

Books Are Golden Key, Famed Novelist Asserts

Editor's Note—Last week thousands of communities observed the second National Library Week, sponsored by the National Book Committee in cooperation with the American Library Assn. Here a well known novelist explains what books—and libraries—mean to her.

By TAYLOR CALDWELL
Written For The Associated Press
It is an old aphorism that we never miss what we have until it has gone.
We take books for granted, all the glory, tragedy, humor, sadness and adventure, which books contain, all the companionship and the inspiration, all the new paths

they open for us, the new places, the new scenes, the new people, the new excitement of discovery, the wisdom, the golden thoughts, the laughter.

A book is a passport to the world, and it is only when we lose that passport that we discover that we are homeless, that the world of men is closed to us, that we are bound and exiled, with no place to go, and that we have lost touch with our fellows.

There are some who say that it is much worse to be hungry and homeless and unwanted than it is not to have books. I disagree. I have been hungry, homeless and unwanted, and I filled all the barren space with the books I borrowed and I was consoled and inspired, and I was given courage.

For years the only books I possessed were Shakespeare, an ancient copy of Thoreau, "Quo Vadis" and "Jean Christophe." I read and reread them literally hundreds of times in a place where there were no books at all and nothing to read.

I still have those old books: I wouldn't part with them for anything for I cannot forget what it means not to have books, the loneliness, the emptiness, the shut dark places.

The first terrifying experience of not having books—that is, unable to read them—occurred when I was 14 years old. I had been wandering in some woods and a thorn tree whipped at me and injured my right eye. For two weeks thereafter, I was forbidden to read until my eye healed.

There was music in our home, but music is only a special room of the world. I could walk on the streets, but the street was only a tiny section of living. I could talk with others, but talk does not convey a man's real thoughts. For a few days I had to live in a darkened room, and to this day darkness means terror to me and emptiness, a place without thought or being.

When I was finally permitted to read I fell on books as a starving man falls on food and I could not get enough of them, and I still can't, for without books there is a spiritual darkness.

A home without a library is not a home at all. The library does not have to be a special room. For many years my only library was three wooden shelves I put up myself in a rented room. Once my library consisted only of a suitcase.

Music and pictures, friends and entertainment, are only part of living. But books are all of living, for in them are music, pictures, friends and entertainment. A book contains the thoughts of the ages; the most modern book is only an echo of books written hundreds, even thousands of years ago. It is man's greatest monument—the book. The written word is man's noblest invention. A people without an alphabet and books are a people without civilization. They remain at the primitive level of beasts. "A man who does not read," said Plato, "is a creature who is not fully a man."

Three years ago I had another accident to my eye and was forbidden to read. I tried listening to the radio, both plays and music. I tried visiting with friends. And, I was not only bored but I was terrified. I began to visualize a world without books for me and the thought was unendurable.

So, against my doctor's orders I resumed reading, and it did not matter to me any longer whether or not I was injuring my affected eye. My very loneliness at not being able to read was hurting my eye worse than reading, and the infection cleared up quickly.

All material things could be taken from me and they would matter very little so long as I had my library, and so long as I could travel the long and fascinating world open to mankind only through books.

I have lost much of my hearing, but I hardly miss it, for I have only to start to read to hear voices clearly, and song and laughter and anguish. To paraphrase the Bible, "Heard things are good, but the unheard are sweeter."

Take a book in your hand. You will walk ways you never walked before, see people unknown to you but who echo your most secret thoughts, love again if you are without love or youth, hear wise men speak, listen to consolations and hopes, and see all beauty.

It was said by St. John, "In the beginning was the word. . . . This not only is true of God but true of his children. In the beginning, there is always the word. In more ways than one we die spiritually without books.



"Mother, what are we going to do about my room?"

Secretary Believes Delay In Paying Debt 'Immoral'

NEW YORK (AP)—Secretary of the Treasury Robert B. Anderson said today it would be immoral to postpone paying off part of the record national debt in prosperous times.

Furthermore, Anderson declared a budget surplus that would permit debt repayment is one of the steps required to head off inflation.

"We must realize that long term economic growth in real terms can be achieved only without inflation," Anderson said in a speech prepared for the annual meeting of The Associated Press.

He rejected arguments of some administration critics who want to stimulate the economy through greater federal spending.

"We must not, as we come out of a recession, seek to force the economy into a quick boom which can later injure our long run capacity to produce," Anderson said.

The national debt now stands at 286 billion dollars — the highest point on record.

"To ignore the obligation of paying off some part of our debt during prosperous times is contrary to all of our American traditions of good faith and performance," Anderson said.

"Failure to reduce our debt when we can means passing on the problem of the debt to another generation, which we have no moral right to do."

