

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

Knocking on Wood with JOHN H. HARWOOD

CENSORSHIP The Navy has decided to change its mind about keeping the presence of British warships here a "strict secret," news dispatches from Washington reveal.

Another ridiculous aspect is the prohibition of picture-taking in public places such as docks and waterfronts. Such prohibitions don't prohibit a spy really wants to get information, all he has to do is walk around like anybody else and make notes or he can easily "steal" a picture.

People seem to have the quaint notion that the little black and white lens and shutter sees all and tells all, when in reality, the human eye is much more effective. Wasn't it just last week that a couple of Chinese taking pictures of a Pontiac factory in a public street were whisked off to jail? What could they find out that thousands of Pontiac people don't already know?

George Creel, who was chief censor during the First World War, gave his conclusions in an issue of Collier's some months ago. He was not satisfied with the job they did back in 1917-18; the only real way to keep military secrets is to make sure they are made secret at the source, as we recall of his view. Beyond that, further restrictions are of little value.

We Don't Learn Unfortunately, some of the lessons learned during the First World War are being overlooked. Inflation in 1917 to 1920 caused more damage to this country than the combined efforts of German spies and saboteurs. Bernard Baruch and others have sounded their warnings but nobody seems to pay a great deal of attention. Price control is a must on our list of things which need to be done.

Reaction A Russian campaign may be the push needed to get us much further into the war. People's hopes have been buoyed by the Reds' recent successes and their ground, there will be a psychological reaction on the American mind. If Hitler has begun to rise again, and those who are anxious that we declare an all-out belligerency will make the best of it.

A "Small" Army? There is much talk of a "small," highly-mechanized and highly-trained American army on the horizon or so regulars. Walter Lippmann is for it on the grounds that

You Should Hear Dr. Buell

One of the best informed men in America, on the subject of the United States and its relation to the world of today, is coming to Birmingham Monday evening, October 6. He will speak at the Community House under the auspices of the Birmingham League of Women Voters.

The man's name is Raymond Leslie Buell, and he has gained international renown as director of Fortune Magazine's Round Table. One of the most trusted of human beings, constantly "on the go" today, he has gathered information about this confused world that is not only interesting; it is vitally important to adults in making up their minds on questions before us at the very moment.

News Reports We cannot quite agree in toto, with some reports. We can agree, however, on the fact that the people of this country have been acquainted with developments in Europe. Certainly, it is well known that correspondence from Germany and Italy had to exercise extreme care to prevent espionage. They have transmitted much valuable information but they have not been free to comment upon and interpret the significance of many of the facts which have been reported.

Amazing Facts The people of the United States are naturally interested in the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and will no doubt be fascinated by details of the trial of sixteen spies now underway in the Federal Courtroom in Brooklyn, New York.

Something New Here is something new in the coal mines, in the State of Pennsylvania, recently picketed and closed down by a number of colluding, striking miners in the action of the United Mine Workers in invading the mines of its members.

Out of the Air By RADIO JAKE The semi-annual shuffle of radio programs takes place at midnight Saturday and on Sunday, and thereafter most of your favorite shows will be on their regular schedules.

Off to School? Booklet Praised Editor, The Eccentric: "I am sure that you will be glad to have a booklet called 'Off to School' planned to inform parents of children in Birmingham, even though they are not in Birmingham, of the opportunities in the Birmingham schools."

Differing Is Not Disunity

Strangers to our eyes are often our neighbors by the unappreciated lack of unity, by the vociferous expression of differences of opinion, by the heated arguments over everything and nothing, and by what they think are the democratic tendencies in our social life.

The points of difference in America are far less important than the points of agreement. We may seem to devote more time to them and to grow more articulate over them, but a people are united by a sense of unity, not by the points of difference.

Because we have this inheritance of freedom, we can be anything but a united nation. It is not our duty to stand by and let a case of times of emergency we choose to act as if we were free to know the truth and to speak it. We do not have to have it kept from us. In every time of crisis we have proven that we can stand together. We will not fail now.

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PEOPLE'S COLUMN

The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications should be typed, and signatures should be given in full. Letters must be received by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

Mr. McCullough Rises to Remark: Mr. George Aswell, Birmingham Eccentric, Dear Sir:

Wishes Mr. Crull Success, Happiness Editor, The Eccentric:

Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Maurine who moved from Rutland, Vt. to Birmingham, even though they are not in Birmingham, of the opportunities in the Birmingham schools.

Have You Met... Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Sullivan, who arrived at 721 Ridgecroft avenue, formerly of New York City, in Birmingham, even though they are not in Birmingham, of the opportunities in the Birmingham schools.

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THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

CHAS. B. CHARMATZ, P. S. A., Editor

From time to time Camera Corner will give you the low down on some of our local photographic activities. This week we introduce Joe Munroe, of Detroit, and his production of his many outstanding works of "Bovine Portrait."

"BOVINE PORTRAIT" by Joe Munroe, of Detroit, one of the leading young photographers of this district.

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Advertisement for 'THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner' by Chas. B. Charmatz, P.S.A., Editor. Includes details about 'Bovine Portrait' and contact information for Birmingham Camera Club.

Advertisement for 'Out of the Air' by Radio Jake. Details about radio programs and contact information for Birmingham Camera Club.

Advertisement for 'The Birmingham Eccentric'. Includes subscription rates, contact information, and details about the publication.

Advertisement for 'WEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT'. Includes details about banking services, checking accounts, and contact information for the Birmingham office.