

Happenings of Long Ago

Here We Go Again

See Possibility That 81st Congress Will Tighten U.S. Espionage Laws

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press is Democracy's First Line of Defense

Well, well, well! Happy New Year, everybody! Are you making any resolutions this year? We're not. Not because we don't think we need to, but simply because we'd rather try to correct our faults than to go and make a lot of promises and then fail to keep them.

We'd like to make a lot of resolutions for others, though, and then figure out how to make 'em stick. For instance, we'd like to destroy this feeling that exists toward our fellow man if he does not happen to think as we do. We'd like to end this squabbling among countries. They're acting like a lot of spoiled children. If the game can't be played the way they want it, they're going to fix it so it can't be played at all. We'd like to arrange in our own country, in the American Federation of Labor has decided to make its League for Political Education a permanent organ and, in addition, there is a distinct call for labor unity which will include all bona fide labor unions.

The Federation says it will not engage in lobbying but it voted to complete its League organization on national, state and local levels "so that by 1950 we shall have a trade union political steward directing an effective team of volunteer workers in every one of the 110,000 urban and rural precincts in this country." If labor organizations carry out such an ambitious program, strictly designed for putting the heat on candidates and parties, the nation will practically have a third party. Astute strategists of the labor government seem to think that the workers of the country can gain more by exerting pressure upon the other parties than by putting a distinctive labor ticket in the field.

Recent political history in the United States has demonstrated the power of pressure groups and minority elements of the population. They have received attention and privileges far beyond their proportionate share and it is not surprising that labor seeks to take advantage of the peculiar place which organized minorities hold in the set-up of American politics. Foresight is something you begin to think about when you are adding up the talents of hindsight. (But, come to think of it, if everybody had plenty of foresight, what would be the need of hindsight?)

Somewhat, we've just talked ourselves into a New Year Resolution! Yes, sir, we're going to try that idea ourselves. After all, it's not fair to expect someone else to tackle a thing we won't try.

We'll try to understand the man next door a little better. We'll try to figure out why the people across the street do the way they do, instead of just ignoring them because they don't like exactly as we do. They may get the idea of what we are trying to do—and help to spread it. Talk about a snowball rolling down hill. Why, a snowball like that could gather so much force that the man next door would know it, we'll all be living together, as happy as clams at high tide.

Life under the Communists might be simpler, after all. We wouldn't have to worry about taxes, wages, profits, food or any other problems. Just think of how simple it would be: do just as you are told—or else.

Who remembers when the economists of the nation were worried about a mere \$60,000,000,000 national debt?

Police Chief Ima Banks of Bloomfield Hills: "We had but one here over the long week-end and holiday that could be called serious. We were lucky to have no more with the amount of traffic that was on the road most of the time. And believe me, we were very careful. In fact, I crossed that next weekend will be no worse!"

By Gene Allemen. Lansing—The Alice in Wonderland aspect of our economic life is illustrated currently in the demand of Michigan business and labor unions, the United Automobile Workers, City, for a 1949 wage increase of at least 20 per cent. That a union is seeking better living conditions for its members, by using a financial check-out as working hours, is not news.

That this union is asking the increase of 20 per cent is not news either. Collective bargaining like horse trading, consists of asking for more than you hope to get.

What many old-line labor people leaders have feared for some years seems to be under way. The American Federation of Labor has decided to make its League for Political Education a permanent organ and, in addition, there is a distinct call for labor unity which will include all bona fide labor unions.

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5 YEARS AGO

December 29, 1943 Seven Birmingham persons were among the 46 injured Monday when a southern Birmingham plane crashed into the side of a Detroit streetcar at Woodward and Parkhurst. Most seriously injured from them were Miss Betty Kuhlman, 1008 Hayes, and Raymond S. Reiter, 411 Hawthorne.

Laurea Evans, clerk in a local store, was one of the 46 injured on Christmas night, that nine gallons of gasoline were siphoned from her car. She was at work with gasoline being what it is, it certainly provided a most unhappy touch to her Christmas.

Mrs. Harry Clark of East 14 Miles, had an unexpected Christmas surprise when her brother James Davidson, a member of the British Merchant Navy walked into her home. She had not seen him for 12 years. Another brother, Donald, had left the Clark home only a few days before after a short visit here.

Mrs. Inez Asper, who for the past seven years has been in charge of child accounting in Birmingham schools, has resigned her position, effective Jan. 1. She will begin her new duties Jan. 3 as assistant director of personnel at Ward-Bentley, a new firm in the city.

Boys and girls of Birmingham and adults, too, are reminded that the new licenses for bicycles are in effect Jan. 1. Licenses will be obtained from Irene Hanley, city clerk, at the usual 25 cents fee. The 1944 plates will be white with olive green letters.

20 YEARS AGO January 3, 1928 While Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Dronken were at the home of Michael Mouton, next door, helping him care for his ten-year-old son who had accidentally shot himself with a pistol, he broke into their home and stole articles valued at nearly \$400. The 1944 plates will be white with olive green letters.

Peles are king set today to furnish lights at the Querton Lake skating rink. Leland Gunn, employed by Peles, will attend to the rink. Conditions on the lake said it is growing in popularity and that 214 persons were counted there Sunday afternoon.

The ban put into effect last week, prohibiting left hand turns at Woodward and Maple, have been lifted by the city. This was done after it was found the ruling caused greater traffic hazards than the former system, and in answer to many protests filed by local motorists.

