

15th Series

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

E. Haldeman-Julius

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By E. Haldeman-Julius

**HALDEMAN-JULIUS PUBLICATIONS
GIRARD -:- KANSAS**

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Printed in the United States of America

Dr. Isaac Goldberg—Gustful Critic of the Arts



By courtesy of The Boston Transcript.

Dr. Isaac Goldberg, who died in Brookline, Mass., recently, was, for many years, a warm friend of the Haldeman-Julius Publications. He wrote many reviews, essays and books on music, literature, art, philosophy, international affairs, the theater, and other subjects, which won for their author the enthusiastic praise of discriminating and informed readers. His life was spent in enriching culture and scholarship. He always fought for enlightenment, the dissemination of knowledge, tolerance, international amity, democracy, freedom, and progressive social order based on an emancipated working class.

ISAAC GOLDBERG IS DEAD

Dr. Isaac Goldberg, well known author and critic, died of a heart ailment in his home at 16 Gardner Rd., Brookline, Mass., on July 13, 1938, at the age of 50. He leaves his widow, the former Elsie Freida Hovick, of Brooklyn.

A life-long Rationalist and Free-thinker, Dr. Goldberg arranged in advance for a non-religious funeral. Services devoid of all religious connotations were conducted by a close friend of the deceased, Dr. Abraham Myerson, Boston psychiatrist. In this he was thoroughly consistent with his numerous writings in support of Skepticism and Materialism.

In 1911, Harvard University accorded him a master of arts degree. In 1912, Dr. Goldberg received Harvard's Ph.D., specializing in Spanish and Portuguese literature. In 1932, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship to prepare a history of the literature of Spanish and Portuguese America. While doing this work he served as a special lecturer at Harvard on Hispano-American literature, one of his favorite subjects.

Dr. Goldberg was a prolific writer, turning out numerous large and small books, magazine articles, newspaper reviews, translations from Yiddish, Italian, German, Spanish and Portuguese, and a constant flood of carefully-thought-out criticisms. For more than 10 years he wrote book reviews for the **HALDEMAN-JULIUS WEEKLY**.

Specializing in biography, Dr. Goldberg wrote books about H. L. Mencken, George Jean Nathan, Gilbert and Sullivan, Lola Montez, Mordecai Manuel Noah, Havelock Ellis, and others. In addition, he was, for years, an important contributor to my library of small volumes, the following being only a part of his titles:

Havelock Ellis' Plea for a Sane Sex Life; Jazz Music—What It Is and Means; Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Guide Book; How to Understand Richard Wagner; How to Enjoy Rabelais' Lusty Humor; H. L. Mencken—Anti-Christ; How to Enjoy Good Music; How to Enjoy Good Reading; Harmony Self Taught; How to Enjoy Orchestra Music; Italian Self Taught; and How to Acquire Good Taste.

Among my larger-sized volumes, Dr. Goldberg did:

George Gershwin and American Music; The So-Called Protocols of the Elders of Zion; Joseph McCabe—Fight for Freethought; Mussolini Exposed; What Does the Catholic Church Want in America; Music for Everyman; Backsliders to God; Dictatorship Over the Intellect; The Sexual Life of Man, Woman and Child; and Panorama. Just

before he died, Dr. Goldberg finished a large book which I plan to release under the title of "What You Laugh At—and Why."

In his writings, Dr. Goldberg never compromised his principles. He never wrote a line intended to injure the philosophy that would free the people from the shackles of the supernatural. His pen was always ready to serve Socialism, Freethought, democracy, liberalism, and public enlightenment in general. He hated the hate-mongers, anti-Semites, race-baiters, Fascists, and the other forces in today's life that would move humanity back to the level of the Dark Ages.

The progressive viewpoint has lost a gifted and fearless friend.

As his editor, I soon learned to trust his scholarship and integrity. Though I worked with him for about 23 years—during which time we exchanged hundreds of letters—I never had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Goldberg personally. Among the last things he wrote—probably the very last—was a short note to me suggesting that I do my autobiography.

The old-timers are slipping away. A few months ago it was Clarence Darrow. A few years ago Maynard Shipley put down his pen. And now it's Isaac Goldberg. But the cause of Freethought, Freedom and Progress will never be lacking in servants. New ones will arise to carry the banners of Rationalism. The struggle is endless. The supply of leaders must also be endless.

The above is all too objective, which, I insist, is caused by the fact I never knew Goldberg personally. I never even had a fair idea of what he looked like, whether he was tall or short, fat or lean, lusty or lugubrious. I find in the **BOSTON TRANSCRIPT**, (July 16, 1938)—a paper for which Goldberg did a great deal of critical writing on music, literature and the theater during 25 years—an estimate of our dead author, written by a friend who knew him well. Mr. Moses Smith, editor of the music page of the **TRANSCRIPT**, heads his piece "Scholar and Gentleman," from which I quote:

An appreciation of the character, talents and accomplishments of a distinguished person, recently deceased, is supposed by all the conventions to be impersonal and objective in outlook by the time it finds its way into the public prints. But I find it difficult and almost pointless to write in that way about Dr. Isaac Goldberg, who died at his house in Brookline two days ago. I cannot understand why one should

conceal one's friendship, especially since that relation so frequently illuminates, as in the present case, the public achievements of a man.

To know Ike Goldberg was to experience intensely those qualities in his writings which had a marked influence on the culture of his time and scene and by which he will be remembered. He was a courageous, zestful, remarkably well-informed and singularly uninhibited critic—in the fullest meaning of that word—of life and the arts. He could no more separate life from art than from physiological functions. For him, indeed, art was a function of living, and living was an art. Those things, I think, are apparent from the books he left behind and from his extensive writings for periodicals and, brilliantly through a quarter of a century, for the columns of the Transcript.

His enormous culture, covering an almost infinite variety of fields, had vitality. There was nothing fake or pseudo or dilletantish about it. He knew how to extract the full savor from his cultural pursuits, but he was never the intellectual or aesthetic gourmet. Whatever he did and whatever he knew seemed to have been related to the rest in his consciousness. He was a full man in the Baconian sense. . . .

Because he had neither the taste nor the talent for conventional effusiveness he seemed, on first acquaintance, a man difficult to get to know. Actually, one soon discovered that the path to his heart and brain was direct. For he was interested in the substance of knowledge and of friendship and of the things by which we set store, not in superfluous or mannerisms. He despised pretense and was impatient with non-entity. But he had the soul of a democrat.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Your comments on Sir Arthur Keith's remark about war being a necessary biological pruning hook provoked me to some unorthodox reflections.

It may be that both you (with Darwin) and Sir Arthur are right. It all depends on what you mean by "fit."

Parenthetically, it may be remarked, to begin with, that the idea that any kind of a pruning hook "necessarily" exists carries with it a suggestion of Deity, Fate, a Guiding Spirit or what not, which oversees the development of all life. And this feeling is implied even if the idea of such a "necessity" is given expression by the most hard-boiled and realistic of scientists.

The sooner that this lurking tendency to think in such unhealthy patterns is overcome the sooner it will be possible to demonstrate worthwhile fitness, first, by outmoding war—whose "inevitability," at least in part, is also traceable to such mental back-sliding—and secondly by doing something really grand in consciously fashioning man's further evolution.

Darwin, of course, was absolutely right when, in considering fitness in terms of stature, robustness, etc., he spoke of war's tendency to enfeeble the race. As I have remarked on other occasions, it is the greatest of wonders, in view of war's perverse prunings, that the race is yet as healthy as it is.

But if, continuing the blundering, insensate method of the past, it finally happens that an ignorant, shrieking horde under the leadership of a few blatant maniacs crushes to earth a doddering democracy, and though that horde remains as it is to the end of time, it will have to be admitted, no matter what may have been thought of the fitness of the lost culture, that it nevertheless is lost. The horde, biologically speaking, will have been the fittest, even though all that remains of it after the struggle is a race of misshapen, diseased and perverted gnomes. In that sense Sir Arthur will have been right though I doubt that he would care for that sort of a vindication.

On the other hand if democracy is eventually triumphant it will be because it has proven its fitness by out-propagandizing Fascism or, if driven to that extremity, by outfighting it. Success, in either instance, will be premised on the ability of the rather diverse manifestations of that democracy to formulate a workable, unified program for that purpose; something which just now seems not any too hopeful, to say the most. And it is not at all certain that under all circumstances right—whatever that is—must ("fittingly") triumph nor that brain is fitter than brawn—or the reverse—; the victor will have a fit combination of the two.

The dinosaurs were the fittest under certain conditions. The conditions changed and man is their final and fitter successor. If conditions change again it is inevitable that man will be altered by them. That is, if he is fittingly resilient enough to do so; if he is not he will perish no matter how fit he may then consider himself. Maybe, judged by present standards, the change will be an improvement, maybe not. But in any case it will be an adaptation which will have proven fittest.

At first glance it may seem far-fetch-

ed to say that war, one of man's own creations, can be such an altering force of nature. But if man does not succeed in overcoming those faults in his own personality and in his social organizations which alone make war possible, then war is as inexorably and as terribly a fashioning force of nature—deriving from defects in his own nature—as is the imperceptibly slow spread of a polar ice-cap or the sudden isolation of an area of land.

The ultimate measure of man's fitness in the scheme of things is the degree to which he is able to control the scene in which he finds himself to the end that it yields him the greatest possible amount of happiness. And that is a vast, and as yet largely unattained, order because it involves the need of proving his fitness by sooner or later mastering himself.

Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG

* * *

"The press quotes Cardinal O'Connell (April 29, 1938) as saying, 'Catholic women should war on indecent dress, plays, movies, books and magazines. . . . Don't go near the movies, or the talkies. You must do without them if you want to save your soul. . . . As there is something queer in seeing an effeminate man, it is equally queer to find a mannish woman. There is something abnormal in a woman attempting to dress up in man's clothes. To my mind it's abhorrent.' It probably didn't occur to the cardinal that it's just as queer to many of us to see men dressed in women's robes. And if he's looking for the abnormal, what of the unnatural mode of life of priests, monks and nuns?"—W. Matthews, Del.

* * *

Did you ever encounter any comment on the reason why, in Hoover's recent tour of Europe's capitals, Moscow was omitted?

Lord 'erbert 'oover could have gone to the Soviet Union had he wanted to, but he preferred to stay away, thus giving himself more time to hobnob with the Fascists and Nazis. The Right Honorable 'erbert 'oover didn't want to have to go through the miserable experience of seeing how the Russians were making tremendous progress in building up their country and advancing industrialization at an almost frantic pace. It was 'erbert himself, while President, who rejected the chance to recognize the Soviet Union diplomatically with the remark that all of Russia didn't have the mineral wealth of the State of Montana, a sweeping generalization

he'd have to withdraw were he to study the country at first hand and see the amazing figures dealing with iron, steel, copper, oil, manganese, gold, cotton, wheat, wool, building material, transportation and communication facilities, and so on almost without end. He'd have to admit that the Soviet Union's natural potentialities are a little larger than Montana's. Besides, 'erbert didn't want to have to face the people against whom he conducted unofficial war while he posed as a relief administrator. Instead of helping the victims of the war days he conspired to have some of the Allies make war on the Russian people. That was a crime against humanity, and even Lord 'erbert 'oover knows it. Now, not having been to the new Russia, he can continue his campaign of lies about the collapse of the Soviet Union, something he tried to bring about and failed. If Russia didn't go into decay when it was being attacked by capitalistic powers on 13 fronts, it certainly ought to give a good account of itself in these days when it is rapidly approaching leadership in most branches of heavy industry, mining, building, and agriculture. The trouble with the Soviet Union these days, in the view of the capitalistic-minded politicians, is that the country has been making too much progress to suit those who stand pat for economic tyranny. All the Russians ask is to be let alone while they go ahead tending their garden. But if anyone tries to interfere—attempts, in Stalin's blunt words, to have their pigs' snouts poke around in Soviet cabbage-patches—the full force of the Russian people will rise in resistance. The Soviet Union isn't the sick infant it was 18 or 20 years ago. It's a great nation now, with a working, successful economy. It's producing wealth galore, and it's preparing to resist those who hope to be able to use military force to steal the country. Lord 'erbert 'oover was consistent in staying away. If one intends to lie, it's better to close one's eyes to the truth.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

"In a recent issue of The Freeman you spoke of Miss Dorothy Thompson's dishonesty in keeping silent about the Catholic-Fascist menace in this country

(she doesn't intend to have the pack at her heels, you may be sure), and at the same time implying that F. D. R., whose genuine democracy even his honest enemies admit, is fast making himself a dictator. How much more honest is Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who aroused the fury of all Catholic Action groups by saying that "divorce is an accepted fact," and by approving films of the birth of a baby! It is quite likely Dorothy Thompson held the same opinion (she should, certainly, being herself divorced), but she is much too clever to risk her popularity and financial success by saying so. Mrs. Roosevelt is a very courageous, candid woman, who is perhaps disliked by Tories and reactionaries of all sorts (to her honor), but who has the admiration of progressive people.

