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SPECIAL PRIVILEGE A HABIT?

Almost everybody was suspicious of the American Communist Party when it announced, nearly a year ago, that it was swearing off party-line politics for the time being. But maybe there was no subterfuge about it, after all. Maybe the comrades just got discouraged after watching the American civilian's wartime behavior for two years, and decided to give up.

We can understand how the comrades may have felt, for some of our behavior would discourage a Vermont Republican. This is a time when selfishness and a few material sacrifices are demanded of all of us. We haven't met the demand too well. Rather, we have demonstrated how heartily most of us approve the social philosophy of special privilege.

We accept it as our right that the corner druggist should stint our neighbor and save us a pack of cigarettes. We understand why we shouldn't travel, yet some of us don't scruple to pull strings and perhaps stretch the truth to get more comfortable accommodations for a vacation trip. We pull more strings and use a little genteel bribery to get a couple of unprocurable theater tickets when we're in New York.

Others of us pursue the I'll-get-mine idea a bit farther. As a result we have some unnecessary shortages, and the black market flourishes. We approve sacrifice in principle, sure. But we also approve the principle of special privilege. When we have risen up in arms against it, it was because some Jim Fisk or Boss Tweed had carried the idea to scandalous and injurious lengths.

We aren't the only nation whose citizens indulge a desire for special privilege, but our indulgence of it is most unflattering at this moment in the world's history. And it is unfortunate, for this same selfish, childish self-indulgence is a twisted and confused version of one of our most admired national characteristics—individual initiative.

A lot of people, here and abroad, are contemptuous of American initiative. To them our striving after material comforts, a higher living standard and some social standing in the community is bourgeois snobbery, or worse.

But it can't be denied that this same initiative, on the right track, has been translated into a lot of hard work and good results which benefit even those most scornful of the American go-getter. Its better aspects are apparent today in the tools of our military might.

For that reason it is all the more shameful when our initiative takes the cheap, lazy form of hoarding and chiseling. It is too bad that we must take this way of informing the Communists of the depressing fact that it's going to be awfully hard to start a revolution in a country where every man not only feels that he is the equal of his fellow, but that he stands a darned good chance of being his superior.

MORE ABOUT FOOD

Fruit and vegetable buyers in the New York City area are threatening a new kind of blow against the black market. They have notified produce receivers that if illegal practices don't stop by Jan. 15, they will apply what they call a "blitz boycott."

This will be a concerted agreement to refrain from buying a scarce or desirable item if receivers are asking above-ceiling prices or forcing the tie-in purchase of unwanted produce with the sale. The buyers will select one item at a time that is too perishable to reship elsewhere. The produce will rot, and the receiver will take a dead loss. It's as simple as that.

Overcharges and tie-in sales have been going on for more than a year. It has been a spreading evil, and the OPA hasn't had enough inspectors to stop it. Buyers have chosen to put up with it rather than jeopardize their sources of scarce supply.

Protection for both retailers and consumers from such gouging is long overdue. And it looks as if the "blitz boycott" might provide it.

PROMPTNESS AND WISDOM

In the midst of some depressing exhibitions of fumbling, delay and wrong-headedness on the part of some of the world's statesmen, it is encouraging to come upon one direct and statesmanlike decision by a military man.

That is General Eisenhower's move to close all public schools in the portion of Germany under Allied control, and his announcement that they will not be reopened until "nazism has been eliminated."

The debate on the difficult question of

how and when to de-educate and re-educate the Germans still goes on without a decision. But in the meantime General Eisenhower has seen the first step and taken it. He surely knows that the process of re-education will be a long one, but he has seen no reason for not beginning it.

Nowhere is the poison of Hitlerism more alarmingly present than in the minds of German youth, and nowhere is an antidote more quickly and badly needed.

You gotta hand it to Sen. Wayne L. Morse. In Washington dispatches he and his horses have crowded even Santa Claus and the reindeer off the map.

