

Thursday, December 27, 1956

We Need To "Mind Our Own Business" More

Sixteen years after Pearl Harbor, it begins to look as if our policy of "saving the world for democracy" has had some sad results.

In the old "America First" days, former President Hoover made a speech, in which he said: "The Gargantuan jest of all history would be if we should give aid to Stalin in the war. I said the result would be to spread Communism over the world."

"I urged that we stand aside while these two monsters exhausted each other; that if we stood aside, the time would come when we could, by our strength, bring lasting peace to the world."

This was six months before Pearl Harbor. But no one in the Roosevelt Administration would heed these words.

HOWEVER, EX-PRESIDENT Truman, while Senator, said practically the same thing: "Let Hitler and Stalin wear each other out."

Retailers Represent Free Competitive System

No one should forget what inflation has done in past times—or be blind to the dangers of still more inflation and dollar-depreciation in the future. At the same time, we should give due and well-earned credit to those forces and institutions which have done a big job in mitigating inflation's effect on living standards.

The National Industrial Conference Board has issued a chart showing the amount of time it took the average U.S. production worker in August 1951 to earn the money to buy certain items in universal use as against the time it took him in August 1956.

It took less work on that latter date to earn 12 of the 16 items listed, including shoes, meats, refrigerators, and suits and dresses. The time-cost of two of the items—bread and gasoline—remained un-

Here Is An Official Who Reduces Tax Costs

When taxpayers look for good news, it's scarce. But here is something as good as apple pie with tasty cheese.

Raymond Blattenberger, appointed by President Ike about four years ago, has handed back to the Treasury a check for two million \$'s. That, with other of his checks, makes 18 millions.

Thank you, Mr. Blattenberger! Keep it up, and Santa Claus will reward a man who understands simple arithmetic and taxpayers' problems.

The President selected him because he knew the printing business. As head of the Government Printing Office, he has cut costs 5% raised salaries four times; saved 2½ millions on new and better

But Mr. Roosevelt was determined to save "good old Joe" from Hitler. This put old Joe in Hitler's saddle, the same as in World War I. When we got rid of the Kaiser and got Hitler.

So, after two and a half World Wars, we find the Communists worse enemies of America, and far stronger than the men we helped to displace.

Now, we are so entangled in the fortunes and misfortunes of 60 nations, that whatever we do, we get blamed. At present, England and France are mad at us.

ONE OF THE WISEST SAYINGS ever offered to human beings goes: "Be careful of offering advice to others—and always keep your nose out of the affairs of others, too."

Uncle Sam, however, for more than a score of years, refuses to accept this advice . . . and, consequently, has multiplied his problems and his sorrows.

changed. Only two—potatoes and hair cuts—showed increases.

THERE ARE VARIOUS REASONS for this state of affairs—higher wages, increased efficiency on the manufacturing level, new techniques and materials, and so on. But there is another very important one that may be overlooked. Its name is retailing. Retailers, like other businessmen, have had to deal with all manner of rising expenses. Their answer has been cost-cutting innovations of every conceivable kind. And that has stretched the consumer's dollar to a far greater extent than is generally understood.

Back of all this, of course, is the fact that retailing is as competitive a business as anyone can imagine. The system—the competitive, free enterprise system—is a big thing.

equipment; and dropped 900 unnecessary personnel, while doing 8 million \$'s more business. Some man!

Blattenberger really believed that Ike wanted to cut—not increase—costs. The Government Printing Office is a whale of an outfit that turns out CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS and reports which are braked free through the mail by other bureaucrats and members of Congress.

The franked mail, telling the "peep-uli" what an official thinks he's doing for them, (in order to stay in office) too often helps to increase the annual postoffice deficits.

If the other bureaucrats would try to equal Blattenberger's record, Santa Claus would have plenty of compliments to pass around to worthy government employees.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

We learn that Estes Kefauver ran up a bill of \$40,000 in his campaign to win the vice-presidency, and that the Democratic national committee will not defray this expense. Normally, it does pay such items. Well, the Tennessee U.S. Senator appears to have become some sort of political orphan, economically disowned by his party pater.

