

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

Michigan Mirror

By GENE ALLEMAN

Can Michigan escape from being caught in the post-war bandwagon?

This question suggested itself a few nights ago. The occasion was a private dinner in Detroit given for Senator Homer Ferguson, Michigan's junior senator who is currently traveling about the country with members of the Truman committee in fulfillment of government war contracts.

Senator Ferguson was telling the dinner guests—and quite "off the record"—about some of the Truman committee's findings. One of these which he mentioned remained unidentified, was about negligence and waste of rationed food in a warehouse at one of the nation's leading cities. The senator proved his statement with photographs showing how water had flooded the warehouse and rained large quantities of stored food. A side wall of the structure was per cent open to the outside weather, resembled a venetian blind more than anything else.

Explaining that the committee investigated only alleged violations of government contracts, the senator said that such waste perhaps was not representative of all conditions, but that he had seen about only what he had seen for himself.

We could readily picture the sensational newspaper story that would land on front pages when this, or other similar violations are officially made at Washington. Congressmen will roar. Gerald L. Sweeney and Father Gallagher will grate one mind and "America First" will again be heard.

It was only a few years ago that the Michigan congressmen at Washington by almost landslide proportion, voted against the State out of the national war. They stood firm for isolationism as a means of keeping the United States out of the national war.

As a matter of fact, the isolationist had things pretty much to himself in the 1918 presidential campaign. We were for lend-lease, but we also pledged that America would not be called again to fight on foreign soil, a statement that has a faint echo of the

1916 campaign slogan of Woodrow Wilson who "kept us out of war."

Being an isolationist in the days when we looked upon the Atlantic ocean as our safety fire-wall against danger was merely the normal state of mind for the average American.

The anti-Roosevelt critics have a short after-dinner talk. With a smile, he said: "You have left me out of the but you have not yet reached the water. As a dive into it, it is the world's slowest motion picture in the Pacific Ocean."

We recall an editorial in the Ottawa Citizen, liberal daily, which was devoted to the American Canadian situation and concluded: "There can no longer be doubt about it. President Franklin Roosevelt is taking the United States into war against Germany."

The treachery at Pearl Harbor put a stop to any dissent or disagreement we may have had about the American situation. "Our nation had been attacked. We were forced to fight."

The anti-Roosevelt critics have an answer for that, and there has been discussion at Washington whether it would be wise to inject the Roosevelt policies of foreign relations into the 1944 campaign.

With a war mounting to its European climax, 1944 appears to us as the year of the "big bang" invasion is imminent. And we have a long way ahead of us in the Pacific before the Japanese empire is liquidated.

Republican politicians would even raise the old bogey of communism, recalling how the State out of the national war. They stood firm for isolationism as a means of keeping the United States out of the national war.

SALVAGE MEMO
TIN CANS—These after using, remove label, open ends and flatten with foot. Place at curb for last City collection day of the month. Keep dry, 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 engine parts, plates and old keys may be left at the library.

NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, SCRAP PAPER—Pick up these may be arranged for by calling the Salvage Desk, at the Municipal Building, Phone 1230 between the hours of 8 a. m. to 5 o'clock Monday through Fridays. Regular City pickup first Friday of each month.

PECK'S Cash and Carry
Suits, Topcoats, \$1.09
CLEANED AND PRESSED
For Delivery Service
Phone 230
WARDWARD—NEAR MAPLE

"A FRIENDLY BANK"

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT
Pay By Check!
Cancelled checks afford the safety of a receipt for each bill paid—and your check stubs detail each expenditure. Open a Pay-As-You-Go Checking Account with as little as \$1.00. No minimum balance required.

Recalling how World War I was followed by a popular reaction against the frustration of being regulated, ending with the election of Harding on a platform of "returning to normalcy," we are inclined at this moment to consider the probability that history will repeat itself following World War II.

Such reaction against regimentation and waste of war is bound to come. In the opinion of Senator Ferguson it will be "terrific." As for the personal opinion of the senator with regard to world cooperation or isolationism, we do not want to imply anything that is not written here. He is worried and concerned about it, and he is very frank to express it.

