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

THE TWO-SIDED MR. ROOSEVELT

In an editorial following the Casablanca conference, the Chicago Tribune commented that not much good could be expected from another conference between Roosevelt and Churchill, who were characterized as two amateur bunglers in things military. That reaction was not surprising, for I doubt whether Mr. Roosevelt could even brush his teeth to suit the Tribune.

I believe that history will prove Col. McCormick all wrong insofar as the Roosevelitan military genius is concerned, for I believe he has done a pretty good job with regard to foreign policy and military affairs.

He saw the handwriting on the wall, and instituted a program of preparedness which put the United States in far better position than it has been prior to the start of any other of our conflicts. Not perfect, of course, but as good as could be expected. The vast scope of our present operations make the 1917-1918 effort seem trifling, yet production is booming; the railroads are not in a muddle as they were in 1917-1918 (management deserves a great deal of credit for that); the heads of our military operations seem to be keen men fitted for their posts; and, in general, we are moving on toward inevitable victory.

Mr. Roosevelt has devoted most of his time to foreign affairs, and I think that history will record that the President has handled the job masterfully.

Too Big a Job

The sad part is that the Presidency is too big a task for one man. While the Commander-in-chief busies himself with things military, the domestic scene is beset with considerable turmoil because Mr. Roosevelt has not taken the time to straighten things out in the vast bureaucracy which serves under him.

Biggest error has been failure long as prices continue to rise, to halt the rising cost of living. As labor will demand more, and as labor costs rise, the farmers will demand more for their products, and the spiral goes upward with a crash inevitable. Inflation means false prosperity based on phoney price levels, and there always comes a day when economic laws more powerful than the New Deal or any other government go into operation and deflation results. Our last great deflation, you may remember, started in September, 1929.

Then there are other things too numerous to mention. Bernard Baruch has been patiently urging action on some of them for many a moon, but it takes a long time to get action in Washington with Mr. Roosevelt paying so little attention to things that he nominates a weak sister like Ed Flynn for minister to Australia; and refuses to organize a real cabinet which would thresh out some of these domestic problems and take the burden off the White House.

A Major Weakness

That has been long recognized as a major Roosevelian weakness; he is so kindhearted that he permits incompetent people to remain in high places. His compassion for his friends is laudable and understandable, but when the future of the nation is at stake, personal feelings must be put aside for the benefit of the people. Had he reorganized his cabinet long ago, and installed men of strength and ability to arrive at sound decisions on domestic policy, some of this present confusion could have been avoided. For example, what does FDR's country neighbor, Mr. Morgenthau, know about running that vast reservoir of red ink, the U. S. Treasury? And what stroke of leadership has ever been accomplished for labor and the people by Madame Perkins?

The trouble with the President's secretaries and major administrative officers is that each pursues his own policy; they don't seem to get together to debate and decide domestic administrative issues which are so vast and complex that it is physically impossible for the President to act as commander-in-chief and also direct the bureaucracy.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL

Circuit Judge Fred S. Lamb was quite right in holding the haircut price law unconstitutional; he pointed out that it was an attempt to stifle competition. The legislature has no more business regulating minimum prices for haircuts than it has for beans, gasoline or job printing.

INCOME TAX

Rep. George A. Dondero, in a letter to Robert L. Doughton, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, has proposed that the Federal Government adopt a deferred payment plan for 1942 income taxes similar to the Michigan 10-year plan enacted for the deferred payment of taxes on real property.

Elderly Lady: "I'm so worried about my grandson, Paddy McMullin. He wrote me that he's been running around with a jeep."

Second Elderly Lady: "Why, Mary, that's nothing to worry about. A jeep is a little automobile used by the army."

"Well, Annie, I'm so glad to hear that. I thought a jeep was a female Jap."

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the 19th day of January, A. D., 1943.

Present, Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of **Anna M. Linton**, Deceased.

George W. J. Linton, administrator of said estate, having filed in said Court a petition praying that the time for the presentation of claims against said estate be limited and that a time and place be appointed to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands against said deceased by and before said court.

