

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

A free responsible and aggressive Press for democracy's first line of defense

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

CAN RUSSIA HOLD GERMANY?

WHEN the German-Russian conflict started, the American High Command and just about everyone else predicted that Hitler would make in-roads of Russia in short order. One notable exception was Max Warner (not Lenin) writing in this weekly New Republic. He said that Hitler was in for a rough sledding; and in a recent issue of New Republic he writes: "The Red Army not only has a chance for successful resistance; it has a chance for victory."

Lucky or Learned? So, it is possible that in picking the right horse, Warner might have been justified. On the other hand, Warner might have been informed enough and smart enough to know what he was talking about.

A most interesting part of Warner's case is his belief that Russia is holding in reserve much manpower and equipment, ready for a general counter-offensive when the German becomes stalled in their fierce attack.

Warner points out that the Soviet Army was ten far smarter than all other German opponents (including ourselves) in negotiating its Army and in using the strategy of defense-in-depth, the only type which can defeat the break-through-mechanisms of the German panzers.

Another reason why so many people still believe in the popular belief that all Russian machinery was inferior, Warner quotes the Berlin-Berlin-Zurich mouthpiece of the German War Ministry, August, 1936: "The defects and weaknesses of the Russian economic system as a whole do not apply in the same degree to the war industry. Nothing but first-class materials and highly developed industrial resources are ever available to satisfy military requirements."

Russia, then, must have a vast supply of war machines, although Warner admits that Germany has better-equipped in ultra-modern fighter planes and dive bombers.

Warner points out that the core of German strategy since the days of the France-Prussia war in 1870 has been the lightning

Bridging the Future

Like a mighty river roaring through a rocky gorge, the unknown future faces America.

We in America today face the gigantic task of building a bridge to span the dangerous years ahead. We must build a bridge along the dark waters of disaster, over which the generations-to-come may pass in safety.

The length of the main span of the bridge is 3,568 feet! The total length between anchorages is 8,200 feet! From distance, the cables look like the web of a spider, but they are the strength of the bridge; they must support the tremendous weight of 160,000,000 pounds!

All the tiny wires of constructive Americanism: creative ideas, team-work, loyalty, faith, courage, work, love, must be united in powerful cables to withstand the pounding force of the world's problems which are endangering our way of life.

Each of us can help to build the bridge by jinking the defective wires of discord and bitterness, and spinning into the giant cables only the best qualities of our minds, hearts and spirits.

Defense and Rural Unemployment

There was an idea once that the Government States in locating new plants for war industries would be able to do something toward establishing a balance between agriculture and industry.

Due no doubt to the speed required, it has been almost impossible to plan the location of available labor supply. It is not too much to hope, however, that future expansions in the defense program will result in some improvement of the situation.

C. D. Baldwin, Farm Security Administrator, recently told a Congressional committee that the employment of millions by the national defense program has been a substantial inroads into rural poverty. He pointed out that forty-five percent of defense contracts were said to have been placed in Northeastern States where less than three percent of the Farm Security Administration's rural population are located.

Mr. Baldwin, we are sure, is not complaining of attempting to interfere with the speedy development of national defense. He was engaged in advising a congressional committee of facts relating to his field of employment. Let us hope that the distribution of future defense industries will be planned in order to lighten rural unemployment by creating a labor demand in the midst of an abundant labor supply.

Tom Walsh, president of the Professional Golfers' Association, is on the right track when he demands that professional golfers be barred from future national defense contracts.

He knows what happened to baseball until Commissioner Landis was employed and given a free hand to rule baseball after the famous Chicago White Sox scandal. He says that golfers "have built a reputation that and tournament can be enjoyed by the public without mutual feeling of being in the way."

The attitude of the public toward baseball, football, golf and horse-racing varies, with the first three sports having the respect and admiration of the public. The sport of kings, unfortunately, has been badly injured by the betting prohibitions that seem to be inevitably associated with its operations.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT recently said that all workers should join some union if she means that "in unity there is strength," then we hope her words will be heard by those Washington New Dealers who certainly do need some of our thoughts and efforts in the name of national defense.

Because his payroll has become so immense, the Federal Government has decided to "stage" its regulars, should harmonize well with the behavior of Mr. Average Taxpayer, who has been seeking for some time—Mason City (Iowa) Globe Gazette.

A Fighting Spirit Essential

Everybody's build and indifference to the man who is brow-beaten and down-trodden by a getting citizens, careless of the rights of other people.

