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Self-Consciousness

Are you self-conscious when you come into the presence of strangers? If so, would you like to know how to cure yourself?

In the first place, don't worry if you are self-conscious on meeting new people. Many people are more or less. If you are very self-conscious, then you merely have an exaggerated case.

Luther Burbank, the plant wizard, was so self conscious as a boy that if he came in from the field and saw an extra plate on the table, which showed there would be company for supper, he would not come to the table. He would stay outside and eat in the kitchen rather than face someone he didn't know.

The distinguished American writer, Nathaniel Hawthorne, was so self-conscious that when he saw visitors start up the walk to his house, he would become so panic-stricken that he would go down and sit in the kitchen until they were gone. This was not when he was a boy, as in the case of Burbank, but even when he was married. His wife would have to sit in the parlor and entertain the visitors.

These are exaggerated examples of a feeling we all have. So don't worry if you are self-conscious when you meet strangers. It's mostly a matter of degree. The important thing is how to cure yourself. Here are four ways which will be of tremendous help:

First, take a course in public speaking. If the student is taught to get up on his feet and talk, then you will gain poise and self-possession. When you lose your fear of crowds, you lose your fear of individuals.

Second, think about someone else instead of yourself. At the bottom of nearly all shyness on meeting strangers, is this thinking of self. Homer Croy, the writer, is famous for feeling at ease when he meets people. He said: "I'm so much more interester in the person I'm meeting than I am in myself, I forget myself. I get the person to talking about himself, or his interests, and usually we get along fine."

Third. Ask questions. Direct attention away from yourself. Then follow closely what he says. Really concentrate. Think the thoughts he is uttering and thoughts of yourself will disappear.

Fourth. Get out and do things. Don't sit in a corner and envy people who have an easy manner when they meet others.

There they are! Four simple rules anyone can apply.

Democracy or Communism?

How would we like to have our world when this war is over—Democratic or Communistic? Free or not free? It is up to us!

Two, and only two, of the great nations of the earth have avoided involvement in this Second World War. One is the United States of America; the other is Soviet Russia. One is the seat of true Democracy; the other of true Autocracy. They represent the poles of political theory: people's government and master's government.

Which of these principles will survive when the terrible aftermath of this war — this crime against civiliation— has exacted its full toll? That should depend largely upon which — if either— of them is still functioning properly when the rest of the world has beaten itself into a state of desolation and despair.

If American Democracy, which signifies individual freedom and opportunity for every man and woman, is able to ride out the storm triumphantly, then the principle of Democracy will doubtless sweep the world, for—all things being equal--there is little question that he pendulum of human desire will swing toward the American type of individual freedom.

If, however, this nation, which the whole world envies, and to whose shores half the world would rush if able to do so—shall also prove incapable of keeping its people out of war and of saving them from the depression and misery which is sure to follow; then the drowning world will probably reach for the only life buoy which remains afloat—Communism.

The wisest advice which Lenin, the father of Bolshevism, ever gave to his people was: to keep out of the future war which the capitalist nations had prepared for themselves when they wrote the Treaty of Versailles. He prophesied that Russian Bolshevism would inherit the earth if it could remain aloof while Capitalism destroyed itself. He even prophesied when this war would start. He apparently believed that America would follow the same course which it pursued in 1917, and that upon the ashes of Democracy and all other political forms, would rise world-wide Communism.

When this war is over—regardless of which side wins—the fateful years of reconstruction must come; the period when Germany, France, England, Italy, Japan and China must rehabilitate the tens upon tens of millions who have been taken out of useful production and placed in armies and arms-making industries. How can this prodigious task be accomplished successfully? It can't! It wasn't performed successfully after the last war and it won't be after this one. Despeerate, starving Europeans and Asiatics will be grasping madly at any straw'

IF THE UNITED STATES IS IN THE SAME PREDICAMENT THERE WILL BE JUST ONE. It is unavoidable that these desperate people will make comparison between the Democracies which have cast their people into the cauldron of war, and Stalinism which is at peace and—by comparison—happy and prosperous.

Groups, individuals, and "Committees" with fancy names about "defending America" are renewing their interventionist activities. Many of these will probably soon be advocating certain measures which they know perfectly well will drive us bodily into this war. There is only one way to counter this attack when it comes. That way is in the hands of every American citizen who can write the English language to the men he has voted into Congress.

