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A Weather Vane of Policy

Chaos is the word to describe the situation in the Orient.  
Chiang Kai-Shek takes last-stand position on Formosa  
off the Chinese mainland. Chinese communist attempts  
to land on two islands off the mainland have been smashed.  
General strike threatens Hong Kong. India recognizes the  
Chinese communist regime.

Into this turmoil, the United States sends an aircraft  
carrier and two destroyers to bolster Asiatic naval forces.  
And at the same time, Washington announces that a new  
vigorous policy to block the spread of communism in the  
Far East is coming up.

The carrier and destroyers are mere indicators of what  
is happening and what is likely to be American policy in  
the Far East. For years the people of the Pacific coast  
have called for a definite policy on the Orient. A do-nothing  
policy during the 'thirties which led to war is still too  
fresh in the minds of the people of the Far West. And it  
looked as if that onlooker-attitude was to continue  
despite the obvious lesson of the recent war in the Pacific  
that what happened in Asia affected this country.

This outward indication of a Far Eastern policy has  
all the suggestion of filling one of the gaps in a global  
policy for the United States. Several weeks ago one of  
the gaps in the Balkans policy was filled by the rather  
casual announcement that this country was opposed to  
aggression against any nation—with that announcement  
being offered for the sake of Yugoslavia, threatened by  
Moscow.

Following along this same line of reasoning, how can  
the United States avoid direct complications in China?  
How can the United States offer to help Tito repulse ag-  
gression and not do the same for Chiang? Aggression  
against Tito could be made to look as much like a revolu-  
tion, an "inside" job, as did General Mao's revolt in  
China.

The time is far past when President Truman should  
make a formal statement on what this nation's commit-  
ments are and what he intends they should be for a global  
policy. Letting casual remarks at a press conference tend  
to reveal points of foreign policy is not fair to the people  
themselves.

As for the naval vessels going to the Far East, that is  
the most ironic part of the whole affair. The adminis-  
tration, which has belittled the position of the navy, finds  
that it must call on that navy to act as weather-vane of  
policy.

Pension Plan Revision

Barnard M. Baruch, 79-year-old elder statesman and  
adviser of presidents, who seldom follow his wise coun-  
sel, in a copyrighted interview with Walker Stone, editor of  
the Scripps-Howard newspapers, says that the retire-  
ment age of 65 should be made later so the nation can  
use the skills and knowledge of its older citizens. He also  
suggested a revision of social security laws to permit an  
accumulation of larger pensions and prevent the aged from  
being "short changed" by increased living costs.

Baruch called the increase in life expectancy due to the  
advance in medical science and hygiene, the nation's "big  
opportunity of the next half century," but he said the  
growing older population could become a "tragic liability  
if abused." Pointing out that the average person can ex-  
pect to live 65 to 67 years compared to only 44 at the turn  
of the century, Baruch said:

"With the advance of longevity we should push back  
the retirement age, not hurry it up. We must get away  
from employment policies based on cold, arithmetical  
averages and take advantage of the skills and judgment  
of older people. It would be a hideous mockery if science  
made it possible for people to live and work longer and  
then society deprived them of something useful to do."

Baruch termed inflation "the worst enemy of the  
aged" for it devalues the pensions, insurance and savings  
on which older persons plan to retire. He points out that  
living costs have increased 65 percent since 1939 when  
the present social security pension scale was adopted and  
each social security check now buys that much less than  
before the war, which "short changes" workers who re-  
tire.

Congress should and probably will make a thorough  
study of the pension issue—for instead of a multitude of  
pension plans, as demanded at present, they should be  
consolidated into one pension system, presumably under  
the federal government. Now we have pensions from in-  
dustries, and businesses, from states, counties, and cities,  
from labor unions, crafts and guilds, from insurance com-  
panies, from secret societies, etc., each affecting particu-  
lar groups. And the pensions should be cooperative with  
each beneficiary contributing proportionately as well as  
government and industry. Worthwhile stabilized pensions  
then might result, a result impossible under the "some-  
thing for nothing" craze.

Higher Social Security Taxes

With the New Year the social security tax on the pay  
checks of nearly 40 million workers will jump from 1  
percent to 1 1/2 percent, the first rise in the history of the  
federal old age and survivors' insurance in its 13-year  
existence.

The increase tax will be \$45 a year on each worker who  
gets \$3000 or more in annual pay. Some 2,700,000 employ-  
ers will increase their contributions to match. The 50  
percent rise will take about \$700 million more each year  
from the income of wage earners and employers. For the  
present, old age pensions won't be any bigger. They start  
at \$10 a month minimum. The average is \$26. The maxi-  
mum now is \$45.20.