As a result of the little man's attitude, his rights are disregarded throughout life; those who are afraid that they can run over him with impunity. Never showing any fight, the little fellow becomes a doorman for aggressive individuals who take advantage of his peaceful disposition.

The observations in regard to the little man, applies to equal force to the nations of the world to-day. It is especially pointed in regard to the United States because there are some nations in the world who are thoroughly convinced that the republic will not fight in case of attack by industrial organizations.

This was evidently thought in the mind of Vice-President Wallace when, in a recent address, he declared that the United States must demonstrate "through every action and attitude" that it is "completely willing to go to war if need be, in order to have a chance for that peace which we so earnestly desire."

Mr. Wallace, a keen student of human nature and something of a philosopher, understood the mental machinery of aggressive governments. He knows that they will not go to war if they feel that they will not gain anything out of it. He also knows that there is an imminent danger of our undoing if we do nothing to change the convictions in certain governmental circles.

The Meaning Of The Flag

Friends and fellow citizens, know of nothing more difficult than to read an obituary notice to the plain of our nation. For those of us who have served that nation's life and felt the heat of its pulse it must be considered a matter of impossibility to express the great things which that emblem symbolize.

Experience, love and patriotism, is made by men and women. National experience is the product of those who do the living under that flag. It is their living that has created the spirit of a nation. It has been created by the sacrifices of a great people and nothing is written upon it that has not been written by their life. It is the embodiment, not of a sentiment, but of a history, and that can only serve under that flag who have not cast some of the meaning of that history.

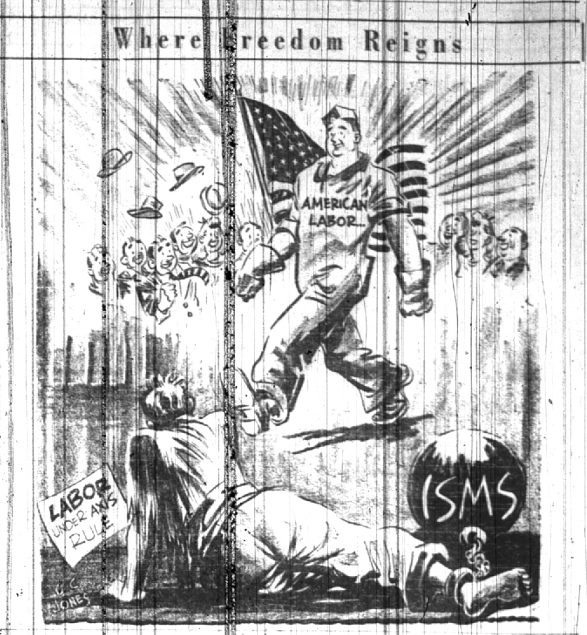
It may surprise some of the people of Birmingham, but there are schools in the United States which are preparing for one of two intentions. One is to prepare the child for the child-rearing, the other is to prepare the child for the child-rearing, the other is to prepare the child for the child-rearing.

The United States is living in a world that presents grave dangers to all nations. We are not alone in the revolutionary currents of the world, but we are alone in the national violence that is spreading.

There is no doubt that the word of the nations that are peaceful in intention, it still remains for two nations to keep the peace. The only way that is available to them is to be found in their own preparation for the worst, even if there is hope for a better.

The Birmingham Eccentric

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People's Column

Says America Needs Spiritual Unity

Editor, The Eccentric: I have been reading your issue of August 25, 1941, and I am very interested in the editorial on the subject of spiritual unity.

It is my belief that the only way to achieve spiritual unity is through a common faith in the principles of the Christian religion.

I am sure that the people of Birmingham will respond to the call for spiritual unity.

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Things Traffic Needs Warning on Lights

Editor, The Eccentric: I have been reading your issue of August 25, 1941, and I am very interested in the editorial on the subject of traffic lights.

It is my belief that the only way to achieve traffic safety is through a common sense and a common sense.

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THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner. Greater appeal was obtained in this picture by using a hayrake wheel as a frame for the subject. Watch for similar properties to transform your snapshots into great pictures.

Eccentricities. A lie is a poor substitute for the truth, but up to now it is apparently the only substitute that has been discovered.—Arlene Globe.

WABEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT. Complete Banking Service. Pay-As-You-Go Checking Accounts. Commercial and Savings Accounts. Collateral and Life Insurance Loans. Unsecured and Co-Maker Loans. F. H. A. Modernization Loans. Automobile Loans.