

A Top Clergyman's Unrealism

Dr. Edwin G. Dahlberg, President of the National Council of Churches, was quoted recently by wire service as saying that this country's huge expenditures for armaments was "utter folly and fatality."

The churchman's words were uttered at the Triennial General Assembly of the National Council of Churches in St. Louis. This view, of course, is hotly opposed by practical knowledge of the situation confronting the United States today, and drew a quick reply from Government officials, especially military officials.

GENERAL MAXWELL D. Taylor, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, also in St. Louis, replied by saying that the \$38-billion-dollar defense budget, while high, was an "indispensable part of the price of peace."

It is an unfortunate truth that some religious leaders quite often go off the deep end in theory, and wind up in a pink cloud. They lose sight of the practical aspects of life, which can sometimes result in a national tragedy—if the people are blindly obedient and do not think for themselves.

WE CAN UNDERSTAND why a deeply religious man or woman may be constrained to oppose war as something in which to engage in as a combatant; and why one can argue that war, in and of itself, is an evil national policy.

We can also agree with those who oppose physical injury to another human

being... yet if a burglar invades one's home, poisons the owner and threatens his life with club or pistol, we do not oppose the owner's instinctive decision to defend his life by knocking the hell out of the burglar.

Fundamentally, we agree that mere armaments will not enduringly become the means of outlawing war. The modern atomic and hydrogen bombs and missiles may tend to deter nations from deliberately starting a war—but always remains the danger that some trigger-happy, irresponsible leader may let go the first bomb, after which there's no stopping the holocaust until most of mankind is killed or injured.

WE JOIN ALL WHO believe that mankind's inner nature must be at-one with God's divine laws... only then can human society rest assured that it can live in peace.

This is the job not only of all clergymen, all men and women who endeavor to improve society, but equally of all who seek this early Utopia. We applaud Rev. Dahlberg's pulpit efforts, of course. But we do, however, question his unrealistic endeavor to oppose war and other nations of the free world to put together a military machine capable of preventing the Soviets—or other enemy governments—from deliberately triggering a Third World War into being!

From The Eccentric's Point of View...

Ann Landers, newspaper "answer columnist," recently told a group of Michigan newspaper men and women: "If more couples had only gone together 60 or 90 days longer, they'd be living happier lives—for, you see, the extra counting days would have revealed certain incompatibilities and they wouldn't have gotten married to each other."

U.S. Senate investigators have been told by top automotive executives that Reuther's UAW wage and profit-sharing demands on them would work great havoc on the nation's economy, and might put the two smaller auto companies out of business. The Senators will have to believe somebody—either the chaps who operate our manufacturing enterprises or the boys and girls who operate unions. One group makes and meets payrolls; the other has no worries on this subject.

Reports of increased juvenile delinquency are circulating in the Birmingham area. A comparative few boys are said to create the trouble. Thievery and forms of hoodlumism comprise most of the actions. A local committee of adults, perhaps supplemented with a committee of youth, may be set up to study the problem and seek solutions.

The Detroit Free Press reveals that today's average Detroit high school graduates possess only the equivalent in intelligence of a seventh grade class of a generation ago. Too few basic studies, such as arithmetic, grammar, spelling, are required and capably taught. The Free Press articles suggest that a high school diploma too often proves that its possessor merely spent 13 of his first 18 years in school. Those articles ought to result in some manner of educational reform in the great city of Detroit. (Not only in the school system, but among the parents, too—if improvement is to be made.)

There'll be plenty of political maneuvering within the top echelon of the Democratic party, as supporters of Senators John Kennedy, Estes Kefauver, and ex-Governor Adlai Stevenson jockey their respective favorites into place for the Presidential nomination. Although each belongs to the same party, you'd be surprised to find out (when it's all over) how much unfairness, double-crossing, unethical statements and actions will take place on behalf of each. 'Tis the same in both major parties. Lack of decency, when the stakes are very high, is not the sole practice of any single group.