Three more days have been given motorists to get their license plates as they continue to arrive in line. The city demand for new plates has slowed service so seriously that police feel it is the only way to handle the situation.

Local fishermen are glazing at snow and ice, and eagerly awaiting the opening of the fishing season, an announcement came from Lansing saying 140 million fish have been "planted" in Michigan's waters and streams. Each seed fish turning home with his share of the new stock. The sale price of these Sunday seedlings.

50 YEARS AGO December 30, 1898 The Week of Prayer will be observed in the M. Church, beginning Tuesday. Special services are being planned for each day of the week, and will open promptly at 7:30 each evening.

The editor notices in the Flint paper that there are several suits being brought against the city for injuries received in falls on icy sidewalks. He judges that a lot of local people like the idea—let alone their walks on them.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Dennison celebrated their 50th marriage anniversary Thursday, the 22nd inst. Unknown to either of them, Mrs. Dennison had planned a characteristic feast and invited all the neighbors to join them.

Miss Maud Gage, after two years on the Eclectic, has resigned her position, much to the sorrow of her fellow workers and a host of friends. They are happy to hear, however, that her work with the Pontiac Gazette will carry with it a healthy salary.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Leet at last have time for their wedding tour. They are visiting their friends at the M. Rankin Spencer and Mrs. Mame Peterson at East Lake, and expect to be gone about a month.



Hoover Commission Report Must Be Submitted to Congress by Jan. 13

WASHINGTON — The Federal government will receive its most extensive "going over" since the founding of the Republic, if congress acts favorably on the recommendations of the Hoover Commission.

The Commission is not scheduled to give an accounting to congress until mid-January, and even then will continue to submit reports, but it is already apparent drastic changes are envisioned. One trend emerging is the establishment of "assistant executives" who would handle time-consuming administrative details so bedeviling to top executives.

Consolidate Agencies. Along with this, the Commission and its "Task Forces" have suggested: The creation of a new cabinet department to consolidate the many agencies now reporting directly to the president.

THE ECCENTRIC'S Camera Corner

Picture of the Week. You can't always manage to frame a building as neatly as the trees that this photograph New England church, but you will with the help of a bright sun and a medium yellow filter. Its effect darkens the sky, brings out the texture of the building and lightens the foliage and grass.

Shooter or later—and the chances are good that it's already happened—you are going to find pictures of your house for the record, at all seasons and in all poses. Still, it isn't the only interesting building in town and a few years in photographing building structures and give your print a feeling of three dimensions.

Angles by the Dozen. Don't overlook any angles in picturing your house. A full front view is fine, but what about a shot from an upstairs window or frame of the home next door or across the street? You ought to know your neighborhood well enough by this time. It isn't necessary to get the whole works in one picture.

Three Dimensional Prints. The stronger the filter, the darker the sky will turn out and the deeper the shadows will be, giving the picture contrast. Sometimes you may want to use a polarizing filter or screen to avoid light reflections, to get better tone separations and give your print a feeling of three dimensions.

For the most part, in building photography you want full details. For this reason, your lens should be stopped down to the smallest opening possible with the light conditions and the shutter speed at 1/25 second. A sunny day, but in the morning or late in the afternoon.

Another headache. Further, in 1938, United States was at peace with Russia. So it would not have been reasonable to have given information to Russia. So Hiss and/or Chambers, if guilty of handing out U. S. secret documents, could not be prosecuted under the 1790 law. This is the only one of the five acts to which the statute of limitations does not apply. It never applies to capital offenses, such as murder or treason.

(Special Staff Bureau) From Our Washington Bureau By Joseph A. Deas. WASHINGTON — Espionage laws need to be tightened and reformed, according to a House Judiciary and the House Committee on Un-American Activities agree on a bill which would require members of the incoming congress to tangle with this knotty legal subject.

Almost everyone who has anything to do with the espionage law has freely admits it's a "frivolous mess." The Justice Department, for example, has a special section that's fully occupied by the Hiss-Chambers case. This case is a classic in the field of imposing portions. At present no one at justice is very clear as to whether the statute is intended for more than perjury, if, of course, anyone is guilty of more than perjury.

Five espionage laws are involved. They are: 1. The Espionage Act of 1917, which forbids revealing information concerning the national defense, harboring and concealing spies, gathering defense information. 2. The Espionage Act of 1917, which forbids revealing information concerning the national defense, harboring and concealing spies, gathering defense information.

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Might Be Outlawed. But courts might hold membership in an organization does not constitute membership in a conspiracy. This is a legal question that should be decided by the courts.

He Was Wise. "I don't believe you know the meaning of the word 'courtship,'" said the designing young woman. "Theoretically, United States is still a war. So theoretically, the statute of limitations is still suspended in cases involving fraud."

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Fox and Hounds Inn Woodward at Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills SERVING DINNERS SUNDAYS from 1:30 p.m. until 9 p.m. Week days from 5:30 until 11:00 p.m. except Mondays when the dining room is closed.

THE BEST WAY TO SAVE IS TO START SAVING. Once you start saving regularly, every payday, it becomes a habit. Your savings mount—little by little at first, then more and more as your earnings and your deposits increase.

WABEEK STATE BANK OF DETROIT BIRMINGHAM OFFICE—WABEEK BUILDING

Table Top Photos to Be Explained to Hills Camera Club. Lavrene L. Bovair, PSA, will speak at the demonstration of "Table Top Photography" at the Bloomfield Hills Camera Club meeting, Jan. 6, 6 which will be held at the Cranbrook Institute of Science at 8:00 p.m.

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