It is Ordered, that two months from this date be allowed for creditors to present claims against said estate.

It is Further Ordered, that the sixth day of April, 1943, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said probate office, be and is hereby appointed for the examination and adjustment of all claims against said deceased.

And for the examination and allowance of his final account, determination of the heirs of said deceased, assignment of the residue of said estate, and the discharge of said administrator.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

Albert E. Smith,
Attorney at Law,
1314 Dime Bank Building,
Detroit, Michigan

44-45-46

SALVAGE MEMO

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

WASTE FATS—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 engraver's plates and old keys may be left at the library.

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

EXPERT LOCKSMITH SERVICE

McBRIDE'S

116 S. Woodward Ph. 255-256

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

"A friendly bank"

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

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

A Name for the Junior High School

So far the Board of Education has not yet officially adopted a name for the new consolidated junior high school, except to continue use of "Barnum"—name of the building in which the students of the four former junior highs are now housed.

The Eccentric believes that it would be entirely logical to call the new institution the Birmingham Junior High School, for that, in fact, is what it is. A congregation is truly the church, just as the students and faculty are truly a school; the building itself is an inanimate thing which has no significance except for those who use it. The Jones Family is still the Jones Family, regardless of where it might move and hang its collective hat. Thus, in fact, there is no Baldwin Junior High, no Quarton Junior High, no Adams Junior High, nor a Barnum Junior High. They are welded together into one unit, a new and more efficient student body divorced from sectional interests, and to mark this achievement, a new and adequate name is the logical step.

"Barnum Junior High" is not adequate nor accurate, for there is no longer a group of students by this name, just as there no longer is an "Adams Junior High School."

The question has been asked: What about Baldwin Senior High School? Isn't it just as logical to retain the name "Barnum" as it is "Baldwin"?

The two names are not comparable. Miss Martha Baldwin gave the school district $25,000 for the high school built 25 years ago. Miss Baldwin helped start the public library and gave the City land for parks; she is undoubtedly the outstanding woman character in the City's history.

It is not our intent to cast any reflection upon the Barnum family, but the school was so designated because the Board of Education happened to buy part of the Barnum farm, and there seems to be no other good reason for perpetuating the name.

The building, as such, could still be known as the Barnum Building to save changing the records, and to provide for the fact that a small group of elementary children is still meeting there. The consolidated junior high needs to be designated only as The Birmingham Junior High School, address: "Barnum Building, Birmingham, Mich."

CONTRARY TO THE USUAL DIGNIFIED and colorless administration of so many of the Presidents of the United States, the present resident of the White House certainly cannot be accused of lacking lustre. His flight to North Africa, his willingness to risk personal danger, point him out as a national focal point of continuing interest and, even, entertainment. Boy! what a quiet place the White House will be when F. D. R. moves out.

DURING THIS YEAR IT WILL COST Oakland County taxpayers $330,993.00 to operate the Sheriff's Dept. That is as much money as will be required to operate and maintain the County's heads and staffs in the Prosecutor's office, County Clerk's Dept., Drain Commission, Corporation Counsel, and Register of Deeds. If you want this cost lowered, just talk to your own local Supervisor.

Dying for Whom And for What?

Every American must decide, for himself or herself, whether to support the nation in its wars, which means the cheerful acceptance of sacrifices that give strength and protection to men who are risking their lives on the fighting fronts.

We are desperately engaged by ruthless enemies. We did not attack them; they ganged up on us. Inevitably, the nation moved toward successful defense, even if it proceeded slowly, ponderously and inefficiently, in the manner of democracies.

Intelligent Americans did not, and do not, expect a miracle in the management of government or of military matters. They understand that when we go to war, we are amateurs, opposed by professionals. As with all democratically controlled states, we were not organized socially, economically, politically, or militarily for all-out warfare.

Loyal Americans, facing stringent regulations promulgated under the explanation of war-time emergency, accept them, and, because of the boys on the battle lines, postpone debate, recrimination and the inalienable right to contest any restriction upon individual rights.

