

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

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Our Fragile Destiny

With all due respect to the office he holds, but with righteous appraisal of the man as a mere human being, we make this simple statement, in this tremendously sad hour in world history:

To think that 153 millions of Americans, plus uncounted other millions in other lands, find their destiny largely in the hands of an ex-haber-dasher from Kansas City, who uses his rise in politics to a corrupt Pendergast machine...

For, directly and indirectly, it is not Harry S. Truman who as President of the United States and Commander-in-Chief of our military forces, head of our foreign policy making, has blundered us into this new World War?

Is he not the very same person who claims he knows more about operating domestic and world government than the entire Congress, the real representatives of the people? God help us under such arrogant leadership!

Same Old Combat

In an historic sense, the perilous current world unrest is but another link in that thus far endless chain of the struggle of good and evil to survive.

While these qualities have been garbed in various habiliments, from animal skins to the styles and customs of today, basically it is the same old combat between right and wrong.

Being on the side of righteousness helps, but the fact remains that whoever finally wins must have plenty of dry powder!

Defense "Integration"

"Integration" of Canadian and United States armed forces is urged by Defense Minister Brooke Craxton of Canada because, he says, it "makes sense."

There is no doubt of the wisdom of equipping Canadian forces for the use of arms and equipment from this country. Obviously, in any great war, the production facilities of the United States will have to produce the bulk of the arms for the free nations.

The observation of the Canadian official arouses no apprehension in his country that something is sinister in the cooperation of the two democracies on this side of the Atlantic.

For many years, it has been obvious to the people of both countries that mutual cooperation is bound to prove profitable to each in the long run, and that there is nothing further from the minds of Americans and Canadians than the thought of aggression against the other.

Great Reservoir of Manpower

A great reservoir of manpower now wholly unused will be available to the Nation if the Selective Service accepts a recommendation of the Army Surgeon-General's office that it discontinue its current practice of disqualifying large numbers of men because of failure to meet present requirements.

Col. Warner Bowers, Chief Surgical Consultant for the Army, recently told the Association of Military Surgeons at their convention, that instead of classifying registrants as 4-F and thus permanently disqualifying them from any service whatsoever, the committee has recommended that those found unfit for general service should be deferred and classified for limited duties in accordance with their capacities.

The recommendation has so much sense that it is hard to understand why it has not been put in force earlier than this.

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS of men, thoroughly capable of making some contribution to the military services,

have been relieved of the obligation of service on the grounds of physical disability and mental deficiencies. Practically all of these men can serve in some capacity and, by so doing, relieve an able-bodied man for belligerent service.

Brave Parenthood!

On the same page of a Detroit newspaper one day recently were two stories about parents. One told of a husband and wife who, after brutally whipping their four-year-old daughter into death, buried her in the backyard, then fled, but were apprehended by police.

Another described the heroism of a mother who, trying to save her two young sons in a fire that broke out in the home, perished with them—when she could at least have saved herself.

Oh, how wonderful is the glory of parenthood that wittingly braves death in the act of love!

From Our Point of View

Some of Detroit's Councilmen are talking about setting up a municipal government research department, "to find out what goes on in Detroit." Well, the idea is a good one, but we don't think it will work unless those running it are divorced from politics. Such a department can function well only when allowed to get to the truth, then tell that truth to the public, without "political interference or interpretation."

Some of these Washington world-planners, in their desires to toss American dollars about this whirling earth, act like a crazed person who, suddenly becomes very rich, decides to shower some of his currency out of a hotel window to the crowds below.

We've never been able, like so many of the male gender, to get much of a kick out of ballet dancing. Admitting that some of its performers reveal much agility and grace—not to mention leg art—we can't stretch our imagination to the point where we can interpret, in ham-and-eggs living, the calisthenic language being spoken by the ballet. But, after all, who are we to criticize so ancient an art?

