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AMERICA'S SHAME

The news which broke Monday morning that Colonel Lindbergh has been forced to remove his family secretly from this country in order that his child, Jon, may be saved from the terrible fate of Charles, Jr., will come as a distinct shock to every law abiding citizen. Not alone because this fine family can ill be spared; not alone because they are American citizens and therefore justified in expecting protection from their government; not alone because of the expressed belief that respect for law exists in greater measure in other countries, but because of the implication that this country is unable to cope with the sinister and criminal influences that find profitable employment in kidnaping. In this nefarious and abhorrent business corrupt politics is a contributing factor if not an active participant.

The Lindberghs seeking safety in a foreign country is the greatest shame that has ever come to America. Our head is bowed low.

LOOKING FORWARD

In a spirit of hope, of confidence, of courage, of determination, America waits to greet a new year, recognizing in its advent a renewed opportunity for advancement and progress. Battered and torn as it may be from six long years of adversity, during which its path has been blocked by economic wrecks and many detours marked around its established customs, America is not licked. It has never been licked, and never will be. Battles may have been lost, but the war—never! That is why America faces the future without doubts or fears, certain that an era of peace and comfort and well-being is about to open. That is the spirit of America, which is a concrete thing and not a mere expression.

The most impressive thing about the present situation in which this country, in common with the rest of the world, finds itself, is the splendid courage shown by every American worthy of the name. Not only have the poor suffered want and privations and hunger and hardships requiring loyalty and fortitude not surpassed even by Washington's own soldiers, but men of affairs, upon whose shoulders has rested the responsibility for carrying on the industrial and commercial enterprises of the country, have also suffered. Maligned and vilified and slandered, these men, in overwhelming majority, have spent sleepless night hours in searching for a way to maintain their organizations and avoid adding to the number of unemployed by dismissing employees whom they could easily spare. Perhaps only those who have had this experience can realize the difficulties of the problem, or sense the sincerity with which they are encountered. Without flagging, this spirit will be carried into the new year, in the belief that increasing numbers of men and women will be given profitable employment.

Evidences that the skies are already clearing are due to the indomitable will and unconquerable spirit upon which America depends; to that "rugged individualism" which of late has become in such bad repute in certain quarters, and to the fact that the economic principles upon which this country has attained greatness are sound and secure, and will not be destroyed.

DUAL GOVERNMENT

In view of the fact that America is approaching the most critical year it has faced since 1861, the masterful address in support of state's rights delivered at the Union League club, Chicago, on November 21, by the Hon. James H. Wilkerson, judge of the United States District court at that city, is of absorbing interest. A few compelling excerpts are given herewith. In opening his address Judge Wilkerson quoted from "The Critical Period of American History," written 50 years ago by John Fiske, concerning the Constitution:

"Thus, at length, was realized the sublime conception of a nation in which every citizen lives under two complete and well-rounded systems of laws—the state law and the federal law, each with its legislature, its executive and its judiciary moving one within the other, noiselessly and without friction. It was one of the longest reaches of constructive statesmanship ever known in the world. There never was anything quite like it before, and in Europe it needs much explanation today even for the educated statesmen who never have actually beheld its workings, yet to Americans it has become so much a matter of course that they, too, sometimes need to be told how much it signifies."

The speaker then proceeded to explain why this dual system of government is vitally essential to the preservation of personal and political freedom:

"And, indeed, this separation of the local and national functions of government, this maintenance of the balance between state and federal power does signify much. It transcends any question of party politics. It is vastly more important than the question of the constitutionality of any statute. It is back of the Constitution itself. It is in the Constitution because it is the only method by which a free thinking, free speaking, free striving people may unite in a great nation, and at the same time maintain their liberty. Without it either the union would be broken up as sectional interests might dictate or the conduct of the people would be brought under the control of a centralized authority, attempting to deal at long range with local matters most vitally affecting us."

