

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

GUNS NOT ENOUGH

Spurred by the decision that this war tragedy shall not happen again, some people have already decided that the United States must be more militaristic in the future, with compulsory training, a big standing Army and all that goes with it. But it will take more than that.

There are two general ways of maintaining the peace, whether it is your own home or among the nations of the world. They are (1) to correct and prevent the causes of trouble, and/or (2) to supply the force or threat of force which will make it tough for any one who starts a fight. In a home, thinking parents strive for moral forbearance, unselfishness and reasonable—not emotional—behavior. But, beyond that, the wayward child knows he can expect physical punishment if he goes too far. After the last war, President Wilson thought the world could solve its problems in a similar way. He called for a conference table, but the League of Nations—indicated as it was without the support of the United States—did not provide the use of force to quell any conference which went beyond its own stage. To be sure, we had a navy, army and air force; we were similarly equipped, yet a defeated and disarmed Germany was able to rise from the depths and make a terrifying bid for world supremacy. The lesson is this: All airplanes, guns, ships and tanks are of no protection unless the peace-loving nations of the world can make a joint program to use these forces.

There would never have been a world war if Britain, Russia, France and the United States had told Hitler, when he had marched back into the Ruhr, "Get back and stay put or else we will march against you." Hitler did not want to fight England; "Mein Kampf" told us that, and it is said that Ribbentrop said that what happened to him) had convinced Hitler that the appeasers in Britain would never permit another war. Hitler, too, was convinced that at least the United States would stay out, or at least was on its way and so he was not to matter. France was torn with internal strife. Only Russia was the future, but she was not a big power in the world.

Had Hitler known what he knows today he would never dare to declare war; and the same thing goes for Japan. So, in the future, we must be ready to nip an insurrection in the bud. The genuine threat, however, will make unnecessary the actual use of arms. We in the United States must be ready to cooperate in building a new world peace, and in enforcing world order. Two world wars.

MAKING MONEY
Farmers making money today are the smaller operators who need hire no outside help and raise most of their own food. The big country would never make up their minds in time. Russia called for collaboration, but Britain sent second-rate diplomats and stalled her off. In fact, many British Tories felt that a strong Germany would be an effective guard against Communism.

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SALVAGE MEMO
TIN CANS—Rinse after using, remove labels, open bottom end and flatten for fuel. Place at curb for last city collection day of the 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 bins near Post Office or put at curb on your last city collection day of the month. Copper wires, tin plates and old keys may be left at the library.
NEWSPAPERS, M & C A-ZINES—If you can't donate them to Salvation Army, which will call for them, Phone 4014. Scrap paper not wanted.

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Helping the Red Cross Drive

The American Red Cross asks the people of this nation for \$125,000,000 to be used in the interests of its sons now engaged in battle.

While this may seem like a large amount to some citizens, it is actually only two-thirds as much as was subscribed by the public in response to a similar request in 1918.

The Red Cross appears in the distinguished role of one seeking nothing for itself; all that it wants is the funds with which to render great service to those who fight for our existence as a free people.

The people of Oakland County will have the privilege of making their contribution to the amount required to finance the expanded work of the Red Cross which, we should understand, is a quasi-governmental organization, primarily organized for war-time service.

The \$125,000,000 does not include the vast contribution of time and talent that is being made by millions of patriotic men and women, performing as volunteers in war service under the direction of trained Red Cross officials.

Every reader of The Eccentric, we believe, will anxiously seek the privilege of participating in the splendid work of the great organization of mercy. To do so is to acknowledge not so much its service as the debt that we owe heroic men of this nation, engaged in desperate battle against the foe.

Faith Must Have Works

Just at this time of year millions of people are asserting that "faith in God" and "religion" will cure the ills of the world.

Nobody will dispute the generalized principle. It is one of the accepted tenets of modern philosophy, if liberally interpreted so that it will apply to the various peoples of the world.

It is necessary, however, to dig a little deeper in what the phrase means if it is to be worth anything. Blind faith in a "supreme Being, without a conscious effort to contribute toward the "salvation" of mankind, amounts to little more than the fetterful worship of the Eskimo.

Men must translate their faith into action and their religion into service if it is to accomplish anything on this earth. They must forget the illusion that God will bring about good at the proper time. It is the duty of all who believe in God to live according to their Divine principles so that the way may be prepared for blessings.

In a concert here last Wednesday night, the singer, Martha Lipton, presented groups in several foreign languages, including German. Such a thing would have been vigorously protested in the First World War, showing that we have made some little progress. While we may detect everything that Nazism has spawned, we do not hate German music.