READER EDITORIAL

MRS. LAMB REPLIES ON FREEDOM

CRESWELL—(To the Editor)—If the condition of our home were as Mrs. Reeves of Eugene sincerely thinks they are I would have much to meditate over. But after an explanation if she still holds to her already-formed opinion it is her privilege to do so, the same as it is mine to do so. I'm assured her intentions are good and to be appreciated.

But I heartily disagree that everything children say is picked up from parents. For, if you please, this four year old did NOT, does NOT and I hope never hears disrespectful talk at HOME about any president or official. Children never cease to shock parents with what they say and we often wonder where they get it. To say we were shocked at this four year old blurring out "Roosevelt" after those names is putting it mildly for our children are taught respect toward the president. Had he heard his kind of talk there would have been no surprise.

We have two children in school and a high-school boy staying here. Politics were discussed among school children, elections being something new to many of them but I know many did not adhere to their parents' political thinking.

This was meant as a joke not an insult. And strictly does not show what his parents' discussions were. And we as husband and wife do not have to vote alike if we wish not but neither did we argue even as much as Phyllis and Uncle Walt. Am I making it clear that we do not call officials names, even though we can joke a lot about them. I've seen a number of children "goose-stepping" and "Hilling" but certainly it was not picked up from the parents.

Regardless of who is President we will be loyal and do our part in helping. (Incidentally we are Democrats) but hearing or telling jokes on our president does not lessen our respect for him. These are perilous times and he carries a great burden but he can laugh off jokes directed at himself or he'd have no time for anything else.

Don't think I don't realize how wonderful it is to worship as we wish. I chose to be a Baptist and ask nightly that our President be blessed with knowledge to continue to lead America correctly.

Our children know how to pray simple little prayers, "God bless our soldiers and keep our flags waving," as well as the Lord's Prayer. They also know Christmas is not Santa's birthday but Jesus'. They can salute the flag, our religion is not one that forbids it. Their flag painted on paper by their own hands and put up in their playhouse last summer was revered as much as a cloth one even though the field of stars was in the wrong corner until corrected. Who has taught them these things? We, their parents along with their fine school teachers.

We are also thankful for freedom of the press that what you and I write can be printed, our opinions aired without fear of a brutal slap or the guillotine.

These things have been explained to these tots since they were old enough to grasp any meaning from it.

I'm big enough (180 pounds) to laugh off a joke whether directed at my country, my home, my family, myself. It doesn't lessen my love for my husband, who is 20 pounds lighter than I, to say to our neighbors: "Now you see who eats all the grub up from me." This 180 pounds of mine would show I am in a county where there is plenty to eat—also eaten.

I'm proud of my family and perhaps it isn't just a new hair-do that keeps my old hat from fitting. There isn't a new one for the dimes go for stamps. Neither does the shoe pinch. Perhaps because the old number 7 is old, too. Not because a shortage of ration stamps prohibits. Defense stamps again. This is not a complaint.

I know the anguish that can be brought to our hearts through telegrams from the War Department. Very thankful that they've said "only slightly wounded." My husband's brother, two of mine are battling overseas and God willing, you and I will never receive worse ones concerning those we love.

This is not written in anger, sarcasm, not meant to be egotistical nor apologetic.

Who knows but that we may meet some day and find we aren't such bad Americans after all and be friends? So let's smile. A smile does the giver's heart much good.

Sincerely hoping you a Very Merry Christmas.
Mrs. Orville Lamb, Creswell.

OLIVE BARBER'S OBSERVATIONS

THOSE ALONG THE STREET
Just people: He was standing in front of the window of a store on the corner of 4th and Olive Way, a man on the easy side of middle age, holding tight to the hand of a little boy about 4 years old. The little tyke kept saying, "Let's go home! Let's go home!" with monotonous insistence.

