

The Liberal



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Try Being An Individual

There's a new word coming into use lately and that is — Individualism — it's a good word too, just so long as it is used in the right direction, and not carried too far.

Concert violinist Mischa Elman has lashed the modern public for what he described as a "tendency to destroy personalities" in the music world.

The 68-year-old Russian-born artist said in an interview that "if a true personality comes forward the people try to discredit him".

He then went on to say that the average person of today is afraid of being an "individual" . . . and the public expresses its need for security by patronizing "average" artists. People are afraid that if they accept a new approach or a new interpretation, they will defeat themselves.

Recently a film entitled, "Are People Sheep" was shown to the Lillian M. McConaghy Home and School Association by Vernon Trott, Psychologist with Forest Hill Board of Education . . . to illustrate his lecture on "Conformity". In the film, Dr. Bovard, Psychologist from the University of Toronto, condemned Conformity as a serious social disease that cannot be fought until people are aware of its existence.

Dr. Bovard affirmed that there

must be a degree of conformity in any society in respect to laws made for the common good and agreed to by citizens who are members of that society.

But, "it is the job of parents to give a child the security it needs — so it does not fear to be itself".

He quoted Dr. Brock Chisholm who said that "we need rebels (or individualists) today but it is the rebel who pays the price for what he believes". Conformity is more than a threat to the individual, he believes, it is a negative attitude to progress.

The individualist is not to be derided or scorned because he may not always be right — "but we must learn to tolerate a degree of error — and never destroy the integrity of the individual."

Conformity can lead to deceit, unhappiness and discomfort, whereas individualism (properly expressed) can promote a happier and more relaxed way of life. Try being an individual for a week and see just how wonderful it feels — but remember to conform where necessary or you could get into plenty of hot water with your business associates, your friends and your family. Just try thinking, acting and working for Yourself and you will be practising Individualism!

Ten Years Of NATO

The tenth anniversary of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty, on April 4, comes at a new period of tension which underlines the importance of NATO for the security of the western world. The threat from Soviet imperialism that led to the formation of NATO is as real as ever. The need for continued unity on the part of the NATO partners is fully as great as it was ten years ago.

NATO was formed in the first instance to halt the westward spread of Russian domination which had already swallowed up the satellite states of eastern Europe. In this task, it has been fully successful. Its deterrent power has held Russian military expansion in check in the vital area of western Europe, and has forced Communism to turn to other areas and other methods in pursuit of its world-wide aims.

This shift in tactics, and particularly the Soviet campaign of infiltration in Asia and the Middle East, has pres-

ented the west with new and serious problems. Yet if these problems are to be solved, it is vital that the deterrent in Europe should be maintained at an effective level. Any weakening of defensive strength in this area would not only open the way to new Soviet thrusts, it would make it still harder — perhaps even impossible — to stiffen the uncommitted nations of Asia and Africa in their resistance to Communist pressure.

NATO thus remains the cornerstone of the Free World. Its effectiveness rests on the continued unity and resolution of the western democracies, and not least of the three English-speaking democracies that form the North Atlantic Triangle. This is an enterprise in which Canada has played a significant part from the beginning. In her own national interests she must continue to make her fullest possible contribution during the years ahead.

Self - Help — Self - Respect

What child isn't delighted to earn money through sales of lemonade which he has made? True, he must be provided with the lemons, the sugar and the pitcher. But the pleasure derived from his earnings is infinitely greater than if he were given the money outright.

This fact is the basis of the Canadian Junior Red Cross International relief projects. Through its fund for International Help and Understanding, the tools for helping themselves are given to less fortunate children throughout the world.

Last year, members of the Canadian Junior Red Cross contributed pennies, nickels and dimes totalling \$50,862 to this fund. This money was used to purchase "raw materials" as sewing machines and carpentry tools for youngsters in Ceylon; laboratory equipment for 22 schools in Korea; and occupational therapy equipment for crippled children in Germany.

In 1955, Canadian Juniors provided a number of farm animals, farming

equipment and housing materials for a community of orphaned Korean boys. Today, these boys are happily self-sufficient with a thriving, productive farm that is growing every year.

"The Liberal" is proud of our young readers who are members of the Canadian Junior Red Cross and salutes Junior Red Cross people across Canada. They are a vital group of the more than 45 million children who share mutual ideals and principles in 71 nations of the world.

