

It Seems to Me

By

Heywood Broun

THE President of the United States has drawn with sharp and clear a line as Colonel Travis dug with his toe across the dirt floor of the Alamo. It is the right of every one either to walk across and take his place beside the leader or to stand stock still as indication of his opposition.

But the day of the half-and-half fraternity and the one-third and "but" boys has ended definitely. "He who is not with me is against me."

A motley crew are those who will not come across. The army which stands out the new order is made up of individuals both red and rugged.



Heywood Broun

Foreign Legion Members

BUT in spite of the various uniforms worn by those who insist upon standing out, the issue is plain enough. The fight lies between the forces which wish to go back to the structure which we knew under Hoover and Coolidge and Harding and those who are convinced that the old order is dead and not merely sleeping.

Until President Roosevelt appeared before the seventy-third congress it was said with some fairness that the purposes of the administration were shrouded in a certain amount of mistiness. Even within the official family itself some held that recovery was the only purpose to which the government should devote itself. Admitting that the ship of state had suffered a rather nasty accident, they held that nothing need be done but wait for the coming of a higher tide. They would put to sea again as soon as the keel could be disentangled from the mud.

Now the President has spoken. He has announced the launching of a brand new craft.

Booking a Cabin for Two

AND I'm for the ark. I'm not among those who feel that it "ain't going to rain no more." If we must go up the gangplank two by two it is my intention to team up with the first available elephant. We elephants do not forget. I still can remember the sleight-of-hand by which Mr. Hoover made the chicken come out of the pot and disappear into even thinner air.

I'm for the new deal. It may bog down far short of the places to which I hope that it will go. But look at the old deal. "All ashore that's going ashore!"

I'm for the magical islands that lie ahead of us out there where the blue begins. Anchors aweigh! If it is held against me that on numerous other occasions I have yielded too readily to enthusiasms and the spell of adjectives, I readily will admit the impeachment. It is a mistake, perhaps, to waste all your warm words early in life. The prodigal critic of literature or life may come in his declining years face to face with some masterpiece and have nothing left to say. Such a spendthrift fumbles in his purse and finds nothing except small change in coins of nickel and copper praise. And these are worn smooth through overuse. Still there is something to be said for Cool Old Johnny.

He has had fun for his adjectives. There is a compensating glow in the heart of the young critic when he remembers the day an obscure author came to him asking bread, though rather expecting a stone, and he with a flourish reached down into the bread box and gave the poor man layer cake.

Upon Shooting the Works

AFTER all," one of the young critics told me in justifying his mode of life, "it may be just as tragic as you say to be caught late in life with a masterpiece in front of you and not a single adequate adjective left in your purse. Yes, I'll grant you that it's unfortunate. But there's still another contingency which I mean to avoid. Wouldn't it be a rotten sell to die with half your adjectives still unused? You know you can't take them with you to heaven. Of what possible use would they be up there?"

Even the bravest superlatives would seem pretty mean and petty in that land. Think of being blessed with milk and honey for the first time and trying to express your gratitude and wonder with "The best I ever tasted." No sir, I'm going to get ready for the new eternal words by using up all the old ones before I die."

And so the new deal gets my adjectives. I think it's in for a run.

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Questions and Answers

Q—Can an American citizen who was formerly a British subject, regain his British citizenship by returning to England?

A—He first must comply with the requirements of the British naturalization laws.

Q—Where is the newspaper "La Prensa" published?

A—Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Q—Give the correct spelling of judgment.

A—Both judgment and judgement are authorized by the Standard dictionary.

Q—What religion is practiced by the majority of the people of Poland?

A—About 75 per cent are Roman Catholic; 12 per cent Russian Orthodox; 10 per cent Jews; and 3 per cent Protestants.

Q—Did the United States government issue commemorative coins of a Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago?

A—No.

Q—In which book of the Bible is the reference to the birds of the air beating their nests, but the Son of Man having no place to lay his head?

A—Matthew 8:20 and Luke 9:58.

Q—What is the source of the quotation: "What's in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet."

A—Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliette," Act III, Scene 2.

