

THE MOST DIFFICULT PART IS TO GIVE.
 "WE DO NOT QUITE FORGIVE A GIVER. THE HAND THAT FEEDS US IS IN SOME DANGER OF BEING BITTEN."

I'M THE NEWSPAPERMAN-- SUPPOSED TO BE THE KEEN JUDGE OF HUMAN REACTIONS!
 --OH, SURE-- ME-- SHARP AS A MEAT BALL!

OH, YOU JUST DIDN'T STOP TO FIGURE IT OUT, GIB--

YOU SEE I'VE HAD NOTHING ELSE TO DO BUT THINK ABOUT HOW THIS TOWN OF FUTILITY CAN HAVE A FINE MODERN HOSPITAL!

AND I WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO THINK, WITH OUR MILLIONS, WE COULD JUST BUY 'EM A HOSPITAL--

OH-- WE COULD-- AND IN THE END, GIB, WE WILL BUY IT AND GIVE IT TO THESE WONDERFUL FOLKS--

ER--AH-- WE WILL?

OF COURSE-- BUT THAT'S WHERE "THE FUTILITY FOUNTAIN" COMES IN-- A NEWSPAPER CAN DO SUCH WONDERFUL THINGS-- IF IT'S TACTFUL--

YEAH? GO ON, KIT-- HOW?

EVERYBODY KNOWS WE NEED A HOSPITAL-- SO-O-O-- THE PAPER STARTS AGITATION-- BUT NOT FOR A NEW HOSPITAL!

EH? I DON'T GET IT-- WHY NOT?

HARP ON SICKNESS-- HIGH LOCAL DEATH RATE-- HOW FINE A JOB DOC. IS DOING, IN SPITE O' NO HELP-- LET LOCAL FOLKS, ALL BY THEMSELVES, DISCOVER HOW THEY NEED A HOSPITAL--

THEN, GIVE 'EM SPACE IN TH' PAPER TO SOUND OFF-- KEEP NUDGING 'EM ALONG GENTLE, LIKE A BUNCH O' CALVES DOWN HOME-- PRETTY SOON THEY'LL ALL START STAMPEDIN'-- TH' RIGHT WAY!

BUT, KIT! EVEN SO-- WITH SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM EVERYBODY IN FUTILITY, THEY WON'T RAISE ONE-TENTH OF WHAT THEY NEED--

'COURSE NOT, GIB-- THAT'S WHEN WE CHIP IN TH' CASH-- SORT O' CASUAL-- BASHFUL LIKE-- DON'T YOU SEE?

IT'LL BE THEIR HOSPITAL-- THEY DID IT-- THEY'LL BE SO PROUD AN' HAPPY! AND IT'LL HELP FOLKS SO MUCH-- THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS--

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THAT'S HOW FOLKS ARE, GIB-- THEY WANT TO FEEL INDEPENDENT-- THEY HATE FOLKS WHO GIVE 'EM THINGS-- REAL AMERICANS AREN'T BEGGARS!

YEAH! I USED TO KNOW THAT, KIT-- GUESS I FORGOT-- IT'S LIKE YOU SAID THE OTHER DAY--

FOLKS WOULD RATHER LIVE PROUDLY IN A DIRTY OLD COW SHED THAT THEY BUILT THEMSELVES, THAN IN A MARBLE PALACE THAT SOME RICH GUY GAVE THEM--

SURE, GIB! I WOULD! AND SO WOULD YOU!

HAROLD GRAY

Maw Green

WHAT ODDS WILL YE GIVE ME?

WHY, I'LL BET YOU DOLLARS TO DOUGHNUTS!

4-26-53

PHOOIE! THAT'S NO ODDS--

AT TH' PRICE O' DOUGHNUTS TODAY!

HAROLD GRAY

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