

Editorial Page of The Birmingham Eccentric

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARWOOD

WHOSE MONEY?

STRIKES and threats of strikes are very much in the wind these days. Evidently, with government money being spent as it has never been spent before, organized labor is determined to get its share. Well, why not?

Whose money? It is hard to say. It is being spent, and its ownership may be more entitled to it than labor?

It is one of the oldest maxims in our capitalist system that high profits can justify a crime, where profit is great. For example, a business man who invests every cent he has to bring forth some new product is entitled to good reward for his enterprise, while a public utility, which is given a monopoly and guaranteed a profit by the government, is entitled to no more than a very modest return on the money invested. And in the case of small business competing with big, I think we can all agree that the little man with little resources is entitled to a greater percentage of return.

Knudsen Great, Because Humble

The who humbly himself shall be exalted might be the fitting epitaph for the moment of William S. Knudsen, former General Motors president who quit his \$200,000 a year job for a \$100,000 a year job as head of the nation's war production program.

Men of greatness nearly always are men of humility.

Take the case of Mr. Knudsen, who came to the United States 41 years ago, a poor immigrant boy from Denmark. By dint of his own energy and talents he rose to become the executive head of the nation's largest manufacturing business.

One day last week, as he was being questioned by a Congressional committee regarding defense plans, Rep. Luther Johnson of Texas, asked: "Mr. Knudsen, what was your motive in giving up an income of more than \$200,000 a year to come down here?"

In the words of Blair Moody, Detroit News-Warehouse correspondent, "the room was hushed."

"Well," said Knudsen, slowly and simply, "I hope this doesn't sound sentimental, but I've been here 41 years and this country has been pretty good to me. The President asked me to come. I felt that if I could do something I'd like to do it."

No theatrics. No "put-on." A wave of handclapping swept the room, and handshaking and embraces followed from their eyes. Newspapers agreed that, for the moment at least, the opposition was completely defeated and the President's bill had been given its greatest single shove forward.

Here are some of an actual contemporary proof that "the who humbly himself shall be exalted." This story ought to be told to every school boy and girl in the nation, as an object lesson in one of life's most practically valuable assets.

Let's Not Get Scared

Raymond Clapper, the Washington columnist, wrote in his piece in the Free Press the other day information which corroborates our belief that affairs are being made in Washington to ease the American people and the British efforts to push through the lend-lease bill.

Mr. Clapper, who, incidentally, appears favorable to the Administration's present policy, points out that Secretary Stimson and Secretary Hull, in order to grab the headlines away from Senator Wheeler, have indulged in considerable exaggeration. "Intelligent readers," said Clapper, "will not become too excited about these literary fringes."

If you remember, our Secretaries of State and War declared that invasion by sea and air are possible in England, Italy, which is true, of course, and Mexico or Canada may invade at any time. Who knows? Another columnist pointed out last week, that if invasion is to be so easy as the Administration would have us believe, then the Navy has to be so weak or so poorly armed, that it is implied that it is not even to be considered if Britain falls.

But let's get this straight now. The Eccentric certainly does not intend to minimize the consequences of British defeat. It would be very serious and something no one desires. But we doubt that the United States is so weak that a British defeat would be a signal for us to throw up the sponge and invite Hitler to take over. We are not that helpless or cowardly yet. And we are, in fact, in this defeat or superior staff continues to emanate from the leaders of the nation.



Good Luck to Connie Mack!

Now that Connie Mack, 73-year-old manager of the Philadelphia Athletics, has secured financial control of his club, we might as well get set for the New Year by wishing the old man the joy of getting together another pennant-winning aggregation.

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For example, a student being taught economics doesn't get from his professor or instructor any emphasized knowledge that is being taught in the department of philosophy, or the department of religious instruction, yet economics, which deals with the science of producing and distributing wealth, is only safe when it is built upon moral truth.