There is a bill pending in the senate, already approved  
in the house to increase the pension and insurance bene-  
fits by an average of 70 percent. It will boost the mini-  
mum pension to \$25. The maximum benefit for an aged  
couple would jump from \$85 to \$126 a month. It would  
cover 11 million more workers, including domestic serv-  
ants, the self employed, employees of local governments  
and others not now protected, and apply to the first \$3600  
of income instead of the present \$3000.

The pending bill would boost the tax to 2 percent each  
on employer and employee in 1951; to 2 1/2 percent in 1950,  
to 3 percent in 1955, and to 3 1/4 percent in 1970.

FSA reports that 2,673,888 Americans were receiving  
social security benefits in October. They were receiving  
monthly payments totaling \$54,451,000.

The beneficiaries include not only about 1,250,000 re-  
tired workers and their wives over 65, but widows, chil-  
dren, and parents receiving survivors' benefits.

BY BECK  
Recollections



THE FIRESIDE PULPIT

New Year's Resolution Should  
Be Temperance in All Things

BY REV. GEORGE H. SWIFT

Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

As the last few grains of sand fall from the upper half of the  
hour glass on New Year's eve, we might well take at least a  
bird's-eye view of our past year's successes and failures in the  
realm of personal achievement.

We should do this not to groan over failures or to gloat over  
successes. We should do this to  
provide ourselves with a mark  
to shoot at or to avoid in 1950.  
We should strive to make of  
ourselves something nobler, finer  
and happier than we were in  
1949.

One of the main points in a  
New Year's resolution should  
be to strive for  
balance and  
temperance in  
all things. As  
balance and  
temperance have  
been found to  
be very import-  
ant in matters  
of diet, of exer-  
cise, and of  
study, they are  
just as import-  
ant in the devel-  
opment of things which make  
up one's personality.



Rev. George H. Swift

The perfect physical spec-  
imen without mind or soul can  
become a monster. A mental  
wizard without soul can turn his  
mind to devise and means  
of destroying peoples and civi-  
lizations.  
We have examples of queer,  
eccentric, unbalanced religious  
fanatics who have ignored the  
mind and body as though they  
were in themselves evil. Balance  
and temperance in all  
things are essential to the devel-  
opment of a normal, sane, and  
abundant life!

Has Baby by Telegraph

Fairbanks, Alaska, Dec. 31 (AP)—Mrs. Fred Pete had a baby  
by telegraph this week.

Mrs. Pete, wife of an Alaska railroad section worker at  
Berg, was critically ill with measles and a throat infection  
when birth of a pre-mature five-month infant neared.

Nurse Dorothy Vinson of the St. Marks mission at Nenana,  
bundled up against the 40-degree below zero weather and  
traveled 50 miles down the railroad in a flange-wheeled  
"gasmobile" Thursday.

Jack Swift, Nenana railroad agent, kept telegraphic com-  
munications open from Berg to Fairbanks while doctors Owen  
Cramer and William Smith of Fairbanks passed along in-  
structions to the nurse.

Today doctors said Mrs. Pete probably would have died  
had it not been for Nurse Vinson's work. Mrs. Pete was in  
"much improved" condition.

In the excitement, Swift apparently forgot to telegraph  
the sex of the new-born child and its condition.

SIPS FOR SUPPER

Is Love Drooping?

By DON UPIJOHN

Hopes for the bumper population talked about for the county  
when the census is taken next year may be a little dashed by  
report from County Clerk Harlan Judd's office showing that there  
were only 883 marriage licenses issued over the counter there  
this year as compared with 1129 in 1948 and 1229 in 1946, a drop  
of nearly 400 li-  
censes from the  
big year and  
nearly 300 from  
last year, or in  
fact a let down  
of about 25 per-  
cent. Now the  
question is, is  
this decrease in-  
dicative of a  
falling popula-  
tion or does it  
mean that love  
has been flying out the window  
around here and the young folks  
—and some not quite so young  
—are finding romance blowing  
a little cold? From all the hulla-  
balo about the world of kings,  
movie stars, et cetera rushing  
off to the altars it would seem  
romance hasn't been drying up  
much among the big wigs and  
there's no reason to expect it  
here. Of course, the fact that  
jobs are getting scarcer while  
living costs are still soaring  
around skyward may have a  
little effect in delaying the ap-  
plication for marriage licenses.  
Anyway, the census taken this  
year should answer the question  
but by the time the census bu-  
reau gets around to letting us  
know the answer maybe Cupid  
will be steaming along again at  
the 1946 pace.



