

Editorials Letters To The Editor Comment Discussion

The Dallas Post

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THE DALLAS POST is a youthful weekly rural-suburban newspaper, owned, edited and operated by young men interested in the development of the great rural-suburban region of Luzerne County and in the attainment of the highest ideals of journalism. THE POST is truly "more than a newspaper, it is a community institution."

Congress shall make no law * * * abridging the freedom of speech, or of Press.—From the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

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THE DALLAS POST PROGRAM

THE DALLAS POST will lend its support and offers the use of its columns to all projects which will help this community and the great rural suburban territory which it serves to attain the following major improvements:

1. Construction of more sidewalks for the protection of pedestrians in Kingston township and Dallas.
2. A free library located in the Dallas region.
3. Better and adequate street lighting in Trucksville, Shavertown, Fernbrook and Dallas.
4. Sanitary sewage disposal system for Dallas.
5. Closer co-operation between Dallas borough and surrounding townships.
6. Consolidated high schools and better co-operation between those that now exist.
7. Adequate water supply for fire protection.

A THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

True bravery is shown by performing without witness what one might be capable of doing before all the world.
 La Rouchefoucauld—Maxims

NEW ROLL OF HONOR

Praise for meritorious service in last week's disastrous flood in Wyoming Valley is due so many hundreds of people that any attempt to give credit where credit is due would be an impossible task.

Perhaps the greatest praise is due those individuals who, without having any direct emergency, volunteered their services in behalf of those families which were facing danger—people who gave assistance anonymously, women who sent food and cots and blankets to the stricken refugees and men who loaned boats or went to the valley to help in rescue work.

Too much credit cannot be given to the Red Cross, which marshalled its disaster organization and welded various relief groups into one vast flood-fighting unit. The 109th Field Artillery, which worked sleeplessly through both floods, also must receive credit. In the various municipalities firemen and policemen worked with other relief organizations tirelessly, not only during the flood but in the rehabilitation.

It is unfortunate that short-sighted individuals misinterpreted the safeguards such as the calling of the Coast Guard boats and the strict regulations which prevailed after the water receded. Only the people who were in the stricken areas realize how necessary those drastic measures were.

From beginning to end, there can be no serious criticism against the men and women who administered and carried out the relief work. Rather, they deserve the highest and most sincere thanks, not only of the people who were served by them, but by everyone who recognizes the courage and unselfishness of such service.

THE VANGUARD OF FASCISM

The following editorial, written by Roger E. Chase, Columbia University, New York City, won first prize recently in a nation-wide contest for students on the subject "Why Congress Should Pass The Nye-Kvale Amendment."

"We won some things from the war that were not on the program. For example, we had a complete demonstration of the fallacy of the old tradition that preparedness prevents war."—George H. Dern in an address at Riverside, California, December 1931.

Now Mr. Dern, as Secretary of War, is busy spending the largest peacetime military appropriation in the history of the United States, making capitol of "the old tradition that preparedness prevents war" to hasten the drive towards a bigger and better war.

To date more than 200 campuses have found a place for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. Another hundred are expected to add military training to their curricula in the near future. In 118 institutions of learning drill is not only offered but required.

Senator Nye of North Dakota and Representative Kvale of Minnesota have introduced a bill intended to eliminate conscription from American education. The bill would amend the National Defense Act of 1916 with the stipulation that no R. O. T. C. unit be approved at any school or college "until such institution shall have satisfied the Secretary of War that enrollment in such units (except in the case of essentially military schools) is elective and not compulsory."

No sooner did the campaign against militarism in education begin to assume formidable proportions than spokesmen for "national defense" rushed forward with epithems and counter-charges. The R. O. T. C. was a higher form of "physical education"; the goose-step was "character education"; compulsory drill was "citizenship training."

It means little to the defenders of the R. O. T. C. that the best minds in the field of physical education have characterized as a hollow falsehood the claim that drill "builds men."

It is irrelevant to the apostles of chauvinism that the kind of "character" developed by the corps is otherwise known as the "military mind" which—Professor Reinhold Niebuhr once stated—"makes unthinking obedience the summum bonum in the hierarchy of virtues."

It is not at all alarming to the super-patriots that "citizenship" as promoted in the R. O. T. C. has meant the negation of science and democracy.

What that "citizenship" implies was once illustrated in an official R. O. T. C. manual (withdrawn from circulation, thanks to student protests, ten years ago). One passage read: "This inherent desire to fight and kill must be carefully watched for and encouraged by the student. . . ." And further: "To finish an opponent who hangs on or attempts to pull you to the ground, always try to break his hold by driving the knee or foot to his crotch and gouging his eyes with your thumbs."

"Citizenship," indeed!
 As it becomes increasingly apparent that the nation's military machine is being geared to the inevitability if not the early desirability of another war, student protests against militarism and the society which breeds it will be increasingly vocal. At the same time R. O. T. C. units will crop up on campuses which never had military training before. The corps already established will emerge more clearly as storm troops of bogus "Americanism", intolerance, anti-intellectualism. They are strongholds of reaction today; they may be the vanguards of fascism tomorrow.

