

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

"UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER" MERELY A CATCH PHRASE

Events of the past few days have amply demonstrated that the term "unconditional surrender" has no meaning and ought to be discarded for doing more harm than good.

Some weeks ago, I wrote of the emptiness of the phrase, and recent events in Italy have tended to substantiate my belief. Except in the case of barbaric slaughter of a conquered enemy, there is no such thing as "unconditional surrender" for regardless of how uncompromising such a demand may seem, there actually must be terms, either expressed, implied or inferred.

Grant and Lee
When U. S. Grant made the words famous, the Confederate commanders were given that the terms to be offered by the victor would not be too impossible. General Lee knew that his former colleague from West Point would be generous, and so he was.

Helps Home Propaganda
At this point, the reader, if he is willing to concede my point, asks: "So what? The term 'unconditional surrender' being spurious, only serves to confuse people in the enemy countries, and tends to substantiate a home propaganda to the effect that Allied soldiers are waiting to loot, rape, massacre, and dismember the state. It prolongs the war. It encourages the enemy to encourage the masses to revolt, for despite their plight, the German people may still fear an avenging force that demands absolute surrender, and their pride of country will not permit them to give in easily to a demand for abject, ignominious surrender. But almost any man, having lost a fight, is willing to call it quits if he can salvage his life, family, and of some small measure of honor."

Turning to Italy, it was interesting to see President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill criticize their demand for unconditional surrender, and then, in the next breath, offer terms.

Churchill's Terms
Said Mr. Churchill: "Now that Mussolini has gone and the Fascist power broken . . . to do so is a grave mistake . . . to the whole aim to break down the so-called Italian state . . . We certainly do not seek to reduce Italian life to a condition of anarchy and find ourselves without an authority with whom to deal. Such chaos would impose upon the Allies an immense paralyzing task."

Eisenhower Offers Terms
Actually, of course, Gen. Eisenhower offered certain peace terms

Mr. Wallace and "Hokum"

To understand why so many of our political leaders make exaggerated statements when they talk to the masses is to understand both the strength and the weakness of democracy. Politicians are always trying to sell themselves to the voters. That's their way of merchandising, of getting and keeping jobs; some of them really are sincere, want to bring about needed reforms and improvements, but all of them, at one time or another, exaggerate, wander from the basic truth.

Like the Barker at a circus sideshow, they peddle "hokum."

We are moved to this observation by the recent utterance of Vice-President Henry A. Wallace, in his Detroit address he referred to "American fascists"; he meant any person of wealth and/or position who disagreed with strict New Deal policies.

Deep down in his genuine thinking, Mr. Wallace probably disapproves of some of the statements he makes; if he were a quiet college professor, he probably would temper his utterances with less hokum. If, when criticizing another whose belief was not like his own, Mr. Wallace would no doubt say: "My friend is misinformed, but he has a right to his belief, anyway." As a politician, the Vice-President declares: "He is an American fascist."

Politicians operate like some purveyors of merchandise. Take cigarettes, for example. One brand name advertises that it, and implies that it alone, can "soothe the throat"; "no other cigarette can make that claim"; "two to one . . ." and plenty of other phrases to create sales.

Other commodities, too, are similarly presented to the buying public. In much of these claims, of course, the public isn't exactly fooled—even though it does buy. The average American is brought up on a certain amount of "hokum"; he listens to the bark at the sideshow, pays the price of admission, and then finds that the two-headed lady is only a trick. But he laughs and walks out—even though he knows he has been "victimized" a bit.

Americans, then, it seems to us, ought to take their politicians with a comparable sense of humor; this will enable them to discount parts of their political "promises," their political "hokum."

Mr. Wallace, we believe, is a genuine and sincere man in his private affairs; we are convinced that he tries only to tell the absolute truth; he wouldn't take a penny that didn't belong to him; he is a real idealist, a dreamer of the good life; he is this, we repeat.

But as a politician, Mr. Wallace is quite another person. He became Vice-President because his "Boss" played with big city machine politicians, politicians who were given plenty of patronage and WPA funds to build and maintain their political strength. The record proves this. Privately, perhaps Mr. Wallace did not like this connection—but it is the way practical politicians operate, and so he became Vice-President.

Mr. Wallace wants Mr. Roosevelt perpetuated in office; the 1944 elections are coming up; the country is satisfied with FDR's conduct of the international situation, but displeased with his handling of domestic prob-

Signs of Victory

The Republicans are trying to "cash in" on this latter fact. Mr. Wallace, and other New Dealers, are certainly going to try to divert the public thought from New Deal mistakes. So one device is to cry: "American fascists!"

Ho hum! and another Ho hum!
Whether you are selling a political program or a brand of cigarettes, running a sideshow at a circus, or endeavoring to get your little boy to sleep with bedtime stories, you no doubt will use plenty of "hokum" in the doing.