The time will come for this later. Today, we fight a war. Tomorrow may claim a million American lives if we divide our strength in selfish squabbles and foolishly quarrel at home. Of what avail the death of men in jungles and at sea if all they surrender is consumed in business as usual, life as usual, and politics as usual?

What soldier or sailor would willingly give up his life for blatant householders whose complaint is that their rooms are chilly? How many men should die to protect selfish people who are unwilling to accept food rationing in order that soldiers might eat? Who should perish that arrogant Americans may continue to complain over sugar rationing and other small sacrifices?

The Birmingham Eccentric

Published every Thursday, at Birmingham, Mich., by The Eccentric Building, 220-222 North Woodward Avenue. Telephones 11, 12 and 13.

GEORGE R. AVERILL — Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL — Business Manager
JOHN H. HARWOOD — Managing Editor
HAROLD P. BUERGE — Advertising Manager
CLAUDE E. WALKER — Production Manager

Entered as Second Class Matter in the U. S. Post Office at Birmingham, Michigan

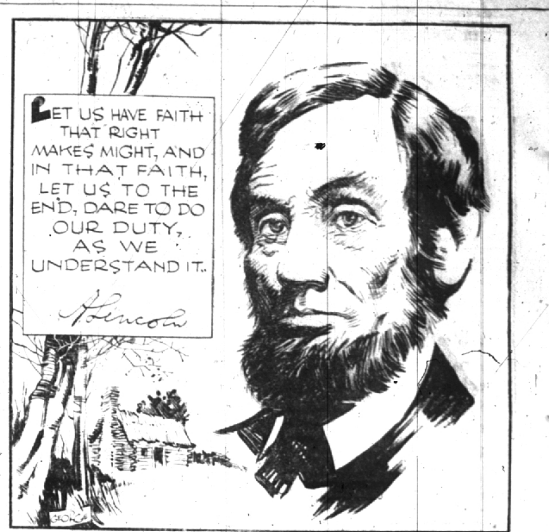
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(In Oakland County)		(Outside Oakland County)	
One Year	$2.00	One Year	$2.50
Six Months	1.25	Six Months	1.50
Three Months	.75	Three Months	.85

All newspaper and advertising copy must be in the Eccentric office by Wednesday noon to obtain insertion for that week, except Classifieds—4 p. m.

The Eccentric is a member of: National Editorial Association, Michigan Press Association, University Press Club, and Oakland County Weekly Press Association.

NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish stories of events which have news value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be presented before noon on Wednesdays. The right is reserved, however, to make such superficial changes in the work submitted as are necessary to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Because of a perpetual situation in the composing room, headlines written by those other than members of the staff cannot be used. Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Eccentric will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.



People's Column

THAT $3,000 PARTY

Editor, The Eccentric:

According to past history of parties in times of peril, this little $3,000 affair of Harry Hopkins, Baruch & Co. makes our popular friend and adviser of F. D. R. look like a piker. There has been so much talk about this that while I don't approve of the excuse it, I certainly think it's being overemphasized.

After reading of some of our famous depression parties when a dollar could really go places, I consider a $3,000 binge an affair that is hardly worth the mention, if you care to look at some of the figures just make us read 'em and weep. At first thought you will say these are private parties, but you and I pay for them when we buy the products of the families who give them the same as we have to pay for this little Washington affair.

The Dorrance family of the famous Campbell Soup (according to Fortune) regularly takes over two or three floors of the Bellevue-Stratford in Philadelphia and throws a party costing from $75,000 to $150,000.

In December, 1930, the Doherty coming-out party, for their daughter, Bohemian of City Service) cost a mere $250,000. My, my!

At about the same time a party at the Ritz Carlton for Barbara Hutton set Mama Hutton back about $100,000.

Mrs. Evalyn Walsh McLean, who married into a newspaper and the Cincinnati public utilities, tossed a little New Year's fling and served $9,000 worth of liquor alone. I could go on and on but this gets tiresome and while Harry would probably have been better off had he put his three grand into War Bonds, I still can't get fist up over a $3,000 shindig. Speaking of bonds, that Lions Club Bond-Wagon sounds plenty good, so let's get behind it and go the limit.