Were they alive today, the composers, in nine cases out of ten, would be among the refugees who have fled the Hitlerian scourge.

The sight of people cashing their war bonds in order to pay their income taxes is a potent argument for pay-as-you-earn income taxes.

Consolidate to Save Money

One of the most obvious opportunities for consolidating some of the 105 offices, boards and commissions now existing in Michigan's state government is in the examination and registration of various professions and occupations.

There are now 16 separate boards, each with its own offices and employees, supervising the licensing and, to some extent, the practice of such vocations as accountancy, medicine, law, nursing and chiropractic, and they spend more than \$225,549 a year.

Abolition of these boards would be neither necessary nor desirable. However, the employees of each board could be brought together into a single office, which would perform the administrative and clerical work for all of the boards.

Advantages of this arrangement are that a consolidated office with centralized records and a joint staff would require a smaller number of employees, less office space and equipment would be needed, and travel costs could be reduced. Experience gained by each board could be interchanged with the other boards. Greater technical expertise would be available to the boards—for example, in the preparation of examinations, a staff member versed in "short-answer" or "objective" examining methods and other techniques of testing and test analysis could advise all of them.

Whether an elementary school teacher should be paid as much as a high school teacher. One of equal training and skill certainly should, for the ability to read, write, spell, and understand, which taught properly to young children, is an asset that any student always will find of great value the rest of his life. These things are fundamental.

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Worry is the advance interest we pay on tomorrow's trouble.—D. C. Yoder.

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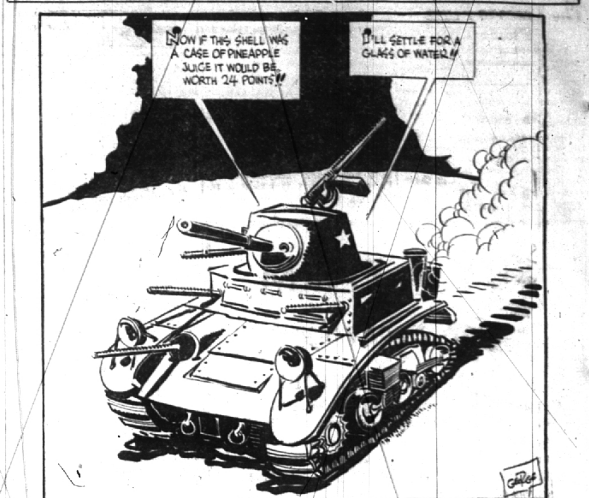
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NOTE: The Eccentric is pleased to publish notices of events which have local value and which are written by persons not connected with the editorial staff of the paper. All copy must be furnished before noon on Wednesday of the week in which it is desired to appear. The paper will accept, however, to make such superficial changes as may be necessary to conform to the style of the paper and as are required by laws of the state. Payment for a particular notice must be in cash. Payment for a particular notice must be in cash. Payment for a particular notice must be in cash.

The Eccentric will gladly cooperate upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

No Ration Blues Here



HOW IF THE SHELL WAS A CASE OF PEPPERCORN JUICE IT WOULD BE WORTH 24 POINTS!

People's Column

"BUSINESS-AS-USUAL"
To the Editor:
Well, J. H. H., I'll admit that you have an argument, but haven't you based your argument on a business-as-usual theory? If you don't believe that selling costs have increased, look at your sales forces, advertising campaigns, and help-wanted signs in every store, restaurant, and office building in Birmingham. If some lawyer can't keep his girl busy for 48 hours a week, he can get plenty of stenographic work for her to do from the outside for half the cost. This 48-hour-a-week program has been put into effect with the thought in mind that THIS IS WAR, and every business must be regarded as a part of the war effort, which is the only way to regard it, and the Manpower Commission's only idea in making the 48-hour ruling was to wake up a few employers who had been lulled into complacency by the fact that they had many employees as possible to more efficient work, and they have done this because final victory can only come by all-out effort of everyone whether they make shells or manure, whether they are a manufacturer or a clerk. It is not the only thing to do to help win the war is to get into another life of work.

I'll admit that many will be forced to change their way of contributing to the war effort, but those who are grumbling seem to think that it's alright for an army of 7 to 10 million to change their mode of life. This whole idea is to get more people to work harder and according to the news from North Africa last week I guess they have the right idea, and until the whole nation regards all work as war work and all effort as war effort we can expect to hear more of the same news. Well, J. H. H., let's all work harder and longer than we did under peacetime conditions and buy just a few more Bonds!

