



"THE PAPER THAT HAS NO ENEMIES HAS NO FRIENDS."
—George Putnam.

The New Year--1952

Soon the New Year will be here. The year 1952 inherits a peck of trouble from 1951. To the persons of cheerful outlook, 1952 looks like a good year. Those troubled souls who live with a black cloud over their heads see nothing but gloom ahead. Excuse us, but we much prefer being hopeful.

If the world were "going to pot" it would have done so in 1951! All the signs were "right". Old 1951 muddled through. The new hope, '52, will have a full quota of days for our use. Even if time "stands still" for some, it will go on for millions of others. Each of us can look forward to the same number of seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks and months in 1952. Yes, '52 is a "Leap Year".

We note in passing to the year 1952 that some people so arrange their lives that "being grown" is very much a happy state of being. We say this because the ways of so many are so boxed in by a hodge-podge of duties and events each and every day that all purpose of "why" the game is being played is lost. The idea of casting off harmful habits and forming sensible ones should be a good foundation for New Year's resolutions.

If we could apply to our lives the searching light played by businessmen upon their wares while taking inventory, then it could be that 1952 would be a blessing. We need a measuring stick for the amount of damage or development done in 1951. Father Time's adding machine might well convince a few of us that those who cast the most votes for a big, fine 1952 will get just that.

Speaking of casting votes—1952 is also an "election year". Some think every year is an "election year"—most persons are not swept out with the tide on this score. Little doubt there is in any quarter but that 1952 will be a "hot" election year. The voter can not fail but note that 1952 is twenty years after that famous year, 1932. Regardless of how "fine" a depression is for some special interests—there is little hope in 1952 that these fellows will be made happy by a depression—1953 is another matter.

We hope 1952 will see the end of that "grand old fraternity" that has long "bought its way" with our public servants while shouting loud and long how terribly corrupt these same public servants appear. Likewise we hope justice will be dealt fair and square on this score. The year 1952 should prove the same thing that all its brother and sister years did—namely all is not black, neither is it all white. There is quite a wide choice of colors in between. Believing entirely the "whites" or "blacks" story is putting too high a price on bad eyesight.

The New Year always inspires a few predictions of the future. We lost our crystal ball somewhere. If the world situation would only clear up a bit, we might even go along with the star-gazer's harmless dreams. However, we'll bet that this old world is still in the universe come the end of 1952. We must admit that the way most of us look now—one wouldn't think that the end of 1952 will see us around, but we will bet there will be millions of humans who will be—at least reasonably so!

We have soil scientists, atom scientists, and war scientists. We suggest that 1952 see human scientists take the world's stage. It is about time John and Mary Doe really got thought about seriously by the "brains". It just isn't nice—this business of being at the beck and call of that "here today, gone tomorrow" feeling. We need education in the science of living so that things are all for the best. Anyhow, the cries of the newborn infant are proof positive that "hope springs eternal"—1952 won't be any different or we'll be pretty confounded surprised!



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Editorial Comments:

IF IT ISN'T 'CREEPING SOCIALISM' WHAT IS IT?

When the government attempts to provide some form of welfare for people, that's "creeping socialism." But when business benefits from government aid, what's that?

What's the \$28,631,500 in tax relief just granted by the Defense Production Administration to the Copper Range Co. at White, Mich.? What's the \$59,693,126 in tax relief handed out by DPA to Caterpillar Tractor Co.? And what of other big tax write-offs to B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co., Kaiser Aluminum and others? We see no full-page ads in newspapers describing how these tax write-offs are certain to weaken the moral and spiritual fibre of American business. We hear no flannel-mouth politicians pronounce that government should not do for business what business can and should do for itself.

So maybe this is all okay and we have no objections. But let's just watch out that the government sticks to handing out tax favors and RFC loans and things like that and doesn't get to fooling around with helping people. Because that is what's known as "creeping socialism." Boo! From The Oregon Teamster

WHERE IS HORST SCHAFFER THIS CHRISTMAS TIME?

Horst Schaffer is, or perhaps was, a young shoemaker of Rosslau in the Soviet zone of Germany. And he took the local communists at their word when they announced a "free discussion meeting" under the auspices of the so-called National Front.

Horst went to the meeting, stood up and declared: "I must say that the shoes of the state-controlled trading organization are not worth the money and are made of inferior material." He then went on to say that since Germany was occupied by four foreign powers he couldn't understand why, in the East Zone, one occupation authority was always praised to the skies while the others were consistently damned.

This was "free discussion" all right, but it wasn't what the Communists allowed. The meeting applauded him, but pandemonium broke loose when police tried to arrest him.

With the help of most of the audience Schaffer managed to escape. Needless to say he did not go home where the police were waiting for him. Next day Schaffer tried to see President Pieck to protest against the police action. He did not see the president but managed to obtain a kind of safe conduct pass from a high police official. A few days later he was asked to report to the local labor exchange at Rosslau. He did. Horst Schaffer has not been seen since.