A leading newspaper recently carried two important stories side by side on the front page. One was headlined: "Labor to seek higher wages, shorter week." The other headline read: "November jobless highest since 1947." This puts one in mind of the irresistible force and the immovable object. Labor can press for higher wages and shorter work-weeks, and very likely it can get them. But labor can't make people buy the goods and services that keep the labor force employed. A worker, like a product, can be priced out of the market. There is plenty of evidence that this is beginning to happen now.

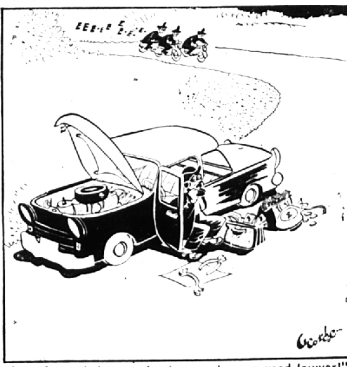
So long as a man or woman involuntarily has to belong to a union in these United States, freedom to get a job does not exist. This is true, regardless of what any labor leader may say to the contrary. Originally, unions depended upon winning members through the good services they could and did render. Samuel Gompers, perhaps the greatest American labor statesman, held to the voluntary, non-coercive method of building up a union. This newspaper supports the idea of collective bargaining; it is not opposed to the right of labor to organize.

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Ticklers



By George

"I won't need that mechanic—send me a good lawyer!"

No! No! Much Too Dangerous!



NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Freshse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Nature's Cleverness Is Shown by Seeds

On my desk are two seeds, a coconut and a navy bean. Both represent the most highly developed groups of flowering plants, the "angiosperms." Some one hundred millions of years ago these gradually superseded the ancient spore-bearing plants such as ferns and club mosses and the naked-seeded cycads and conifers.

The word "angiosperm" means "a seed for the seed." The plants belonging to this group develop their seeds in an enclosed vessel called the ovary, hence the term "enclosed seed." This is used in contrast to the term "naked seed" which applies to plants such as the conifers which bear their seeds between the scales of a cone. Every seed finds in embryonic plant surrounded by the nutrient it will need until it can grow its own roots and leaves. Each seed is sealed within a protective coat. Each represents the testing stage of a plant.

A SEED will "germinate," a process under conditions of temperature, moisture, air and light are provided. Once placed in the ground, water seeps into the seed, the seed coat swells, and the tiny cell within begins to divide, creating and using their permanent food. To provide the necessary food for this process, the embryo within the seed ensure the digestion of the enclosed starches and carbohydrates. These, together with already soluble sugars, nature gathers from the soil at the plant's last growing stage.

Soon the embryo within the seed begins to stir. Its primary root reaches downward toward the dark earth, its tiny shoot thrusts upward toward the light. As life quickens within the seed, the imprisoned plant rushes into the fastest growth of its life history. It is the beginning of the astonishing pace. New organs take shape, the forerunners of branches, flowers, fruit.

ON A DAY when the tiny plant has completed its embryonic life, its growing force breaks the softened seed coat and it unfurls its

green banners to the light. If it is a "monocotyledon," if it has two leaves, oak, morning-glory, it is a "dicotyledon." But that which sparks the growth of the seed is the demand of the plant hormones. These are the chemical messengers which order the cells to stand still or to divide.

Growth in the plant and animal kingdoms is startlingly similar. The seed and the egg are both embryonic entities, each carriers of the pattern of their kind, each surrounded by nutrient sufficient to launch a new life. Infancy, adolescence, maturity, old age—these follow in like sequence. Human adolescence, sparked by the sex hormones, marks a new growth of the body, a new growth of the mind. The production of sex cells and the dispersal of them, whether in plant or animal, is proportioned to the length of time that the cell has been without proper hormone stimulation.