An elderly Virginia lady has just found two 85-year-old Virginia bonds, each for \$1,000, in her attic. If they are proved legal, at six per cent compound interest Virginia may have to settle for about \$250,000. What is the moral to all this? Simple: place your bonds in the attic for 85 years and then cash 'em in.

An Albany, N.Y., laundryman, irked over high barber prices, has opened a "shave yourself" shop, equipping one side of his store with mirrors and electric razors. That sounds quite economical—but what will take place of the traditional conversation between the well-informed barber and his helpless, reclining customer?

Guy W. Jensen has been appointed assistant prosecuting attorney for Wayne county. This announcement has just been made by Prosecutor Harry S. Toy. Jensen has been active in many local organizations including the board of education.

Birmingham merchants will begin evening shopping hours this week. From now until the end of the holiday season all local stores will remain open until 9 o'clock each evening for the convenience of shoppers.

The Birmingham Lions club has voted to donate \$500 to the fund being raised by station WJLB to build a home for a blind veteran. The man, a resident of the north-west Detroit area, was wounded and blinded during the war and has spent many months in military hospitals.

David S. Geer, Edward W. Waugh and George Matsumoto were defeated in the "Helter Skelter" contest. The contest was sponsored by the City of Chicago as one of the preliminary steps in adequate city planning.

The board of education will begin a study at its January meeting of the Birmingham Public Schools. The present plans call for a possible six more rooms which will be a very badly needed cafeteria.

Chicago police captain spoke about the toy gun. He had made an investigation in jails and penitentiaries, and found that all criminals had toy guns when children. He believed that the toy gun was a potent force in creating criminals of the armed robbery and killer type.

Many parents are going to have to answer for more than they suspect. To imagine that they ran their children with toy guns for themselves while, at the same time, the children that they neglected to right in an article which appeared in the Los Angeles Examiner early this summer.

"THREE LONG BEACH teenagers had killed a liquor store owner in a hold-up. The mother of one of the boys, who was but 17 years old, was shown holding a picture of him in full cowboy regalia, guns and all, when he was but four years old.

"Gun killings often involve teenagers whose parents permit their children to play with toy guns with which they are constantly 'shooting' at one another, making believe robberies and hold-ups.

"So ignorant are the majority of parents the principles of child psychology, that it never occurs to them that these toys, coupled with the suggestions implanted in their children's minds by a certain class of moving picture, and by 'funny' in which someone is always being killed by gun-fire, are creating potential killers out of thousands of youngsters.

AT A RECENT convention in Chicago, Captain Stege, retired



Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files of The Eccentric—The Items That Made Up the Higest Background of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO December 14, 1900 As we predicted some weeks ago, Birmingham residents have been injured on our defective sidewalks. Mrs. J. F. Rindel and Mrs. Ed Miller are both in painful states due to falls Monday last. Today, however, both are recovering.

R. H. Traver has 20 inches of advertising space on our front page this week. It will prove interesting reading to all those looking for bargains in the items he carries.

Zimmerman's factory is busy at work filling an order for 650 dozen baseball bats to be shipped to San Francisco, Calif. The bats go by steamer from New York City and have to be in the city western city Jan. 15, 1901.

Ed Miller's barn had a narrow escape from being destroyed by fire one day last week. While he was chopping corn stalks he was taking a little cigarette for a smoke and a spark from some ignited pile of stalks.

The frisky skaters from Frank's full of fun skating down the ice on Wing Lake, Oh dear! Texas over thus when we were boys.

20 YEARS AGO December 18, 1930 James R. Adams, speaking before the Birmingham Rotary club Monday said there was a great need today for proper appreciation of American citizenship. Adams stated too many people are not aware of the privilege of living in a country such as this despite whatever handicaps one may face.

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ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

TRAFFIC CONGESTION WILL CUT ON-STREET PARKING

A West Maple merchant said to me last week, "It looks like the city is going to be forced into eliminating parking on both sides of W. Maple, between Pierce and Bates."

THE BUSINESSMAN'S observation is not far from wrong, I believe. I've tried to do it, but I've too probably noticed the constant interruption of flowing traffic by motorists as they get into and out of the parking places.