Anderson said he rejects talk that "efforts to balance the budget are without hope."

He recalled that last January the administration estimated federal revenues would total 77 billion dollars in the 1960 fiscal year that begins July 1.

"Today," he said, "I believe there is even more evidence to support this estimate than there was last January."

This statement conflicted with a recent estimate by the House Ways and Means Committee staff that revenues will fall more than a billion dollars short of the administration's target.

On the spending side, Anderson said the expenditure level proposed in President Eisenhower's budget "continues to be sound."

The Treasury chief emphasized the administration's concern that inflation may develop during the current upward swing of the business cycle.

"However unpopular, we must be willing to exercise at such a time the restraints which changes in monetary controls, government fiscal policy and the maintenance of budgetary surpluses can bring about," he said.

"I am confident that this nation is not now going to adopt a philosophy that inflation is a necessary part of the price of progress."

Inflation would hit everyone's pocketbook, he said, but "the rich and those with the capacity for self-protection would suffer least."

NATO 10 Years Old, But Still Beset By Problems That May Be The Most Difficult To Solve To Date

By RAY SHAW
AP Newsfeatures Writer
Already aged in strife, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has recently celebrated its 10th anniversary facing what may be its most difficult period yet.

NATO is beset with problems, both internal and external.

The big headache continues to be the Communist menace—most important today on the question of Berlin. Worrisome difficulties within NATO gnaw at the alliance's solidity.

If history holds true, NATO should survive the present crises as it did the Berlin blockade, the invasion of South Korea, the Suez Canal difficulty, Middle East trouble last summer, and the Cyprus problem.

The alliance has grown rapidly and powerfully since its founding. Today, in a period of massive change from conventional to nuclear war weapons, NATO stretches a protecting shield of 22 divisions from the Baltic to the Alps. (There are an estimated 20 Communist divisions in East Germany and 15 others in the general area.)

If Russia Premier Nikita Khrushchev makes concessions on his "West get out of Berlin" stand, it probably will be because of NATO's strength and determination to keep Western troops in Berlin.

Russia must look beyond Europe's borders in analyzing NATO's strength. The alliance, linked to the Baghdad Pact in the Middle East and the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization, forms a globe-circling buffer against Communism.

Internally, NATO has these problems:

President Charles de Gaulle of France is reported unhappy with his nation's voice in NATO. Recently he announced he would keep under his own control the part of the French Mediterranean Fleet earmarked for NATO use.

DeGaulle's move in itself, will have little effect on NATO's strength, but it possibly can be interpreted as a dangerous precedent. De Gaulle also is said to disagree with NATO's idea of a nationally-integrated fighting force and the alliance's hands-off policy toward France's Algerian troubles.

Britain and Iceland have a continuing dispute over fishing rights. Some NATO members are unhappy with fellow-member Portugal's dictatorship.

Britain and Scandinavian countries were miffed at being left out of the European common economic market.

Spain's role in NATO is debated. The country is not a member of the alliance, but has four NATO military bases on her soil. The heavy arming of West Ger-

many (nine divisions today, largest single army in West Europe) has drawn criticism from some members. Too, there is disagreement over just how strong NATO should be militarily, and whether missiles with nuclear warheads should be used.

NATO Supreme Commander Gen. Lauris Norstad wants 30 divisions, eight more than at present. He reportedly has recommended intermediate range ballistic missile sites be built in Britain, The Netherlands, France, Italy and Turkey.

These countries have agreed to discuss the idea. Denmark and Norway have refused to accept any missile sites.

What lies ahead? Time will answer that. NATO is at the half-way point on its 20-year treaty, and could be entering an even more important period than the preceding one.

It is the job of NATO's council of ministers, meeting in Washington this week, to decide how to change and shape the alliance to meet the new and differing techniques of war and global politics.

Truman added with a grin. He told a cheering crowd of 2,000 that usually "they don't do this to former presidents until they have been dead 15 years."

Truman, who will be 75 May 8, said he was overwhelmed by the tribute.

The six-room, white frame cottage was bought by the United Auto Workers Union for \$6,000 and given to the state of Missouri. The deed was handed to Gov. James T. Blair by Leonard Woodcock, UAW international vice president.

The State Park Board has restored the house, furnished it in period style and opened it to the public.

Truman was only 11 months old when his parents moved from Lamar to a farm in Jackson County near Kansas City. But that makes no difference to the residents of Lamar, a town of 4,000 population 122 miles south of Kansas City.

Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo) agreed with them in his dedication speech.

"Starting today," Symington said, "people will come to Lamar to study the beginnings of this man's life. All can learn that greatness can be bred in humble surroundings. All can learn of the American ideal of progress by ability."