By the way, Miss Thompson spoke at the N.Y. Town Hall Luncheon, April 23, 1938, and it amused me greatly to hear the flattering introduction given her by George V. Denny, Jr., "She approaches her daily task with the humility characteristic of great minds." I don't know what he means by humility, but I had been thinking how often the word "T" occurred in her broadcasts. Maybe Mr. Denny was just trying to be funny. Miss Thompson's talk was in the usual vein, and one remark in particular gave me to think. She spoke of our "brethren on the Left. Fascism is their King Charles' head. They want us to mobilize against it, not because it is dangerous, as it is, but because it might be the successor of our present social order, and they want to inherit it themselves!" (She might have added that the "stiff shirt Fascisti" intend to inherit it before anybody else gets a chance.)

READER

* * *

Do you enjoy debunking? Is there a technique which you find particularly valuable in this type of writing?

What is a debunker? Nothing more than a Truth-seeker. A debunker aims to get at the truth, regardless of who gets hurt. The word sounds crude, but it's the best that offers itself for popular consumption when one decides in favor of ranging all forums of thought and arenas of action in a search for what is true, and who balances that search by seeking out what is false and branding it as such. Some readers might think that such a person could describe himself better by calling himself a Truth-seeker, but it happens that we've grown into the habit of using that term only when describing one

who looks for the candid truth in the religious world.

Does a debunker enjoy his work? That all depends on what one means by "enjoy." A real debunker never takes a malicious pleasure in exposing an individual, a class or some particular set of notions. At the same time he gets genuine enjoyment as he adds—however modestly—to our store of knowledge. When the debunker seeks out the bunk and separates it from the worthwhile things of life, of thought, of behavior, and the like, he is serving humanity even though false friends of humanity—enemies, in truth—assail and malign him for his thankless endeavors. Bunk-shooters—in politics, religion, international affairs, commerce, the professions, etc.—hate the debunker because he uses his influence to let his hearers know the truth about persons and institutions they thought were over and beyond criticism. Take, for example, a notorious cancer quack—Norman Baker, of course, my pet aversion because of his policy of exploiting miserable, suffering humanity with a "treatment" that has been branded as a fake by competent authorities in that field—such a quack hates the debunker who dares question his ability to cure sufferers. If such debunkers can reach a large enough audience, his system of bunk will collapse, so he rushes into the courts in an attempt to intimidate the debunker and thus prevent him from letting the world know that he is advancing something that is a cold-blooded fake. No bunk-shooter likes to be exposed as a charlatan, because he has definite economic reasons for wanting his own brand of bunk to be accepted as chaste, pious truth.

As for the technique in this type of writing, let me assure my inquirer that it's simplicity itself. The simpler the technique the more effective is its influence. It works like this: Here's So-and-so who says he can do so-and-so. The facts show that he can't do what he claims. The facts brand So-and-so as a bunk-shooter. That's all there is to debunking. But apply it far enough—in religion, politics, and the like—and you are undermining many sacred institutions, for the brotherhood of bunk-shooters is vast, strong, energetic, and frequently militant when it comes to de-

fending its particular brand of bunk. Bunk and bank-books work together, and that's a powerful combination. Many men will fight and die for their purses. A bunk-shooter will let you attack someone else's bunk, so long as you leave him alone in the support of his own brand of bunk, but by and large he'd prefer that you showed proper respect for all kinds of bunk. He feels uncomfortable in the presence of a debunker, even when his own brand isn't being attacked. He doesn't know where the lightning will strike next.

Who are the debunkers? Their number is growing. The "society" is becoming quite an institution. Many debunkers go about debunking right and left without ever dreaming they are really tried and true debunkers. In my own debunking in many fields I find that I draw on the work of sound, conscientious mortals who would be offended if they were called debunkers. They remove the bunk from the truth so naturally that they forget they are practicing debunkers, if they ever knew it. Even our government—through the Bureau of Standards—does an immense amount of debunking, for it takes hundreds of important commodities and analyzes them for all they're worth. If there's any shoddy in a piece of cloth, the bureau will brand it as such. If the ink is water, the bureau will put down that fact.

Darwin was a debunker, for he showed that the facts of evolution played Hell with Genesis. Ingersoll was a debunker, for he showed that supernaturalism can't stand the light of logic and good sense. Voltaire was a debunker when he showed that the Catholic Church, instead of being the friend of man, was one of man's worst enemies, if not the worst of all. Thomas Paine was a debunker when he showed that the Bible stories couldn't endure the examinations of Reason. Our early geologists were debunkers when they showed that instead of being a mere 6,000 years old the earth is billions of years old, thus confounding our precious Fundamentalists. Other early scientists who insisted the earth is round also were debunkers, for they broke into tiny pieces the old religious notion that the world is as flat as a pool

table. Early doctors were debunkers when they showed that epidemics were caused by germs bred in filth instead of being expressions of God's displeasure with sinful humanity. A mariner was a debunker when he proved the world was round by sailing around it.

The debunkers are the world's seekers after the truth. That's why they're hated—and honored. Those who benefit by bunk, want to see them gagged. Those who live by the truth, look on them as benefactors.

The debunker is always the friend of man.

* * *

"The American Freeman, a monthly newspaper published in Girard, Kansas, by E. Haldeman-Julius, is the most informative publication these eyes have ever seen."—The Record, Bridgeton, N.J.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

The prayer, "God, if there be a God, save my soul, if I have a soul," whose author is inquired about in your August, 1938, Freeman, was probably spoken in German originally and was worded thus: "Gott, wenn es einen giebt, rette meine seele, wenn ich eine habe." It was not by the Frenchman, Voltaire, but by the German, Frederick the Great, who was his friend (and sometimes enemy). His admirer and fellow skeptic, Redenbacher, a popular German historian, writes about the occasion. Frederick was in battle and in grave danger when he said this prayer, the only one, according to Redenbacher, which ever passed his lips.

The reason why I am not so sure that the prayer was originally spoken in German (perhaps it was in French) is that Frederick loved to use Voltaire's language, the language of contemporary enlightenment and skepticism, in preference to the language of his own people. Yet, it may also be that in this critical hour—as happens at the time of death, according to psychologists—asociations and the language of his earliest youth came back to him.

This strange jumble of piety and skepticism might well have proceeded from Frederick and occurred at an unguarded moment when it was human to weaken. Normally, the great Prussian king, soldier, and philosopher was a strong and consistent skeptic.

Brighton, Colo. W. F. HILLER

* * *

How did you happen to get interested in Agnosticism? Why did it interest you?

When I was a schoolboy in Philadelphia, classes began each morning

with a reading of a hefty passage from the Bible, a form of torture that caused me untold agony. Year after year I heard teacher drone the dull words, emphasize the crude supernaturalism, and the result was I soon felt I was being exposed to a set of ideas that struck me as being loaded with superstition and unreality. Then I came on Thomas Paine's great, devastating, eye-opening pamphlet, "The Age of Reason," one of the greatest mind-liberating books ever written. But I always was a modest, unprovocative person, so I swallowed the teacher's dope without making a sound, but I went ahead and undid her missionary work by studying Robert G. Ingersoll, who, in those years, impressed me as a giant. From there I went on to all forms of heterodoxy, especially religious and economic. I read Voltaire, Gibbon, the Socialist press, Freethought pamphleteers, and devil-minded writings in general. That early intellectual vaccination kept the cells of my brain immune to the diseases of supernaturalism. I had no orthodoxy to throw off, for my home life didn't know piety. My parents weren't Freethinkers, but at the same time they weren't the least bit religious. Like whiskey, my father could take it or leave it. In all my boyhood I don't recall a single religious discussion at home, pro or con, though my father would give expression to his indifferentism by a word or gesture, which happened on occasion. So, while I don't say the Philadelphia school authorities made me an Atheist by compelling me to hear the Bible read each morning, still I believe that endless, monotonous experience had a lot to do with my intellectual emancipation. Later, I exposed myself to sounder doses of Atheism by attending lectures and debates at the Liberal League Sunday afternoon forum, on North Broad Street, where excellent critics of the Bible and religion in general held forth before large and sympathetic audiences of damned infidels and lost souls. I didn't go there to get rid of religious ideology but rather to buttress my early skepticism. As a result, it wasn't long before I was honestly convinced that religion didn't have a leg to stand on, didn't put forward

a single undebatable proposition, didn't bear the slightest hint of logic and didn't, in fact, deserve to be accepted by any healthy-minded thinker. I thus became anti-clerical as well as anti-religious, and I've been that way ever since—only stronger in my convictions.

Another source of intellectual support came from the public meetings conducted by the Socialist party of Philadelphia, which held open-air meetings on the North side of the immense City Hall every Sunday night during the mild months, and in a small hall at 13th and Arch St. during the cold months. Here I didn't hear much discussion of religious themes, except in private confabs, for these vigorous-minded students almost without exception took anti-religious attitudes as matters of course. These tough-minded workers and professionals looked with suspicion on anyone who betrayed religious notions, though, as I've already said, they didn't use their public meetings for such propaganda. Publicly they'd say religion was a private matter; privately they'd damn religion to Hell, especially those who embraced that bastard conglomeration known in those days as Christian Socialism, a label that's used by today's Fascists in several European countries. These lectures were of great value because they carried Economic Determinism into my intellectual and cultural life. They opened many new worlds for my young, groping mind, and I'm convinced that their influence has been strong during my entire working life as a writer on religion, politics, sociology, economics, government, history, clericalism, Catholicism, and so forth.

In those days of 30 years ago I said little but listened a lot. I always preferred listening to talking, and even today, when I meet people, I prefer not to discuss my ideas, especially to argue about them, for it's my habit to do my teaching by way of the printed word instead of the spoken word. Today I run away when I see an argument coming my way, but I find that I run in the direction of my typewriter, where I settle down to argue it out in an orderly, impersonal way.

I didn't intend talking about those

early influences when I started to write this piece, but I'm glad my mind took notice of them. This is the first time I've ever written about them, but that doesn't mean they weren't important to me. Today, after 30 winters, I pay tribute to a group of lay thinkers who helped me rid myself of the shackles of the supernatural and the chains of economic, political, educational, ethical and cultural slavery.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

In my religious talks with Christian friends I have always used Epicurus' famous judgment about God with good effect. I am a new Freeman reader and I wonder whether you have ever had occasion to print it. It is genuine Freemanesque food for thought. I enclose a copy of it, taken from "The Freethinker's Catechism."

Detroit, Mich. ALBERT GLUCK

Reader Gluck's enclosure follows:

Does not the existence of evil on earth exclude the idea of God?

Yes, because in the judgment of Epicurus, "either God is willing to remove evil from this world and cannot, or he can and is not willing, or finally he can and is willing. If he is willing and cannot, it is impotence, which is contrary to the nature of God. If he can and is unwilling, it is wickedness, and that is no less contrary to the nature of God. If he is not willing and cannot, there is both wickedness and impotence. If he is willing and can, which is the only one of these suppositions that can be applied to God, how happens it that there is evil on earth?"

* * *

"You are doing a kindly service to the sufferers from cancer in exposing the money-making schemes of those who seek to profit by the prevalence of a disease which is causing so much unhappiness and grief."—John Nagler, Surrey, England.

* * *

Why did you go into newspaper work? Where? When?

When I was a boy in my 'teens I barged my way into newspaper offices because I found I'd rather write than do anything else in the world. I mean this literally, because given my choice I'd rather write than take Leopold Stokowsky's place at the side of the one and only Greta Garbo. And I'm no woman-hater. I suppose if all my writings were gathered into a single set of volumes they'd take

up as much room as the Encyclopedia Britannica. Of course, I have no illusions about my literary efforts. Every bit of it is ephemeral. I don't write for any generation but my own. When I pass into oblivion, some crusty old bookworm, centuries hence, will come on my name—maybe, I say—and he may give me a tiny footnote somewhere, worded something like this: *He always wrote what he felt for a small audience that was curious about what he felt, and when he and they passed on the dust of history settled on them for all time.* Posterity will have to look to others. I'm sorry to have to disappoint the countless millions who are still to come. Today's problems, today's people, today's ideas, and today's ideals are my instruments of literary production. In my time I've written for more journals than I can remember, but the first paper on which I actually had a wage-paying job was the *New York Call*, which I joined in my late 'teens. With youth's bland assurance I tackled anything in sight—from learned essays on Bernard Shaw when he was only slightly known in this country, to Mark Twain; from theater reviews to high-brow book reviews; from editorials to feature articles; from interviews with celebrities to pieces written on the jump in some police court; from foreign affairs to the political record of some inconspicuous alderman. And I always wrote with enthusiasm, for I enjoyed the experience. I'm not the kind of scribbler who ever got moony about his work. I went at it with both hands. During the eight or 10 years that followed I was given to wandering around, for I loved the country and enjoyed seeing it first hand. Thus, I covered jobs in Chicago, Milwaukee, Los Angeles, and elsewhere, and since then I've never stopped my constant flood of words.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Up until a short time before my graduation from the University of Colorado at Boulder, I shared the popular delusion held by 94 percent of American manhood (startling, isn't it) that war is heroism, pretty girls, gay ribbons, flags, martial music, and a release from the humdrum of everyday existence. Then something happened to change me: I visited the "closed ward" of a government hospital, The living

monstrosities that I saw there made me realize that war is not sweetness and light, but rather amputated legs and arms, mutilated faces, blindness, ruptured intestines, diarrhoea, filth, misery, murder.