From British Columbia to Newfoundland, over 1,270,000 students will be enrolling in 39,000 branches this year. In this province, there are 578,724 boys and girls in our elementary and high schools who are members of the Canadian Junior Red Cross.

These citizens of tomorrow, through their Junior Red Cross many projects, are helping children in other lands to maintain their self-respect. At the same time, our youth are making fast friends.

Advertising That Lasts

Roy Thomson, prominent newspaper publisher who is the owner and publisher of the Scotsman in Edinburgh, Scotland, as well as a long list of dailies and weeklies in Canada, has this to say in the Scotsman Advertiser:

"Here is the only medium (your newspaper) that the public in surveys over and over have said they want with advertising, not without. Here is the medium that speaks a merchant's message with the emphasis and in the tone of voice he chooses. It is not at the mercy of someone else's diction or manner. It does not die on a sound wave, disappear with the fleetness of passing

traffic, or go dark at the flip of a switch.

"Here is a message that will last in the hands of its recipients as long as they choose to keep it, to read and discuss and re-read. It is on hand in the home to be read at any hour of the day or night that suits the convenience of the reader, and if there are two or ten in that family they all may read when and as they choose. Or if they wish they may have family consultation when and as they choose — for the advertisement lives until it is destroyed at their desire."

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Facts and Faith

A Weekly Comment On
Christian Life and Action
— By Calvin H. Chambers —
LONELINESS

There are many types of loneliness. There is the loneliness which comes from being in a strange city. People pass you by on all sides, giving you a sense of isolation. This might be described as the loneliness of the multitude. There is loneliness which comes from taking a stand for some principle of life. Many a Christian has had to stand alone for the sake of God's honour and his own self-respect. There is loneliness which comes with the passing of a loved one, which fills the heart with a dull ache. But the loneliness of a burdened soul, is probably the worst form of loneliness.

Jacob stands out in Scripture as one who knew this kind of loneliness. He had deceived his brother, and aged father Isaac. He had stolen a birthright, which did not belong to him. In so doing, he separated himself from his family. He set up an almost insurmountable barrier of hatred, mistrust and ill will. His deception not only robbed him of fellowship with his family, but it stripped him of a free conscience. His sin cut him off from God and his family. We see him fleeing from his brother through the lonely region of the wilderness. His sin has made him desolate and alone.

The loneliness produced by selfishness and sin, is something we cannot overcome by running away from life. Man was not meant to live alone, especially alone without God. But this is what always happens when we choose our own way in preference to God's way. Sin has had no other effect in the history of the human heart. It separates man from nation, race from race, black from white, families, friends, loved ones, Church members. With this separation there comes a heaviness of spirit which only God in His mercy can lift.

We must face up to our spiritual loneliness if we are to overcome it. Like our first parents, we seek to hide from God in the bushes. We hide the loneliness of our troubled souls in numerous activities and outside interests. How often I have heard people exclaim, "I can't stand to be alone. It is because the knowledge of what you are and what you have done, is too much for you to face?" In the silence your memory calls to mind who and what you are.

The tragedy of so many people is that they will not let this kind of loneliness draw them to God. They are either bored by the silence or frightened by it. They will not take the steps necessary to free themselves from this burden. It is the bondage of spiritual loneliness occasioned by our sin, that Jesus Christ seeks to free us, by the power of His atoning love.

You cannot be free from your burden of loneliness, unless you permit God to deal with it. He will not push Himself through the barriers, without your invitation. God can produce peace and give pardon to us. But we must face up to the unconfessed sin, the pride, the stubborn rebellion which is festering away in our lives. When we do, Christ calls to us, "Come unto me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." He is able to deliver us from the loneliness which sin produces, because he has assumed the burden of that loneliness on the cross. The cry, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me," is the cry of one who endured the full consequences of the loneliness of sin, that we might be set free from it. If he is permitted to enter our lives with His reconciling love, He will give us the consciousness of a Presence which is always with us, even in our most lonely moments. His promise waits to be proven by you — "Lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the age."

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Over Hill, Over Dale

by Cicely Thomson

In 1954 the Peel County Council and certain interested citizens asked Miss Bessie Touzel, Executive Director for the Ontario Welfare Council to make a survey of Peel County and appraise the need for the development and organization of the welfare services there.

Apart from the fact that this study was the first of its kind carried out in Canada, the findings, comments and recommendations in it may have a certain bearing on the situation in York County and in Richmond Hill. Let us look at it with that in mind.

