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One Way To Lose A War

A certain young man volunteered recently for service in the United States army and was rejected because of high blood pressure produced by improper eating over a long period of time. This boy had worked his way through preparatory school, college and law school. As bright and as fine a young fellow as there is—with a magnificent education and no digestion. They trained his mind but never thought to tell him how to eat properly. So he ate where and when he could—in lunch wagons and soda fountains—without the faintest hint of the tragic fact that he was ruining his health forever.

If you equip an army of puny weaklings with all the modern accoutrements of war and send it out to fight an army of an equal number of stalwart, healthy athletes—the athletes will end up with all the acoutrements and the weaklings will be licked. Hitler would not have got very far if he had attempted to make war with the German youth of 1933—even if his forces had been well armed. Germany had not then recovered from the First World war and the health of her people was well below par. Almost the first system which Hitler inaugurated was health building of the German youth. Travelers used to call them "cannon fodder" as they watched them climbing mountains to make their camps; and "cannon fodder" they turned out to be—but the physical stamina which they acquired in those days has won them many a hard fought battle.

The same hardening, health creating processes are now being used in our camps; and next time you see a boy who has spent six months in one of them—try to remember what he looked like before he left home. Six little months make marvelous changes—a year does more. But American boys shouldn't need six months or a year to make them fit for army or navy work; and they wouldn't need it if they had been properly fed. And "proper feeding" doesn't mean stuffing one's children with doughnuts, fried potatoes and soggy pie crust—although it is possible to swallow these popular favorites and still live—provided they are accompanied by fruits or vegetables or something else which isn't dumped into a pan of grease and then into the "pan of the growing child.

The Good Lord is the only one who knows why devoted American mothers won't take the trouble to "think health" when they are cooking meals for their children. We can't expect a youth—out on his own—to resist the temptations of the modern soda lunch counter. He usually gets away with a "stack of wheats" submerged in syrup, two nice greasy doughnuts and a double chocolate banana split nut Monday—or some equally indigestible concoction.

We have probably a long hard war before us. It is going to require healthy young men to win it—and now that we are in it we MUST win it. Pastry and fried food won't do it!

It costs very little more to cook sensible food sensibly than it does to cook stupid food greasily. But suppose it cost a great deal more: surely one's health is the most important thing in life—and one's health is founded between the ages of one day and 20 years.

So those of us who are too old or too something to help our country actively, can at least do one, or both, of two things: we can feed our children "thoughtfully," if we have any, and we can buy defense stamps if we haven't. These two are the best investments which it is possible to make today.

—Buy Defense Bonds—

4 "Musts" For War Time

This year's war budget alone, as proposed by the President, will be $56,000,000,000— more than half the estimated national income. That makes it mandatory that the Federal government and the people insist upon a workable fiscal policy which will make it possible to spend this money without bringing on an internal fiscal collapse.

First all must pay higher direct and indirect taxes. And direct taxation must be extended to the very lowest income brackets.

Second, every non-essential, non-defense government activity must be stopped and appropriations sharply reduced in many non-defense bureaus.

Third, the people must make every possible reduction in their living expenses, and buy Defense Bonds and Stamps to the limit of their abilities.

Fourth, the government must not loan or spend money for any purpose that can be financed by private business.

This last is extremely important. There are litterally dozens of Federal loan agencies. Many of them operate in direct competition with the banks, thus subjecting the burdened taxpayers to needless expense and risk. The banks, as their spokesmen have said, are able to materially expand private and defense financing. They must be permitted and encouraged to do it.

The President's message on the State of the Union indicated the extent to which all must pull in their belts and help win this war for liberty and security. And government itself must do precisely the same thing.

Make Him Want To Do It

Want a hint on how to collect dues for your club?

To collect money for an organization that has a social foundation usually requires more tact than a like campaign for a philanthropic organization.

So when the following letter was sent to 75 members of the association of the secretaries of the various chambers of commerce in Texas, the result was poor. One man was so mad he wrote a letter denouncing it. Here is the unfortunate letter:

"We are trying to induce new Chambers of Commerce managers to join our association, but we are handicapped by the fact that a number of the older managers have not responded with their dues as yet.

"You intend paying your dues. Why not do it now and give the membership committee a little assistance? Send your check at once to —— ——Texas.

Sidney Kring Harlingen, Texas president of the Texas Chamber of Commerce Managers, reconstructed the letter and suggested that the following would be much better:

"The president of our organization has placed an honor and a responsibility on me by asking me to serve this year as chairman of the membership committee for the Texas Chamber of Commerce.

"No man in our organization has worked harder for its success than you have, so I am coming to you for advice and suggestions. What would you do to build membership and maintain interest of our professional co-workers in our state association?

"You are recognized as a leader in you profession, and surely your suggestions will aid me to bring more members to share the inspiration found within our organization.

"With sincere assurance of my appreciation for your assistance, and with best personal regards, I am. Most truly yours."

The response to such a letter, says Mr. Kring, would probably bring a reply that would read something like this:

"You have flattered me in your letter asking for my help with the membership activity of the Texas Chamber of Commerce Managers association. I have ben genuinely interested in what TCCM and its associations have meant to me and I am anxious to bring such inspirations to my fellow secretaries in the profession, therefore I shall be glad to do what I can to help you.

"First, find attached here to my check for my annual dues; I just neglected sending them sooner.

"Next, I would suggest that as many of our present members make a personal visit to the non members in their immediate area; second best, a letter telling them what TCCM has done for us and what it should mean to them ought to help.