It is encouraging that the tremendous growth of the R. O. T. C. since the war has not occurred without artificial stimulation. Although the cavalry went out of style and utility after Appomattox, thousands of horses have been provided as sugar-coating for the fill of compulsory training. Fortunes have been spent on flashy uniforms. Pretty girls have been recruited as "sponsors". The enemy has been resourceful.

There is going to be a fight to the finish between a strong student peace movement and a highly-subsidized regiment of training for slaughter. The outlook will be more reassuring once the Nye-Kvale Bill is law.

WASHINGTON LETTER

As is always the way with catch-phrases, the "breathing spell" that was to help business and industry speed recovery is getting a new interpretation in Washington.

It is that bills which they oppose are to be rushed through before businessmen can catch a breath. To illustrate what they have in mind, the industrialists point to procedure adopted by the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee on the Wheeler-Rayburn bill empowering the Federal Trade Commission to study the personal affairs of any businessman for any purpose.

That bill was introduced weeks ago. Its opponents generally were encouraged to believe that it would get nowhere. Then, suddenly, the committee ordered hearings.

Surprised, individual businessmen had no opportunity to prepare themselves for testimony against the bill. Consequently, when the hearings were called, few opponents were ready. The hearings on the bill, which would give the Trade Commission what some Congressmen term "unprecedented snooping powers," lasted just one day.

Significant, too, was the fact that Trade Commission officials who proposed the bill were heard in secret session. The few opponents of the measure who did have time to testify, could not, therefore, answer the arguments of the proponents. More and more Washington is working secretly and keeping the people from knowing what is going on.

A recent computation by the Washington Evening Star puts the astronomer to shame. It showed that on March 31, 1917, the federal debt was \$1,282,044,346; on March 3, 1934, it had risen to \$20,937,350,964, because of the war-hangover; on March 16, 1936, it was \$31,859,000,000. There just isn't anything we can compare that with to make it intelligible.

Much talk is being heard around the Capitol about the fact that the new tax on corporate profits not distributed as dividends was put forward as a substitute for other existing but objectionable levies. At the same time it was said that the suggested taxes on processing, replacing those invalidated when AAA was held unconstitutional, would be only "temporary."

Economists and tax experts point out that the taxes which the corporate profits levy would replace have been proved fertile sources of revenue and the possibilities are, therefore, that when the government begins raising more money to pay the present stupendous debt the repeal taxes will be revived.

THE HOD CARRIER

In everyday conversations, we use the phrase "hod carrier" to describe a man who does the heavy work. In view of the present attitude in some political circles, it's interesting to find out who is the government's hod carrier.

In 1935, the federal government got more than 80 per cent of its tax revenue from business. Consequently, since the government must depend so heavily upon business for revenue it should not do anything that would tend to reduce the capital that produces the business.

There are suggestions that industry must put the unemployed to work. Collier's magazine describes as "obviously absurd" the argument that industry must provide work for eight or nine million unemployed.

"Industry means manufacturing" Collier's says. "During the first ten months of 1929, wage-earner employment in manufacturing industries was about 8,839,000 according to figures of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. During the first ten months of 1935, the number was estimated by the same Bureau to be 6,840,000. Thus approximately 2,000,000 fewer workers were employed by the manufacturers in 1935 than in 1929."

"Two million is not eight or nine million, however. The sooner we stop making loose general statements about employment and unemployment the sooner we shall arrive at practicable solutions of our remaining difficulties."

"How many jobs manufacturers can provide depends on many factors outside the control of industrialists. The policy of the government toward industry is one important factor."

"It is good politics to talk as though industrial corporations could actually be expected to absorb the loan of unemployment, because corporations don't vote. Yet nobody in politics or elsewhere would think of asking a farmer to provide jobs for more people than he needed to do his work."

GUARDIANS OF A NATION



The Kaleidoscope

We were talking to a business man the other day who told us that the flood had taken everything he had . . . everything. He was blue and dejected and whipped. He couldn't see what use there could be in trying any more to do anything. We know that there are hundreds of people throughout the East who feel just as this man feels.

They have seen their homes or their business places ruined through no fault of their own, and find themselves, after years of effort, with no material resources upon which to rebuild.

We said to our friend who had opened his heart about his troubles, "John, it is true the flood hit you hard, but it will do no good to quit and give up. We are here and we must meet situations such as these as they are, and not as we would like to have them. Let's not think of what the flood took away from us. Rather, let us think what it left us. Let's take an inventory of that. It left you friends. It left you life and strength and health. It left you all the genius and the real resources of mind and heart you ever possessed. As long as you have that you are not whipped. True, you lost some material things but your real assets, your real energy and your skill are still unimpaired and upon these you can, if you will, build a better and a more secure future. Conditions following the flood may call for a personal readjustment, a period of hard work and economy. These things will be each individual's problem, but whatever is chosen as the thing upon which to rebuild, let's remember that whatever else the flood took, it left many of the fundamental, most valuable things. Let's concentrate on these."

A minister in a small Luzerne County town is reported to have recently refused an increase in salary. He gave as his reason that it was too hard to

collect his present salary. He didn't want to take on any more responsibility.