Spirit Of Thanksgiving

In some of the State Thanksgiving Day was observed as a public holiday on the 21st of November; in others on the 28th. Though it has become a national custom to set apart a day in November, Thanksgiving Day is not a national holiday. There is, in fact, no such thing as a national holiday each state having the sole right to establish certain days as holidays.

Any state, therefore, can establish any day its Governor chooses to proclaim as Thanksgiving Day. The President of the United States can proclaim Thanksgiving Day for the District of Columbia and the national possessions. Until 1939 it had been the custom for 75 years, when President Lincoln first asked the people to join in a day of national thanksgiving, for the governors of the various states to proclaim Thanksgiving Day as of the date of the Presidential proclamation. And that date had uniformly followed the old New England custom of setting aside the last Thursday in November for the festival.

Last year President Roosevelt shattered precedent by proclaiming the next to the last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving. Governors coud take their choice between following the Presidential lead or adhering to their own state's traditions. Some set one day for Thanksgiving, some another.

This year Mr. Roosevelt again proclaimed the earlier Thursday, November 21 and many governors proclaimed for their respective states the 28th as Thanksgiving Day. It is all rather confusing but what really matters is not the date of Thanksgiving but the celebration of the traditional American holiday.

More than any other annual occurance, Thanksgiving Day stands in the hearts of Americans as typifying the spirit of the pioneers and founders of the nation. This year, more than in many years past, the people of America need to put their trust in God and give thanks to Him that we have so far been spared the woes which are overwheiming the other peoples of a sorely troubled world.

We are going to be asked to send supplies to England in our own few little merchant ships; and later, if not at the same time, we are going to be asked to protect these freight ships with our warships. We all know the answer!

Just A Reminder

This Week in Washington

THIS WEEW WASHINGTON

Washington, Nov. 28 (Autocaster)—Scrutinizing the election returns and applying the conclusions drawn from them to the probabilities of the future, the best qualified observers in Washington are forecasting that the two most vital topics which will engage the attention of the 77th Congress will be Labor and Agriculture.

The election of November 5 was carried by the Labor vote. The electral votes obtained by the Republican candidate came chiefly from Agriculture. The situation thus created puts it up to the Administration to try to find new ways of bringing the farmers of the Middle West back into the Democratic fold and holding them there, and it gives the Republicans and the anti-New Deal Democrats a defenite target to shoot at, in trying to convince Organized Labor that all Republicans are not enemies of the working man.

Warning to New Deal

The loss to the Democrats of the solid block of mid-Western agricultural states, from the Canadian border down to Oklahoma, taking in Colorado on the west and Iowa on the east, is considered here as a definite warning to the New Deal that its agricultural policies have not been satisfactory to the great bulk of the farm population

There is little doubt that strenuous efforts will be made to remedy that situation by amending the A. A. A., and the thought is risirg in Republican minds of the possibility that Senator McNary's farm program, which was highly favored in the pre-Roosevelt days, may again come into its own. Though defeated for the Vice-Presidency, Mr. McNary retains his seat in the Senate with increased prestige; also, there are four more Republican votes in the Senate than there were in the 76th Congress.

Whatever the Administration and its Congressional supporters undertake to do to appease the farmers, therefore, probably will have to be done with Republican assistance, and if the Republicans play smart enough politics they may come out with the greater share of credit.

In the matter of the Labor issue, the job before the Republicans, as Washington sees it, is to take an advanced position in matters of Labor legislation and also in regard to exemptions from taxation of important industries. The Republican ticket, analysts declare, was defeated by the votes of the workers in the great industrial centers.

Interests Opposed?

Members of organized labor groups had been sold on the idea that their interests and those of the Republicans were diametrically opposed. Therefore, while Willkie carried almost all the rural districts and smaller communities outside of the Solid South, he carried only one city of more than four hundred thousand population. That was Cincinnati, the only industrial center in which the workers are not thoroughly organized. It is also one of the tightest strongholds of Republicanism in America.