"If you will advise me the names of the non-members in my section of Texas I shall make a special effort to contact them."

That kind of letter is better than the one originally sent because it refrains from criticising the person receiving it, and makes him want to do something. The writer of it gets cooperation instead of antagonism. Always try to make a person want to do something, instead of trying to force him to do something.

'Hurry, Cut the Red Tape!'

This Week in Washington

It is the growing opinion here that partial dictatorship will have to replace action measures which are vital to the preservation of our national economy.

Although partisanship in congress has been pretty well hushed up, the approaching congressional election is obviously influencing and delaying legislation.

The price control bill is the present glowing example. President Roosevelt told congress last summer that this legislation must be rushed through in order to prevent prices from sky rocketing. But the bill has now been in the hands of congress for almost six months and is still too weak to stem many of the price rises which already have cost the public over $2,000,000,000.

When a price control bill was passed by the house, even many of those who voted for it admitted that it didn't have any teeth in it and that the house had decided to pass the buck to the senate. But the senate, after weeks of needless delay, refused to accept the responsibility for curbing prices on many commodities and finally agreed on what was properly termed a "farm relief measure" rather than a price control bill.

In its present form it looks as though we'll be right back where we started from six months ago, with prices continuing to go higher and higher. The next step will probably be to put more power into the hands of Leon Henderson, director of civilian supply, and let him dictate what prices will be on one line of goods after another.

It is agreed by most observers here that congress can only blame itself for the power it will gradually be forced to turn over to individuals if it continues with its present unsatisfactory policies in the face of this great national emergency.

Another example of growing dictatorship is the vast amount of power given to the head of the new war production board, Donald Nelson. This step, however, has met the general approval of all factions. For many months business leaders have criticized the President for not passing on some of his powers to one man who could dictate production policies. The President has now made that move and has appointed a man whose ability is respected by everyone.

Mr. Nelson, former $70,000 a year vice president of Sears-Roebuck, actually has the assignment of winning the war so far as the winning of the war depends on the production of tanks planes, guns, ships and other equipment. He will be able to make decisions which have never before, even during the last war, been vested in any man other than the President.

Although the Senate Truman committee, investigating defense production, has made some startling statements about last year's inefficiency and the lack of co-operation of some industries, most of the reports seem to be taken with a grain of salt here.

The charge, for example, that the automobile manufacturers could have produced a lot more war equipment last year if they had made less automobiles, has been answered satisfactorily by leading automobile men. They pointed out the enormous job of making ready for mass production of war supplies and showed why the continuation of automobile manufacturing did not interfere with maximum speed in getting the tools and buildings set for war production. These statements are generally accepted here and it is admitted that industry in this country is getting into all out war production faster than it did in any other nation. The only justification for criticism seems to be that automobile manufacturers were premitted last year to use an enormous quantity of needed materials in making automobiles.

Leaders of the war effort here are generally impatient over charges of neglect during the past year. In the few instances where neglect or delay might properly be charged, they are more in a mood to let by-gones be by-gones and consider reports on past activities only in the light of how inefficiencies can be quickly eliminated.

With Mr. Nelson in the driver's seat, with William Knudsen in charge of production for the army, and with a board under Mr. Nelson made up of men who already have proved their ability to get things done, the feeling here is that Washington is all set to work out production schedules which will make it possible to attain the gigantic production goals of President Roosevelt.

TRUTH EMBODIED IN A LIFE

Ellen Hutchison

A truth that shines within a life
More potent is than spoken truth;
For one may make a splendid speech
That his own life denies forsooth.

But truth that's clothed with flesh and blood
Speaks forth to us in thunder tone.
Its beauty grows upon us, too;
Its worth we cannot help but own.

When Mary Read made up her mind
To live with lepers all her days,
Her pity glowed in all her deeds,
And well does she deserve our praise.

When Livingston plead for the slaves
And he himself did all he could,
His words and prayers had full effect;
'Twas thus he pictured brotherhood.

When Jesus Christ was here on earth
And said to us, "Love ev'ryone,"
His life and death backed up that word,
And He thus showed us how its done.

If you'd have others share your views,
Just line them out, though fierce the strife,
Consistent, loving, true as steel,
And glowing life will tell on life.

Possessions Alone Valueless

There was a wisp of a man who was so frail that his wrists were no larger than a child's; when he walked someone had to hold him by the arm. He was eighty-two years old. Forty-two years of that time had been spent in one house; and it was dear to him as houses are to people who have lived in them a long time.

He found he must leave the house and never return. Not only the house but the city; and not only the city, but the state. He could not take what he wished. He had written books, but he could not take them with him, for they had been burned.

For President Roosevelt, finding names for most of the Navy's warships is both a duty and a hobby.

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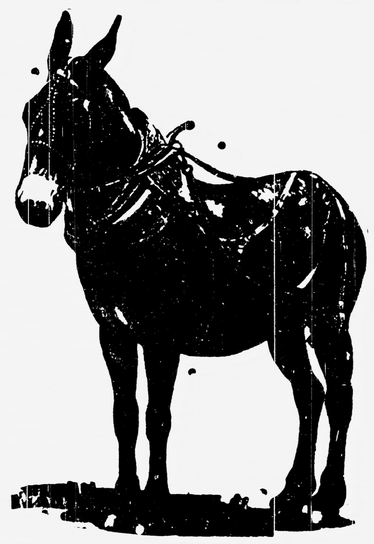

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