That, folks, is part of the free, competitive system we call "the American way," isn't it?
WHEN LOU R. MAXON, DETROIT ADVERTISING MAN who was OPA administrator Prentiss Brown's chief deputy, resigned a few weeks ago, he said something of tremendous civic importance to American business. He declared that his recent job was his first political venture, but not his last. "If American business is to survive the onslaughts of radical New Dealers, businessmen must become more than casually interested in the problems of government," he said. True words were never spoken. We hope Mr. Maxon is able to convince other leaders to do likewise.

For the first few years of his reign as Italy's Premier, Mussolini really accomplished much for his people, for they were in chaos when he took over 21 years ago. Then Benito became arrogant, conceited, vain; this streak of weakness led him into plenty of trouble, the biggest mistake being his alignment with Hitler. Now Mussolini has gone the way of all arrogant tyrants: Hitler will do likewise, also Japan's leaders. (The same end awaits similar minded leaders in the democracies—without of course, the stigma that accrues to the Axis killers.)

THE THOUGHTFULNESS AND KINDNESS of neighbors, when death comes to a family, move in and operate the household, is proof of the Good Samaritan nature of the average human being. Women, of course, perform most of these good deeds; therefore, blessed be the women!

The Birmingham Eccentric

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PECK'S Cash and Carry
Suits, Topcoats, Plain Dresses \$1.09
CLEANED and PRESSED
Per Delivery Phone 230
WOODWARD—NEAR MAPLE

SALVAGE MEMO
TIN CANS—Rinse after using, remove label, open bottom and flatten with foot. Place at curb for last City collection day of the month. Keep dry; keep separate from rubbish.

WASTE PAPER—Strain and keep cool. Turn in to your meat market when you have a few pounds. Rancid fats not wanted.

SCRAP METALS, GLASS, RUBBER—Leave in bin near Post Office or put at curb on your last City collection day of the month. Copper scrap, wire and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES—You can donate them to Salvation Army, which will call for them. Phone 4014. Scrap paper not wanted.

"A FRIENDLY BANK"
WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT
Bank By Mail!
Save time, save gasoline, save time. Make your checking account deposits by mail. Special deposit envelopes and instructions on their use are available at the Wabek State Bank office that carries your account.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT
BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

Happenings of Long Ago

60 YEARS AGO
Aug. 3, 1883
"Ben Corliss is in town making his friends glad once more." "Grant Wolfe has secured the services of a new barber, Elmer Kipper of Fenton. He comes to this place well recommended and we trust will make a feature in his new position."

What Your City Commission Is Doing . . .

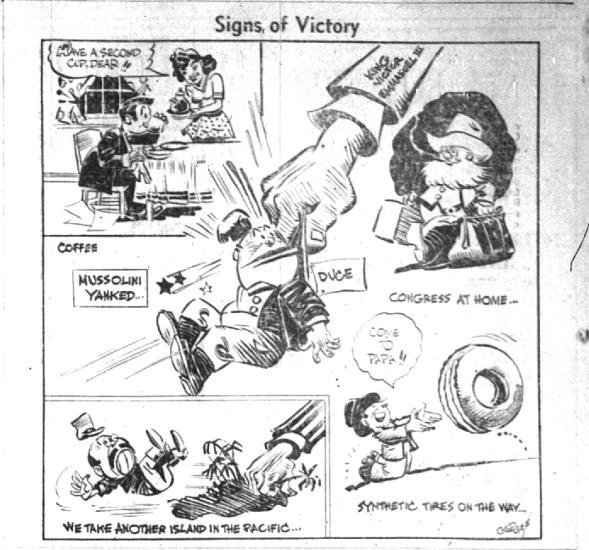
August 2, 1943
87- Streets approved totalling \$1,360.
78- Bill Trades ordinance amended to permit licensing of boys who work at home and six months of age.
Evelyn Warner appointed deputy city clerk.
Robert Walker Lymburner licensed to drive taxicabs.
Irene E. Hanley, City Clerk.

60 YEARS AGO

Aug. 3, 1883
"Ben Corliss is in town making his friends glad once more." "Grant Wolfe has secured the services of a new barber, Elmer Kipper of Fenton. He comes to this place well recommended and we trust will make a feature in his new position."

20 YEARS AGO

Aug. 3, 1923
"Robert Groves, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Groves of East Maple avenue, who was a graduate from Baldwin high school in 1920, will be united in matrimony to Miss Ruth Pallister, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Pallister of Highland Park, Wednesday, August 15. The ceremony will be held at the home of the bride's parents."
There are approximately 110,000 people in the United States, informed Henry Ford, and 30,000 of them are busy to know what you are going to do about the presidency.
"It's a thing around for a few days and I will tell you," was the amazing answer (from an interview with Henry Ford).
"Announcement was made Wednesday morning, August 1, by the Birmingham Dairy, local milk and cream distributors, that the price of milk would be raised a cent per quart."
"According to the Administration Board of the Community House, the Community House Benefit which was held last Thursday at the home of George T. Hendrie, Bloomfield Hills, was a decided success in every phase."