The world learns that Russia is depending upon the development of her own people into learned men and women of the arts and sciences. Already she is said to lead all nations in training her youth to be engineers, chemists, physicists, etc., depending upon them (plus what she can learn from other nations) to develop this earth's greatest technological teams. Russia's aim, of course, is to become so physically strong that she hopes to conquer

the free world. In this vast educational plan, it is plain to see, the Russian people will eventually learn how to throw off the despotic Kremlin shackles that bind them.

Stubborn to the very last, the U.S. Army mule finally is going the way of most American equine quadrupeds. In its honored place will be a specially built helicopter. Thus passeth another epoch in mankind's methods of transportation.

An English mother and wife recently left home for a few weeks because none of her family ever thanked her for her many labors on their behalf. When she returned she was showered with affection. "How many families there must be like ours, but it won't happen again," exclaimed her husband.

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NATURE NOW By Lydia King Freshoe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Cashmere Sweater Linked to Goat

If Santa Claus left a cashmere sweater or coat under your Christmas tree, you are now luxuriating in a garment made from fleece which once warmed a goat.

This finest of all wool combs from a small animal of the genus Capra which inhabits the high mountain ranges of Mongolia, Manchuria, Tibet and India. It is called the Kashmiri goat from the valley of Kashmir, hence the name "Cashmere."

Like all goats, he is a member of the family of ruminants, the Bovidae, and is most closely related to our sheep. The yellow of his thick outer coat is made up of long hair, silky and straight. It overlays an undercoat of the finest of fleeces. His ears droop, his horns are twisted and he sports the characteristic beard of his kind. From the latter we derive our word "goatee."

THE COARSE AND forbidding vegetation of the high slopes and plateaus provides the goat with an outfit that turns out CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS and reports which are braked free through the mail by other bureaucrats and members of Congress.

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HOW THE RAW cashmere, after being shipped in small bales, finally reaches western markets is one of the miracles of world trade. Sometimes isolated tribesmen carry it from the high tablelands to the valleys below. Often the bales

are transported on bamboo poles by coolies who run long distances over rough terrain; forcing rivers, crossing plains and climbing mountains finally to reach the ocean ports from which it is shipped to the West.

Frequently the bales are months on the Great Silk road which Marco Polo traveled in the 13th century and which knew the patient tread of camel caravans before the dawn of recorded history.

England, long famous for the manufacture of fine woolsens, makes a business of producing cashmere garments of the highest quality. However, by 1850 this fabric had already become so popular that its production has gradually led to the use of less expensive yarns.

These combine the precious fleece with cotton, silk or less expensive wools, such as angora from Spain. Fleece from the domesticated herds raised in the mountains of France and Germany is also used.

NOW, MODERN synthetic textiles are combined with wool to make the "new miracle" wools, which are frequently advertised as "superior" to the original cashmere.

However, the finest of the fleece never leaves the hidden fastnesses of Northwestern India. Here in the enchanted valley of Kashmir a family will work an entire year to produce a single cashmere shawl. It is delicately woven and richly embroidered over patterns passed down from generation to generation.

Here fair brides and stately maharajas wear the same style of clothing they wore 2,000 years ago, when the people of Europe were primitive lake dwellers and not a single cashmere sweater was abroad in all the world.

Freeman Trains To Fly Bombers
—Kenneth I. Freeman, freeman apprentice, USN, son of M. B. Freeman, man of 277 Coolidge, Birmingham, is serving at the Naval air station, Hutchinson, Kansas.

The station trains Naval cadets and student officers by fly multi-engine land based bombers.

Happenings of Long Ago
Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

50 YEARS AGO
December 28, 1906
"Gambling is to be stopped so, and what George says usually goes. All this starts the Pontiac Whist Club to recover some \$2,500 from that company, which he now charges with gambling. Looks as though David was not a dead-game sport."