"UNCLE JOE."

Says Everett Deserves Re-election

To The Editor:

May I use your columns to say a good word for Lynn Everett, present Republican Supervisor of Southfield Township, who is a candidate for re-election next Monday, Feb. 15?

Some opportunists are at work. They have a candidate whom they are supporting in opposition to Mr. Everett; due to an impartial decision rendered in accordance with the Township Zoning Ordinance and at the recommendation of the Township attorney, a minority in the district is unsatisfied, and now wishes to put an excellent man in the local office.

Mr. Everett has very capably fulfilled the duties of his office. During the past few years that he has held his office many impartial decisions have been rendered and the Township at large has materially benefited.

During Mr. Everett's term he has paid debts in excess of $70,000, established a complete fire department, and we now have a surplus of $15,000. Certainly this man is an exception to the rule of today—for most government agencies spend more than the taxes collected.

So, fellow residents of Southfield Township, I'm voting for Mr. Everett next Monday, and hope you will, too. It will be voting for impartial, economical government.

CARSON C. BINGHAM
32515 Bingham road.

Potatoes do most of their growing at night when the air is cooler, according to a device used at the Idaho Agricultural experiment station, which measures the daily growth of this vegetable. During the hot hours of the day potatoes cease growing.

GARDEN for VICTORY

Now's A Good Time To Make Your Plans

GET SEEDS EARLY

Are you thinking about this summer's victory garden? Have you decided what you will raise to help increase the food supply and thus contribute to the war effort?

When the snow is deep and winter seems long and dreary, seed catalogues begin to fascinate the amateur gardener. Just a few words of advice in the selection of seeds for your vegetable garden:

Consider Your Space

If the garden is small, do not consider peas or corn at all as the yield is small unless you can plant in large spaces. Lima beans fall in this group also.

Beets and carrots are satisfactory if the garden is a good size but remember how very cheap they are in the stores and that the yield of home does not change much with longer picking. If the soil is heavy these root vegetables are very stubby. Advance information states that beet seeds will not be plentiful this year. Do not waste precious space on egg plant and fancy vegetables.

Cabbage is cheap in the stores and the worms will get more than the usage than the usual amateur will be able to pick. Broccoli will give you less trouble and is very nutritious. Bush beans, green and wax, are easy to grow and if picked young are delicious and taste very differently. If you keep planting beans ten days apart you will have plenty to can.

Consider Your Greens

Swiss chard is a good green, easy to grow and quite decorative appearing. New Zealand spinach is prolific in a small area and excellent if picked young. It is best planted in a bed. Long leaf spinach is good if you have room for a good sized row.

Radishes and a little leaf lettuce planted several times will be splendid for salads. Have a parsley row, a plant of chives and a root of mint and you will welcome the results in your kitchen nearly every day. A few hills of cucumber, from part of a package of seed, well thinned out, will give you all you can use in August and September.

Tomatoes Easy

Tomatoes are one of the easiest things to grow and the most prolific. Plan to buy a few good sturdy plants about Memorial Day and set them out. Four plants will give an average family all the tomatoes they can use from the middle of July until frost. These could be trained on a fence if you have no garden at all. A dozen plants would give an average family plenty of tomatoes for the table and some for canning also. In view of canned goods rationing and the fact that more tomatoes are used than any other canned vegetables, we should plant enough. Two dozen plants will give an adequate yield for all but a very large family.

Two or four green pepper plants will give you an ample pepper supply, and remember that green peppers are excellent for their vitamin content.

Do not be carried away by seed catalogues. Think over your space and plan on the really productive seeds. The amateur had better not try to raise plants himself but plan to buy them about the end of May. Forget the plants until Memorial Day but plan now for room for them.

Just About It

This age may just seem more sinful because it doesn't take the precaution of hiding behind the barn.—Portland Express.