"All can learn that here, in our country, we have been able to create a very special kind of man — common and extraordinary, lighthearted and determined, kind and firm, able to love his family and care passionately about the future of the world."

Even if Truman never had been president he would be worthy of note, Symington said.

"Because his life and character have been a mirror of America."

Church Offers Organized Aid For Gamblers

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)—Gamblers Anonymous is playing for big stakes in this legalized gambling center.

It is trying to rehabilitate the admitted compulsive gambler.

Dr. Donald R. O'Connor, pastor of the First Methodist Church, started the Las Vegas unit of Gamblers Anonymous. There are other chapters in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Gamblers Anonymous is non-sectarian. There are no dues or fees.

It takes no stand for or against legalized gambling, Dr. O'Connor says. It is not concerned with those who gamble for entertainment.

Dr. O'Connor explains that Gamblers Anonymous is for the person "who gambles because gambling is an addiction he cannot stop or control."

"I realized the need," he says, "because I have seen many homes broken by this disease. Some people simply cannot live this close to gambling."

The group works in much the same fashion as Alcoholics Anonymous.

"Two or more members get together and help strengthen each other," says Dr. O'Connor. "It is simply the old, old principle where two or more indulge in mutual sharing of confession."

What causes a compulsive gambling addiction? "Most of us sense a deep feeling of rejection, of insecurity," one member says. "I wanted to be a 'big shot.' I couldn't find how to do it so I turned to gambling. I wanted large masses of wealth, the material things of the world. I lost my car gambling. I stole. I borrowed. This was insanity."

The new Las Vegas chapter has about a dozen members.

What do casino operators think about it? "I think it's a good organization," says Milton Prell, executive director of the Sahara Hotel. "We don't want anyone to gamble more than he can afford. We want our patrons to treat gambling as entertainment."

Senate Vote On Labor Bill Political Key

WASHINGTON (AP)—Youthful Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass) puts his head into a political buzz saw this week. This will be the showdown voting in the Senate on his labor regulation bill.

Dozens of amendments already have been proposed by senators attacking the complex 59-page measure, from many different angles.

On the 41-year-old Kennedy will fall the principal burden of defending the bill from these attacks. He is author of the measure as well as chairman of the labor subcommittee that approved it.

It probably will be by far the most important bill Kennedy handles on the floor in this Congress; his performance is sure to affect his chances for the 1960 Democratic presidential nomination.

Some legislators long have contended that handling politically charged labor measures is a heads-I-lose, tails-you-win proposition—all loss and no gain.

The Massachusetts senator, in his recent opening speech of the debate, asserted that the bill's provisions not only are strong and effective in meeting union corruption but said also in effect that they achieve a delicate balance of all the forces brought to bear on the legislation. Any substantial tampering with it on the floor, he said, may scuttle the bill.

Several management groups have assailed the measure, contending it is not tough enough on some union practices.

On the other hand, some labor organizations support it only reluctantly, claiming it is too tough and detailed in what they regard as its interference with internal union processes.

TRUMAN TALK
WASHINGTON (UPI)—Former President Harry S. Truman will be principal speaker at the dedication of the two-million-dollar National Guard Memorial Building here May 3, it was announced today.

Adenauer's Party Gets Voting Gain

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's Christian Democratic party is expected to retain control of the state governments in Lower Saxony and Rhineland-Palatinate despite Socialist election gains.

Both of West Germany's major parties picked up support in the elections Sunday of new legislatures in the two states. The socialist gains were slightly larger.

The Christian Democrats retained their majority in the Rhineland-Palatinate House.

In Lower Saxony—a traditional labor stronghold—the Socialists were still the biggest party but again lacked a majority. The Socialist-Christian Democrat coalition government was expected to continue, with the Adenauer party having the dominant voice because of backing from the third-place German party.

With the Geneva foreign ministers' conference in the offing, foreign policy was the major issue in the campaign. The 63-year-old chancellor claimed that only Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev would benefit if the voters endorsed the Socialist demand for more flexibility in bargaining with Moscow.

Socialist Chairman Erich Ollenhauer said his party's gains showed widespread support for the socialist foreign policy platform. It calls for a freeze on atomic weapons and reduction of conventional forces in central Europe to prepare the way for German reunification.

The Christian Democrats won 52 of the Rhineland-Palatinate legislature's 100 seats and the Socialists 37, a gain of one each. The right-wing Free Democrats won 10 and the Nazi-like German Reich party, a newcomer, took one seat.

In Lower Saxony the new lineup in the 157-seat legislature is 65 Socialists, 51 Christian Democrats, 20 German party, 13 Refugee party, and 8 Free Democrats. The Socialists gained eight seats and the Christian Democrats five.



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