People's Column
Finds Orations Given in 1887

Editor, The Eccentric:
I can across these orations in a clean-up yesterday and lack the heart to destroy them. Perhaps they may give you a moment's pleasure. Mortie's oration has a present interest even though 56 years have passed since given. Please tell me in The Eccentric where any of these graduates are. Minnie passed into the dimness 10 years ago. At 85, I am a real estate salesman. My boys were in the other far, and daughter, if served, but they are still young enough to buy bonds.
119 West Lawrence,
Lansing 4, Mich.

Here's Example Of Censorship
(Editor's note—Newspapers in wartime operate under a voluntary code of censorship which binds them from releasing any news which may be of aid to the enemy. Usually, this amounts to more than omitting names and locations of ships at sea, and the identity of troop units abroad except when such identity has been released by the proper authorities. For example, elsewhere in today's paper, a letter from a soldier in Sicily mentions the First Division, which is permissible, because "everybody" knows that this unit is in the thick of it. To illustrate the sort of memorandum occasionally received from Washington, we print the following letter.)
OFFICE OF CENSORSHIP
WASHINGTON, 25
July 29, 1943
NOTE TO EDITORS AND BROADCASTERS: For publication it is desired.
The extent of current public discussion of radar is causing increasing concern to the Government.
The principle of radar is generally understood here and abroad, and some limited disclosures have been made officially. New methods of applying the principle are being developed, however, and in such much the enemy does not know.
The fact of prior publication should not be used to cover added description, discussion, and deduction, or to support a theory or draw a conclusion.
Radar is a secret weapon within the meaning of the Code. Editors and broadcasters are especially requested to be alert to every mention of radar and military electronic devices; to establish beyond all question that there is appropriate authority for every statement made; and to submit all material on the subject—other than that released by appropriate Government authority—to the Office of Censorship for review in advance of publication or broadcast.
So inclusive a request would not be made if the high importance of national security were not directly involved.
BYRON PRICE, Director.

THE ECCENTRICS Camera Corner

"UNCLE JOE" AGAIN
Editor, The Eccentric:
It is true in the European sense we are not the victims of fascism; however, by substituting "force" for "armed force" to "organize the state for the benefit of the privileged few" it will be easy to see that there are many who have tried and are trying to do just this. This is being done in this present war that economic force is nearly as great if not as great as armed force. There are in this country 33, in our fair city we have the big three who virtually control the economy. They are in this country and they proved that they could stave labor into submission almost at will. It is in this connection at the point of a gun. This practice was justified in New Deal legislation and the present administration is attempting to keep this condition in adjustment, thus Vice President Wallace was justified in calling this group who would like to see this legislation discarded "American Fascists."
I see that you just couldn't resist the temptation to tell of the foul-smeller who was making more than the General. That's understandable and is common prattle among the permanent bankers, newspaper men, store clerks, and farmers all over the country. This thing can't understand it why more of these groups don't give up their hard labor and go after the money in the easy way. The jobs are there for the asking.
The big margin in labor turnover comes from this very group who either find the going rougher in the war plants than they had anticipated or they just don't like to get their money in the easy way. I know of a couple of barbers who dropped their shears for a welder's torch but found it too hot to handle and they're back at the barber trade still griping about the low wages they get in comparison to those in the shops. Why didn't they stay in the money?"
"UNCLE JOE"
DISCHARGE OF LIMITED SERVICE MEN
Editor, The Eccentric:
Isn't it time that limited service men in the Army were being discharged? This is such good news, why don't you print it?
A. E. STEELER

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT
Don't leave your camera on the shelf when bad weather keeps others indoors. You may produce a picture even in this nationally famous prize winner.
NATURALLY, most of us prefer the weather for our picture taking outdoors. However, in our enthusiasm for capturing it, we are apt to overlook the beauty in certain other moods of weather—the glow of light through mist and fog, the sparkle of rain wet streets, reflection in after the shower puddles, even raindrops hanging like diamonds from tree and branches of the trees. If you're alert, you'll find many possibilities in "bad" weather, and each will add interesting items to your picture collection.
It's not necessary to get soaking wet either. You'll find the best rainy-day opportunities in sunshiny intervals, or between showers, or you can shoot from the shelter of a window or doorway.
However, remember that on rainy days and foggy mornings, light is weak and you'll have to adjust your camera accordingly. Look for cameras with high-speed film, and you will be able to get satisfactory rainy-day shots of average subjects at about 1/25 second at f/11 or f/16.
This picture should point out a moral for every photographer. Don't let bad weather keep your camera on the shelf. Load it up, take it out whenever it looks as if "bad weather" pictures are available—and you'll find that extremely interesting snapshots are yours for the taking.
John van Guilder