

WASHINGTON WEEK

By Harris Ellsworth, M. C.

It is doubtful if any great government—or system of government—has ever undergone greater strain than our own country is now experiencing, and emerged intact. But here there is no violence, no threat of revolution and no indication that the giant is anything more than annoyed.

We continue the trek into the future strong, powerful and confident. Why?

How can this be true in the face of our fighting a war that has no goal nor even an end in sight and which is costing \$5 billion a year?

How can our economy carry on with such health and vigor when our communications systems are partly paralyzed by big strikes and the great steel industry is on the brink of nationalization—or the alternative, closure by a strike?

When our present government administration itself staggers through its last months scandal ridden and all but leaderless why is there no revolution, physical violence and bloodshed?

With a powerful enemy ready to march against us, with taxes nearing the point of confiscation, with inflation ready to strike and with a public debt so great it surpasses understanding, we carry on without panic and with what amounts to good cheer. How can we do it?

The answer lies in two simple words: FAITH and FREEDOM. We are a Christian people. We believe that truth and right and goodness will prevail. With the minor individual exceptions which any of us might note, our basic code is the Golden Rule.

We are a free people. There is no sovereign against whom we might revolt. We rule ourselves. Our ballots select our officers and the representatives who conduct the business of governing. With faith in the right, with our free ability to choose the right, and with the determination to exercise our rights as citizens, we have ample reason to look into the future hopefully.

There is sometimes the lighter

side here in Washington. Not long ago in an office of price administration attorney an attorney was arrested in one of the D. C. parks while trying out a slingshot. He told the court he was testing it for the manufacturer who wanted the item decontrolled. I might add that they have already decontrolled crepes suzette and walnut sauce.

Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire told the senate the other day that he had just compiled some figures on taxation. From the day the first president of the United States took office until Harry Truman was sworn in as president on April 12, 1945, the federal government had collected in taxes from the American people a total of \$224,000,000,000. From the day Mr. Truman became president until now (April 4, 1952), seven years, a total of \$310,463,056,589.59 has been collected. In other words, this one president has collected more taxes in seven years than did all of the other presidents in their 150 years.

All of the regular appropriation bills, except the agriculture, legislative and foreign aid bills, have been completed by the house with some eight billions chopped off the budget thus far.

The house foreign affairs committee is conducting hearings on the 7.9 billion foreign aid bill. The state department propaganda mills are laying down a barrage of material, all in the field of communication, to the effect that "not one cent should be cut from the request." Yet the witnesses to date have not justified any such sum. The situation is

the same as it was one year ago when ECA had a 5 billion carry-over, yet it was requesting 7.5 billion. As of January 31, 1952, there was an unexpended balance of \$9,617,152,042. The question that all members are asking is—with such a large unexpended balance on hand, why appropriate 7.9 billions more? I am sure the request will be reduced, and it should be.

A Smith-Corona typewriter for that graduate who will go away to college next year, is a real gift—see them at the Pilot office.

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