Later, while in law school at the University of Denver and after I was admitted to the Bar, I contributed regularly, and fairly heavily, to the various peace organizations. But I found that it was useless to fight for peace in the face of an overwhelming ignorance of the **HORRORS OF WAR.**

There is no possibility of arousing this America of a post-war generation to the need for peace unless they are taught to **KNOW WHAT WAR IS.**
N.Y.C. **ALBERT ELLIS RADINE**

* * *

A friend of mine insists the beautiful and inspiring line, "The Lord tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," is by Shakespeare. I say it's from the Bible. Can you tell me where it appears in the Bible?

You're both wrong. The author who usually gets the credit is Laurence Sterne, who, in his famous book, "A Sentimental Journey," wrote:

She had travelled all over Lombardy without money, and through the flinty roads of Savoy without shoes: how she had borne it, she could not tell; but "God tempers the wind," said Maria, "to the shorn lamb." "Shorn, indeed! and to the quick," said I.

Those who don't question this "beautiful" sentiment (notice that Sterne does) should tell some sheep-raiser in Wyoming what the Lord may be relied on to do when sudden cold blasts come roaring out of Canada.

The line (which I usually hear used satirically, as I myself often do) has been traced to sources older than Sterne. Go back to Henri Estienne's "Premices," page 47, published in 1594, and you will find these words: "God tempers the cold to the shorn lamb." And, by the way, Estienne is quoting this line from an older source. Today it's used in almost every other sermon by my favorite spiritual adviser, Pastor I. P. Freely.

In 1640, George Herbert, in his "Jacula Prudentum," said: "To the shorn sheep God gives wind to measure."

Even Rabelais joined—with the finality of an orgasm—in this chorus

of nonsense with these words: "God moderates all at His pleasure."

The Bible, on this point, brings out another point entirely, "Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth." However, if you think this sounds a little tough you can console yourself with George Herbert's line, penned three centuries ago, in which he goes to great pains to explain that "God strikes with his finger, and not with all his arm." That sounds consoling, except when one stops to ask how big is God's little finger and how much pressure does He put behind it. Meanwhile, like the Wyoming sheep-raiser, when I ever turn the shorn lambs loose and see cold weather on the way, I'll not put my faith in the Lord's readiness to change the course of the wind but will see to it that the little things are taken to some kind of shelter. But, I'm a tough guy—so tough I wear tin drawers.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

The Avada Club (Jewish club in Wilmington, Del.) was addressed on May 26, 1938, by Marvin Lowenthal, of New York, who "traced the anti-Semitic movement in Europe. He told of how the Jewish minorities are made the victims of relentless campaigns by masters of countries where the attention of the peoples must be diverted from social and economic unrest." Even the Jews fool themselves, and make no mention of the religious issue which they must know is involved. I believe Joseph McCabe's words cannot be too often repeated: "The tap-root of anti-Semitism is still the teaching and influence of the Roman Church."

READER

* * *

Do you suggest the use of Lifebuoy Soap for persons subject to perspiration odors?

No. The soap can't do what the advertisements claim. Deodorants can do the job for a few minutes but they can't reach the cause of body odor. Powdered boric acid or baking soda in warm water will be found much more useful than Lifebuoy Soap.

* * *

I quoted to an official in the meat industry your statement that the consumers are being gyped by the trick of padding sausages with things besides meat. He denied this charge vehemently, saying that you are nothing but a knocker and sour-puss. He says he

knows for a fact that nothing but pork and other valuable meats go into his company's sausages. Have you anything to say for yourself?

I wouldn't expect a person in the meat industry to give away an important trick of his trade, especially when it brings in millions of unearned dollars from the innocent, lamb-like consumers who are supposed to get screwed every time, and like it. If they don't cry for more, they're just a lot of Bolsheviks and Reds.

But, while the meat interests won't confess to the practice of padding sausages, let's listen to a dealer who sells a meat packer his cheap substitute for pork. This fellow gives away the racket, but as it's intended only for the eyes of businessmen who make it their profession to put the screws to the consumers, there's no howl of protest from the meat people. That's because the fellow I'm about to quote is advertising to other meat packers in order to get them to use what he has to sell. In this instance, he's boosting the sale of Omar flour, and the way he does it ought to make the poor consumers raise Hell.

Here's the piece that appeared under the heading of "No Matter How Thin You Slice it," in *The Ech-O-Mar*:

Omar is not called an all-purpose flour for nothing. You can use it for baking, of course, but according to Omar users, it is also a practical face powder, it makes superlative wall-paper paste, and now, says one of John Franz's butcher customers, it's the best thing he ever found for making bologna.

Franz reports: "When we say Omar is different and has more absorption, we are not feeding them a lot of bologna. A butcher here in Waterloo tried Omar in his bologna. With 119 pounds of meat, 24½ pounds of Omar, and water, he got 200 pounds of bologna. And that is a lot of bologna."

"He said Omar worked perfectly, while other flours he had tried did not absorb nearly so much water and were sticky. He also said that Omar absorbed more water than bone meal, which cost him 8c per pound, and, further, the Omar bologna stood up perfectly."

Who's the knocker and sour-puss now? Let the spokesman for the meat boys explain away the virtues of Omar flour! And, by the way, don't let me

close this little sermon without repeating my old argument of how facts like these can never reach the consumers through the regular, capitalistic press, which gets millions of dollars yearly from the meat industry for advertising space. The consumers must learn, in order to protect themselves, to support editors who are independent of the great advertisers. The meat capitalists certainly won't spend a dollar in a newspaper or magazine which has the audacity to say that their sausages are padded with flour and water. So the editors keep mum—at the expense of the consumers. This is another illustration of how editorial policies are controlled by the fellow who pays the advertising bill. The consumer thinks he's getting a bargain when he buys a big newspaper for three cents or a fat magazine for a nickel, but what good does that do him when the publication helps the big boys skin him alive?

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Roger W. Babson, on May 17, 1938, branded all religious denominations with the exception of the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Church, as "country clubs." . . . "The country club denominations are slipping badly . . . and the time has come for them to return to the old-fashioned principles upon which they were founded." . . . "The Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches have stuck to their guns, while the other eight . . . have followed the world in keeping up with Lizzie. Religion is all right so long as you keep money out of it—don't let politics creep into it." (Yeah—we've noticed how the Catholic and Episcopal clergy hate money—and how the Catholic Church DOES hate politics!) "He characterized the Congregational and Methodist Churches as worst of all in slipping from principles on which they were founded. They should 'return to independence, freedom of thought and speech, avoid central authority, back the temperance movement and beat down crime and injustice.'" (The Catholic and Episcopal Churches, I assume, being bulwarks of free thought and speech, avoiding central authority, and all the rest of it!) "Protestants—that's what they call themselves, but they have forgotten what the word means." Now can you figure out the inconsistencies of the religious mind? On May 21, the Methodist Church went on record as sympathizing with the Loyalists. So far as I

know, the Catholic and Episcopal Churches have done no such thing. Perhaps an Episcopal clergyman here and there has declared himself in favor of democracy, but I've seen no wholesale movement for "freedom of thought and speech . . . the beating down of crime." Wilmington, Del. W. MATTHEWS

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Recently I read George Seldes' description in "The Nation" of the birth of the new magazine "Ken." The greater part of this rather lengthy article deals with the difficulties of trying to tell the truth about subjects of vital importance to all of the people while at the same time trying to pay for the project by soliciting advertising. Again and again your oft-repeated conclusions as to the impossibility of making such a thing work are borne out. Truly, I suspect that Messrs. Gingrich, Smart and Allen (of "Ken") have begun to see in their stark reality no end of truths about this damnable snare and delusion called Capitalism; truths about which they were before only dimly conscious; truths about which not one big shot in 500 ever dreams even though they are parading constantly under their very noses; but truths which every radical since before Karl Marx has seen and endeavored to bring to the attention of the whole world.

Strange, but nevertheless true, that ideas as simple as that, due to our innate conservatism or mental laziness, will not quite completely percolate into our understanding until we have had intimate, painful, working contact with them! This, of course, is the slow and laborious—though possibly the most thorough—way of learning about anything, and, like any ordinary moron, these ambitious and well-meaning and seemingly intelligent men can't seem to find a better way either. But what a waste! The experiences of others are lost on them too.

Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG

* * *

"Your answer to the Catholic Information Society's list of 'prominent authors' was a knock-out. It should be in glare heads in every newspaper in the land."—C. A. L., Mo.

* * *

Do farmers buy more used cars than new ones? How much do they pay for cars, on the average?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture made a survey during 1935-36 and learned, after interviewing 17,000 farmers, that farm families buy almost twice as many used motor cars as new ones. California is the only exception, where purchases of new

cars are greater than used ones. Farmers paid an average of \$263 for used cars in the country at large, and \$739 for new cars. The lowest average price for used cars was \$80, in Georgia and Mississippi, as against \$330 in New Jersey.

* * *

How many hairs does a human being shed daily?

Normally, about 30 per day.

* * *

What does a baby grand piano weigh?

About 450 pounds.

* * *

Will you sometime soon publish that Mark Twain prayer again?

As Mark Twain's famous war prayer is available in one of my 13 volumes of Questions and Answers I can see no reason for reprinting it in The Freeman.

* * *

How many carloads of freight do the railroads get from the oil industry annually?

1,300,000.

* * *

Do you believe we American anti-Fascists should boycott German, Japanese and Italian goods?

Yes.

* * *

Please advise if these advertised corn plasters can, as it's claimed, "remove the root."

Chiropodists criticize such advertisements, insisting that corns don't have roots at all.

* * *

A supporter of Fascism tells me we can't get anywhere because our government has us all tied with endless miles of red tape. What we need, he says, is a man like Hitler to cut through the red tape and get things done. Please comment.

I grant you that when Hitler decided to take Austria, there was no red tape in the way. Nor was there any red tape to hinder him when he decided to break one treaty after another. And when he finally plunges the world into a new war—a calamity that's inevitable because of his policies of aggression—there'll be no red tape to slow him down. It seems to my anti-Fascist mentality that there are circumstances when it's a good idea to have a lot of red tape around—especially when there's danger of war. But this doesn't mean there's no red tape in Germany. There's oceans of red tape in Fascist Ger-

many, but it's all for holding back the common people, the workers, and the businessmen. Let me give an interesting example. A German sugar refiner, in a letter to the *Deutsche Volkswirtschaft*, tells of the different kinds of red tape that enveloped him when he decided to apply for permission to build a small boiler house in his plant. The letter:

Sir: We intend to erect a small boiler house on the grounds of our sugar refinery. In order to obtain the necessary permits we must submit estimates and designs to the following authorities:

1. Central board of the German sugar industry.
2. National labor office.
3. Local labor office.
4. Air raid protection bureau for industry.
5. A special bureau having supervision over boiler house construction.
6. Local building department.
7. Silesian Association for Boiler Supervision.
8. Headquarters of electrical industry in regard to extending the main cable.
9. Reichsbahn bureau supervising construction of track.
10. A certified engineer to check contractor's estimate on track.
11. Reich power authority in regard to expansion of power.

I've been in business for more than a quarter of a century and I can say in all candor that if I added together all the red tape that bothered me in all that time it would run short of the red tape that harassed that poor German victim of Hitlerism when he wanted to put in a necessary, and simple, improvement. Democracy isn't perfect, by any means, but let me repeat what I've said many times: *Democracy at its worst is better than Fascism at its best.*

* * *

How is Winrod's campaign coming along?

Gerald B. Winrod, called by his fellow-Fascists "the Jayhawk Nazi," is touring Kansas in an attempt to capture the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate. He is spending immense sums of money—which are coming from Fascist sources—in an attempt to hoist the swastika over Kansas. But the decent elements in the Protestant churches have awakened at last to this dangerous fanatic.