"How to enjoy the blessings of liberty and justice and, at the same time, to unite for the common defense and the general welfare was the problem which confronted the new nation. The men of the Constitutional Convention surveyed history. They looked at the downfall of nations brought about sometimes through weakness of government and lack of preparation for self defense and sometimes through the excesses of concentrated arbitrary power. They surveyed human nature. They realized that government is not an abstraction, that its power must be exercised through human agencies. They saw that as long as the free spirit of our people survived, long range interference by government with matters of local concern would not be tolerated. They had been through that in the days preceding the Revolution. They realized the danger of centralized authority, of entrusting too much power to any man or group of men. They had seen power grow by what it feeds on. They had seen the benevolent dictator succeeded by the brutal autocrat. They knew that any system of government, if it were long to survive, must take into consideration the human element, the weaknesses, the ambitions, the selfishness of the agents through whom it must be administered. And they saw that in creating the union of the states the human element in government was the one to which first consideration must be given, that the plan devised must be one in harmony with the spirit of the people."

After directing attention to recent trends toward centralization of government and the breaking down of state's rights, Judge Wilkerson continued:

"If the union of the states as it has heretofore existed is to be preserved, the government of the states must be revitalized. Some of the emphasis which is placed upon the nation must be transferred to the states. As in the early days, men of the highest administrative ability must be called to their service. Representatives chosen from outstanding citizens should make up their legislatures. There should be no place there for the proxies of the chieftains of political clans. If laws relating to the nomination of candidates stand in the way of achieving this end, they must be repealed. Only then will the states stand out as independent units in our system. Only then will they deal adequately with the local problems of the new economic era. Only then will they assert their independence and maintain their control over their local problems of agriculture, industry, labor, manufacture, relief, insurance, over all the things which are outside the proper scope of national authority."

"The union is in danger today from extreme centralization, as it has been in times past from extreme state rights. The demand is for action and not for words. Administrative acts are required more than decisions of courts. The governments of the states must be strengthened. They must deal adequately with the problems of the new era. The activities of the national government should be concentrated upon matters of national scope, such as defense, sound currency, balancing the budget, reducing the debt, and keeping the highways of commerce free from the restraints of monopoly. In that way alone will the union of states under the Constitution be preserved."

NEWS-COMMENT

Happy New Year!

Swedish people are thrifty, and believe in adequate compensation for any labor performed. A north shore Swedish mechanic was boasting the other day that he could lift 400 pounds. A fellow mechanic thought he couldn't. The Swede said: "I won't do it for nothing, but if you'll bet me ten cents I can't do it I'll do it."

And now Rock Island (Ill.) claims a mouse that sings like a canary bird.

The war between Italy and Ethiopia will be over soon, possibly before this is read. There are now but seven Ethiopians left, according to newspaper claims of the Italians, and not more than eleven Italians if we are to believe the Ethiopians. It should not take long to remove these.

Abandoning a custom long established, we herewith and hereby make a New Year resolution, and we hope it is kept better than the ones we used to make before arriving at the age of reason. This resolution is to aid in saving the lives of the 38,000 victims of automobiles that mortuary estimates state will probably be sacrificed during 1936. How will we accomplish this humane purpose? By using common, everyday horse sense. By granting others some rights to the roads. By a wholesome respect for railroad locomotives. By not damning every red light as we speed through at 50 or 60 miles per hour. By remembering that we are not the only fool behind a steering wheel. By expecting pedestrians to be as great fools as we and looking out for them. By not breaking all speed records in getting some place and not knowing what we went for. By not attempting to carry out instructions of professional and amateur advisors who assume to tell everybody what to do when a crisis occurs, but using our own judgment as dictated by circumstances. By using care to avoid crises through keeping out of the other fellow's way. That is our resolution, and we are going to stick to it.



Three chimpanzees escaped the other day from Johns Hopkins Medical school in Baltimore. Betcha they turn up in congress.

Farmer Edward Knecht of Beason, Ill., has been sick, and last week his neighbors picked his forty acres of corn. That's one fine thing about farmers—they are real neighbors.

In furtherance of their campaign against all religions, the Nazis are proclaiming the Bible to have been written by man, who did a very bum job. Our guess is that the Bible will be the source of religious inspiration long after the Nazis are forgotten.

In New York Mr. Hennessey went over to help Mr. Cronin celebrate his golden wedding anniversary. Mr. Cronin did not appreciate Mr. Hennessey's friendly intentions, so the next night a wake was held for Mr. Hennessey.

A Florida paper says: "The best answer to Hoover is: 'Why didn't you?'" Mr. Hoover might reply: "I never said I could. Why didn't the man who said he could?"

What is said to be the finest collection of Franklin relics in the world has just been presented to Yale university. That NRA, CWA, FERA and AAA were included is denied.

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