First of all let us understand that a welfare council is not an executive body . . . they don't tell people what to do . . . they are rather a centre of thought. A welfare council is a focal point from which a balanced view of health, welfare and recreation needs can be made. Indeed the council is one effort to get away from the hazards of specialization, and to see the general view.

As Richmond Hill is principally a dormitory area, so was the largest township in Peel County (with over half the population of the county). The same problem of a large percentage of residents working in the greater Toronto area and making donations through industrial canvasses to the United Appeal which provides little service to the counties outside Metropolitan Toronto was apparent there in 1954. The report comments, "It is doubtful whether many of the Toronto agencies should be invited to extend so far."

After detailing the population trends, housing, employment, and income, social development and assessment of the townships in the county Miss Touzel's report turned to the welfare programs in existence under the various auspices of federal, provincial, municipal and voluntary agencies. She feels for the municipal employee who is presumed to know all the aid-resources available, the legislation and regulations concerned without having any specialized knowledge and whose primary responsibility is something else.

She has great concern for the unmet needs arising from the general lack of social work for the serious social problem presented by most families who need relief, some of whom are not eligible for it. She says: "The need for social and psychological help along with the material, institutional and protective services, requires careful thought by those who will be planning developments in Peel County". She speaks of the family of the deserted wife, the family where the breadwinner is ill or suffers chronic disability, is serving a jail sentence, etc., as having attendant social problems that can themselves have serious effects on the family, even though the level of employment was at that time a very high one. "Few, if any, of those now receiving relief are without other problems, in addition to their economic dependence. The conditions in many of the homes are such that citizens have called on the Children's Aid Society to remove children."

Coming under the general heading of welfare services handled by the municipalities and county, were general relief, post-sanatorium care, hospitalization, the administration of the county home, the Children's Aid Society, the Juvenile and Family Court and a detention home. General relief was administered by the local municipality; it included investigation as to eligibility and approval for payment of relief, as well as certain medical care, ambulance service and burial charges. (Provincial refunds of various kinds apply to all these.)

In spite of the favorable economic and social conditions of Peel County (like York County) she is very concerned that the 55c per capita disbursements of the C.A.S. are among the lowest in the province for this purpose, comparing other almost similar counties as budgeting up to \$1.69 per capita. "No extensive service to families in danger of social breakdown are related to its budget which is too small". Protective service to children in their homes, she continues, was limited because of the urgency of caring for neglected children.

In the section on the Juvenile and Family Court there is a paragraph detailing the clerical and paper work that falls upon the probation officer that takes about 30 per cent of his work week. Miss Touzel recommended that "a broader county welfare organization would give a good deal of pre-and post-court service to certain types of cases which now depend on the court for advice and help. This would render some of the court actions unnecessary, others more effective, and help keep the work of the probation officer within reasonable limits and of a type which properly belongs" to that office.

Unmet needs are always difficult to measure . . . children of working mothers in makeshift arrangements . . . (no day nurseries) . . . cases of unmarried mothers . . . the straits of old people.

Emergency help was cited by service clubs, Women's Institutes, church groups, clergy and the Red Cross, who paid for food, clothing and other basic needs, "either because they were not provided by a public authority, or because the particular family was not eligible for public help." Did, for instance, the municipality know that a grant can be made by the municipality in addition to the old age pension? There was a need for temporary homemaker services, so that children could be kept in the home, and also for old people.

In her recommendations she stressed that integration is of great importance and suggested that county officials might want to do this under a County Welfare Board; comprised of county council members and at least an equal number of private citizens, with responsibility to the county council . . . which she favors over divided direction with a committee of the county council working in collaboration with the board of the Children's Aid Society and having a common staff.

She strongly advocated the county council encourage the formation of a Peel County Welfare Council with financial aid if necessary to get it established and said its functions should be:

- 1) to bring together representatives of organizations . . . for sharing of information on programs in operation;
 - 2) broad education on services and needs;
 - 3) to encourage definition of projects to assure a more consistent pattern of organization;
 - 4) the development of public opinion in support of action to meet the recognized needs;
 - 5) to consider the possibility of joint-fund-raising for those services formally organized and raising funds by private subscription . . . a modus operandi with Toronto regarding industrial subscriptions will be required;
 - 6) to encourage more effective use of volunteers and their better relationships to organized programs.
- Does this report affect us? How can we compare these excerpts and comments of mine with York County or with Richmond Hill?

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