On July 8, 1938, nine Protestant pastors—in fact, the most important members of the pulpit in Kansas—issued a pamphlet which attracted a great deal of attention. It gives all the facts and arguments. The Freeman advanced during the past five years. I'm proud to see these anti-Fascists use my material so generously. The record shows that The Freeman was the first publication in the U.S. to recognize the Nazi propaganda of the Rev. Winrod, as reference to my 14 volumes of Questions and Answers will prove. Every quotation which I used from the Rev. Winrod's *Defender* is reproduced in photostatic copies in this anti-Winrod pamphlet, including the Jayhawk Nazi's attacks on the Catholic masses, the Federal Council of Churches, the Jews, and his pieces in support of the forged and discredited Protocols of the Elders of Zion. The pamphlet also shows that Winrod has attacked the Masonic order as Jewish "controlled," and that he has attacked the Communist movement as Jewish "inspired." I feel confident that this blast against Winrod—all of it supported by facts and direct citations from the Nazi's writings—will do an immense amount of good. For years I was a voice crying in the wilderness, warning the American people that right here in Kansas there is a Fundamentalist who is striving to give the U.S. a stiff dose of Hitlerism. It seemed, during the long years, that my warnings were falling on deaf ears, but today we see the great effect of this steady, determined, implacable, educational work. I'm glad to see the decent, liberal elements in our Protestant churches take over my fight. I couldn't whip Winrod alone. But with these newcomers, the battle seems half won already. Let's hope Kansas won't have to endure the shame and humiliation of sending a disgusting, lying, treacherous, contemptible, stinking, putrid Nazi to the U.S. Senate. The lousy beast emits poison gas at each breath, and each movement of his scabby body sheds vermin. He deals in race prejudice and race-baiting. He would turn on America's Jews the wrath of Hitler's hoodlums. He would gag education by outlawing evolution and modern science. He would bring glor-

ious America back to the depths of the Dark Ages. Such an intellectual pimp must be stopped in his tracks. America must remain the home of tolerance, of liberalism, of democracy, of fair play to members of all races, of free inquiry in the sphere of science, and of freedom. A sewer-rat like Winrod doesn't represent America's traditional liberty and decency. He is made of the same stuff as Hitler, and that means filth and decay. Winrod, the most loathsome beast in American life, must be rejected by our citizens.

* * *

Can you give me the story about Hitler which gives that worthy's experience in Heaven?

There are many stories about Adolf (Velvetlips) Hitler in Heaven. One of the most popular jokes among the German people goes like this:

When Hitler arrived in Heaven it was late at night and the only one awake was St. Peter. There was no chance for an interview and accommodations were all filled, so St. Peter told Adolf he'd have to bunk up with somebody for the evening. Hitler merely grunted and went to the room assigned to him. Two minutes later, he came flying out of the room, sputtering and cursing. "How dare you put me in that room?" Hitler demanded. "A Jew lives in there. Throw him out!" "Impossible," replied St. Peter. "That's the Boss' son."

* * *

What's your notion about The Saturday Evening Post's article exposing Roosevelt's son, Jimmy?

The Saturday Evening Post has supplied the anti-New Deal press with plenty of ammunition, which has been used to the limit in an attempt to smear our President, but I can't see where there's much in the article to get excited about. It happens that son Jimmy went into the insurance business in Massachusetts while his father was Governor of New York, in 1929. That was years before Roosevelt moved into the White House. If Jimmy's activities in the insurance business were legitimate in 1929—and they were, of course—then they were on the up-and-up in later years. I don't doubt that Jimmy's firm has been writing more insurance since his father became President, but this could be made the basis of criticism

only if it could be shown that President Roosevelt used his powers to grant governmental favors to men who had permitted Jimmy to sell them insurance. I doubt that such favors could be proven. The whole question simmers down to this: Has a President's son the right to make a living?

* * *

Last week I saw anti-Semitism being spread by means of typewritten copies of what purported to be statements made by Benjamin Franklin during the sessions of the Constitutional Convention in 1787. These "quotations" were said to have been taken from the diary of Charles Pinckney, of South Carolina. They dealt with the so-called Jewish immigration danger to the country. It also said that they could be verified at the Franklin Institute, Phila. I hope you will deal with this adequately as early as possible. I appeal to you to "put the bite on 'em."

I exposed this forgery several years ago, my authority being the distinguished historian, Dr. Charles A. Beard, who showed that the so-called Pinckney diary is a fake, that no such work exists. Dr. Beard proved conclusively that Franklin couldn't have said the things attributed to him. All the data will be found in my volumes of questions and answers. Readers who want Dr. Beard's exact words should refer to my books. Anti-Semitic propagandists have no regard for the truth. Anything that fits their foul ends can be depended on to be used to the limit, even when the facts prove beyond debate that the charges are without foundation. That's typical of the anti-Semites everywhere, especially Nazi Germany, the fountainhead of anti-Jewish literature. I have shown again and again that the so-called Protocols of the Elders of Zion (in which Jews are supposed to outline a plan to enslave the world) was a forgery perpetrated by Czarist officials, but anti-Semites like Hitler, Julius Streicher, and our own Rev. Gerald B. Winrod go right ahead using the "protocols" as though no one had ever questioned their "documents." The Franklin lie fits into this technique. This makes it all the more difficult to disseminate the truth, but that's all the more reason for keeping everlastingly at the important task of giving the reading public

the facts of these controversial issues. Writers and editors who dedicate their publications to the serious task of exposing the race-baiters must keep their presses rolling, for the bigots work on the theory that a lie circulated long enough will stick with a certain portion of the population. Liberal-minded editors mustn't let such results discourage them, for, by the same logic, emphasis on the truth is worth while for if it's repeated often enough, it'll stick with a certain portion of the population. It then simmers down to the question of which side is more diligent and effective—the truth-seekers or the hate-mongers. I'm optimistic enough to believe that our exposures of the anti-Semites and related medievalists will, in time, erase the vile lies they have circulated so heartlessly and shamelessly. The only essential, to my notion, is the creation of a more powerful progressive press, a job which must be done by the readers, since the big advertisers refuse to give financial help to such free-spoken editors. If each reader of radical, progressive or liberal publications will assume the chore of getting new readers lined up, the work of exposing lies like the one credited to Franklin will be made much more effective. Positive results will be possible, if a sufficient number of readers take this simple lesson to heart. We have it in our power to ward off the horrors of Fascism (anti-Semitism is only another manifestation of this worldwide disease) if we can arouse a large enough body of readers to help establish an independent, unsubsidized, free press. I've pounded on this theme many times in the past, but I'm glad to repeat myself because I believe my message is of genuine and urgent importance.

* * *

I hear a great deal of criticism directed at the WPA. It is said to be run by politics, that it's a vast bureaucracy, that it's wasteful, that direct doles would be cheaper, and the like. Please discuss these objections.

I don't question the fact that WPA isn't perfect, but that doesn't mean the vast project is a failure. Harry L. Hopkins, administrator of WPA, frankly admits there are flaws, as follows:

"That there are weaknesses in the

Works Program I am the first to admit. To me the glaring weakness is that it cannot yet provide work for all employables who are in need. I feel, however, that we will come to that. . . . Another admitted weakness is the low wages which we pay WPA workers in certain sections of the country. Thousands of our workers, I am sorry to say, earn less than \$30 a month. There is very little we can do about this at the present time."

Discussing one of the objections listed above, Mr. Hopkins wrote:

"Figures are sometimes presented to show the difference in cost between a work program and a dole. . . . If we figure on direct relief grants equal in budgetary adequacy to present WPA wages, the saving turns out to be only 30 percent. But for this 30 percent which is spent for materials and equipment, we have, first of all, an indirect employment equivalent to about a sixth of those on the Works Program; and we have, of course, the vast physical accomplishments of a works program—as well as the benefit to the nation that comes from conserving the skills and the morale of the unemployed."

Another objection advanced by opponents of WPA is that it encourages an army of jobholders who refuse private employment. Mr. Hopkins answers this with the assertion that he is yet to find any group of WPA workers who wouldn't be happy to get back in private industry.

We now come to the claim that WPA's projects are not worth-while, that there is too much boondoggling. Mr. Hopkins comments:

"Let me point out that 76 percent of all WPA money spent has gone for construction projects: buildings, roads, streets, airports, parks and bridges. Three percent went for sanitation and health projects and 3 percent for miscellaneous physical projects. Eight percent went for women's work projects and 10 percent went for educational, clerical and professional projects."

My reader's question about politics in WPA is met by Mr. Hopkins, as follows:

"That minor politicians of both parties have tried to influence, intimidate and even coerce WPA workers in certain areas, I have no doubt; that these attempts have been unsuccessful, I also have no

doubt. The large majority of American workers have too much sense to be browbeaten by petty politicians.

"I have told every WPA worker, on numerous occasions, by letter and over the radio, that politics and the WPA are not allied. I have asked that they report to me every case of attempted intimidation. In a few instances we have fired WPA supervisors and administrative personnel for illegal political action.

"It should be remembered that the WPA employs more people than the automobile, steel and coal industries combined. That infractions of rules and small chiseling will crop up is inevitable, but the accusation of politics in the WPA has never been substantiated and cannot be substantiated. There has been less political intimidation in the entire WPA program than is contained in one pre-election pay envelope of a large industrialist."

Asked if WPA program has built up a huge bureaucracy in Washington, Mr. Hopkins replied:

"This argument can be answered in three sentences. All WPA workers are selected from the local relief rolls. Ninety-eight percent of all WPA projects are locally conceived, locally sponsored and locally supervised, by States, counties, cities and towns. The WPA program throughout the United States costs less than 5 percent to administer. Less than 10 percent of the administrative personnel is in Washington; the remainder is in the field, and in 99 cases out of 100, these people work where they live.

"The federal government has come a long way in accepting responsibility for the unemployed destitute of the nation and in providing relief for them. It has come a long way in the fight for general economic security for all our citizens. The program has not been worked out in its entirety. Five years is a short time for so enormous a job. But we are going forward and not backward. And that is the most encouraging sign on the present horizon."

Fair-minded citizens must admit that Mr. Hopkins has done a magnificent job. As I've told Freeman readers many times during the past few years, WPA's results are to be seen on all sides. Even the enemies of Roosevelt's policies have to admit that every section of the country has been given immense and numerous

projects, all of them permanent improvements. The American people, I'm positive, have received good value for their money, and at the same time millions of destitute men and women have been given work that saved them from starvation.

* * *

When economists and political scientists speak of "confidence" what have they in mind?

As my readers know, I'm given to simple and clear definitions when I explore the jungles of economics. So, when asked to explain what economists mean by "confidence" I avoid big words and involved methods of reasoning, preferring to eschew verbiage in order to talk the language of the street. So, when asked what "confidence" is, I reply:

It's the certainty of being paid.

That's all there is to it. If you run a filling station and someone drives up for a few gallons of gas and asks for credit, and if you decide the driver is all right, you extend the credit. That's confidence. You're certain of being paid.

If you have a few dollars saved up and decide to put the money in a postal savings bank, you do so with the sure knowledge that you'll get your money whenever you ask for it. That's confidence.

* * *

What is the total foreign indebtedness of the Soviet Union?

In 1937, the Soviet Union bought \$75,000,000 worth of goods in the U.S. alone, which was \$25,000,000 more than the Russians agreed to buy from us under the terms of their trade pact with our State Department. In the same year, the Soviet Union spent about \$10,000,000 in Czechoslovakia. The purchases from us were on cash terms or, at the most, 45 days after delivery of documents proving shipment of goods. In the English market the Soviet Union had a \$50,000,000 credit from the government, with the understanding that all the money is to be spent in that country. Because of unsatisfactory political conditions, little was spent in Germany and Italy. And yet, despite the Soviet Union's heavy foreign business, it owes about \$12,000,000 in this country, most of which is for current items, and between \$100,000,-

000 and \$125,000,000 for the entire world—an amazingly solvent condition when one considers that a great deal of this money is for goods purchased with the past three or four months. The facts show that the financial position of the Soviet Union is exceptionally good.

* * *

Is it a fact that Walter Winchell and Hearst are at war?

Walter Winchell, who is William Randolph Hearst's most famous columnist, got along well with the owner of the newspaper chain until he went in for writing bitter (and true) pieces about Fascism and Nazism. When Winchell began calling the Nazis Ratzis, Hearst got alarmed, for he has tender regards for his Italian and German Fascist readers. Besides, the man himself is a great enemy of progressive, liberal policies, which helps explain his hatred for Roosevelt's New Deal. According to an article in *Ken*, the feud reached a climax when Hearst wired the editors of his newspapers:

San Simeon, Calif.,
March 28, 1938.

To the editors of all Hearst publications publishing Winchell's column:

Please edit Winchell very carefully and omit dangerous or inconvenient paragraphs. It doesn't matter if you omit entire column, since I believe that he no longer has great value.

(Signed) W. R. Hearst.