Perhaps the best illustration of the way in which the Presidential vote was distributed between urban and rural areas was in New York State. Out of its sixty-two counties Mr. Willkie carried fifty-five; but the other seven included three of the most populous boroughs of New York City and the four great industrial cities of Buffalo, Rochester, Schenectady and Troy. And in those counties the reports of all observers are that it was the labor vote alone which carried them for the President.

The Labor strategy of the "Loyal Opposition" as Mr. Willkie has designated the coalition of Republicans and Independents, has not yet been clarified. For that matter, the attitude of the Republican members of Congress toward any kind of a program in which they would not take the leadership is still somewhat suspicious. They don't know how to figure the political "amateurs" who played such a large part in the Willkie campaign, and who seem to be figuring on taking a strong hand in the new opposition movement.

Amateurs Helped

Congressional pride does not incline members to cooperate with any outside groups, and party regularity balks at making political bed-fellows out of citizens who were Democrats, or goodness knows whats before this last campaign. To which the obvious answer is that the regular Republican Organization under Congressional leadership didn't get very far politically until the amateurs stepped in.

The suggestion has been made that Republican Chairman Joe Martin, who was safely reelected to Congress, has the chance of a lifetime to bring amateurs and united front in preparation for the Congressional elections of 1942 and the next Presidential campaign. That this can be done without any commitment to Mr. Willkie as the 1944 candidate is the belief of the shrewdest political observers in Washington who are the newspaper correspondents who traveled on the Willkie train.

The Free Press

Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes recently loosed a blast at the newspapers of America, intimating that they are not free because over 70 per cent of them failed to express political views similar to the majority of the people—the 51 per cent. majority which voted for President Roosevelt.

Regardless of personal political beliefs, regardless which party we feel best fited to carry on the American tradition, we cannot fail to take exception to Mr. Ickes' intimations.

In the first place there is nothing in the Constitution which says: "A free press means that the newspaper must reflect pubic opinion." The basic idea of a free press and the basic understanding of what it means has been for over a century and a half, "The right of any individual to express his own views in print, within the restrictions of the law." And no law has been passed yet which says that it 55 per cent. of the people are Presbyterians, 55 per cent. of the press must reflect their opinions.

Mr. Ickes further suggests that the ones who are dictating the policies of the press are those big advertisers who keep the newspapers going. Well, just let one of these advertisers try to change the policies of this newspaper and see how far he gets.

One fundamental rule for any successful enterprise is that the people who purchase the product must be satisfied. If this newspaper catered to advertisers it would lose subscribers, and then the advertisers would leave us flat.

The aim of this newspaper is to present the news as it occurs, and views which we think are for the best good of America. Freedom of the press simply means freedom to perform that function.

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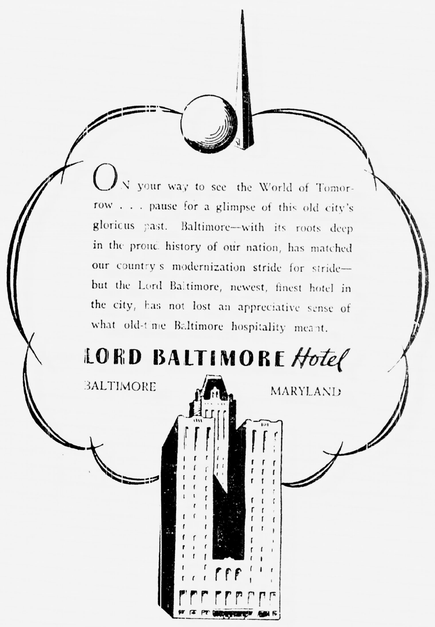

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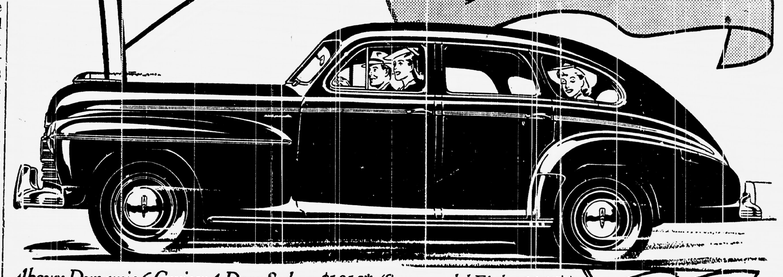

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