At many times of the day throughout the week it has been my observation that even if this parking move is accomplished in some way, it causes a serious backup of traffic.

LOOKING AHEAD By George S. Benson

RESEARCH PACES PROGRESS

The sciences of chemistry and physics hold out unbounded possibilities for the future of mankind. In each of these fields, the means for utter destruction...

RESEARCH IN these two fields, and the industrial application of its findings, have made American progress during the last half-century one of the most remarkable facts of world history.

Other major chemical companies, Union Carbide & Carbon, Monsanto, Dow, etc., have similar research programs comparable, in some respects, to du Pont's.

"IT IS REASONABLE," observes the magazine, "to ask what the Post and others can turn up in the next fifty years that will be half as wonderful as what they have created in the past. In the nature of things, no one, including du Pont, can answer."

But du Pont is not a statistical fact that there are ninety odd chemical elements and that they can be combined in an infinite number of possible combinations and permutations have been brought to completion.

The company has just completed a preliminary but massive study of the whole field of agricultural and food production.

THE COMPANY now spends about \$25 million a year on research about one-fifth as much as

MICHIGAN MIRROR

WAYNE COUNTY JOINTS REPUBLICANS

car prices are going up again, and war orders are lagging.

Despite all the talk about the inflated tax burden, Michigan auto taxes have brought \$175,000,000 worth this far this year—more than any other year since 1927.

The army claims its 33 per cent rejection rate is better than that of World War II. Selective service says, "yes, but in World War II they were taking men from 18 to 38. Now it is 18 to 26. The 33 percent do not include the obviously crippled."

The battered liquor lobby of Michigan has been faced "strongly" by Senator Quentin H. Moore (R-Kalamazoo) says "Kazner (chairman) doesn't have a full grasp of the situation. He is in a 'critical financial situation' and that a similar project is not needed here."

Governor Williams urged a \$25,000,000 building program during the next fiscal year. An education bill was introduced. The mental health program.

Ticklers

Average weekly earnings in Michigan manufacturing rose to \$24.18 in October with the cost of living even higher. Meanwhile, industry is bidding high for technicians. M.S.C. officials claim the world's not be able to supply manpower for one-fourth the jobs available this spring.

State workers now are forming an unaffiliated union. It is a good idea. The public is better working conditions and salaries. The civil service commission recently granted a pay boost to state employees.

Unemployment in Michigan is on the rise, and many are being laid off by steel. Cutbacks in use of steel, aluminum and copper—these are a few commodities—are due January 1. Credit restrictions are already here.

"I had a little cloth left over after sewing my drapes"

St. Louis, Mo.

cars from one point to another and back again.

Elimination of a parking from W. Maple and conversion to parallel parking from angle to parallel might be kept in mind as the community discusses the proposed on-street parking program, it appears to me.

This future situation (and not too far into the future) could have some bearing on whether citizens feel the need for the offsetting byroads.

PUTTING THE TWO problems in one package, and adding plant and animal nutrition, do not think I say anything that has a job of research as challenging as it could ask for.

Fortune says, "could come along anything (including a better understanding of animal nutrition and managing mechanisms, with obvious implications for the human animal."

On the other hand, the public's welfare is best served when each extensive research fields as chemistry attract the hard-headed production know-how, the practical scientific mind and the vast resources of private industry.

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mission says it can award only 15 or 16 million in contracts in that period.

Prices will be eight to 20 percent higher in the Grand Rapids furniture market after the first of the year. But spokesmen expect brisk buying. New designs will be limited by the lack of orders which makes speed imperative.

The 1,100,000 1951 fishing licenses are rolling off the presses already and Michigan holds its position as top fishing state in the country—at least in number of anglers.

Charles M. Ziegler state highway commissioner, opposed any toll charges for a major traffic route in Michigan. In a letter to a newspaper, Ziegler discredits the Pennsylvania toll highway as a "critical financial situation" and that a similar project is not needed here.

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