One report has it that Winchell offered to give up his contract but the proffered resignation was rejected because Hearst was afraid his competitors in the publishing field would grab up this popular writer. Meanwhile, Winchell goes right ahead with his attacks on Hitler and Mussolini, many of which are thrown out by Hearst editors outside New York City. In the New York *Mirror*, which directly employs Winchell, I understand his stuff is printed as is. Elsewhere, paragraphs which tell the truth about the Ratzis are deleted, though many outside publications, which aren't controlled by Hearst, print Winchell *in toto*. Another thing that angers Hearst is the fact that Winchell is a Jew, which gives Nazis the excuse of charging that the Jews are using

the Hearst press to attack their enemies. As bad as he is, Hearst, so far as I know, isn't an anti-Semite, but in this particular issue he wishes Winchell weren't a Jew. Winchell, on the other hand, insists that he must be free to tell his readers—estimated at 20,000,000—the truth as he sees it about the disgusting Ratzis (an excellent and proper name for the Nazis, in my opinion) and if Hearst doesn't like it he knows what he can do. That's where the controversy rests, as I write this piece. It's my notion that Winchell will win out in the end, for he's writing nothing but the truth about the Ratzis, and the American people want the truth about the despicable Hitlerites. Hearst will edit his stuff—and delete paragraphs he considers unwanted in his newspapers—but it's doubtful that he'll surrender his most appreciated columnist to competitors who would grab him up in an hour.

* * *

I need the services of a good psychiatrist. Please recommend a leader in this branch of science. I live in Mississippi and can't go too far.

There aren't more than two dozen real psychiatrists in the entire country. One must be careful to select the right practitioner. I recommend that my Mississippi reader go to Karl A. Menninger's sanitarium, in Topeka, Kansas. Dr. Menninger is an authority in his field and enjoys a world-wide reputation.

* * *

What's the difference between egotism and a swell head?

Egotism is a realization of how good you are, while swell headedness is a realization that you are even better than you are.

* * *

A press report from Germany claims that the Nazis are boasting over the way they have succeeded in solving the unemployment problem. Please comment.

I have gone into this question many times, as my books of questions and answers will show, proving by figures how Hitler's "cure" of unemployment in Germany is economic quackery. My data proved how the 6,000,000 unemployed in pre-Nazi Germany were put into the vastly increased army, into the gigantic and

growing armament industry, and the like. What all this means is explained briefly in a statement made by President Roosevelt, at his press conference, June 28, 1938. The following is taken from the story sent out by the Associated Press:

"No country, the President said, has developed a permanent solution of the problem of giving people work in times of depression as well as in boom periods. And, he added, the only method developed so far of solving unemployment 100 percent was the method of going in for armaments—manufacturing goods without permanent worth and which do not reproduce wealth.

"That, he declared, is not a permanent solution."

As the President showed in the same interview, the U.S. isn't going to tackle its unemployment problem by joining in a vast, wasteful armament race. For 1938, Roosevelt said, arms were costing only 12 percent of this country's expenditures, compared with other countries where arms cost 45 to 50 percent of the total expense of government, and even higher than that in Germany, where Hitler is preparing for a new world war. Yes, Hitler "solved" unemployment by making the army and the armament business the main industry of the country, and when he feels he's ready the problem will be solved for all time by putting the would-be job-holders under six feet of earth, where they will be unemployed, in a quiet way, from now on.

Of course, it wasn't quite accurate to say that unemployment prevails in every civilized country. The Soviet Union has 170,000,000 people, and all who are able-bodied are given jobs. The army is large, but not out of proportion to the immense population and the vast country to be defended. The armament industry in Russia is impressive, but is by no means the main business of the country, as is the case in Germany. And yet, unemployment is non-existent in the Soviet Union. Why? Because the means of production, distribution and exchange have been socialized in a classless society. That's the heart of the situation over there. The motive is to produce wealth for the good of the people and not for the enrichment of capitalistic overlords. We have

unemployment because the capitalist class can't make a profit exploiting the labor power of the jobless. If the industries belonged to the people and were run for use instead of profit, every able worker could be earning wages within a few months. Those Russians aren't as crazy as our red-baiters would have us believe.

* * *

You fight Fascism and defend democracy. What do you mean by democracy?

Democracy isn't easy to define, for it's a living thing, a way of life. But when we lose democracy we know what's missing in our lives, conditions easily recognizable in benighted countries like Germany and Italy. While no two defenders of democracy will agree on the same definition, it seems to me that Prof. Charles A. Beard, our greatest living historian, hit off the highlights when he said democracy included the following 10 points:

- (1) The right to elect some of your officers.
- (2) Freedom of speech.
- (3) A free press.
- (4) Fair play.
- (5) Acceptance of majority rule—If you can't get a court to deflect it.
- (6) The right of the people to hear both sides of every question.
- (7) Absence of fixed social classes, and the opportunity for free shifting between classes, either up or down.
- (8) A wide distribution of income.
- (9) Opportunity to participate in the direction of the community.
- (10) The right to know what is being done, to hear why it is being done, and to offer suggestions and hear what can and can't be done.

None of the 10 points listed above prevails in any Fascist country. No country is truly civilized which denies any or all of the above democratic fundamentals. Our country has its faults—where, after all, is there a perfect country?—but isn't it wonderful to be able to say that we live in a land where the above principles are accepted by most of its people and serious efforts are made to keep them with us as living realities?

At the same time, let me add that no real believer in democracy limits himself to the way democracy expresses itself today. We appreciate

the virtues of political democracy and civil rights, but we refuse to overlook the important fact that the masses must learn the lessons of democracy so they may be applied where they will serve the greatest number. In other words, we need social as well as political democracy. Translated into living conditions, we anti-Fascists not only fight for political democracy but insist that this great philosophy shall be extended so that we'll be blessed with industrial democracy. The toilers in our large-scale industries must resist the idea that they are to consider themselves mere cogs in the great industrial machine, with the overlords—or bosses—to say, like so many dictators, what labor shall be satisfied with and what it must do in order to draw its wages. The large-scale industries which are essential to our economic life should be owned collectively and managed democratically. When democracy reaches down to the economic facts of life we'll be able to say that this wonderful philosophy has conquered at last. Democracy gives us the power to change our economic conditions. We need mass education so that the great forward step may be taken. Political democracy, let me repeat, is precious and must be preserved, but industrial democracy is essential to the public welfare. Let's use democracy to increase democracy's influence.

* * *

What's your opinion of the argument frequently used by some Jews which holds that Jews should avoid all communistic, socialistic, radical or even liberal ideas? They hold to the theory that Jews who make themselves conspicuous by advocating or defending minority views or unpopular causes give Jew-haters the much-sought pretext for persecuting and enslaving a helpless racial group.

James Waterman Wise discusses this opinion effectively, as follows:

"What is overlooked is the tragic paradox that if we of the working class and middle class abandon the right to champion unpopular causes, we shall have nothing left of which the anti-Semites can deprive us! Thus we will not only be driven into ghettos of inferiority, but we ourselves will have built them.

"This retreatism is the gravest danger which we face today: the

abandonment of hard-won and precious positions which are threatened more by fear of our enemies than by our enemies themselves. Yet that is precisely what takes place when we surrender the right as free and equal citizens of our country to maintain any political opinion, or to participate in social and economic movements which are, or are called, radical and progressive. Moreover, in surrendering this right, we tacitly invite further demands by our enemies for self-obliteration and auto-enslavement. Let us once admit that Jews have no right to hold 'radical' convictions and we shall find that no conviction held by us is 'conservative' enough to appease the anti-Semites."

In my numerous pieces on the problem of anti-Semitism I have shown that it's to the interest of Jews and civilized people in general to fight racial persecution with the broadest methods, by which I mean support for all harassed minority groups, unionism, liberalism, democracy, the Bill of Rights, and the like. Jews and other victims of discrimination can feel safe only when the whole social organism functions in harmony with the enlightened principles of democratic, liberal ideology. There's no possibility of safety in silence when barbarians strive to tear down the ideals of freedom and social-minded progress. Such anonymity invites disaster. The sane and sensible thing to do is for all progressives to present a united front against reaction and bigotry. The Jews in pre-Nazi Germany met Hitler with silence and contempt. They have paid dearly for that mistaken policy. The lesson mustn't be forgotten in those countries where liberty still lives. Beware of self-imposed gags.

I discuss these issues again and again because they appear important to me, especially when I hear well-intentioned people, including Jews, dissuading Jews from advancing movements like the C.I.O., the American Civil Liberties Union, and the organizations fighting Fascism and helping Spain and China. Such objectors grant that Catholic-Fascism is a menace to civilized institutions, but they suggest the notion that when a few Jews attack Catholic-Fascism they invite on the heads of all Jews the wrath of the medieval-

ists. Therefore, to be logical, no Jew should attack Japanese militarism, Mussolini or Hitler. No Jew should try to preserve democracy and peace. No Jew should endorse the movements that stand for improved conditions for labor. They draw the inference—unfounded, it seems to me—that they can do better by resting their case and cause with the powers that be, whether it's imperialism, economic royalism, or Fascism. This is flying in the face of history, for we have seen how ready the reactionaries are to use anti-Semitism, or any other form of persecution, to further their interests. Loosing the hounds of race prejudice is a valuable weapon with the rulers in Fascist lands or the rank conservatives in democratic countries. We have seen many times how our Southern bourbons can make effective use of the Negro race as a scapegoat. Such vested interests will use anti-Semitism as readily as it'll resort to lynch law and Negro-baiting, if anything is to be gained by such a program. I can imagine nothing more fatuous than to appeal to such elements to give aid and comfort to a persecuted minority. Oppressed minorities can't make bargains with gangsterism.

This brings us to the question: How are the Jews to defend themselves? James Waterman Wise, whom I quoted above, outlines a set of ideas that strike me as being sound. Mr. Wise, who is the able and gifted son of famed Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, writes:

"First, it seems to me that the times call for reaffirmation of Jewish rights. Such affirmation must be unqualified and uncompromising. It must be made not in words alone, but in our actions as individuals and as members of a group. Such affirmation must stress constitutional rights—especially the right of a minority to voice unpopular ideas and the right, which has been tacitly challenged, to hold any and every office to which Jews are entitled by integrity and ability. Such affirmation must restate religious rights, not in terms of formal tolerance, but as guaranteeing that no subtle or overt discrimination be practiced against adherents of Judaism, and that any national, state or municipal officeholder who so discriminates shall be driven

from public office. Such affirmation must insist upon cultural rights so that the language, the tradition, the folk-lore and the aspirations of Jews may have full and free scope to weave themselves into the pattern of a democratic American culture.

"Such a reaffirmation of Jewish rights will clarify the issue in our own minds and in the minds of millions of our fellow-Americans. It will show our determination not to barter our heritage of equality for a mess of sufferance, nor willingly to submit to Fascist blackmail and vigilante terror. It will expose the anti-Semites and Jew-baiters for what they are—camouflaged shock troops of intolerance and dictatorship.

"Second, it is imperative that we align ourselves with those forces in American life which are as organically and inevitably **OPPOSED** to anti-Semitism as the reactionaries are **HEADED TOWARD IT**. These are the forces of progress and democracy. It is not enough that we passively sympathize with them. We must actively, even heroically, participate in their struggles.

"On grounds of self-interest. it is essential that these forces—the only forces on whom we can count as allies in maintaining our freedom and equality of status—shall know us and know our cause. This they can do only if we stand shoulder to shoulder with them in common effort. Every Jew who is known as a friend of labor binds the labor movement closer to his people's fate. Every Jew who champions the under-privileged, the unemployed, the exploited millions of our land, cements enduring and precious friendships for his race. Every Jew who battles to preserve civil and industrial liberties, augments the power of resistance to assaults upon Jewish liberties."

In short, don't look to your enemies for the preservation of your freedom. You must fight your battles openly, candidly and honestly, meeting each issue face to face. Don't try to ride out the storm in some dark cellar. A voluntary surrender of one's rights is the lowest form of cowardice. And once surrendered, it can be regained only by fighting the battles of democracy and liberalism over again, with chances of victory lessened because of corrupted morale. The answer to prejudice and bigotry is honest criti-

cism, open organization and direct defense.

* * *

In Robert Briffault's book, "Europa," there is a passage which insinuates that William Tell, the liberator of the Swiss people from Gessler's yoke, and King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table, were merely myths. Please comment.

Author Briffault's statement is correct. Tell never existed. The Arthurian Tales are legends. For authority I refer my readers to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

* * *

Can you tell me where the biggest job of air-conditioning has been done?

By far, the biggest installation for air-conditioning is in the U.S. Capitol, which also includes the Senate Office Building, the Old House Office Building, and the New House Office Building, all of which are fed cooled air from the New Refrigerating Plant near the U.S. Capitol Power Plant. This job, begun in 1933, was finished in 1938. To give my readers an idea of the vastness of the system, let me explain that the refrigerating capacity of the plant is equal to the melting each day of a block of ice 50 feet square and as high as a seven-story building.