Q—How many lives were lost in the American army and navy during the World war?

A—The total for both branches of the service to July 1, 1919, was 125,500. The deaths in the army, including the marines attached to it, were 115,660.

Q—Who supervised the production of the motion picture "Forgotten Men?" Were actual war scenes included?

A—The scenes were compiled and supervised by Samuel Commens, assisted by Edward Gellner and Louis Goldberg, from official war films. It was released by Jewel Productions, New York City.

Q—How many trained and untrained nurses are there in the United States?

A—The 1930 census enumerated 294,189 trained and 153,443 untrained nurses.

Q—Where are the Pocono mountains?

A—In the eastern part of Pennsylvania between Stroudsburg and Scranton.

Q—How many children did General Robert E. Lee have?

A—Seven: George Washington Curtis, Mary, William H. Fitzhugh, Agnes, Annie, Robert Edward and Mildred.

Q—Name the Chinese minister to the United States.

A—Mr. Sao-Ke Alfred Sze.

Q—What was the Dorr rebellion?

A—It was the outcome of an essentially democratic movement in one of the last strongholds of conservatism, on the question of manhood suffrage. On May 3, 1842, the "suffrage legislature," assembled at Newport, R. I., with Thomas W. Dorr, as Governor, King, the legitimate Governor, proclaimed martial law. The suffrage party appealed to arms. Their troops were dispersed and Dorr fled.

Q—Was Henry VIII peculiarly tall?

A—He was nearly 6 feet 4 inches.

THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

Code Maneuvers Seen Threat Against Liberty of Speech

This is the last of a series of articles on "Freedom of the Press," explaining why this issue is important to every newspaper reader.

BY WILLIS THORNTON
Times Special Writer

IT is in time of war or other emergency that freedom of expression always is in greatest danger.

And the first words of the national industrial recovery act are: "A national emergency . . . is hereby declared to exist."

That makes the editorial mind turn immediately to the war-time emergencies which so often have meant censorship and oppression.

That is why American editors have watched so carefully the development of NRA and the rest of the new deal as they may affect, directly or indirectly, freedom of expression.

That is why it is important to every man—because any restrictions on those liberties are restrictions on you, the reader, as well as on the publisher.

THE recovery act then goes on to state that "Whenever the President shall find that destructive wage or price cutting or other activities contrary to the policy of this title are being practiced in any trade or industry or any subdivision thereof" he may, after public hearing, place that industry under license.

That means he can refuse to allow certain companies to carry on, simply by refusing them licenses. From such decision there is no appeal, and fines of \$500 a day for operating without license are provided.

Now if a manufacturer is producing pickles, there is little chance that he would be refused a license except for destructive wage or price cutting.

But in the case of a newspaper, editors point out that "other activities contrary to the policy of this title (act)" might well include printing material critical of it. And if the government took it that way, it would be a plain case of licensing the press and controlling its utterances by threatening to refuse a license.

THAT is why many editors have insisted that any code they sign must contain a specific statement that they do not relinquish any of the Constitutional rights of a citizen to print and publish freely, though of course, the newspaper code, whether or not it contains such a provision, can not exempt the press from the NRA, a law of congress.

This "licensing" provision of the act, however, expires June 16, 1934, and vehement assurances have been given by the administrators that no such use of the licensing power is contemplated by President Roosevelt.

It is not expected to be a real factor in making the publishers' code, though publishers are likely to insist on a free press clause.

