

We Must Defend Freedom Valiantly

More than three hundred years ago the great Francis Bacon wrote: "The virtue of prosperity is temperance; the virtue of adversity is fortitude; which in morals is the more heroic virtue."

A few weeks ago the Vice President of the United States held a press conference, directly following the failure of this country's first attempt at launching an earth satellite. Mr. Nixon said: "Sure we failed. We have before and we will again. But we need to keep our sense of proportion. We haven't overnight lost our scientific know-how, our ability to get things done. . . . Let's get away from our weeping walls and act like Americans. We've got work to do. Let's get on with it like Americans."

There is a great gulf of time and language between these two quotations. But both of them stem from the same attitude—the same outlook on life and the demands of life.

Some Americans met the Russian scientific successes in ostrich-style—by trying to ignore them or by deprecating them. Some, at the other extreme, reacted with panic and despair—an all-is-lost attitude. They showed themselves lacking in "the virtue of adversity" of which Francis Bacon wrote. Or they went to the "weeping walls" of which Richard Nixon spoke.

BUT THESE PEOPLE were very much in the minority. The great majority of Americans fully understand that there is work to do and we must get on with it.

The problem, then, is how to do it. Russia has been showing the world some of the fruits of a harsh materialistic system. Her achievement—and only a fool will now try to minimize them—have been brought about by force. The abilities of people are carefully, efficiently and rigorously channeled into whatever avenues best serve the purposes of the state. The rewards for success are often very great; the penalties for failure are often extremely severe. In any event, the individu-

al has small command over his own destiny. The state makes the important decisions and provides the directions.

Can a free people rival and surpass the achievements of such a system—and still keep their freedom, their traditions, and their national heart and soul?

History tells us that we can. Time and time again the forces of freedom have defeated the forces of tyranny.

BUT THE EXACT OPPOSITE also has occurred. Great civilizations have fallen to barbarian hordes. This has happened when those civilizations grew soft and sleek, contented and slack, immersed in luxury and degenerate in character. It has happened when faith was lost in principles and institutions that led to greatness—to be replaced by overwhelming cynicism. It has happened, in sum, when fortitude did not come out of adversity, when defeatism prevailed, and citizens turned to the "weeping walls."

We do not yet know the extent of the efforts that will be needed to build and to maintain the strength necessary for survival. But we do know that they will be great, and future events may demonstrate that they will be greater than anyone realizes now. The burden will fall upon all—on industry, labor, government. Restraint and wisdom will be needed by all—the national interest must come ahead of self-interest. But no one should look on this burden with distaste or fear. The times have brought challenge and opportunity—and a people which value freedom and honor will rise voluntarily and in full willingness to meet the challenge and exploit the opportunity.

Here another thing that was said many centuries ago is perfectly in keeping. Shakespeare put it into the mouth of one of his characters: "Courage mounteth with occasion." The occasion is at hand. We must now prove our courage.

Grads Confused About Capitalism

The Chicago Daily News says that "... we get high school graduates who don't know democratic capitalism from communist dictatorship." That sad observation was prompted by an astonishing report from a professor of economics at a well-known university which specializes in teacher training. He asked 80 freshmen who are preparing to become teachers to define "capitalism." Almost all of them, he found, "not only called capitalism a form of government, but they also thought it an evil and dangerous form of government."

One student, for instance, said: "Capitalism is more on the dictator type of government." Another said: "Capitalism is the extreme measures that are taken by a group, country, or even a single person. . . . It can be dangerous if allowed to spread into the wrong hands." Another said: "I

am sure there are many places where capitalism is going on at the present time, and if this practice should ever become national-wide, the country is in for a lot of trouble." Still another said: "Capitalism . . . is on the order of communism. . . ."

It would be hard to find more horrible examples of sheer ignorance combined semi-literacy. And they came, don't forget, from college students who want to become teachers and guide the minds of this country's most important asset—its children. Something is indeed wrong with American education—and it's something that can't be cured by multi-million dollar school plants, 50,000-seat football stadia, and curriculums that stress social adjustment, home economics, and other such furbelows.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

This current recession has brought forth many statements from economists as to both its cause and its probable duration. Perhaps few of them will agree. How can they? How can anybody foretell how human beings will bet on horse races, or how they will behave at an auction?

It is being rumored that Ike's first assistant, Sherman Adams, wants to be the Republican candidate for Vice-President in 1960. If he should be elected to that

position, he'll find his power and authority far below his present status. But, we presume, he'll want his next stop to be the White House . . . which, wethinks, Heaven forbid!

Before the end of the coming June the nation will have learned whether or not a strike or strikes have or will occur in the automobile manufacturing business. Whether Socialism or Free Enterprise will be the issue.

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NATURE NOW by Lydia King Frehse
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

New Nature Book Delights Young, Old

"Of the making of many books there is no end." However, it is a rare occurrence when a book is published which can be as great a delight to an adult as it is to the younger reader for whom it is intended.

Such a volume is "The Rainbow Book of Nature," Donald Peattie's latest contribution to his long list of distinguished books.