* * *

In view of the great quantity of anti-Fascist articles you have written, would you visit Germany or Italy, if you had the chance?

My first impulse is to say it might be safer to go elsewhere. If I did go into either or both Fascist paradises, I'd be careful to see that my papers were in order, that I carried no printed or written matter that might incriminate me, and I'd conduct myself, as much as possible, as an ordinary tourist. Even then I might land in the hoosegow, for my attacks have, to my personal knowledge, attracted unfriendly notice. In fact, one of my readers spent 12 days in jail in Italy because he, an American citizen, was caught entering the country with a supply of my little books in his trunk. It happened in 1927, though I heard about it only the other day, when I received a clipping from the June 15, 1938, issue of the *People's World*, published in San Francisco, Calif. The article, by G. P. Hitchcock, tells about the work

of the great Italian-American sculptor, Beniamino Bufano, who, by the way, is doing the immense statue of St. Francis D'Assisi, which will be placed on San Francisco's Twin Peaks. And, while I'm at it, let me identify Bufano to the average readers by telling them they can have a free look at one of Bufano's pieces of modeling the next time they get hold of a buffalo nickel, for it was this artist who did the job for the U.S. Treasury. But, to return to the point, Bufano is quoted as saying:

"I had enough experience with the Italian Fascist government. I went to Italy to study in 1927. The police nabbed me in Rome and sized up my books. I used to carry a whole library of Haldeman-Julius' books. They asked me if there were any anti-Fascist works among them. I told them that many of the writings were 500 to 1,000 years old and that inasmuch as most of the writers had been against oppression, perhaps there were things against the government in them.

"They threw me in jail 12 days for my answer and only the assistance of the art patroness, the Princess Borgeese, got me out."

If a reader gets 12 days in jail for merely carrying some of my books, perhaps it'd be a pious idea if I stayed away, lest I be stood against the nearest wall. I'm hot against Fascism, but I'm not quite ready to die for my ideas. I prefer to live and fight Fascism rather than becoming one of its martyrs.

* * *

Please comment on the favorite theme of newspaper editorialists, that our crime bill would be cut measurably if we did away with the parole system.

The argument has no factual basis. Sanford Bates, for years director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons, and noted penologist, says: "From such figures as we have as to the total new volume of crime, we have found fewer than 1 percent of the current arrests are found to be on parole." The old argument that filling up our prisons with victims of society and letting them rot there in order to "prevent" crime, is unsound. As Mr. Bates says:

"May I refer once more to the possibility we are overdoing the matter of punishment in America? "Informal figures . . . disclose the

disquieting fact we are sending six times as many men to prison in America as in England. But has this practice made us any freer from crime?"

Our parole system works, especially when it's used to help instead of to harass the released prisoners.

* * *

Has President Roosevelt ever paid his respects to our tin-horn Hitler, Mayor Frank Hague, of Jersey City?

In his 13th Fireside Chat, on June 24, 1938, President Roosevelt referred to Hague, though he didn't mention him by name. F. D. R.'s unmistakable rebuke follows:

"And I am concerned about the attitude of a candidate or his sponsors with respect to the rights of American citizens to assemble peaceably and to express publicly their views and opinions on important social and economic issues. There can be no constitutional democracy in any community which denies to the individual his freedom to speak and worship as he wishes. The American people will not be deceived by anyone who attempts to suppress individual liberty under the pretense of patriotism."

Roosevelt continues to be lambasted in the Fascist press, while Hague gets reams of favorable publicity from Mussolini's and Hitler's editors. Fascist swine are always quick to recognize their kin.

* * *

I have studied your figures dealing with the sad decline of Germany's universities. How do the Fascists meet such devastating arguments?

The Fascists are shameless enemies of education and enlightenment. Knowing that true education helps develop aspirations for freedom and democracy, Fascists do their utmost to keep the masses from getting real educations. Only enough is taught to keep them satisfied with the terroristic regime; all else is considered against the best interests of the totalitarian State. In Italy, Mussolini turned the public schools over to the Catholic Church, with results that should be obvious to even superficial observers. Another Catholic-Fascist dictator, Oliveira Salazar, of Portugal, became frank and open when asked to discuss his scheme for holding the masses in subjection. His words give one an insight into

the mentality of the Catholic-Fascists. Salazar says:

"We must show the people that happiness cannot be found in our artificial modern life; they must seek it in individual adaptations to their environment; I know that the poor can never make themselves completely happy. For the solution of the problem I have just stated, I rely on the reduction of education, a careful selection of what is to be taught, the protection of the country districts from evil influences and the depopulation of the towns.

"In the newspapers I often read this pitiful sentence: 'The people must be taught to read.' And I say to myself, 'What shall they read?' It is education and undesirable literature, these are our enemies."

Portugal's population, let me add, is already 60 percent illiterate, and the dictator isn't satisfied even with such a miserable state of affairs. He would, in order to protect Catholic-Fascism, make illiteracy even more general. According to the *Baltimore Evening Sun* (where I got the above sentences from Salazar), Portugal's Catholic-Fascist dictator "is restricting admission to schools, discontinuing popular educational lectures in Lisbon and cutting the educational appropriation 'way down.'"

The above is just one more proof of the evil consequences of Fascism.

* * *

I often hear the U.S. referred to as a Protestant country. Is this true?

Church statistics for 1926, issued by the U.S. Census, show that more than 50 percent of the population were without church affiliations of any kind. This was out of a population of 116,531,963. The same report shows 4,081,242 listed as Jewish and 18,605,003 as Roman Catholic. If we deduct these two religious bodies from the total church membership, 54,576,346, and liberally designating all the rest as Protestant, we arrive at the conclusion that there are 31,890,101 Protestants in the U.S. This is about 27 percent of the population. Therefore, the oft-repeated statement that "this is a Protestant country" doesn't jibe with the facts.

* * *

Do you recommend the use of Xervac for baldness?

The Freeman was the first (and only) publication in the country to

expose the machine (Xervac) sold by the Crosley Radio Corporation, Cincinnati, O. My articles which showed up the claims as so much bunk appeared at a time when the magazines and newspapers were carrying large, expensive advertisements of this big concern. Naturally, as I've explained many times in the past, the capitalistic press, when it's a party to deceiving the public, keeps its trap shut in order to take in more dough. The consumer's interests mean nothing to the average newspaper or magazine. Now we find that my attacks on Xervac have taken effect, for the Federal Trade Commission has compelled the Xervac concern to sign a stipulation in which it agrees to quit the claim that its machine (which sells at more than \$100) will stop the falling of an abnormal amount of hair. The Crosley Radio Corporation also admits in its stipulation that the Xervac device won't "enable patients to regain normal, healthy hair, or that it constitutes a competent treatment for baldness or falling or lifeless hair." In fact, every charge made by The Freeman has been sustained by the FTC, with the result that from now on the public will be protected against advertising claims which can't be substantiated. We see again how a little paper can serve the public constructively while the great journals, with their immense advertising revenue, are always ready to join in the racket of gypping the consumer. Incidentally, I defy any Freeman reader to find so much as a single line of type in the average capitalistic periodical showing that the FTC has cracked down on the advertising claims of one of the press's most profitable accounts. How long is it going to take the consumers to wake up to the racket that's being put over by the capitalistic press? How long is it going to take them to learn that the capitalistic newspapers and magazines are out to help make them pay big money for rank bunk? How long is it going to take the average consumer to learn that he must support and help build a free, independent press that'll serve the consumers instead of the big-money advertisers?

* * *

I have an opportunity to invest \$500 in

a mortgage certificate issued by a Catholic Church which owns considerable property in my community. Would you advise me to take the risk?

I advise you to pass up this chance to lose your \$500. Put your savings in the nearest postal savings bank. In his magazine, *Social Justice*, for June 6, 1938, Father Coughlin writes that "more than 72 percent of our Church properties are encumbered with unpayable mortgages."

* * *

An American newspaper editor, just returned from Italy, says it's surprising how, after 16 years, Mussolini remains the most popular man in his country. Please comment.

Our editor must be naive. He saw Mussolini's slogans everywhere. He noticed "Duce, Duce, Duce" on every wall and fence. The radio rang with Mussolini's name. The newspapers splashed his words and picture over every front page. But, even a school-boy should know that Mussolini himself ordered his slogans and name on the walls of buildings. His press department told the editors how to exploit the Mussolini name and personality. The radio system belongs to the great mass-murderer. Why be impressed with the fact that Mussolini's name is the most publicized in all Italy? There's no opposition that has the legal right to express itself about the dictator. I'm sure a month of free speech, free press and free discussion would end with M's deflation.

* * *

Recently I flew into Lambert Airport, St. Louis, Mo., and while walking through the waiting room I came on a vending machine that struck me as being something revolutionary. There, at its top, was the name of E. Haldeman-Julius, and inside, subject to call by way of dimes, were four Little Blue Books. What's it all about?

On July 5, 1938, I drove to St. Louis just to have a look at those machines, and while there was interviewed by a reporter for the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. What follows is taken from the July 7, 1938, issue of that newspaper:

Sixty days ago Milton W. Greenwald, St. Louis linen importer, and William Hartman, an investment banker of the Chase Hotel, "dropped in" on E. Haldeman-Julius, publisher of the Little Blue Books, at his office in Girard, Kans., to dis-

cuss their idea for distributing the books from automatic vending machines.

Yesterday Haldeman-Julius was in St. Louis to inspect the first of the machines, which have already been given preliminary tests here which indicate they will be successful. The publisher, who has sold 200,000,000 Little Blue Books in almost 20 years, asserted he was setting a goal of 2,000,000,000 for the next 20 years.

Hartman, who asserted automatic vending is a new idea in the distribution of literature, said 10 of the machines are now in use in St. Louis, and that a thorough test will be made in this city before national distribution begins. It is planned to manufacture the machines, which will vend from four to 18 titles, in St. Louis.

Haldeman-Julius said current tastes in literature are more serious than they were a few years ago.

"It may seem far-fetched, but President Roosevelt has had a tremendous effect on the people's reading," he said. "Economic subjects are in demand as never before. I think the President has turned people toward liberalism and broadened the horizon of their interests."

The publisher expressed the belief recent business improvement will continue, and credited the governmental spending program with the upturn.

An ardent foe of Fascism, he described it as one of the greatest dangers faced by this country, asserting a vast amount of undercover organization work is going on at present.

"Communists have become so alarmed they are ready to support capitalistic democracy in an effort to avert Fascism," he said. "Fascist elements would be a real danger today if they had the right leader. What they need is a man like Huey Long."

Like the late Will Rogers, all I know is what I read in the papers. I know little more than is told in the newspaper story above. The vending machines are attractive, and, while I know absolutely nothing about this business, it seems to me as though the near future is going to see some amazing developments in the distribution of reading matter. I have nothing to do with these machines, my contract being limited only to my supplying the company with unlimited quantities of

Little Blue Books, a job I'm always glad to do. Mr. Hartman and Mr. Greenwald operate under the name of Vend-A-Book Co., 503 North Taylor Ave., St. Louis, Mo., to whom inquiries should be addressed by persons interested in obtaining distribution rights to the machines.

While having lunch with Greenwald and Hartman, in the Hotel Chase dining room, I was told that the place was crowded with Freeman readers. And, sure enough, I soon learned this was no exaggeration, for, as a result of the friendly efforts of a set of 19-year-old twins, bus-boys Joseph and Anthony Arico, practically all of the other employees, including several waitresses, were steady readers of this pious journal. Needless to say, I was flattered down to my toes. And, by the way, let me add that the twins are just about the cutest little fellows you ever saw—sturdy, manly chaps, with wide open grins, bright eyes, and intelligent, expressive countenances. It was a joy just to look at them, though I grant you I couldn't tell which was which. They are the finest type of self-educated workers. Their reading is of the very best, including heavy portions of Joseph McCabe's substantial mental fare. Born in Staunton, Ill., where they graduated from high school, they went into the big, cruel world to make their own way—and they're doing well, all things considered. They manage to keep themselves supplied with excellent literature, which they read every night until the desire for sleep puts them out of commission. Freethinkers to the core, they lap up all my books which attack supernaturalism and theology. They soon got their fellow-employees reading my stuff. One in particular struck my eye with a reverberating bang. She's a black-haired, black-eyed, olive-complexioned, red-lipped, shiny-toothed, glamorous, exotic miss, with more beauty to her 110 pounds than you'll find in several famous Hollywood stars. And she's one of my steady readers. Maybe that didn't help whet my appetite.