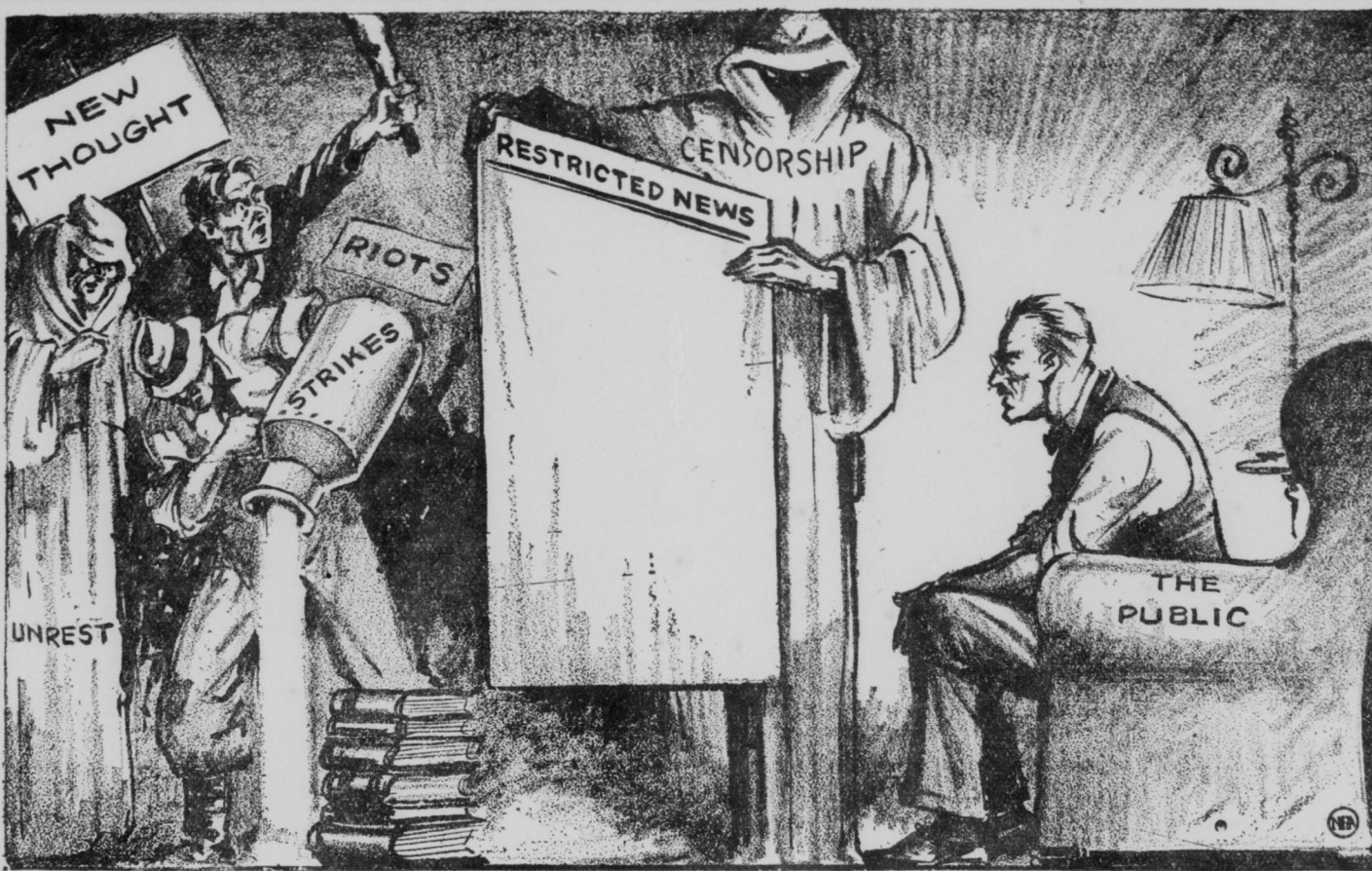
That is because the NRA is a law of congress, and not of their doing.

But anything the publishers sign such as the code, must contain an assurance that they themselves are not giving up the constitutional right of freedom of expression. It all will be ironed out very soon.

BUT there are many other straws blowing about which indicate that the present government, like any government in power, grows restless under criticism from time to time and wishes to have greater control over what people say and think about it.

The very reluctance of the code authorities to include a free press clause in the publishers' code, saying it was "unnecessary," led to suspicion on the part of the editors. If it was merely "unnecessary," why not just put it in, anyway? they asked.

Then along came the two "tempests in teapots" in the NRA and the treasury department. Neither was a clear case of viola-



"THE BLIND"

Drawn by Edmund H. Gunder

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tion of the freedom of the press, but both showed that this government is no different from any other government, Republican or Democratic, dictatorship or commune.