Don Upijohn

tion well over the 52,000 mark  
which may bolster up a little  
the idea that some of the bloom  
is being brushed off the love  
factor.

Our Alling Calendar

(Bulletin of World Calendar  
Association)  
Our present calendar is com-  
pletely out of date. It was in-  
augurated by Julius Caesar as  
long ago as 45 B.C. and ad-  
justed by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582  
in order to rectify the errors in  
the Julian arrangement that had  
become increasingly apparent.  
These so-called Julian and Grego-  
rian calendars were admirably  
suited to their day and age, but  
do not provide adequately for our  
modern needs. They're as old-  
fashioned and antedated in this  
advanced era as driving down  
Broadway in a surrey with a  
fringe on top.

Foregoing complaint about the  
calendars now in use refers spe-  
cifically to the figures printed  
on the calendar part, not to some  
of the figures which appear  
above the calendar portion and  
as part of the advertising. Some  
of those should certainly "pro-  
vide adequately for our modern  
needs," and have no relation  
"whatever to a surrey with a  
fringe on top. In fact some of  
them hardly have a fringe on  
anywhere.

It seems the directory publish-  
ers just out with their new city  
directory puts the city's popula-

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Lewis Closes Small Mines That  
Refuse to Submit to Pressure

By DREW PEARSON

Washington—John L. Lewis has announced with considerable  
fanfare the new contracts signed by independent coal mines and  
his union. But he has not announced—in fact, doesn't want known  
—the tactics used to get these small companies to sign new  
contracts.

In at least two cases, Lewis  
closed down mines completely,  
not even permitting them a 3-  
day week, because they refused  
his terms. The  
mines in ques-  
tion are the  
Cove Fork Coal  
company and the  
famous Elkhorn  
Coal company,  
both in Pike  
county, Kentuck-  
y. A sworn af-  
fidavit by Jack  
Picklelesmer and  
Fon M. Johnson,  
operators of the  
mines, states:



Drew Pearson

"We were called to attend a  
meeting at the United Mine  
Workers headquarters of the  
truck mine operators on Decem-  
ber 2, 1949 at six o'clock. We  
attended, and Sam Caddy, presi-  
dent of United Mine Workers,  
district 30, proposed that we  
sign a contract with the mine  
workers which was to extend to  
September 1, 1951.

"A part of the terms were dis-  
closed to us. Included in the  
terms about which we were told  
was a 95-cents per day increase  
in wages, a 15-cents per ton in-  
crease in the welfare fund pay-  
ments, and a broadening and  
alteration of the "willing and  
able clause which we were told  
was to enable the mine workers  
to control the production of the  
various mines in the country to  
prevent an overproduction of  
coal."

Sam Caddy, Lewis's repre-  
sentative, said in substance, ac-  
cording to the affidavit, "That  
we would be able to operate  
five days a week and get our  
own price for the coal, as the  
other mines would not produce  
sufficient coal to meet the de-  
mand."

The most amazing part of the  
negotiations, however, was that  
the mine operators were not  
shown a copy of the proposed  
contract but were expected to  
go to Washington and sign any  
contract presented to them there.  
"We were not to have a copy  
(of the contract) and were to  
agree to the terms presented to  
us without changes," the affi-  
davit states. "However, it was  
held out to us that we would  
be granted the privilege of a 5-day  
operation and special conces-  
sions in the operation of our  
mines if we signed a blank check  
contract."

Two small operators refused to  
be bulldozed and, as a result,  
their mines were closed down  
completely. They were not even  
permitted to work a 3-day week  
as were other coal mines  
throughout the country.

NATION'S POLLUTED WATER

New York's water shortage  
may be a blessing in disguise by  
focusing attention on a long-  
standing menace to the drinking  
water of other parts of the  
nation.

Every year congress votes  
hundreds of millions of "pork

Brawl—That's All

Boston (AP)—Padlocked by authorities because of a brawl,  
a tavern posted this sign: "Closed for altercations."

POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

Rudolph Valentino Landmark  
Of Romance in 20th Century

By HAL BOYLE

New York (AP)—The greatest lover of the 20th century was  
Rudolph Valentino.

He stands out in the first 50 years of our time in the politics  
of amour as Franklin D. Roosevelt did in the politics of people.  
Valentino's dark uncertain charm wasn't based on the choice of  
women alone—but on the vote  
of men themselves.

He brought something alive  
out of the deep forest of sex  
they didn't understand. Even to-  
day, years after  
his death, the  
black-haired  
Valentino is the  
wolf that most  
American men  
would most hate  
to have to com-  
pete with if he  
were still alive.  
Remember  
him in "The  
Sheik?" To  
thousands of  
women Rudy did more than  
Boulder dam to make the desert  
blossom—the desert of emotion  
in their heart.