STATE OF MICHIGAN—The Probate Court for the County of Oakland.

At a session of said Court, held at the Probate Office in the City of Pontiac, in said County, on the fourth day of February, 1943.

Present, Hon. Arthur E. Moore, Judge of Probate.

In the Matter of the Estate of Homer G. Leonard, Deceased.

Oliver H. Kirk, executor of said estate, having filed in said Court his petition praying that said Court hear and determine who were at the time of his death the legal heirs of said deceased and entitled to inherit the real estate of which said deceased died seized.

It is Ordered, That the eighth day of March, 1943, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be and is hereby appointed for hearing said petition.

It is Further Ordered, That public notice thereof be given by publication of a copy of this order, once in each week for three weeks consecutively, previous to said day of hearing, in the Birmingham Eccentric, a newspaper printed and circulated in said County.

ARTHUR E. MOORE,
Judge of Probate.

OLIVER H. KIRK,
First National Bank Bldg.,
Birmingham, Michigan.

46-47-48

Consumer News

Let's All Help!

If you have questions on consumer or rationing problems, send them to the Consumer Interest Committee, Defense Service Center, 131 Pierce street, phone 4014.

Question. I have a son who has had his 15th birthday since he received a Ration Book One. Can I get coffee for him?

Answer. No. Individuals who have reached the age of 15 since the date their books were issued are not eligible to buy coffee.

Question. When I apply for Ration Book Two must I declare cans of salmon and tuna fish I have on hand?

Answer. No. You should declare only items to be rationed at this time. Canned fish is not on the list.

Question. My B gasoline ration book is about to expire. How do I get it renewed?

Answer. Obtain a renewal blank at the local ration board. Fill it out and return it to them. They will mail you your next book.

Question. Do I have to declare chili sauce when I get Ration Book Two?

Answer. If you canned it yourself, no. If you bought it at a store, yes.

Question. When I apply for Ration Book Two, should I take Ration Book One along?

Answer. Yes. A stamp in Book One will be marked to show you have received Book Two. Also, coffee stamps will be removed from books of children under 15.

Michigan Coal Yield Is Limited

LANSING, Feb. — Michigan's little coal mining industry cannot be expanded to alleviate any big shortage of coal in this state, the conservation department's geology division warns, after inspection of the shafts now in production.

Seven coal mines operating last year in the Saginaw valley produced 365,000 tons, while Michigan's annual consumption is about 20,000,000 tons.

Most Michigan coal comes from 100 to 200 feet underground, where it is found in thin beds. Though not as good as Appalachian coals, it gives good results in boilers and furnaces adapted to its use. Big year of the Michigan coal industry was 1907, when 2,035,868 tons were mined.

New Books at Baldwin

Few People Understand the Japs

By ARTHUR G. RIPPEY, Jr.

THE THREE BAMBOOS by Robert Standish. Macmillan.

Robert Standish, who wrote The Three Bamboos, says that he doesn't believe there are six men or women of western blood alive today who understand the Japanese people. Nor does he himself pretend to understand them.

But if you want to fill in some of the gaps in your knowledge of the Japanese, you can spend your time profitably with The Three Bamboos. The publishers call it a novel, but as much as anything it's a historical sketch, done in narrative form. For convenience, Standish uses the story of a family to integrate the events of 88 years, from 1853 . . . when Perry opened Japan to world trade . . . to the morning of Dec. 7, 1941. This fictitious family the Furends, might even be the fabulous Mitsui, for like them the Furenos' roots were entwined in the corporate structure of all of the great industries of Empire. The Furenos epitomize the restless urge to conquest that has gripped Japan for half a century. Studying them through the enlarging glass of Standish, you get a first glimmering of what makes these incredible people so dangerous.

Standish knocks into a cocked hat the tradition of Japan the gentle, as painted by Lafcadio Hearn and the missionaries. He draws a grim and neurotic people, driven on in their dangerous reach by a belief that they are descended from the Gods . . . that their proper destination is world dominance. Like ants, these people . . . now nearly a hundred million strong . . . have multiplied and built and overflowed to the lands nearby, and to empires not their own. Not all bad, no, but dangerous to the community of nations because of an insane racial ambition which has consumed the sweetness and balance that characterize the older race to the east.