All try to get the kind of publicity they want, by one means or another.

GENERAL JOHNSON, after announcing that NRA was to be conducted "in a goldfish bowl," became annoyed by unfavorable statements on the workings of NRA by James True, author of a "news letter" on Washington affairs.

Johnson barred True from his press conferences. This was, of course, only indirectly a restriction on freedom of the press, but such penalties cast shadows over the mind of every reporter, and none feels as free as formerly, when he sees that his access to news sources may be closed if he does not "toe the line."

Secretary Ickes and Solicitor Margold of the interior department already had ordered subordinates in their department not to give information to newspapermen. This order was rescinded only after strong protests by newsmen.

Then Acting Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr., no more than succeeded to Secretary Woodin's chair than he issued a similar order, and further ordered that no statistics be issued by sections of his department except through a central board.

tenborn, a noted news broadcaster, is this:

"Broadcasting stations need the co-operation of federal authorities. They wish to remain on good terms with the authorities at Washington . . . No one out of tune with generally accepted principles or policies is apt to be welcomed 'on the air' . . . Unknown to the general public, there is a thoroughgoing radio censorship already in effect. It operates quietly and efficiently, through a process of exclusion."

THESE events, while not literally infringements on freedom of the press, show a tendency of officials to grow thin-skinned as criticism arises. And one of the basic requirements of an official under democracy is: He must be able to "take it."

Radio, which theoretically ought to have the same rights to speak facts and opinions as a publication to print them, already is hobbled by licensing.

This probably was unavoidable, as the air has room for only a limited number of stations, whereas, printed matter may be produced without limit and still not exclude the other fellow from the field.

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ROUNDING ROUND THEATERS WITH WALTER D. HICKMAN

THE Motion Picture Herald, an authentic movie journal, each year finds an answer to the question—"Who are the ten biggest money-making stars in this country?"

This year the publication asked 12,000 exhibitors to answer that question from a period starting Sept. 1, 1932, to Sept. 1, 1933.

Marie Dressler was voted the "biggest money-making star of 1932-1933," according to the results of the poll.

The others, according to the order of ranking by the theater owner ballots, follow: Will Rogers, Janet Gaynor, Eddie Cantor, Wallace Beery, Jean Harlow, Clark Gable, Mae West, Norma Shearer, and Joan Crawford.

It may be surprising to note that Miss West is in eighth position. That of course is due to the fact that since the poll closed, Mac's last picture has struck its tremendous stride which may put her in first place when the next poll is taken.

MISS DRESSLER for the second time gets first position as the biggest money drawing star in the business. Of course Greta Garbo is missing from the list because she "tanked I go to Sweden."

Ernest A. Rowland, managing editor, in sending the result of his remarkable poll, states:

"Miss Dressler repeated the victory she won in the 1931-32 survey. Will Rogers was ninth in that poll and Miss Gaynor second."

"It is to be noted that feminine amateur players alternately shared the first eight rankings in the current survey."

"The period covered was Sept. 1, 1932, to Sept. 1, 1933, and 163 players were nominated by the exhibitors. Ranking was determined by the total number of citations received by each player. Exhibitors were asked to make their nominations solely according to the box office strength of the pictures in which the players were featured."

The questionnaire read: Please list the ten players whose pictures drew the greatest number of patrons to your theater from Sept. 1, 1932, to Sept. 1, 1933, without regard to age of picture, net profit, length of run, nature of competition or other conditions (weather, etc.) during exhibition."

In the cases of Miss Dressler and Will Rogers, winners of first and second places, respectively, it was found that the preponderance of votes cast specified the three first positions.

"The exhibitors' choice also indicates the type of product preferred by the public. Five of the ten winning players appeared for the most part in comedy-dramas, three in drama, two in comedy. Players in so-called western pictures also received a number of citations."

This poll tells its own important story and that every exhibitor has a right to consider because his public helped to make the answer.

In the Jan. 6 issue of Motion Picture Herald, a complete survey of the vote is given. I have been given the right to reproduce the result in this department.