Hal Boyle

And after Valentino who was  
the most devastating male be-  
tween 1900 and 1950?

Well, a casual male poll says  
he is Francis X. Bushman. Who's  
that? Look up the old silent  
movies. He was a matinee idol  
whose memory has outlived the  
noise of a popcorn-chewing ge-  
neration that revered him.  
Well, we have to mix up our  
chronology a bit to place John  
Barrymore third and John Gil-  
bert fourth. Remember Gilbert  
in "The Big Parade?"  
And who but Clark Gable  
would be fifth. Tommy Man-  
ville sixth, Gary Cooper seventh,  
Ronald Colman eighth, Charles

Boyer ninth and ole sing Bing  
Crosby tenth?

Of course, a poll on great lov-  
ers such as this—taken among  
people we just happened to  
crowd into the subway—has its  
limitations. It leaves out all  
sorts of people, including vice  
presidents.

What about Aty Khan? What  
about King Farouk of Egypt?  
Hasn't love in the first half  
of the 20th century become an  
international problem?

It probably has, but so has  
finance. Privately the average  
man is sure that he himself is  
one of the great lovers of his  
era. And his wife is hardly in  
a position to say he is wrong—  
because what has a good girl  
to judge by?

But Rudolph Valentino is still  
the landmark of romance in our  
century, for all the fact that if  
he were alive today he and Elio  
Pinza would look like two sopho-  
mores.

And why this is true is hard  
for hard-headed and bald-head-  
ing men to figure out. But there  
he is, after all these years, the  
glamorous apostle of cupid even  
in his grave—Rudolph Valen-  
tino.

Most men his name now and  
most men laugh. And some  
women weep. He stood for some-  
thing they yearn for—romance  
unobtainable. And in death they  
miss him for something they  
want and haven't found.

BY CLARE BARNES, JR.  
White Collar Zoo



An Elderly Clerk

MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

King Farouk in Difficult Spot  
To Live Up to Meaning of Name

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

(As Foreign Affairs Analyst)

The name of Egypt's young king—Farouk—means "one who  
carefully distinguishes between right and wrong."

And what's in a name? Well, if Farouk lives up to his it could  
put him on a difficult spot in dealing with his reported intention  
of marrying the lovely 16-year-old fiancée of one of his subjects.

What is right and what is  
wrong when a fellow falls in  
love with another chap's girl?  
Many of the world's moslems  
now look to Cairo as the seat of  
Islam.

In this case the lady is petite  
and lovely Narriman Sadek,  
daughter of an Egyptian civil  
servant. Her fiance is Zaki  
Hachian, a young Egyptian Har-  
vard graduate who is attached  
to the Middle East section of  
the United Nations department  
of economic affairs.

Farouk is reported to have  
had his attention drawn to the  
beauty of Narri-  
man and to  
have fallen in  
love with her at  
first sight. Then,  
says the report,  
the king stopped  
the wedding,  
which was set  
for December 8,  
and the unhap-  
py finance was  
ordered back to  
his job at Lake  
Success.



DeWitt MacKenzie

There's an old saying that  
"the king can do no wrong."  
One takes the respectful liberty  
of doubting the truth of that,  
but it must be conceded that  
a king, especially one as strong  
as Farouk is, frequently can im-  
pose his will without much op-  
position. Anyway the denoue-  
ment of this story-book romance  
will be interesting.

Obviously there must be a  
new queen for Egypt. Will the  
lovely Narriman be the one? If  
Farouk, as reported, indeed has  
set his mind on marrying her,  
will she give up the man she  
loves? Which is stronger—love  
or the glamour of a golden  
throne?

When all is said and done, it  
really is sweet sixteen who is  
on the spot. What a decision for  
a little lass to have to make!

The 29-year-old, six foot Far-  
ouk is a determined individual,  
and he has great influence. He  
is king of a sovereign, indepen-  
dent Egypt which, when he came  
to the throne, was just emerg-  
ing from a period of some 2,500  
years of domination, on and off,  
by other nations. Since then  
Egypt has grown in stature and  
today is a powerful figure among  
the mohammedan countries.

New Year Bells

From Tennyson's "In Memoriam"

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.  
Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.  
Ring out the grief that saps the mind,  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.  
Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler forms of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.  
Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes;  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.  
Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.  
Ring out old shapes of foul disease,  
Ring out the harrowing lust for gold;  
Ring out the thousand wars of old,  
Ring in the thousand years of peace.  
Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.