Ferguson pointed to the Wilkie defeat in Wisconsin, and he said that while the Truman committee was in Milwaukee, it was very evident that the trend was strong against the Wilkie views that the United States must help police the world through some kind of international cooperation.

Then we recalled a striking sentence written by Leland Stowe, war correspondent of the Chicago Daily-News, in his new book, "They Shall Not Sleep." Stowe, too, is full of doubt about whether we shall win the war, but lose the peace. He writes:

"Inevitably what we do now will save or betray tomorrow's peace. And because I am a reporter, and

TICKLERS by HAYES
"Wilmer, you've got to stop running away from yourself!"

Attention! Music Lovers

If you are interested in music, you should be interested in a bill about to be presented in Congress that will allow the broadcasting of musical programs over the radio by other than members of the American Federation of Musicians.

You will recall that James C. Petrillo, president of the Federation, in July of 1942, ordered radio broadcasters to refuse to put on the air the musical programs of amateurs, including the programs from Interlochen, Michigan.

Now, it must be granted that Mr. Petrillo acted for what he thought was the financial interest of the American Federation of Musicians, but he acted for what he thought was the financial interest of the American Federation of Musicians.

Mr. Petrillo's use of the strike threat is an outstanding example of the restraint of trade idea by organized labor—in a situation that government would not tolerate in other economic phases of the nation's life.

Imagine, for example, what a man like Petrillo could do if he wielded similar power over the nation's school teachers; he could forbid in the schools talks and lectures by other than members of his union; he could threaten a strike of teachers if, for illustration, any book or periodical was to be used in classrooms that was not written by a member of his union; and many other restraints he could enforce.

It seems to us that Congress should enact legislation to prevent men like Petrillo from banning the use of freedom of the air to others than his own union members. Congress in the last analysis, determines the rules and regulations governing the licensing of radio stations; if Congress is interested in freedom of the air, the pending bill should go through, or something akin to it.

At present, radio stations have to renew their licenses every six months; over that, all times, then, is the anxiety that they do nothing to offend "public officials in high places"; that, in itself, makes the radio a controlled agency of freedom of utterance.

So, folks, if you are desirous of helping to correct a bad radio situation, we suggest that you write your Senators and District Congressman at Washington; tell them that you want the radio made accessible to amateurs as well as professionals; tell them that you think Mr. Petrillo and his kind need to be told what U. S. Constitutional freedom really is.

because the schools of nations and of peoples has been a stern school, and usually a cruelly realistic school—because of these matters of experience, I know that the odds are definitely against Americans winning the peace.

"As a people we are still not prepared to play a role of leadership in the world. We are not yet accustomed to see and reject the little betrayals of our government and our national representatives. We have little contact with the people across the oceans whose aspirations and handiworks, desires and hindrances, are so much like our own. We are less used to hardship than they. We are not used to sacrifices for the nation's good. We are more interested in the price of food or the level of the stock market, in larger income, than we are interested in making certain that we do not have to fight another war in thirty years.

It is our supremely human habit to honor our dead, but the other peoples of the world, who do not know how to listen to our dead.

If Stowe's gloomy judgment is right, and history would seem to

Soldiers, Politics and War

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, returning from a tour of Central and South American Army bases, says that the soldiers displayed "very little" interest in politics.

The truth of the matter is probably that our soldiers are interested in the job at hand and that they have postponed consideration of other issues until after the war.

When they have finished whipping Germany and Japan, they will come home and it is safe to predict that they will be intensely interested in domestic issues including the question of strikes and war profits.

Labor leaders and members of unions who have taken advantage of the national emergency for selfish purposes will, in due course, get their rewards. The same can be said of business men who have been more interested in profits than in cooperating with the nation in its emergency.

42-Letter Alphabet

George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright who has lived for many years in London, suggests a new 42-letter English alphabet, which would represent all speech sounds in the language.

"We have no English alphabet," declares Mr. Shaw, who says that all sounds must be spellable "before a language can be written or read intelligently."

There may be something in the Shaw suggestion, just as there is much to be gained for a simplified calendar. Just the same, the English-speaking people will probably muddle along with their 26-letter alphabet and 12-month calendar for a long time yet.

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Michigan United War Fund Names Officers For Next Campaign

Albert L. Miller, newspaper publisher and civic leader of the city of Detroit, is the new president of the Michigan United War Fund, Detroit, Mich., now in kindergarten or first grade.