DEATH took a big toll from the film industry last year, according to the Film Daily. The

LIKENS EUROPE TO AN OLD MAN

Upton Close Says Continent Has Too Much Past and No Future.

"Europe today is like a senile old man—too much past and no future."

That was the statement of Upton Close, newspaperman and an authority on Asia, made before a Town Hall audience at English's yesterday.

He maintained it made no difference to the future of America what Europe does as "we are not going to get messed up with her again."

"As England enters into secret negotiations with Japan, that is vastly more important on our future than our negotiations with England or Japan," he said.

He declared that "our front door now is the Pacific and not the Atlantic" and that events to come very soon around that front door will shape the future destiny of this nation.

Mr. Close asserted that President Roosevelt was elected "because he fooled the people by not telling them what he would do."

"The President is telling you now what is going on in this country," he said, and predicted that the people are going to be divided on the question of going the entire way with him.

He stated that the President, for diplomatic reason, can not tell us what is going on in the Pacific, but he will by April of this year, or in 1936 when treaties expire.

NERVOUS BREAKDOWN SCOUTED BY DOCTOR

California Psychiatrist Terms Condition Compromise.

By United Press

BERKLEY, Cal., Jan. 6.—There is no such thing as a "nervous breakdown," Dr. M. C. Reid, University of California psychiatrist, claimed today.

Actually, Dr. Reid said, the condition termed a "breakdown" is a mental "compromise."

"A typical case that we have in college," the psychiatrist said, "is the student who attempts to take subjects in which he is uninterested or for which he is mentally unadapted."

"Unable to force himself to give the concentration to master these subjects, he worries continually, and at the approach of finals he attempts to drive his brain and will power."

"The result from a case of this kind is that the conscious mind is determined to carry on, but the unconscious mind rebels. The so-called nervous breakdown is a compromise. The individual 'saves' his face and the scorn of the world is changed to sympathy and solicitation. This is an unconscious evasion of responsibility."

Relaxation was cited by the psychiatrist as an aid to overcoming such conditions.

DUKE TO BALTIMORE

Don Robertson, a former protégé of Connie Mack, has been signed by the Baltimore Orioles. He is an infielder who starred at Duke university.

FESTIVAL OF KINGS IS OBSERVED HERE



The three queens, selected by the kings in the "fete des rois" old French Christmas season celebration, which was held at the Washington last night. From left to right, Mrs. Jeanne Morlock, baker of the "galette," in which the gifts were hidden; Mrs. L. R. James, Ft. Harrison, and Mme. Yvonne Chamilovitch, Tudor Hall.

Queens Chosen and Cake and Wine Are Served as of Old.

In accordance with an old French custom, the "fete des rois," or festival of kings, was held Thursday night at the meeting of the Alliance Francaise d'Indianapolis, at the Washington.

A large flat cake, known among the French peasantry as "La Galette des Rois," and prepared by Mrs. Jeanne Morlock, was served with wine, as the climax of the festivity. Hidden within the cake were small doll figures. Roland Lambert received the first prize from the cake, and, as "king" selected Mrs. Morlock as queen for the ceremony. Other kings were Edward A. Petri, who chose Mrs. L. R. James, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, as queen, and Professor Clyde Aldrich, who selected Mme. Yvonne Chamilovitch, Tudor Hall, as queen.

Explanation of the fete was given by Mme. Chamilovitch.

The "fete des rois" is the French celebration of the three mythical kings, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar, whose story is older than Christianity. The celebration has taken on a Christian coloring, and the three kings have become identified with the three wise men, who made the pilgrimage to visit the Christ child in Bethlehem.

In Germany and Austria, the festival is called "The Day of the Three Kings." It originally was celebrated by mummings, who dressed

as the kings, and went about the countryside, singing and accepting contributions of cake and wine from the peasants. Later, the custom of baking the cake, or "galette," was adopted, with the three kings being selected as they cut the prizes from the cake.

