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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1940

Here's What Freedom of Press Means to You! It is the first of such "weeks" ever staged in this country. "What is such a week all about?" you may ask.

The answer, in detail, is rather lengthy; however, it can be summed up in a few paragraphs so that you, readers of America's newspapers, will better understand your relation to "freedom of the press."

Five hundred years ago a chap named Gutenberg invented movable type: from this invention has come the modern newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, textbook, etc.—the mass distribution of the Holy Bible.

Printing has often been called "the art preservative." No thoughtful person will deny the value of printing to the cause of human progress.

Freedom to think, plus freedom to give utterance to those thoughts, either by word of mouth or through the printed word is the keystone in the arch of all human progress.

Without freedom of press there would be no radio, either. In a world of today where hundreds of millions of men and women are able to read only what their dictator-masters wish them to read, it is most important that America be alert to its rights.

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"DON'T CHANGE HORSES IN MID-STREAM" yell the Democrats who want President Roosevelt returned for a third term. But the President, Dear Bear, isn't supposed to be on a horse—he's on the Democratic donkey—and donkeys are stubborn critters, haven't we all told?

Republicans Purge Bosses... Last week in this column we published a few thoughts upon the subject of the State Convention held in Grand Rapids last Friday. We suggested that this convention was of great importance to the citizens of Michigan—we held that the issue of political bossism was the key to whether or not that convention would present a ticket of candidates worthy of approval November 5.

We salute venerable Governor Laren D. Dickinson for his valiant and vigorous action to lead one point in the proceedings, to quiet and orderly procedure. We also salute and wish to praise the efforts, most successful, of former Governor Wilbur M. Brucker and his Detroit aides who were able, following long convention debate, to kick out boss Edward Barnard.

All that remains, should Governor Dickinson and his fellow-candidates be elected November 5, is for the Chief Executive to eliminate from the State's many boards and commissions, as their terms expire, all who are affiliated with the erstwhile boss leaders of Michigan Republicanism.

Such is the power of a free press in a democracy—a free press that is able to get and publish information to a social order of free men and women.

If we are wrong about this we'd like to be corrected. But if our memory and our pursuit of the record is okay, we'd like to remind the readers of this newspaper that the Roosevelt administration has made records in the following realms of governmental activity:

- 1. He is the greatest spender in recorded history.
2. He has the greatest record of unredeemed political and economic promises.
3. He has fooled more people more times than any demagogue in history.
4. He is the most expensive and persistent fisherman in all the world.
5. He and his family have commercialized the White House to a greater extent than any President in history.
6. He has created the greatest national debt in American history.
7. His policies have been responsible for the most politically corrupt period of American history.
8. He has sought and acquired more political and economic power than any peace-time President.
9. He has done more to destroy the confidence of Americans in themselves and their form of government than any ten Presidents.
10. He has created more business uncertainty, class hatred, visionary Utopias and popular unrest than all his predecessors combined.
11. To cap the climax of his "incomparable record" he is the only American President ever to receive the unqualified indorsement and support of the Communist Party of America.
12. It is without question an "incomparable record"—incomparably bad.

When you get tired of war news and preparedness programs, begin to pass up third term candidates, and begin to ignore the vital issues of the day, you might as well hunt up a good book and read some pleasant fiction.

Another Vicious Circle... If this doesn't work in your case, you might try a fishing trip, a leisurely luncheon somewhere, or do something else that suits your peculiar disposition and pocketbook.

WENDELL L. WILKIE, Republican Presidential candidate, was in Michigan this week. Tuesday morning his train moved slowly through Birmingham where more than 500 men and women, boys and girls, were situated at the railroad station to wave back at him and Congressman George A. Dondero stood on the rear platform. Mr. Wilkie looked well and happy; his speaking tour will make him many votes.

HERE'S A GOOD PLAN to follow: determine that you will, some time each day, pay a deserved compliment to another, whether it be your husband or wife, child, neighbor, business associate, or even a slight acquaintance. This will make you seek for and see goodness in others—and such an attitude makes for the kind of optimism that creates personal happiness.



Michigan Mirror NON-PARTISAN STATE NEWS LETTER

LANSING—Wendell L. Wilkie and Governor Laren D. Dickinson have one trait in common: Neither man will make a political speech Sunday.

When the Republican presidential nominee greeted audiences from the rear platform of his train on a recent Sunday, he said he did not intend to campaign on the Sabbath.

Well, Governor Dickinson doesn't either. In fact when an Upper Peninsula editor visited the executive office recently, Dickinson remarked he was not going to campaign in an old-fashioned barnstorming way.

The editor smiled in agreement, and then asked: "And how was the audience yesterday (Sunday) at Owosso?"

Michigan's 81-year-old executive, who had addressed a Bible Fellowship rally, remarked glowingly that several thousand people were present. He said he had "smiled" with quite a few.

For Sunday "visiting" during a political campaign, Dickinson's tactics are highly effective. He doesn't talk politics. He just emphasizes the value of personal character and public morality.

Knocking on Wood! with JOHN H. HARWOOD... JAPAN-GERMANY-ITALY THAT alliance announced last week by Japan, Germany and Italy looks formidable on paper, but as far as its actual consequences, they are something which no one can yet foresee.

What Does Japan Get? The pact was a diplomatic triumph for Hitler, but somewhat of a hollow triumph for Japan, and that is why the alliance MAY never amount to anything.

This observer does not believe that the alliance would have ever come to being, except for Mr. Roosevelt's increasing threatened position in the Far East.

What the price of American participation in the war would mean financially is a subject to stagger the imagination. This country spent \$6,148,000,000 for military purposes alone during the 1917-18 fiscal year; \$11,031,000,000 in the 1918-19 year; \$14,494,000,000 in the 1919-20 year; and a 50 billion total is viewed as inevitable.

PARAGRAPHS Always Mad... The Fuehrer can make a final peace offer sound more intelligent than a declaration of war.

Happenings of Long Ago Fifty Years Ago Oct. 2, 1890... Our fellow citizen, J. F. Rundel, is more than busy now-a-days with the state building and with being called upon from all parts of the state to judge stock at the many fairs.

THE GREAT AMERICAN HOME... A Slant on Dickinson... In fact when an Upper Peninsula editor visited the executive office recently, Dickinson remarked he was not going to campaign in an old-fashioned barnstorming way.

Wabek State Bank of Detroit... BUY INSURANCE FROM YOUR OWN AGENT The cost may be added to your balance

Wabek State Bank of Detroit BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEK BLDG. FERDALE OFFICE—141 WEST NINE MILE RD. MAIN OFFICE—FISHER BLDG., DETROIT DOWNTOWN OFFICE—FORD BLDG.