" She hadn't, but his wife rose to meet the occasion. "Yes, dear, she left about an hour ago. Mrs. Parker is here, too." —Clay Center, Kan. Dispatch.

CIGARETTE MANUFACTURERS pay the federal government half a billion dollars every year in taxes collected from consumers. Six cents is the charge of packages of 20 of the little white cigars, conceived in clouds, then why blame the cause as are many of their expensive activities as are as many as tobacco smoke.

BUSINESS IS GOOD



I'll Leave It To You

WATCH WASHINGTON—NOT EUROPE
 By JOHN DENLER

Europe's war is, of course, playing directly into the hands of New Dealers in that it is diverting the attention of our citizens from dangerous domestic problems to speculation as to what is likely to happen in the country of Hitler when, what is it, he is to launch his attack on our shores if our shores are threatened by the Reich. The Administration, some other foreign invader.

Denier Some one willing to believe that a nation of our size and importance can have more formidable defenses—not so much for the purpose of stemming an invasion, for this seems to me to be a remote possibility, but so that we shall be in a position to speak with greater authority in a world that is unquestionably soon going to need a powerful constructive force. I believe that we ought to proceed as quickly as possible to build up those defenses to the point where they will be sufficient for the role which we must play. But I do not believe that in so doing we ought to let ourselves be carried away by war hysteria to an extent where we are willing to agree to any method the Administration may propose in order to gain our objective.

Just two or three weeks ago, I read the advice of one of our foremost political observers in which he warned that the man we must watch most carefully the next few months if we value our liberty and freedom of enterprise is not Hitler but Roosevelt. While I do not pretend for a moment to be a political observer of any consequence whatsoever, I nevertheless feel very truly—on the basis of the evidence I have gathered—that that man was never uttered. I am convinced that the Administration has the power, that he cares not by what methods he gains that power, and that he would not for a minute hesitate to capitalize on this war in Europe to gain momentum for his dictatorial leanings.

Let's take the steps necessary to let ourselves be carried away by the finest available equipment, but let's at the same time test vigorously against any attempts by those in power to undermine the principles of democracy in this country. Canada, a striking example of how to meet an emergency without losing the moral observer's sense of duty and relax, so we can think clearly. Cooperate with any reasonable defense program. Yes, but let's be sure we don't pay for it with our own money. Let's be sure we don't pay for it with our own money. Let's be sure we don't pay for it with our own money.

Not a Bad Idea All vessels of the Coast and Geodetic Survey are equipped with the latest model of "fathometer," depth-sounding device to prevent going aground. It might be well if the Ship of State were similarly equipped.—Washington, D. C. Star.

Handicapped The first officer called a deck-hand to him and said, "Go below with that crap game." The sailor disappeared below and remained for the better part of an hour. Upon his return his superior officer demanded: "Did you succeed in breaking up that game?" "Yes, sir," replied the job. "Well, what in thunder took you so long?" "Well, sir, the sailor replied, "I had only two bits to start with!"

From the Women's Angle

By NELLIE HURLEY MINIFIE

Continuing last week's discussion on swing music we'd like to take one last parting shot at serious critics who decry the lack of musicianship that runs rampant in dance orchestras. Such a statement, when applied to a few top-notch musicians, is pure and unadulterated jockey-work. If there is one who doubts the veracity of this statement let them make a trip down to one of Detroit's leading hotel supper clubs where there now plays one of the best pianists in the business.

Miss Minifie Several years of listening to jazz musicians has failed to show us one who can play the gentleman who lets roll from his fingers such melodic wanderings as we never before have heard, a man with more technical skill in his finger tips than most of us ever acquire in a lifetime of fourscore and 10.

By KATHERINE W. GEORGE When the head of a government flees to a haven of safety in time of national stress, leaving his people caught helplessly and hopelessly in the rear, I think he should expect little of that people in return.

Mrs. George King Leopold of Belgium, in direct contact to his royal subjects, took his stand at the front as commander of his country's military forces and from all reports he is still there as the German army digs its way farther and farther through the steps of his father, the late King Albert, who led his army against the German invasion in 1914. Even Queen Elizabeth, elderly and flight might have been considered reasonable.

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Knocking on Wood!

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

INFORMALLY SPEAKING "BIG NAZI OFFENSIVE" headline in a Detroit newspaper. He certainly is.

It is said that the wife of one of the candidates makes very good cakes, it being assumed that she will be home around the White House long enough to finish the baking one.

A congressional partial deafness was cured during a particularly loud debate. For extremists, there are certain important facts that America can not escape.

WHILE EUROPE BLOWS UP As these lines are written, the map of western Europe is changing so rapidly that today's observations may be so many empty words tomorrow. Nevertheless, there are certain important facts that America can not escape.

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