Our only hope is that the light of knowledge and love of Christ may lead us to understanding and tolerance of our world neighbors. This is the real challenge of tomorrow's invasion casualty lists.

Other Officers are: Governor Harry F. Kelly, honor president; Will C. Mee, Standish; Mrs. W. V. Yawton, Benton Harbor; Alex. Baskin, Detroit; and Hoy Taylor, Detroit, vice presidents; and D. Hale Burke, Lansing, treasurer.

The guest speaker at the recent annual meeting was Doctor Enoch C. Colton, an executive of the War Prisoners' Aid, member agency of the National War Fund. Part of the \$4,724,747 raised in Michigan's War Fund campaign last fall will be used to meet the recreational, educational and spiritual needs of American prisoners of war.

Happenings of Long Ago

50 YEARS AGO May 1, 1884 "Holy cross a fireman's tournament July 4th."

"The Birmingham" moonlight serenaders have been in training, and their music is similar to the noise made by a cow pulling its foot out of the mud.

"We never in all our short business career saw drummers quite so numerous, as at present. Everybody is after that money."

"Our citizens in general observed arbor day, and quite a nice lot of trees were planted."

"Any one wanting a good girl for a house work, can call at this office."

"The boys have started a new band. Where are you going? We have purchased a brass band for New Mexico."

"The Jackson wagon shop sent up a monster balloon last week with a full sized lumber wagon filled with advertising matter, which was distributed on the trip. It was a successful and truly enterprising affair."

"Long years ago, two rash youths (that's us), escaped together all their loose hickies, borrowed all the money from their few friends, and started a paper (that's The Eccentric), and it grew, and grew, and grew, and we are life sized with a subscription list of over 1,000, a new lot of body type, and after seven years old, and feeling first rate, thank you. How are you?"

20 YEARS AGO April 25, 1914 "Seventeen applicants have already been received for the DeMolay Chapter which will have its first meeting at the Masonic Temple here Tuesday evening, and at least ten more have already been heard from."

"Captains and assistants who are canvassing for the community house memberships, were very much pleased with the response to their requests for support and with the fact that the community house in general."

"Inasmuch as several pieces of land adjoining Birmingham will seek annexation at a special township election this fall, members of the city commission have tonight instructed the village manager to write a letter to all other cities with which Birmingham is in touch, asking them to petition for annexation at the same time, if they so desire."

"Here's what did happen. The Birmingham Park of City Scouts held a meeting at the Quaton school on February 26 at which each City Scout was asked to state a willow, based on the theme 'How We Will Be Living in 2000 A.D.'"

The tableau of Den Six featured the distribution of a special edition of The Detroit Westward in which a story predicted that President Roosevelt would be re-elected for an eighteenth term in year 2000 A.D.

The persons quoted were the boys of Den Six. Add in the

Inquisitive Child and Kitchen Stove Are Bad Combination

The family kitchen is a dangerous place for an inquisitive youngster. It is a place where he can keep his eagle eye upon him.

That's the gist of information put out by the American Red Cross and emphasized in all of its accident prevention work.

And He's Just the Man to Do It



People's Column

April 17, 1944 Mr. George R. Averill, "The Birmingham Eccentric," Dear Mr. Averill:

The Eccentric is well known for being ahead of the times. In the issue of April 13, however, I fear that The Eccentric was too far ahead.

In your column you "This and That" you quote "The Westward" under the caption, "It Can't Happen Here" in their defense.

I would like to say "It didn't happen there either."

Here's what did happen. The Birmingham Park of City Scouts held a meeting at the Quaton school on February 26 at which each City Scout was asked to state a willow, based on the theme 'How We Will Be Living in 2000 A.D.'

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THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Get naturals in your pictures of the girl back home for those in the service.

THEY boys in the service may like to see a picture of such people as they have them doing something. They might be glad to see a picture of a girl back home for those in the service.

Our illustration today is an excellent example of a natural, like the illustration has a pleasant smile (not overdone) for the photographer.

Get close-up when taking informal portraits to show the features of your subject. Use the camera's zoom lens to play up... but not the zoom lens.

John van Guilder