THIS KNOWLEDGE of the relation of hormones to growth is scarcely older than the century. Hormone treatment of seeds, and spraying of flowers with hormone chemicals will result in new and unheard of fruits. What just studies they will hold for animal life, including man, is yet on the threshold of experimentation. Science has brought us near the mystery of life. They are the chemicals that serve life. One touch of the correct hormone to a plant and it sprouts roots. But must a rock all over with these lifeless chemicals and it is barren still. Hormones are keys to the door of life itself, its first curls in the darkness of seed or womb.

So in each new spring life returns with its eternal rhythm. Be it plant or child, the great course from the small, the immortal from the transient.

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.

59 YEARS AGO
April 21, 1908
"Wanted to rent: a seven room house in desirable location from August 1st. Will lease for one year, about \$12 per month."

"Did you notice John Hanna's totem poles? Looks like we lived in Alaska, yay, which is the worst, to cut a tree from the top down, or to cut it down from the bottom up? Don't know I ask you."

"The Oakland Motor company, Pontiac's newest automobile industry, will make and market 500 cars this year. At a recent test the Oakland car ran from Cleveland to Buffalo, a distance of 202 miles, at an average speed of 25 miles an hour without an accident."

30 YEARS AGO
April 22, 1928
"At the age of 62, the Duchess of Bedford, wife of the eleventh Duke of Bedford, is learning to fly. She thinks flying the most exhilarating of all sports, and recently acquired a small airplane which Capt. Barnard, a famous civilian pilot, is teaching her to fly. She uses the front lawn of her husband's magnificent residence, Woburn Abbey, as a taking off ground."

"For me," the Duchess says, "flying has been the thrill of a life-time. There is none of the dust and dirt of ordinary traveling when you go by air."

the \$263,822.54 in taxes levied last July 1 for city purposes, 95.56 per cent has been collected, Berger reported."

"The Cranbrook debating team became Michigan state champions by their defeat of Lansing Eastern high school last Friday evening. Speaking in Hill auditorium at Ann Arbor, debaters Merrill Hunter and Hugh Neale won a 2 to 0 decision over the Lansing speakers."

"An investigation of the Country Rating board at Pontiac headed by A. J. Bebel was ordered Tuesday by the Oakland Board of Supervisors meeting at Pontiac."

Suburban Sentiment

MILLINERY CLASS
I fumble with felt,
Cover puckers with feather,
The Goodwill and this hat
Will soon get together!

—Mary Jane Palmer

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

It's been this column's practice for the past several years to let you know the regular Monday night meeting at Pontiac record of Birmingham's city commissioners.

(They also attend quite a number of informal committee sessions each year.)

Here are the April 1957-58 figures:
Florence Willett—3 misses
Carl Ingraham—4 misses
William Hutchinson—5 misses
Charles DeBorja—8 misses
(ex-commissioner)
Harry Demore—10 misses
Charles Bonfres—11 misses

After she's married, the little woman starts telling her husband the kind of a man she prefers.

Our Oakland county Congressman, William S. Broomfield, recently proposed a remedy for those householders who don't want the post office to deliver the so-called "junk mail."

Broomfield and Rep. Robert J. McIntosh of Pt. Huron have introduced a bill that would permit householders to fill out and file with the local post office a stop-order on all third class mail.

We agree with two congressmen's objective. However, the post office depart-

ment is being squeezed between a big annual deficit and the need to spend more money for salaries and modern equipment.

For postal employees to have to sort out who wants third class and who doesn't would add tremendously to department costs.

We think the congressmen should look further for their solution.

WHEN THE city of Troy's new post office swings into operation, it will serve an area obtained from three other postal districts.

Birmingham serves a pie-shaped 29 square miles pointing eastward through the middle of the city. Pontiac serves the northeastern portion, while Royal Oak handles the southeastern part. Birmingham will retain the 4½ square miles of Troy between Atlanta and Coolidge roads.

The new postoffice will go to Leontia and Livorno, practically in the center of Troy. Real estate and building negotiations are under way.

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson and his friends don't seem to be alarmed that the Secretary might lose his job. Maybe they know this historical fact: never in U.S. history has the President fired a cabinet member while the latter was under pressure.

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