A student in the engineering, law, or medical departments, fails to gain from his mentors any exacting knowledge of the Bible. Unless a student be in the political science department, he fails to gain from his higher education any definite conviction that good citizenship requires that he be informed and active in civic responsibilities.

These students graduate and become leaders in various walks of adult life; but they remain specialists—not completely educated in the most important of American requirements, that of being civic minded and imbued with a pronounced sense of high economic ideals.

The students, of course, are not to blame. But the educators are.

That is why our world today, so sadly in need of correction and solution of its social, political, and economic problems, is almost leaderless.

When will the learned "we didn't say wise" men in our institutions of higher learning recognize the out-of-jointness of their schools and build their instruction technique so that graduates will graduate with rounded-out, well-knit, and practical understanding of their relation to the whole community in which they must live?

We pray that it will be soon, if democracy is to be saved in this most confused and bewildered of worlds.

Dondoro Gives Stand on Loan Bill

BY GEORGE A. DONDORO U. S. Representative

It is interesting to note that the program for the first session of the 76th Congress, which opens on Jan. 22, 1939, is that the House will consider the lend-lease bill. This is a significant change from the usual practice of the House, which has heretofore considered the bill after the Senate has acted upon it.

Mr. Dondoro, a member of the House, has expressed his opinion on the bill. He believes that the bill is a good one and that it will help to bring about a more efficient government.

Happenings of Long Ago

Five Years Ago
Jan. 22, 1934

Special Commissioner of St. James Church of Birmingham has learned this week, when it became known that the Rev. Warner L. Forsyth, pastor of the local church, has been nominated for the office of coadjutor to the Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

Reverend the unnamed who is being considered for the office of coadjutor to the Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan, has been nominated for the office of coadjutor to the Bishop of the Diocese of Western Michigan.

What Risk? In the case of a great many of the war orders being handed out, the government itself is supplying the cash to build the factory. But contracts for the work done are being handed out and the faith and credit of the nation itself is guaranteed payment. Therefore, what stretch of the imagination is needed to see that the government is not speculating profits? Is the operator any more entitled to this money than the man who works for you and I as taxpayers, may not be able to understand why there should be high profits in the war plant or why there is no risk involved? We all remember the hundreds of men who emerged from the war with big millions, and that fact has been in the mind of the man who followed in the wake of the war. But apparently nothing has been done to prevent a recurrence except to raise the income tax rates, and even these are not now as deeply graduated as they were during the World War.

But, if we must have big profits, let us recognize the fact that it is not the government that is to share its misfortune. Once that principle is accepted, it should be possible to work out a plan whereby wealth and profit-sharing plan to take the place of the bargain, tariff and other protection. Certainly are not adding to the productive effort.

Terrible Sacrifice In final judgment, I am against huge war profits other for labor or investment, although I believe the cost of living rises, an adjustment in wages is necessary. But why should anybody be allowed to produce in the name of the land? If democracy is worth anything, blood for it is certainly worth the terrible sacrifice of foregoing economic profits.

What do you think the men being shipped and gassed in France during the World War thought when they learned that fellows back home were gaining \$15 a day in factory and shipyard, and that war millions were springing up everywhere?

Why Educators Are Failing

One of the fundamental mental wrongs existing within the structure of the modern college or university is the utter separation, or lack of cultural cooperation, between scholastic departments.

For example, a student being taught economics doesn't get from his professor or instructor any emphasized knowledge that is being taught in the department of philosophy, or the department of religious instruction, yet economics, which deals with the science of producing and distributing wealth, is only safe when it is built upon moral truth.

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Soldiers Must Learn English

An important step in the remedial device as reported from Ecuador is that where the Ministry of Defense has ordered that numbers of both military and naval forces must learn English in the language of instruction.

This is interesting because it will be the forerunner of a general effort to pave the way so far as speech is concerned for the cooperation of defense units of the Western Hemisphere.

