

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

Knocking on Wood

with JOHN H. HARRWOOD

IT'S UP TO THE PRESIDENT
ONE thing I can admire in President Roosevelt is his willingness to take responsibility.

A POWERFUL EDITORIAL
Henry H. Luce, editor-in-chief of Life, writes a potent editorial now and then. In fact, he believes at least is so potent that it is willing to buy two-page advertisements in support from east to coast to spread the good word.

But Mr. Luce does have a point. Europe and its perpetual bloodshed; they spurred the League of Nations and the Wilsonian internationalism.

The People Balked
But the people wanted nothing of Europe and its perpetual bloodshed; they spurred the League of Nations and the Wilsonian internationalism.

However, whether or not the majority favored war in 1917, the fact remains we did go in and we did make great expenditure of men and money.

The unfortunate thing about it all is that the job we did was wasted. England and France were too bankrupt to carry on and make the most of the assistance we had given.

But there is no use in being disgusted with history. Only habits permanently stay. Only wars and they clear out of the way for us.

So, here we are, back at the same old crossroads, only the date is 1941, not April, 1917. Yes, Mr. Luce, we are practically in the same place as we were in 1917. If we are dragged into the battle,

Let's make sure this time we get something out of it. Henry H. Luce, editor-in-chief of Life, writes a potent editorial now and then.

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"Grandma, I'm disappointed in Browie. When we first got him I hoped he would grow up to be a police dog."

Washington Faces the Facts

What Associated Press staff writer Howard L. Fisher called "a new and to some, a startling phase in the argument for helping Great Britain," recently appeared while the Senate was debating the lease-lend bill.

For example, Senator Barkley, the majority leader, recently said that "the course we chart is not without merit." "I am hoping that intervention may not mean war, but I am ready if intervention does mean war."

The President himself said that there were hazards in any course that this country might pursue in its foreign policy. It was obvious that the possibility of war was in his mind when, in answer to a question at a press conference, he said that even if we were to engage in naval hostilities with Japan, there would be no let-up in our sending supplies to England.

If we went to war, it is apparent that at the beginning, our participation would involve the navy and perhaps the air force, not the army. Britain could certainly use our fighting fleet, the great British navy, which has contained him, and which is so dangerous to him. She must command the North Sea, the Mediterranean, and a considerable part of the Far East.

There is still another possibility here. Britain apparently fears that Japan is about to embark on new adventures of her own—to take the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies, or even Singapore, and the Malay Peninsula.

Hitler's spring strategy will be a drive through the Balkans, an attempt at invasion of England, a Japanese push in the East, or, perhaps, a combination of all three. In the meantime, this country is not nearly so far from being a majority of its people, judging by polls, loyal.

TEACHERS in the Birmingham public schools formally have let the Board of Education know that they want more salary. And why? They are faced with the fact that annual incomes of other groups in this world, teachers excepted, do not get too large a share of the coin of the realm.

THIS NEWSPAPER again reiterates its belief that if Birmingham is to acquire immunization of its dogs before the rabid dog becomes, the same dogs ought to be granted more freedom. Personally, we agree with those who assert that immunization has failed to prevent rabies spread, and that required immunity is merely an expression of official hysteria.

Armchair Philosopher

TODAY'S HYMN OF HOPE
These things shall be: a loftier race than ever the world hath known shall rise. We flame of freedom in the world, teachers excepted, do not get too large a share of the coin of the realm.

Color Comics A Disgrace

At the last meeting of the Birmingham Branch of the Education League, members were concerned with a recent seeming wave of juvenile delinquencies.

Virtually every child in America is reading color comic magazines—a poisonous mixture of crime and sex.

The old dime novels in which an occasional realism left the dust were classic literature compared to the color comic pouring from the presses today.

Badly drawn, badly written and badly printed—a train on young eyes and young imaginations, the effect of these color comic magazines is that of a violent stimulant.

But, of course, the children must be furnished a good substitute. There is nothing dull about Westward Ho or Treasure.

There has been an interesting reaction in Birmingham to the efforts being made at using to save the taxpayers money. One measure, the McCallum-Neller bill, has already been introduced to consolidate the state revenue collection to correct the slipshod method which in the past have cost the treasury millions.

Some, particularly those who are working to bring about increased revenue for the school system, have looked askance at this drive in Lansing for economy, fearing that state and city schools will be reduced, and fearing that graveous mistakes will be made in reducing appropriations. We wonder if those fears are justified, for the schools as a pressure group are now strong enough to take care of themselves.

Why do the Nazis have the Jews? The Jews were the best serapentes that could be found, a small group, many of them rich and powerful. They were the only ones who did not fight back. So the Nazis built up the idea that the struggle of the tribulation was the struggle between "pure" races and the impure. The impure were especially hated and they were the ones who were to be exterminated.

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What? No Anchovies?



People's Column

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications from its readers. All communications must be signed. Names and addresses of contributors need not be given, but they must be in the office for Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

Conservation Takes New Turn

The following article has been prepared by the Education League of Columbia University. It is one of a series from a brief analysis of the book called "What's Wrong with America."

When the Germans were beaten in 1918, the people felt tricked. It is a very understandable if we remember that the German people had had nearly 50 years of unbroken success; the people believed that their nation was unbeatable. Yet they were conquered. In the 15 years after 1918, the German people met more and more cruel and powerful, especially against the always suspicious French. This resentment was stirred up by radical political leaders, particularly Adolf Hitler, an ardent nationalist who was in 1923, he started an unsuccessful revolution in Munich and had to flee the country. He kept telling the Germans that the world against them was defeated, that the German people were being betrayed, that the army was failing, and that they were being sold out.

Why do the Nazis have the Jews? The Jews were the best serapentes that could be found, a small group, many of them rich and powerful. They were the only ones who did not fight back. So the Nazis built up the idea that the struggle of the tribulation was the struggle between "pure" races and the impure. The impure were especially hated and they were the ones who were to be exterminated.

Says Good Core Not Gone with the Wind

Having lived in the South, I would say that not all of this civilization is lost. Over and above the process of Americanization there exists the Good Core. Any attempt to wipe out a civilization which built, painful and tough, never succeeds in wiping out the Good Core. The core of this civilization is known with the word "Will" as the Negro. At his best the Negro slave was a man being treated by a measure of sternness that left much to be desired. So, having been an integral part of the Good Core, it is not surprising that it should be so difficult to wipe out.

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