I tried to look up my favorite reader, C. A. Lang, at his home at 7442a Hazel Ave., Maplewood, Mo., but I got no answer to my ring of the bell. The house was in darkness, and, as it was about 9 P.M., I concluded the

family must have gone to a movie. I should have given them some warning. I'm sorry I missed Lang, his wife and their two beautiful daughters, but there'll be more chances to come. I then wrote to the Arico twins telling them to get in touch with Reader Lang, adding I thought they'd make great friends, for their tastes run pretty well in the same directions. I then wrote to Lang suggesting that he look out for the boys. And thus, having done my Boy Scout deed for the day, I turned in for a well-earned snooze.

* * *

I notice that you favor Roosevelt for a third term. Do you believe we'll have a chance to vote for him in 1940?

Your guess is as good as mine. I'm inclined to agree with Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, who said, on June 13, 1938, at Forest Park, Pa., "It's a little better than an even bet that President Roosevelt will be a candidate for a third term." Thomas added his belief that the 1940 Democratic national convention would draft Roosevelt. "The Republicans," he added, "haven't produced a leader who would have any chance."

* * *

Can you give me any information concerning the Crimean War? What nations took part in it? What year did it start? What year and month did it finish?

Questions like the above can be answered by referring to any encyclopedia, so I don't believe I should give space in The Freeman to such requests. If my reader doesn't own a good encyclopedia, he can refer to one in the nearest public library. I get more than 500 questions per month and can answer only about 100, so I must select the ones that have the greatest reader interest. I'm not always successful, but I try, at least, to avoid duplicating the material that's easily available in common books of reference.

* * *

I drive a milk wagon. While on duty one morning I came on a fire. I joined the neighbors in removing furniture, and while doing this suffered severe burns. My employer, who has workmen's compensation insurance, says the insurance company refuses to pay my doctor's bill and the loss of three weeks' time because I wasn't hurt in doing my job, that when I left my wagon I quit

my job. Please advise.

I usually refrain from giving any sort of comments on legal questions, but I'm willing to make an exception in this instance. I find that an Albany newspaper's route driver, while on his job, went to the aid of an injured motorist. He was struck and killed by another car. A New York appellate court ruled that he didn't abandon his job when he undertook this personal mission and that the newspaper and the insurance company must pay compensation award to the driver's father.

* * *

How old is the science of modern economics?

That's hard to tell. Some of the ideas used by modern economists come from the ancients, and some come from before the age of machinery, but the most powerful starting force was Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations," which was published a century and a half ago. This magnificent work has had tremendous influence. Adam Smith gathered thousands of important facts—most of which are still of great interest even to the average layman—and pointed his arguments in the direction of free competition. Prior to Adam Smith business was hampered with numerous traditional taboos, which made it difficult for Capitalism to get a full start. Adam Smith fought for the removal of restraints on free enterprise, an idea that was sound in those days when industry was struggling to expand and function profitably on a larger basis. Put crudely, Adam Smith insisted that it was better to remove the restraints that had prevailed since Elizabethan days in order to enable the emerging capitalists to get going, even though such freedom would bring new problems. For about a century, Adam Smith's ideas prevailed, but as capitalistic society became more complicated it was found that the social good demanded that some agency shall assert a growing measure of control over business. Those were the days of rampant individualism, when it was held that even public schools were a means of "enslaving" the children of the poor by making them "paupers" of the State, thus denying them their innate

"right" to compete for an education in a free world. The idea sounded noble, but the world soon saw through it, for it didn't take the leaders of the masses long to realize that a miner's son, for example, who wanted an education didn't stand a chance alongside the son of a capitalist who could spend as much as \$5,000 a year on his education. Here I'm reminded of Anatole France's splendid sarcasm when he declared that one of the glories of economic freedom under Capitalism was the fact that both the poor and the rich had the right to sleep under the bridge. The individuals who followed Adam Smith fought public libraries, trade unionism, shorter workdays, higher wages through collective bargaining, minimum wages, workmen's compensation, safety devices, and almost any other measure that might serve to put more power into the hands of the State. Today, that philosophy is as dead as the dodo. But that doesn't alter the fact that for some generations Adam Smith's policies were sound, in that they enabled the capitalistic system to get going. Of course, Adam Smith himself wasn't thinking about the birth pains of a new social system, now called Capitalism. He had in mind the fortunes of individual merchants, but the ideas he promulgated for them were found applicable to the large-scale capitalistic interests that went into mining, textiles, steel, machinery, and the like. It would be ridiculous to criticize Adam Smith according to our 20th Century standards. We must study the man as a part of his time and environment. He served his day brilliantly, but today his ideas would paralyze every attempt to strengthen the general ideas of social insurance. In Adam Smith's day government was looked on as a glorified cop, to keep the bad man from committing crimes, but at the same time doing nothing to eliminate the vast social crimes of unrestrained Capitalism, with its heartless exploitation, its profiteering, its adulterations, and its subordination of everything to the motive of making a profit. Today, we are coming closer to the more humanitarian idea that the government is more than a cop to chase after bad men; it is an instrument for regulating, controlling, and even

owning the great means of wealth production, distribution and exchange. Rugged individualism is gone, for good. The tendencies today are all in the direction of social reform and Socialism. The U.S., for generations devoted to the principles of individualism, is only beginning to indulge in the activities that envisage control over the broad avenues of social life. President Roosevelt is doing the necessary spade work here, and it's of immense importance, even though his basic motive may be to rescue and strengthen Capitalism. He is teaching the U.S. to appreciate the necessity for minimum wages, maximum hours, old age pensions, unemployment insurance, and, eventually, health insurance, let us hope. The process is slow—all movements dealing with tens of millions of people must move cautiously—but the evolutionary forces are at work and will continue to move humanity in the direction of scientific and orderly socialization. The future belongs to Socialism, but we must remember that it's better to move towards that objective step by step instead of trying to bring utopia between days. The seeds of Socialism have already been planted. They must be tended. In time they will bring great harvests. And if Adam Smith were to come back in that future day, even he might say that while his rugged individualism worked successfully in his time, the new day and its socialistic institutions are the logical developments of modern economic forces. Socialism would have been an absurd proposal a century and a half ago when Adam Smith fought so valiantly for free enterprise, but Smith's competitive ideology would be equally absurd in these social-minded times.

* * *

Can you give me a few words with all the vowels in consecutive order? .

Abstemious; facetious.

* * *

I am enclosing several advertisements offering me the chance to start a home mail order business. I am 58 years old and not able to do hard work any more. I am wondering if this is a feasible way for me to make a living as I have read that even bedfast people are making their own way.

A home mail order business requires considerable working capital, experi-

ence, good mailing lists, and an attractive proposition. It's my notion the writer of the above will be wasting time and money if he tries to take on one of these propositions. He is pretty bad off as it is, but if he ties himself up with one of these home mail order schemes he'll be worse off than ever.

* * *

Please state the number of times the Old and New Testaments have been changed to suit the ages in which they were written. I refer to the meaning of the passages. Also the number of interpretations throughout the scriptures. I would appreciate to know what these changes were, where they were found, and the approximate number of times they were changed.

There is a whole library devoted to the biblical criticism mentioned above. Some of it is known as Modernism. Some is called High Criticism. Most of it—and by far the best—is known as Skepticism, Rationalism, Materialism, Agnosticism, or Atheism. Joseph McCabe, who has written many books, devoted special attention to this branch of research. Interested readers are referred to his works.

* * *

Evolutionists claim that the human species developed from a single cell. The reason I believe this is unreasonable is because the human body is too complicated to grow from such a crude source.

Herbert Spencer, in "Principles of Biology," discusses this point, as follows:

"If a single cell, under appropriate conditions, becomes a man in the space of a few years, there can surely be no difficulty in understanding how, under appropriate conditions, a cell may, in the course of untold millions of years, give origin to the human race."

* * *

Should we work for posterity?

Moralists tell us we should, but I'm not much impressed because I've never seen anything that was done for us by posterity. When Thoreau was dying, someone asked him about "the other world," and he answered, "One world at a time." I say one generation at a time.

* * *

When Fascists pour their bombs on noncombatants, do they let the folks back home know what they're doing?

Certainly. They boast about it. In Mussolini's newspapers, bombing of

helpless women and children is defended as a "humanitarian" measure because it's supposed to shorten a war. In Hitlerland, where fanaticism is wedded to brutality, we find deeper explorations into the psychology of mass murder. Nazism puts bombing of civilians on a holy, sacred plane, as something that's really intended for the good of humanity. The thousands of women and children who were murdered in Barcelona and other cities by Hitler and Mussolini would be grateful, could they rise from their graves, to know that they were slaughtered for the good of the race. If this sounds fantastic, let me quote from a German publication, the *Archiv fur Biologie und Rassegesellschaft*, which, according to Claud Cockburn, in *Ken*, published an article entitled "The Utility of Air Bombardment From the Point of View of Racial Selection and Social Hygiene," and written by a high officer in Hitler's army. He says:

"It is the most thickly populated quarters which will suffer the most. These quarters are inhabited by poor people who have not succeeded in life, the disinherited members of the community which will thus be freed of them. On the other hand the explosion of large bombs of one ton weight or more, apart from the deaths caused, will also inevitably produce numerous cases of madness. People with weak nervous systems will be unable to withstand the shock.

"Thus bombardment will assist us to discover neurotic people and remove them from social life. Once discovered, it will be simple to sterilize them and thus assure racial selection."

When a glorified Al Capone adds "philosophy" to gangsterism we get monstrous expressions like the above. Perhaps, in the war that seems around the corner, when countries like Czechoslovakia will be attacked by air, will they be asked by Hitler to identify certain quarters (preferably where Jews and other undesirables live) so they can apply their humanitarian, race-building bombardments to those sections? Fascism is a mental disease, as well as a physical one. No wonder Hitler robbed Dr. Sigmund Freud and let him leave the country (after collecting a large

ransom), for it wouldn't do to have a doctor around who understands the quirks of crazy people.

* * *

What's the difference between assurance and insurance?

When one insures, he provides for a possible happening, such as fire or accident; to assure is to make provision for a certainty, such as death.

* * *

Can you suggest the best way of handling back house rent?

Get modern plumbing.

* * *

Do you think we are in danger of being attacked by any or all of the three great Fascist powers?

I have commented on the military and naval aspects of such a possibility, showing, from what I looked on as excellent authorities, that while there was little likelihood of a direct attack there was danger from two sources: the growth of Fascism in Central and South America, and the establishment of a Nazi espionage service in the U.S. with the purpose of helping Hitler, Mussolini and Japan to entrench themselves in Latin America and create a following here to help the dictators in their war on western democracy.

But, I would give such possibilities slight acceptance if I thought our country had only such elements to contend with. I don't think any form of Fascism can assert itself effectively in our country solely through the efforts of the three dictatorships just mentioned, but what causes me serious concern is the development of our own Fascist-minded elements, especially those in politics and industry. A man like Mayor Frank Hague, of Jersey City, carries a real threat against American democracy, for the man thinks and acts like a Hitlerite. A letter from Norman Thomas, to The American Freeman, dwells on this danger, as follows:

The sinister influence of Mayor Frank Hague of Jersey City has never loomed more ominously than since Saturday evening, June 4, 1938, when it reached outside Hudson County to break up a Socialist meeting at which I tried to speak. The one rotten apple is beginning to infect the barrel.

Hague's tactics are frighteningly like those of Hitler and Mussolini.

Reinforced with a stern threat to the jobs and livelihood of those hesitant to fall in line, the ward bosses and Hague-controlled heads of religious, fraternal, veterans and even labor organizations, create a fake mob, decked out with signs, slogans, bands, and flags—and clubs and rubber hoses. They appeal to anti-Semitism, religious prejudice, and red-baiting to arouse a spurious patriotism, that moves the mob to destroy in the name of liberty the only constitutional guarantees of liberty. Police and city officials co-operate either actively or through inaction.

It isn't important that it was a Socialist meeting that was broken up in Newark nor that I was the speaker. Any anti-Hague meeting or gesture would have met with the same fate. William Carney of the CIO, Jeff Burkitt, John Longo, Congressman Jerry O'Connell can testify to that. Frank Hague and his political machine are the most serious overt threat to democracy in the United States today. That his influence can extend to Newark is a warning to every citizen that this is not a "local police problem," as it was described by President Roosevelt. It is a menace to the peace and freedom of every American.

Yes, a few Mayor Hagues can be far more dangerous to our liberties than Hitler and Mussolini combined. While on this line of thought let me quote a valuable passage from Rose M. Stein, author of "M Day," as follows:

The real threat to American democracy comes not from the Fascist states 3,000 and 6,000 miles away, nor from the few Nazi nitwits who strut around in uniforms within our shores. It comes from our own powerful interests who are fighting relief appropriations, who are fighting labor unions, who are fighting the National Labor Relations Board, who are fighting every progressive plan and idea. The Weirs, Fords, Rands and Girdlers are a far greater menace to our democracy than is Hitler or Mussolini. Fascist doctrines will have little effect upon our people unless they are hungry, destitute and weary of the futile hunt for jobs. And it is our own industrial autocracy that is seeking to perpetuate conditions which make inevitable a constant army of unemployed.