Ecuador will soon receive military and naval missions from the United States to serve as technical advisers to the army and navy. Naturally, it will be better if her soldiers and sailors speak English but they would have much to expect to learn in "two hours a week."

One-Man Relations

Washington correspondent, One-Man Relations, has indicated that the coming legislation should be the result of a bill to deal with the problem of all matters of foreign relations.

The bill, which is being introduced by the President, is intended to give the President the power to make all matters of foreign relations, and to give the President the power to make all matters of foreign relations.

Strictly Fresh

ABOUT this time of year we pause to sympathize with the neighbor boy who sits weeping around these days because he was in love with the girl on last year's calendar.

You can generally find someone generous enough to give you the shirt off his back. What's hard is finding one the right size.

Parts of the Pacific Ocean are about as pacific as some of the human race is.

The army private's equipment weighs 44 pounds. The figure is increasing proportionately with the number of miles carried.

Never Examined Profits In the case of a great many of the war orders being handed out, the government itself is supplying the cash to build the factory. But contracts for the work done are being handed out and the faith and credit of the nation itself is guaranteed payment. Therefore, what stretch of the imagination is needed to see that the government is not speculating profits? Is the operator any more entitled to this money than the man who works for you and I as taxpayers, may not be able to understand why there should be high profits in the war plant or why there is no risk involved? We all remember the hundreds of men who emerged from the war with big millions, and that fact has been in the mind of the man who followed in the wake of the war. But apparently nothing has been done to prevent a recurrence except to raise the income tax rates, and even these are not now as deeply graduated as they were during the World War.

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Have You Met . . .

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene T. Cleland, of 2414 Dorchester road, they moved here from Champagne, Ill., and are now occupying the William L. Mitchell house on Chestnut head.

Although they lived for seven years in Champagne they are Michigan people, coming originally from Ann Arbor.

Mr. Cleland is an architect for Holley & Ellington in the Stroh Building.

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. DeGusse, who are living in the Manor Apartments; he is employment manager for the American Blower company in Detroit.

They came to Birmingham mainly because Mr. DeGusse's brother, John L. DeGusse, lives here.

They moved here from Marine City.

Armschair Philosopher

PSYCHOLOGICAL CASUALTIES OF THE 30's Every one in a while, on my trips around the country—in planes, on trains, in hotels or in offices—I meet certain people who impress me as being perfectly normal, capable, wide-awake citizens in all ways but one: And you meet them, too.

They are intelligent . . . they have good jobs . . . their families are well cared for . . . they are reasonably prosperous . . . They seem to be in good health . . . In brief, all appears to be well with them—yet, as you talk with them, one of a few moments—and then you realize the truth. To the thing wrong with them—and it's hard to imagine anything much worse happening to anybody—is simply this:

"I've undergone what you and I may call 'the psychological operation of the 30's' and failed to recover from the ordeal . . . I have carried the mental and moral scrap, planks removed from their makeup by the gross events of our times . . . They say: "Wars are out of joint . . . " "Ominous new philosophies are abroad in the land . . . " "There's no power anywhere in the world capable of saving civilization from destruction . . . " "Then these people shake their heads sadly, and throw up their hands in a posture of hopelessness and sigh of fear (according to type) the same old words, "What's the use?"

And that's where you and I pick up our hats, smile politely, and bow ourselves out of their presence with good wishes.

For you and I have work to do . . . And you and I know we find any inspiration for it—or any help for the rest of our lives, either—in the company of people like these.

The real starting-point of all achievement is (SIC!) OURSELVES, and not in the outer world of things.

W. E. HOLLER, 468 Boyers Rd., General Manager of Chevrolet

The Great American Home



You could see that she was too young to have acquired all the wrinkles and ways of her sex, as the traditional approver of the grocer's attendant asked the clerk: "Are you sure that this lipstick will not come off easily?" "Bratling, almost, the sophisticated clerk replied: "Not if you put up a good fight!"

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