Its appeal lies in many directions. It is scientifically accurate; it challenges the imagination, and it warms the heart of those who read it. The illustrations by Rudolph Freund are a fine addition to the text, although some are too "photographic" for these eyes. It has been said over and over again that the portrayal of living things is too vast a subject to be imprisoned between the covers of any book. True, life involves too many facets, too many unknowns to be presented by a single individual.

"From whence life cometh and whither it goeth," no man can say of a certainty. This book is intended to be an introduction to nature, and your scruple knows of no living writer better suited to such a task than Peattie.

IN "THE RAINBOW BOOK OF NATURE" the author is about to life-long business of presenting nature as a related whole, not as a series of disconnected facts and names. Whether he writes of the depths or of the seaweeds which lap their distant shores, of ant fireflies, he writes first of all about the life which we all share, whether we be mice or men.

Witness some titles: "The World is so Full . . .," "Spring Fever," "The Colors of Night," "The Limit," "The Clock of Night," "Down, Down, Down," "Journeys Returns," "Come Out and Look."

Peattie writes with equal charm of plants and animals, of rural and cities or of those in desert, pond and meadow. Form and function, sleep and snow, shade and sun-

shine and paid homage to Harry J. Brooks.

"Although many county roads are soft because of the frost leaving the ground and the advance of spring, no serious problems have been faced so far by the county or Bloomfield township road commissioners."

"One of our readers thinks that the Government ought to treat tin cans like tooth paste tubes; when you buy a can, you should bring in an empty."

"A mysterious voice phoned us (it sounded like it might have emanated from the Princely Inn or the Fox and Dawg) and exclaimed: 'Do you want to help us sell books?' Sure, was the reply. We just ran an article saying that they are going to ration them and that'll make everybody rush to buy. G'bye."

"The Army" has been testing some wheeled contraptions on North Woodward avenue, in plain sight of the passing throng, so it can't be too secret. Nevertheless, we won't go into detail."

"Plans are underway today to finance a \$25,000 Brooks Memorial fund by residents of Southfield township who have organized and plan to erect a monument in memory of the late Harry J. Brooks who lost his life in February when his plane plunged into the Atlantic ocean."

"Approximately 1,400 persons of Birmingham and other cities nearby dropped their work for more than an hour last Thursday after-

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

With the approach of Tax Day, on April 15th, the question arises locally, "What will residents of Birmingham have to fork up in the way of individual income taxes this year?"

The bite, according to government expectations, will be greater than it was last year, when an estimated \$16,500,000 in personal taxes was turned in.

That figure, though unofficial, is based on a breakdown that took into account the Federal data on receipts from the State of Michigan, together with earnings and income classifications in Birmingham.

LOCAL RESIDENTS PROVIDE 0.62 percent of the amount collected from individuals throughout the state.

The increase expected this year is not due to any hike in tax rates. It results from bigger earnings, on the average, in 1957 than in 1956.

Preliminary reports set the rise in income locally in the last fiscal year at 5.1 percent. This means a tax payment by April 15th of about \$17,400,000.

Nationally, the yield last year from individual taxes was the biggest in history,

around \$43 billion. Even more is contemplated in the Eisenhower budget for fiscal 1959.

IT ESTIMATES THAT personal tax returns would have to reach \$92,306,000 in 1958.

The odds are, according to the experts, that it won't materialize. Business dol-drums, they point out, are not conducive to large tax returns.

Instead, there is more and more agitation from the grass roots for a tax cut for next year. Business firms and private citizens alike are letting Washington know their views.

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING is that we need a monetary weapon in the form of a tax reduction to break the back of the slump and start an upturn.

Until recently, both the Administration and Congress have been cool to such proposals. Sentiment, in this election year, is gradually turning, however. The controlling question at present appears to be its inflationary effect, of which many are fearful.

Press Freedom Held 'Absurd' In Red China

EAST LANSING — American Dr. Houn explained, "The press in Communist China is used exclusively by the party and the government, are considered 'absurd' by the government of Communist China, according to a Michigan State university lecturer in political science.

It is impossible that the Communists would allow their press to carry ideas and information advocated by people outside the party, he said. "Editors all know and are faithful to the party line—they do agents."

"IN CHINA" the party places its own members in the newspapers, he said. "Editors all know and are faithful to the party line—they do agents."

To the Communists, allowing such a thing would amount to giving aid and comfort to what they call "the laboring people's enemies,"

Gazette, an official publication, before coming to the United States in 1948. He reports that the Red Chinese government controls news sources completely. Officials can't talk to newsmen.

He feels it is merely useless for American correspondents to try to go to Red China because "they will get only what the government wants them to." Even the translated Communist press is not to be trusted, he added, are Communist

not just suppress certain undesirable items. This is a more constructive policy from the Communist point of view.

A native of China, Dr. Houn was an associate editor of the Government

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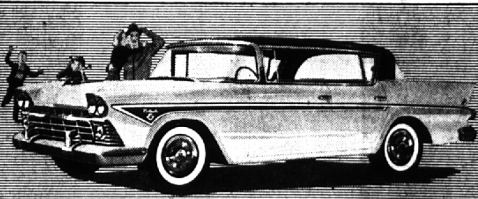
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