It seems to "Uncle Joe" that Congress and Capt. Rickenbacker have placed repealing the "Wagner Act" and smothering a possible fourth term in the number one position. At more was costing 100,000 lives monthly is incidental and can be taken care of after the "interests" have taken these number one problems for a ride.
UNCLE JOE.

ANSWER—I did not base my argument (as outlined) in last week's Eccentric) on the "business-as-usual theory." In fact, I have no more argument, for the War Manpower Commission, realizing the faulty character of the first sweeping regulation—has altered its provisions a great deal, and I am no longer concerned about its results.—H. H.

Inflation prices in Italy have brought the price of good farm land to around \$2,000 an acre, and poorer land is proportionately expensive.

New Books at Baldwin

Hitler's Patent Strategy

By JOHN H. HARWOOD
One of the things I read a book which provoked my temper a bit—not because I don't like the book, but because the information revealed therein disturbs me as to the course of the American economic system.

"Yes, Hitler is Hitler," by Gunter Reiman, is such a book. Written by a refugee German economist who made a study of German monopolies and international monopoly (cartel) activities, it reveals how American companies allied themselves with German firms to control world markets, stifle competition, fix prices and protect their profits. The worst of it was, the Nazi government controlled the German end of many of these cartels, and usually, maneuvered things so that the German synthetic industry boomed while our was starved.

The author secured much of his information from Senator Truman's hearings, from the Senate Patent Committee and from files of the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice. He names names, times and places, and if his information is untrue, I have yet to hear of any libel suits against him or his publisher, a well-known American firm.

Standard Oil Alliance
Much of the book is devoted to the activities of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey (not to be confused with the Standard Oil of Indiana which operates locally). In 1929 Standard made a deal with I. G. Farbenwerke, a German chemical trust, in which they split among themselves the world market for synthetic rubber. The deal, according to the Standard (conceding I. G. Farben control of chemicals and Standard control of synthetic rubber), was that the Germans had practically no resources anyway!

Further, the Krupp amplified these deals after Hitler came into power, both with American and English firms, and the author believes that the Nazis were convinced they could wage war without English and American interference, based on the belief that in "decadent" capitalist countries, big business controls everything. It was an exaggerated belief, of course.

Some amazing things took place, German scientists came to America and worked in laboratories owned jointly with Standard, developing synthetic rubber, for example, but when the German scientists went back to the Reich, they took most of their secrets with them.

Stifle U. S. Production
I. G.'s synthetic rubber strategy was devised according to the Standard wrote: "The patents it controlled were to be used in order to stifle American production of independent synthetic rubber industry in America until the Third Reich had gained a major victory. Then the patents could be used to make America's synthetic rubber industry a sub-branch of the new German world monopoly."
The Germans learned all about American progress, but revealed little to Standard. After the outbreak of the war, W. G. Farish, vice president of Standard, called I. G. for the technical secrets on making buna rubber, but of American companies wanted to go ahead on synthetic rubber, Standard refused. I. G. would not give its permission! When Germany refused to sue Standard, Standard threatened a patent suit to stop them—just two months before Pearl Harbor!

Held Out on Butyl
The butyl rubber experience was another shameful episode. Standard and I. G. developed this process, and Standard revealed all it knew to the Germans, while the German still withheld what they knew.
"Yes, when a U. S. Navy official before Pearl Harbor wanted to learn about butyl, it was denied to them! Further, according to the Department of Justice, Standard was willing to let other companies produce buna rubber, but retained butyl secrets for itself. Eight months after Pearl Harbor, no license had been granted to outsiders to produce butyl."
The experience with magnesium was also unfortunate. While German production of this metal, lighter and stronger than aluminum, soared, American production was stunted. According to the Department of Justice, the reason was that the Aluminum Company had bought Chemical Research and Development, which had a patent on the price of magnesium would always be one-third higher than aluminum, this being done to protect the Aluminum Corporation's domination of the light metal field.

"A Junior Album"
Presenting young people of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills and vicinity... and the youth of America, we strive for...
Victory and a just peace!

TOP CENTER: Alan III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alan C. Corey, Jr., Lincoln. RIGHT SIDE: Karen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Overgard, 2340 Walnut Lake road. Patricia, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. and Mrs. Miles W. Beatty, 27428 Lathrup, LEFT SIDE: James, Janet and Ronald, children of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Anderson, 236 East Birmingham.