Holding the man's attention was a window display made up to represent a hunting trip in a marsh. A hip-booted mannequin stood beside a small duck scow, which appeared as though it floated in a very realistic reedy marsh. Oars and oar locks were in place. The jockeys of the hunting boat on the mannequin were bulging with ducks. The make-believe hunter held a gun. In the background a Spaniel was bringing in another duck.

The child still tugged, still insisted, "Let's go home!" The father scarcely noticed. He fairly ate up that picture with his eyes. He looked at the dog, at the hunting boat, at the gun. His eyes swept over the banked autumn leaves and in them was a nostalgia so poignant my heart came up in my throat. The child kept on tugging. The man sighed, said, "Yes, we'll go home." They left.

Last evening two sailors were being insistent about something to two teen age girls. The girls would giggle, then look at each other. One of the sailors put an arm about the waist of one of the girls. She giggled in embarrassed delight but withdrew. I pretended to be interested in a window display of corn cobs; foot corn, not field. Now I've never had a corn in my life but the intensity with which I gazed on the display any one passing by would have thought I had ten and had just discovered a means of relief for the first time in my life.

"But Mom said we had to come right home," one of the girls reminded the other. They exchanged looks of indecision. The sailors urged; the girls held back. Finally the elder of the two girls grabbed the arm of the younger one and fairly dragged her away and I heard her retreating voice say, "You know as well as I do that Mom said we—" The sailors shrugged, walked away. Maybe the hunting would prove better down the street.

Fear Mom, I thought. Not present in the flesh but oh, so very near in spirit; and stronger than the oldest temptation in the world.

SOCIETY, WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

By MARIAN LOWRY

CLUB EVENTS FOLLOW NEW YEAR'S ACTIVITIES

Several of the local women's organizations resume activities next week following the holiday vacation.

Zonta club has its meeting next Tuesday evening. Council of the Business and Professional Women's club is meeting next Wednesday noon. Fortnightly club and Ladies of the Elks both meet on Thursday afternoon of next week. Welfare League meets Friday morning of next week.

Other groups, also, are getting back on normal schedules following the holiday festivities.

GETCHELL CLUB

Twenty-one members of the Getchell club met for potluck luncheon Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Allie Clarke, and three guests were present. "Secret sister" names were revealed, and gifts were exchanged. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Lester Read.

NOW EVENT

Neighbors of Woodcraft made plans at the business meeting of the order Thursday evening, for the annual "Secret Neighbor" party to be held at the next meeting, Jan. 11. Mrs. Vernon H. Fields was appointed as chairman of the affair.

Room in Dormitories On Campus Available

Plenty of room in the dormitories at the University of Oregon is assured all who make reservations and let the university know they are coming, according to Mrs. Genevieve Turnpseed, director of dormitories.

Some changes have been made in the housing on the campus due to rearrangement of the men's and women's quarters. The soldiers who were quartered in Mary Spiller hall have left and that hall will be used for women. Mrs. Turnpseed said. Hendricks, Susan Campbell and four units of John Straub hall will also be used for the women. Sherry Ross and Omega halls are to be used for men during winter term. Alder hall also will remain open for men. Spencer and Steiwer halls have been closed, although Spencer will be held in reserve and ready for occupancy in case of an overflow.

State Highway Bill Planned By Judges

SALEM, Dec. 29.—(AP)—A bill which would provide that the counties of Oregon would receive 20 per cent of the state highway commission road funds, with a minimum of \$2,800,000 yearly, will be introduced to the 1945 legislature, the Oregon County Judges association executive committee voted at a meeting here yesterday. The counties at present get 15.7 per cent, with a minimum of \$2,000,000.

TIN COLLECTION UP

PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—(AP)—Tin can collections in Oregon are up 18 per cent this year over 1943. Claude I. Sersano, state drive chairman, said today. He set Oregon's 1945 quota at 161 per cent higher than this year's mark.

COAL IMPORTS UP

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—(AP)—During the week ended Dec. 18, 52,335 tons of coal were moved to the Washington-Oregon area, an increase of 4,095 tons over the previous week.