30 YEARS AGO
December 21, 1926
"To combat an unexpected influx of criminals from Detroit and Pontiac, Birmingham police today have started 10-hour shifts instead of the usual 8. All leave days were ordered suspended until after the holidays."

"Owing to the 'No Trespassing' signs on Quan Lake many residents of Birmingham and Bloomfield Township have not been using the lake for skating this winter; however . . . skating will be allowed to those residents and their friends. The signs around the lake refer to swimming, fishing, and

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

Did you know that there is warm ice as well as cold ice?
Well, there is, and knowing it may save your life.

Warm ice is a lot more slippery than cold ice, and greatly increases the hazards of winter driving, it has been determined in actual skid tests on frozen lakes.

An ice cube when first taken from the freezer tray feels slightly "sticky," but the warmth of your hand quickly melts the surface and it becomes slippery.

THE SAME THING occurs on road ice or glazed snow when it is warmed by a daytime rise in temperature, a brief period of sunshine, or heavy traffic.

Such unexpected changes in the slipperiness of ice is believed to be the basic cause of many winter accidents.

National Safety Council tests show this relationship of temperature and traction: at 20 m.p.h. a car with regular tires skidded 114 feet at zero degrees, 155 feet at 10 degrees, 195 feet at 20 degrees, and the whopping 235 feet at 30 degrees (just below freezing).

Temperature is important whether you live in the northern or southern edge of the snow belt, according to the Council. While drivers in the north have to con-

tend with more snow, they also get lower temperatures and consequently better traction. Drivers on the southern edge of the snow belt meet more changeable conditions with intermittent freezing and thawing.

Wherever you live, stay aware of the changing characteristics of ice. Check the "feel" of the road at every safe opportunity and adjust your speed accordingly.

An automobile manufacturer has available for his cars a safety reminder—a buzzer which automatically sounds when the driver has reached a predetermined speed.

Some husbands might be able to modify this gadget to work with an alarm clock, so that if the wife is taking too much time getting dressed for the party, the buzzer would remind her she'd better hurry.

Tip on slippery steps: Use finely ground salt mixed with sand. You get traction as the ice melts, yet do not pickle the shrubbery around the porch or along walks.

If you want to help even more, shovel the snow onto the lawn rather than pile it around shrubs. Grass can take it better than the big plants.

Schwarz Drives Jeep in Germany

Pfc. Richard K. Schwarz, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore O. Schwarz, 7300 Parkstone, Bloomfield township recently participated in a field training exercise with the 3rd armored division in Germany.

Schwarz, a jeep driver in company D of the division's 709th tank battalion, entered the Army in July, 1955, and arrived overseas last June.

He was graduated from Birmingham high school in 1954 and was a clerk for Higgins & Frank clothing store.

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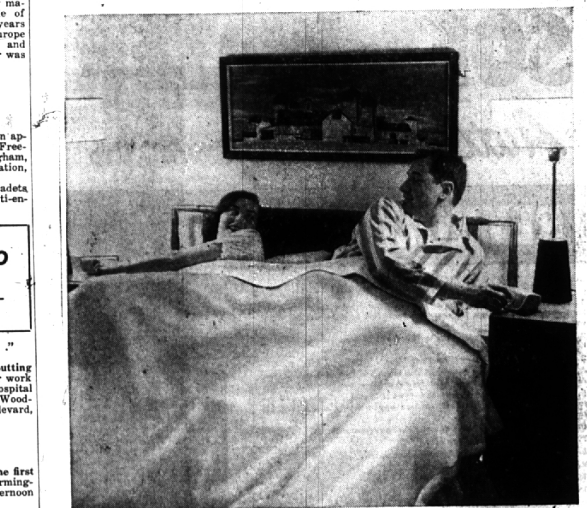
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