It is celebrated after Christmas since the custom in the Christian churches for many years after the birth of Christ was to celebrate not the birth, but the baptism. It was at one time known as the "celebration of the pilgrimage."

BRITISH ENGINEER IS SHOCKED BY AMERICA

Royal Scot Pilot Finds Children Ignorant of "Please."

By United Press
LONDON, Jan. 6.—The driver of the "Royal Scot," the British engine which just has returned from its American tour, is scandalized at the manners of the young hopefuls he met in Canada and United States. The children displayed a complete ignorance of the word "please," declared Engineer Gilbertson on his return. But he was full of praise for their mechanical intelligence.

His engine was often referred to as a little sewing machine, said Gilbertson. But the scooters, on closer inspection of this midge, compared with the giant American "hogs," were full of praises for its mechanical construction. Especially admired was the smooth perfection of the brakes.

Bombay, India, is located on the Arabian sea. The giant water has a tongue two and

Fair Enough

By

Westbrook Pegler

I THOUGHT back in the days when the late Tex Rickard was promoting his million-dollar prize fights that I had some conception of the business of big money, but I have come to realize just this minute that the most he ever handled on any of his productions was hardly any money whatever. This was the sum of \$2,500,000 collected from the patrons of the Tunney-Dempsey civil uplift spectacle, which was intended to make Chicago a better place to live.

In Washington, in these times, Mr. Rickard's gross handle, meaning all the money that he ever put his fingers to in all the years of his life, in Nome and Reno and the Argentine and in connection with all his prize fights in New York, Jersey City, Philadelphia and Chicago, hardly would buy a rubber band big enough to go around the American national debt.

Mr. Rickard might have had a rather casual acquaintance with as much as \$15,000,000 in his time and I was saying that, although it is hard to realize now that I ever could have been impressed so easily by trifles. I can remember when I regarded that much money as something on the order of a chunk.

2,000 life times as lucky as the one he did live to handle as much money as the people of the United States will owe in June, 1935, when the deficit will come to roughly, \$31,000,000,000. They use the word "roughly" down here nowadays in speaking of the figures of the national debt and it seems appropriate at that, for they speak only in big coarse figures.

Just a Few Billions

I FIND among my friends, the Washington journalists, a tendency to speak in terms of billions and some odd hundred millions and there is one young man of my acquaintance who has been doing a rewrite job for some time on treasury figures who has asked the typewriter service man to see if he can't fix him up a type-bar on his machine which will print nine zeroes at once.

Nobody seems to have any real understanding of the actual amount of a billion dollars. The boys sit around and talk six billion this and ten billion that and the statesmen look at the figures and gulp and just trust to God and the future and the luck of the U. S. A.

It is very doubtful that any man in the United States has an actual personal understanding of the amount of thirty-one billion dollars.

Thirty-one billion dollars is so many of those dollars that if you had a contract to spend that much money, somewhat on the order of the young man in the story of Brewster's millions, you could buy up whole countries, compete with kings and wars and nonbathing Georgian princes for all your daughters and still have so much money left that you would have to start buying things for yourself.

All Look the Same

ON paper the figures look the same as money figures and some of the new brains in the government are so ingenious that they might come up with an entirely new system of mathematics one of these days and show how a country can turn the books inside out and spend itself out of debt.

A long time ago, during the fake world series in Cincinnati, there appeared in town in a hotel suite, that occupied a whole floor, a group of about a dozen teamsters from Texas who had bought some leases for a few dollars when the boys out of Texas were about to come in and had sold out to the big oil companies for millions of dollars. They used to sit around the floor in fancy silk underwear that was more like lady stuff than men's, shooting craps for thousand-dollar bills which they were peeling off rolls as big as cabbages.

They didn't have any change, but shot craps strictly in thousands day and night, and when a man's cabbage roll would get down to the core he would just write a check and buy some fresh money from one of the big winners. The Cincinnati banks didn't have enough big, coarse money to keep them in action, so they had some sent in by express.

A few years later I met Mr. Oswin King of Dallas, a journalist who had come up to the world series with them and was writing play by play accounts of their crap game, and asked him what ever had become of the millionaire teamsters.