The speed demon has always existed in one form or another. Greek mythology in the story of how Phaethon drove his father's chariot offers perhaps the earliest example of what can happen when people drive a vehicle so fast that it gets beyond their ability to control it. It will be remembered that Phaethon wished to prove that Apollo, the God of the Sun, was his father, and for his proof, sought to persuade his father to let him drive the chariot. Apollo finally consented with reluctance, and after many warnings and instructions, the boy set out. Then Phaeton lost control of the fiery horses and set the world on fire. Jupiter had to toss a thunderbolt at Phaeton to stop him.

This myth is strangely modern. Folks are still trying to set the world on fire with their speed.

There are at least three kinds of people: Those who do their thinking first, those who do their thinking afterward, and those who do no thinking at all.

The economic depression upset and disproved many of the traditional beliefs of the American people. One of the strongest of those was the notion that farming could always be depended upon to furnish food and shelter.

This comfortable theory was exploded when over a million farm families applied for relief in 1934. We could no longer moralize and say that the families were on relief because the bread-winner was lazy and good-for-nothing. We all had to recognize the fact that many families were on relief through no fault of their own.

New homes were provided in 1935

for more than 76,000 additional families while, as a result of its lending business, the federal government was foreclosing on 1,246.

The Labor department said the 75,000 figure was 170 per cent higher than in 1934. It added that all building construction for 1935 was 28 per cent above 1934.

As this construction was completed, the Home Owners Loan Corporation said it had foreclosed on almost \$6,000,000 worth of privately-owned houses. Of the 1,246 taken over by the government, 29 were sold, 611 rented, 461 stood vacant, and 145 were still occupied rent-free by their former owners.

An important new contribution of science to motoring safety, the development of hi-test laminated safety glass which after being cracked will stretch and bend upon further impact was announced this week.

Advancing to a far higher degree than ever before the tensile strength of safety glass, and adding elasticity as well, the new product is a joint development between the Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation's Research Department at Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company's Duplate Research Laboratory at Creighton, Pa., after more than six years of research and experiment.

The secret of the hi-test safety glass lies in the development of Vinal, a new plastic with rubber-like stretching qualities and extremely high tensile strength. (Laminated safety glass is made by constructing a glass sandwich, with a transparent plastic filler between two layers of glass, applied under heat and pressure. The shatterproof tendencies of the glass result from adherence of the glass particles to the plastic when broken.)

THE MAIL BAG

In this department The Post presents letters from its readers on current problems—suggestions, criticisms, bouquets. The Post need not endorse any sentiment or criticism expressed here, nor can it vouch for the accuracy of any sentiment. It recognizes only that in this country people have, within reason, the right to express themselves.

To The Editor:

What has happened to all our notable candidates for the Presidency? Not one of either party has proposed anything to overcome the depression or avert another one. Of course some of them aver that balancing the budget and upholding the Constitution would do it, but isn't that a little weak, since in 1928 or the years just previous no one attacked the Constitution for the Supreme Court and the budget was not only balanced but billions of dollars were actually paid on the war debts under Mellon management? Yet the panic broke in all its fury.

And what a disappointment is Senator Borah! I am 64 years old, and I do not like Mr. Borah for cutting my pension from \$200 to \$50. The idea! Pensions should start at 64 years, not at 60. I doubt if Senator Borah's \$50 would provide enough inflation. But \$200 a month might provide sufficient inflation to give eight million old patriots enough purchasing power so that the younger members of our families would not have to work so long and so hard as we had to.

H. W. N.

Dear Editor:

History records many occasions when the United States through its President successfully acted as peacemaker when foreign nations were at war. And each instance received world-wide acclaim. Why then should there be any objection to our participation either alone or with others in the settlement of differences that threaten to lead to war? Must the beast of prey be permitted to go on its rampage of destruction before we attempt to lock it in its cage?

M. W.

Editor:

The Post:

In the controversy between the New Deal on the one hand and the Constitution as interpreted by the Supreme Court on the other, many argue under the delusion that the New Deal is a modern technique while the Constitution represents old-fashioned and outworn ideas.

In the thirteenth century Kublai Khan and his political cohorts were operating a New Deal and regulating farming, commerce and industry over a far vaster territory and more exten-

sive population than exist in this country. To give this ancient gentleman credit, he displayed more wisdom in his New Deal than has ever emanated from the Brain Trust.

At the time of the Boston Tea Party we were suffering from a New Deal attempt to regulate commerce and tax one section of the people for the benefit of another section.

The writers of the Constitution were thoroughly familiar with the New Deal; they abhorred it. They knew that the extension of the powers of the government into control of agriculture, commerce, and industry benefitted, not the people, but the politicians and the party in power.

They knew that the power and patronage acquired by a New Deal through extending its functions into industry and commerce could be used by the party in power to perpetuate its rule and destroy the power of the ballot to remove them from office.

For this reason they wrote the Constitution to bar out New Deals and to prevent the country in any future period of low political intelligence from throwing away the birthright they had fought so hard to attain.

J. S. S.