You won't "like" The Three Bamboos in the tea-table sense of that verb. But you will sit back and do some overdue thinking on the subject of what a job we've got ahead of us . . . in the Orient as well as in Europe.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Arthur Gordon Rippey, Jr., 789 Shirley drive, has been a resident of Birmingham since 1936, and a pay-owner of the Visual Training Corporation, of Detroit. In 1929, he was graduated from the University of Illinois. He likes to travel and has covered the western edge of the North and South American continents; also, his spare time takes him to a ranch in Colorado. In other odd moments, you are like to find his nose in a book!

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO
Feb. 9, 1893

"The world do move! The Philadelphia school of design for women has two foot ball teams. One kicking, no game enough for the average man.

"If it be true that Mr. Cleveland drinks a glass of beer every morning before breakfast, it indicates the presence of an unusually strong stomach.

"One of the new industries which promises to revolutionize a considerable portion of the American continent is the making of beet root sugar. Few persons have any conception of what is meant by this class of beet cultivation. In the Cosmopolitan for February, beet sugar is for the first time in magazine literature thoroughly illustrated."

"George Du Maurier, the artist, thinks he has made the discovery that 'women are growing broader, fatter, and more generally healthy.' So are the hats they wear to the theatre, we are told, and so with their draperies do annot when driveline returns."

25 YEARS AGO
Feb. 15, 1918

"When the news came first of the sinking of the ill-fated Tuscania we felt a sorrow over the loss of so particular interest in it until it became known from the published list of those sailing over, that our village boy, William E. Bougner, was one of the unlucky soldiers. . . . We then for the first time felt the pressure of Germany's heel and the blow from the mailed fist." Then late Saturday, word was received that he had been among those saved.

A letter was received from Dr. George P. Raynale somewhere on the Western Front. "Did I tell you that when I was away I had a chance to see some of the French trenches? I also went to one of the very interesting towns at the Front, that you have heard so much about, Nancy. It has been badly damaged in places, . . . It is quite a large city and very interesting. The country about there is very beautiful, hilly, about like Northern Michigan. . . So far I haven't seen anything in France that can anywhere bear equal Birmingham and don't suppose I will. I understand there is a city here called Paris, but I don't think even that place is as good as the dear old Town."

These heatless, joyless days have not been without their benefits. Many a man long a stranger in his household, has become acquainted with his family. Nowhere else to go.

"Our Tuesdays are meatless—our Wednesdays are wheatless; we're getting more eatless each day. Our home it is heatless—our bed it is sheetless, they're all sent to the Y. M. C. A. The bar room is treatless, our coffee is sweetless—each day we are getting poorer and wiser. Our stockings are feetless—our trousers are seatless; ye gods! how we do hate the Kaiser!"

5 YEARS AGO
Feb. 10, 1938

"Through the Rev. W. G. McClure of Detroit, moderator for the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, the Detroit Presbytery was informed at a meeting in Detroit Monday afternoon, of a call issued by the local church to the Rev. W. Glen Harris, of West Trenton, N. J. Since the resignation of the Rev. W. Clarence Wright from his pastorate here in August, the pulpit of the church has been vacant."

"Heavy rains during the past week have removed practically every bit of snow and ice from Birmingham's streets."

We heard it said by George Ball, of Cole avenue, 'I believe that the swimming pool in the Barnum school should be kept open. Seems to me as though the Board of Education and the City aided by small fees from those who use it, should finance the pool. Out of use, it will soon go to ruin. Hundreds of our children need it, both for recreation and for learning the art of swimming'.

"There may be people who do not believe that the world is entering upon a real flying age, but the evidence continues to accumulate to the contrary."

"William D. Leahy, Chief of Naval Operations: 'The present moment is not one when the United States can safely reduce its means for national defense.'"