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RIDING CLUB

PARTY SATURDAY

The Skyline Riding club will hold its December meeting, Saturday, December 30. The meeting and potluck supper will be at the Girl Scout house, opening at 6:30. Twenty-five club gifts will be exchanged. Moving pictures of the summer activities will be shown. Hosts are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dolan and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Davis, Sr.

C. L. AID GROUP

An exchange of Christmas gifts was featured in the social meeting which followed the regular business session of Central Lutheran Ladies Aid society Thursday afternoon. Spencer Creek Aid society members were guests at this meeting, a traditional custom of the holiday season.

A nominating committee was appointed, and election of officers will be held at the next meeting. The January meeting will be held at the parsonage, with Mrs. Harold Aalbu as hostess.

State E Bond Goal Passed, Report Shows

PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—(AP)—Oregon is past its \$34,000,000 E bond goal in the sixth year loan drive with \$785,000 to spare, Edwards C. Sammons, state bond chairman, said today. Three days remain in which to better the total, he said. The state is well above its quota for bonds of all types, with \$150,000,000 against at \$107,000,000 quota.

Elderly Lady Burns To Death In Home

SILVERTON, Dec. 29.—(AP)—Mrs. Mary E. Sloan, 72, burned to death last night in a fire that destroyed her home at Scotts Mills, near here. Mrs. Sloan was living in an upstairs apartment at the house.

The fire was discovered by 11-year-old Nancy Hills and six-year-old Jimmie Hills, children of Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Hills, who occupied the downstairs apartment in the house. Nancy saw a large piece of the burning ceiling fall to the floor and rushed to call her parents at their service station a block away.

The house and its contents were totally destroyed.

DINNER EVENTS

GIVEN AT HOLIDAYS

GARDEN WAY — Dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Jensen on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hoyer, Mr. and Mrs. Bart Nevers, Mr. and Mrs. William Forest, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dalton, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Danielson and son, Jimmie, Mrs. Nellie Green, Miss Marjorie Jensen and Clarence Hoyer, Jr. of Tucson, Arizona.

In honor of Mr. Frank B. Chase, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Chase were hosts at a basket dinner on Christmas to the following: Mr. and Mrs. Truman A. Chase, Miss Janet Chase, Mrs. Juanita Hewitt and son, Mrs. Lloyd Whitaker and son, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Chase and two sons, Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Chase, Mrs. Henry Lowry, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Chase and son, Leland, Mr. and Mrs. Homer Chase and sons, Edsel and Milton, and daughter, Phyllis, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Chase and son Rodney, and daughters, Gwendolyn, Bernice and Barbara, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Chase and daughter, Sandra Sue, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Cyr and daughters, Joy and Mary Elizabeth, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Thomas and son, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Chase and sons, Eldon and Nadine, Mr. and Mrs. Will Schick and daughter Fay, John Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Layton, Walter Layton, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wostell, Harry Wostell, Norman and Neil Chase.

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For Holiday Salads
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A delightfully refreshing salad for rich holiday foods. Family or guests will rave about it.
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Two Clark and Wilson Mills Close This Week

PORTLAND, Dec. 29.—(AP)—Two Clark and Wilson Lumber company mills, at Prescott and Linnton, Ore., will close at the end of this week, W. W. Clark, president, said today.

Only the newer mill at Linnton will be continued, since it is equipped to handle small logs, Clark said. The old pioneer mill at Linnton, one of the oldest in the state, will be closed because of shortage of logs.

The mill closures will be the first steps in a liquidation plan announced two weeks ago. Other steps will be taken as soon as practicable and all operations will cease during 1947.

Clark said plans for disposal

tion of the two mills will be announced for some time. Clark said, he had considerable timber to keep all of the Prescott area mills going for 30 years. "Few men fully realize the seriousness of the timber shortage until results actually become a reality," he said.

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GOD'S WORD
2. And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:
23. And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceedingly sorry.
Matthew 17:22-23.
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