Where he will be on this Christmas Day no one knows and few would like to guess. There is no peace on earth nor good will for Horst Schaffer and the millions like him behind the iron curtain.

Nor are there tidings of great joy or mercy mild for the hundred thousand Americans who already have or will soon come to grips with the same foes of Horst Schaffer on the fighting fields of Korea.

And all is not calm and far from bright in other lands where those who would silence freedom are seeking to bring more victims under their rule. But as free people we will observe this Christmas in comparative safety, security and comfort. In our holiday will we remember to be thankful that we are not among the millions without cause to rejoice? And will we re-assert the Christmas message of hope and peace to those who have neither.

So that the sons of a shoemaker in Rosslau and a soldier in Korea may someday share the joy that once long ago was promised to all the world by the Son of a carpenter in Nazareth. From The Oregon Teamster

BEHIND THE STEEL DISPUTE

Since wages involve human beings, not merely statistical tables, it may be neither just nor possible to freeze that side of the inflation spiral and then smooth down the price side later. But it is crystal clear that giving

either side a spin, far from halting inflation, simply speeds the spiral's climb.

There are crescendo rumblings of a steel strike on New Year's Eve. We trust the threat so far is no more than part of a strategy to force action by the price and wage stabilization offices, at the same time deploring the fact that labor-management relations have yet to progress to more civilized methods of negotiating agreements than by threats of strikes in essential industries during a hot-and-cold war.

But the steelworkers, like others, are feeling the pinch of prices and, now, of taxes. And they are, in effect, asking why their powerful union can't get something really generous for them. They point to the Capehart and Herlong amendments to the Defense Production Act which, they say, assure business and industry they need not absorb costs or lose profits. An only half-true assumption. But it gives steam to their demands. And their union says it wants a 15 cents hourly wage boost—far beyond present ceilings—and makes 21 other demands, some as "trading stock."

The industry says it will make no offer beyond the six cents an hour allowed by the current formula until it is told how much it may increase prices (a position it took during "reconversion" days.) Economic Stabilizer Roger L. Putnam declares he will authorize no automatic price increase.

So the pressures move from the simple ones of "we want more" and "we can't give it" to more complex leverages, including the government stabilization agencies and, indirectly, the worried public.

We have sketched here a bleakly realistic picture of two great economic groups, each bent on protecting its own interests as best it can. But there is a larger interest involved. And we cannot feel that it is in the national interest for the steelworkers to demand any more than that which will keep them even with the cost of living and with actual production efficiencies to which they contribute. We cannot feel that in these times and in any industry, no matter what the market, it should be assumed that price increases ought automatically to follow wage increases.

It is up to everyone to "absorb" part of the inflation lest eventually inflation absorb most of what he earns and owns. And we urge the price and wage agencies to resist the pressures from the steel dispute to the utmost.—From Christian Science Monitor.

YOUTH SERVES

Sandwiched among the usual and usual misdoings of the younger generation last week were three stories which have a heartening—and heart-tugging—effect.

In Oakwood, Virginia, Mrs. Charlie Gilmore related that her son Raymond went into the Army so that his pay might help to feed his seven brothers and sisters and keep them in school. At 19 he was killed in action in Korea. His GI insurance policy will provide "the only home we've ever owned," Mrs. Gilmore said.

Near Hermiston, Oregon, N. V. Ford was trapped 20 feet below ground while digging a well. His son, Leon, 18, braced himself against boards above his father and for seven hours held the earth from caving in while construction workers rescued them.

At La Canada, California, Jimmy Jones, 8 years old, phoned the sheriff after he heard a bandit take his father and mother from their home at night to open a store Mr. Jones manages. Deputies met the hold-up man at the store, freed his captives, and arrested him.

There are times when the harassed parents of many a brood of roistering youngsters would "sell them cheap." But give them a few years and practically every one will turn in some worthy action—most of them a great many.—From Christian Science Monitor.

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"A Dog's Life" Has New Meaning

The life of the dog in America today is a good one and getting better all the time from the standpoint of longevity and health, stated Dr. H. H. C. Stephenson, professor of therapeutics and small animal diseases at Cornell University, in the course of a veterinary symposium held in connection with the formal dedication of the recently-completed Gaines Research Kennels at Kankakee, Illinois.

As one instance of what good management practices and new developments in veterinary medicine are able to accomplish, he cited the case of one kennel, run by a specialist in nutrition, which was able to carry each of 16 Scottish Terriers past the age of 14 years—a very advanced age in dogs.

The establishment of whole blood plasma banks, according to Dr. Stephenson, is "a milestone in canine therapeutics" which has proved itself of great value when used on dogs in shock, in saving dogs involved in accidents, and in reducing the risks from anesthesia in operations.



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