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EDITORIALS

DIRTY NAMES NO REMEDY

The seeds of fascism and state socialism are being increasingly sown in this country. There is constant political pressure to make the individual more and more subservient to government. Don't try to blame the "other fellow" for this situation. Don't you think you can remedy it by calling dirty names.

There are a few basic ideals embodied in our United States constitution that can save this country from ever being dominated by a fascist or totalitarian philosophy if the people value the personal rights and liberties guaranteed them by the constitution.

By the same token, the people will lose those rights and liberties in proportion as they allow them to be encroached upon or destroyed by promised political cure-alls which limit individual opportunity under the guise of the state or government being better able to care for the people than the people can care for themselves.

If you are a laboring man, a bank depositor, a life insurance policyholder, the owner of a bit of stock or a bond in one of this country's industrial enterprises, or the owner of a farm or a home, you play a vital part in the American system of free enterprise. You have the right to vote and keep your government your "servant," not your "master."

As you permit government to go into competition with private business by devious methods and designs, you promote the totalitarian idea, whether you realize it or not.

If you are a working man and government takes over the business in which you have been working, you will find you have lost your freedom of action, the right to strike, for instance. You don't strike against the government, that is revolution.

If you are a business man, and government goes into business in competition with you, you suddenly find you cannot compete with government, with its power to tax you, while its own operations are tax exempt.

If you are a farmer, and accept

SEASON'S GREETINGS!

MERRY CHRISTMAS
TO EVERYBODY!



certain "benefits" from the government, you wake up to the fact that you are no longer the independent person of the soil you have always prided yourself on being—you are told what you can do.

And there you have the picture. Free speech, free press, freedom of worship, are wrapped up in free enterprise. When any people succumb to the lure of political codding and give up their right of private action, even in a small degree, they have taken the first step toward state socialism, fascism, totalitarianism or whatever you wish to call it.

We have already started on that road—government doing what the individual has done for himself, with government cooperation and protection, for the preceding 150 years.

The same excuses for greater centralized government, greater benefits to the people, were the inducements offered to the masses in every European country where free speech, free press, freedom of worship and free enterprise are but a memory today.

Our people can see the handwriting on the wall. No man can blame anyone but himself if he allows the trend of government domination of the individual and free enterprise that wrecked the liberties of European nations, to gain headway here.

HARD WINTER MEANS FIRE HAZARD

This is a hard winter. The South recently suffered one of the coldest periods in its history. Snow storms in the central area destroyed scores of lives and millions of dollars worth of property. Many regions have experienced cold of abnormal intensity. And the forecasts say that conditions such as this will probably extend well into the spring.

is in good order. But that is a very big "if" indeed. Most of us tend to put off until tomorrow what should be done today. If the furnace isn't quite right, we figure that it may get by—or that there will be plenty of time to have it fixed in the future. Maybe the chimney is throwing off a brilliant display of sparks—but we guess that there is no immediate danger.

That's the attitude fire likes. That's what makes Old Man Statistics' forecasts of destruction come true. That's why fire costs us hundreds of millions of dollars each year.

Know that your heating equipment is right—don't guess. And that's a job for an expert. Know too that all other fire hazards in your home are under control, and reduced to the minimum. If you do that, this winter won't see the end of your home—and, perhaps, the end of lives in your family.

A True Story From Overseas

By Susan Thayer

He was not used to speaking in public. But as Owen Jenkins, machinist in the Royal dockyards at Portsmouth, rose to address that little group of men assembled to decide whether 500,000 British engineers should walk out of their jobs in shipyards and arms plants for the sake of more money, he was not afraid.

There had been talk of the possibility of a strike for days now and Owen Jenkins had lain awake nights thinking of his two sons. One was with the R.A.F. in Greece, the other—somewhere in the North Seas—both of them risking their lives every moment of the day and night for the sake of their country. And the men in his Union who were essential to the production of munitions his sons

were using were threatening to quit their jobs for the sake of a few bob a week! It was all wrong . . . he knew . . . the kind of thing that would encourage the enemy and demoralize the country itself as well as hold up needed production.

There had been a number of speeches before his turn came. Men who pounded on the table and said now was the time for the working man to get what was coming to him! Now was the time when no one would dare to stand against them! And then, Owen Jenkins rose. He didn't talk very long . . . He spoke very quietly but what he said came from his heart. He told them of his two boys whom he had hoped would never have to go to any war. But they had been gone for months now. "When they come home again . . . as please God they may . . . What could I say to them if I stopped working now while they are fighting? Is a few bob all that matters in this world?" . . . And then, "Are we prepared to supply the enemy commentators with proof for the outside

world that the engineers of Britain want to strike?"

They heard him out and at the end there was a deep rumble of sympathetic applause. Jack Tanner, also of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, endorsed Jenkins' work, asking "Are we at this critical time to withdraw our work when defenses are needed and when our members and our families need defense?"

So the strike was voted down and the work being done by those 500,000 skilled men continued and England was that much stronger because one man realized clearly that the workmen of a nation in a modern war play as vital a part in Defense as the armed forces—that it is as necessary for industry to carry on as it is for the Navy to send its ship to sea or the Air Force to fly its fighting planes!

Hollis Brown has left for Portland with a group of other boys where they will take their final medical test to join the Navy.

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