Norman Thomas, Socialist leader, in a speech at Forrest Park, Pa.,

June 12, 1938, discussed the same ideas touched on in Miss Stein's statement, as follows:

"It cannot be too strongly or too often said, that the danger of Fascism in America comes not primarily from any conceivable military invasion or from any German or Italian importation; it rises from within; in general from degeneration of capital in nationalism, in particular from bigotry and the feeling toward violence latent in America. Without war, we have a chance of defeating it.

"The best contribution the United States can make to this mad world is to take advantage of its position of isolation and keep out of war. I believe that for the sake of the world we must do this."

All anti-Fascists agree that the U.S. must be kept out of war, if at all possible, for there's grave danger that Fascism will dominate this country once we go to war. But this doesn't alter the fact that if the Fascist powers decide to expand their ideological war on the world's democratic powers, followed by military aggression, the U.S. will have to stand ready to defend itself. As I've already said, such a war could develop easily if the Fascist dictators were to plant themselves in Central and South America, from which bases they could flout the Monroe Doctrine. Even if such a situation weren't to develop, the American people, if they thought democracy worth defending, would support the world's democracies through boycotts on the Fascist aggressors, through demands for economic and financial support for the attacked democracies, and through other means of support. The greatest problem facing the democracies, once they are compelled to defend themselves from the Fascist militarists, will be to crush the enemies of democracy and at the same time see to it that their own country doesn't blunder into Fascism. Real statesmanship will be needed to solve that seemingly paradoxical situation, should it arise, which is likely.

Upton Sinclair, in a lengthy letter to The American Freeman, (which I want to quote in full because I consider it of real value in these days of Fascist aggression) closes with an eloquent appeal for the preservation

of American democracy. Lovers of freedom and democracy everywhere will be uplifted by Sinclair's moving message. It follows:

Ever since 1906, when "The Jungle" was published in seventeen languages, there have been millions of humble people who have counted me as a friend. Today, when there are over ten million copies of my books in existence in more than forty languages, I am making an effort to reach these many readers, in what I believe is a grave crisis. To that end I ask the help of radio stations, and of editors of publications of liberal and democratic tendency, regardless of party or faction.

Being at work upon a play dealing with the French revolution, I have been reading the documents of that time, and in a thousand details am struck by resemblances with events now being reported. History is repeating itself, and mankind has not learned enough from the sufferings of a whole continent over a century and a half.

The people of France attempted in 1789 to break the chains of feudalism, and the monarchies of Europe went to war to put those chains back upon their wrists. The result was the ravaging of a continent by twenty-two years of mass-slaughter; the so-called Holy Alliance was riveted upon Europe, and the people of France were forced to wage several wars, both foreign and civil, before they won their elementary political rights.

One continent was involved in that struggle; but today we see the same course of events upon three continents. The peoples of Abyssinia, Spain, and China are fighting heroically for the rights of self-government; four autocracies are banded together against them, several more are lending secret aid, and the whole world is involved in a campaign of official lying. Conditions today are in many ways more sinister and deadly than those which prevailed in revolutionary France. In those days there were few newspapers, and the war of ideas was carried on by leaflets and pamphlets which were easy to print; but today the giant press is in the hands of special privilege, and in the radio the ruling classes have made themselves a master weapon for controlling the mass-mind. In 1789 military weapons were crude; the people of Paris could forge themselves fifty thou-

sands pikes in thirty-six hours, and with these overthrow a nine hundred year old despotism. But today a people cannot get free without rifles and machine-guns, and in the last few years it has been demonstrated to the world that they cannot stay free unless they can manage to persuade the masters of munition factories to make them bombing and pursuit-planes, giant cannon hauled by tractors—all the equipment of mechanized militarism, costing hundreds of millions of dollars.

The system of production for private profit, dying of the poisons engendered in its own body, is today dragging to its doom the civilization which it has helped to spread and develop. Five years ago I defined Fascism as "Capitalism plus murder." That was the truth then. Class privilege, terrified by the spread of revolt against mass suffering, created a new force for its defense. But now we see a further development; the new force turning out to be stronger and more deadly than its creator. Gangsterism has seized the world, and the capitalists too have a master.

At the outbreak of the World War Prussian militarism was called by this writer "the Beast with the brains of an engineer." In the twenty-four years that have passed, that Beast has been to school and perfected his technique. He no longer permits opposition, intellectual or moral; he wipes it out by methods which have not been known in Europe since the days of the Inquisition and the St. Bartholomew Massacre. He burns books upon a scale forgotten since the destruction of the Library of Alexandria deprived us of most of the intellectual treasures of ancient Greece and Rome. He is not content with making slaves of the workers; he takes their children and twists their minds, turning them into little demons strutting with toy guns. He has made anti-moralism and anti-humanism into a religion, and conducts on its behalf a crusade upon the five continents of the earth.

How can such things happen? How can this evil thing go on from triumph to triumph? The answer is that privileged classes would rather see civilization perish than sacrifice their own power to exploit. In every nation where the profit-system prevails, the masters of munitions, of steel and oil and money, speculators in the means of human life,

gamblers in misery, death, and destruction, are openly or secretly the friends of *Fascism-Nazism*; still clinging to the hope that they can master it or buy it, and use it for the holding down of the workers, the preventing of a new birth of democracy in the world, this time in industry as well as in government.

The result is that patriotism today is a deception in our society; class has become more than country, and in every government the rulers are intriguing with other governments to keep the people down, betraying them, betraying civilization itself. That is why in France the money-lords are willing to see Germany fortifying the Pyrenees, and Italy plotting to cut them from Africa, and counter-revolution preparing to destroy the democracy of France. That is why the British Tories have been willing to risk the cutting of the life-line of their Empire, and to see Germany win the World War twenty years after—rather than take the risk of that Socialism which must surely follow a Hitler or a Mussolini defeated in war.

Events are moving so fast that what is written today may be out of date tomorrow. One can only guess at the future; but on June 1, 1938, we see the brave and truly democratic people of Czechoslovakia about to be thrown to the wolves, to keep the pack sated a few weeks longer; the people of Hungary, Roumania, and the Balkan states, of Denmark, Holland, and the Baltic states, all trembling beneath a rumbling avalanche. Throughout far-off Asia the poison is being spread; there is not a country in South America free from it; and even in my own "sweet land of liberty" we have in our State Department men who are open sympathizers with reaction, and who, with the consent of our President, are using a hypocritical "neutrality act" as a means of strangling the democratically chosen people's government of Spain, and denying it the right to purchase arms for its own defense. This action is putting an iron band of Fascism about Spain; it is subjecting France to British Tory intrigue, and in the end it may break democracy in Europe.

Against such array of military and money power there is no defense save in the awakening people. To all workers and producers, whether of hand or brain, wherever these words of mine may be able to penetrate, I plead: Do not permit

this conspiracy against justice and human right to take another step towards triumph. People of France, do not permit the Spanish border to be sealed. People of Britain, stop the deal with Hitler which will permit the sacrifice of the little peoples of Central Europe. People of Soviet Russia, help the world to understand more clearly the difference between producers and exploiters, and why all the hopes of the future lie in the producers. People of Asia, lift your voices against the military lords of Japan. People of South America, cherish your revolutionary traditions, and do not permit money to become more than liberty and truth.

To the people of my own country, Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, I plead that they will prepare for that new birth of freedom which our great Emancipator, Abraham Lincoln, promised us, and see to it that government of the people, by the people and for the people does not perish from the earth. To enlightened and truth-loving people of the whole earth I plead that they will make their voices heard in this crisis, and let it be known that moral values still count for something in the affairs of men; that government by gangsters is not and shall not be the final destiny of our civilization.

Since none of the persons quoted above sees fit to dwell on the importance of a well-supported anti-Fascist press, let me tack on my oft-used sermon. With the great newspapers and magazines controlled by the advertisers—and that means support for reaction and economic orthodoxy—we have a situation which demands the encouragement of a set of publications which are ready and able to defend democracy and expose Fascism for the horrible social disease it is. I wouldn't go to the extreme of saying such a press alone could win the war against tyranny and dictatorship, but I insist it could serve as a constructive and essential arm of the anti-Fascist establishment. In fact, without a strong press I don't see much hope for the future of those who would live in a free world. Readers should make it a part of their anti-Fascist program to support those editors who are using their facilities to educate our people into an appreciation of the blessings of a free press, free speech, free assembly, and

our civilized rights in general.

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I'll be glad to know, merely from my interest in you and in the circulation of knowledge, what the minimum printing of each Little Blue Book was or is.

It was 10,000 before 1929; now it's 2,500.

* * *

I'm just as much opposed to Fascism as you are, so I ask about a phase of the question in the spirit of one who seeks light. In brief: Fascist apologists claim they are destined to rule the world because Fascism, or Nazism, is based on force. Force is a law of nature, they insist. Democracies must die, they say, because they are not in harmony with natural law. Please comment.

I happen to have a few sentences from the writings of a democratic statesman, Edouard Herriot, former premier of France, which touch pointedly on the slant presented above. I wish I could trumpet his potent words to the world:

"Relentless propaganda seeks to convince us today by every possible means that the superiority of man lies only in force. It even tries to apply the same reasoning to nations.

"Yet, in our opinion, what distinguishes man from matter is not sheer force, but precisely that freedom of choice which we call liberty. Accordingly, no doctrine may call itself truly humanitarian, no regime can flatter itself as really trying to bring peace and happiness to mankind, unless it respects first of all that fundamental liberty which is the very basis of human existence.

"To be sure, regimes based on force have been established in various countries, wars are ravaging innocent soil in different parts of the globe and an era of barbarous piracy seems to be reviving in the Mediterranean,—that same Mediterranean which for the past three or four thousand years has been regarded as the cradle of civilization.

"But these attacks on human dignity were only possible because the Democracies failed to realize the irresistible strength that their union would represent. The nations which are true to the ideals of liberty are, even today, numerous and powerful enough both morally and physically, to maintain their independence and insure peace."

Tyranny—and that's all Fascism is—has a long record, while democ-

racy is a comparative newcomer. It has known brief decades in the ancient world and in the few cities that shook themselves to life during the slow awakening that followed the Dark Ages. During the last century civilized men everywhere worked to strengthen this precious principle, and considerable progress was made, at great cost in human life and suffering. Mankind has seen worse days than even those given us by Fascism, so we have a right to assume that even this horrible nightmare will pass and mankind will again feel safe in his journey to the freedom, enlightenment, concord and harmony that come with democracy. Democracy seems weak because it seeks peace above all things, but that weakness really is strength, for when aroused—and much will be needed to provoke it to action—its resistance to the Hitlers and the Mussolinis will be terrible to behold. Democracy isn't weak and flabby, as the Fascists urge. It can meet the organized gangsters with the only weapon they respect—force. But when it resorts to the sword, it won't be to enslave but to liberate all humanity, including the millions of Fascism's dupes. Democracy is the best way of life ever conceived by the mind of civilized man. It holds the best values for humanity. A few hoodlums have captured enough weapons to threaten democracy, but the millions of free-spirited citizens of a free, democratic world are waiting to spring to the defense of those ideas of social well-being that make for a fuller, happier, richer, more constructive, more progressive, more civilized life. The 90 percent aren't going to be annihilated or enslaved by the aggressive 10 percent. In the language of President Roosevelt: "The peace, freedom and security of 90 percent of the population of the world is being jeopardized by the remaining 10 percent." but democracy is so precious a human value that it's simply inconceivable that the 90 percent will surrender to organized barbarism. We still have the right to think, to speak, and to act for the protection of civilized ways of living. Others have surrendered that freedom because they believe that through force they will gain more than through freedom. Hamilton Fish

Armstrong presents his thought in words that are worth quoting:

"The gulf between the two conceptions of life is broad and deep, indeed. Here, there is freedom, certainly not absolute, but great and precious; freedom of thought, freedom to believe or not to believe, to speak, to want and to choose. There, no liberties and no liberty. Nothing but obedience of body, mind and soul to the iron will and the upraised arm of an indefatigable and infallible master."

Freedom of thought—that is democracy's greatest asset, its finest jewel. Without it, all is empty. Without it we are prisoners in a vast penitentiary. Democracy protects us in the right to think—and that alone makes democracy worth defending. The distinguished French author, Jules Romains, expresses valuable sentences on this phase of the question under discussion, words which I want to repeat for the benefit of my readers:

"Freedom of thought is a decisive, perhaps the only decisive test by which the various regimes and doctrines vying for supremacy today may be measured. It is the only test which permits anyone of goodwill to determine frankly: 'This is the side I am for, there is the thing I am against!'

"Any other criterium would only distort the picture. Take, for instance, the question of social improvement, considered by some as the acid test of government. Even dictators can claim that they are exercising their tyranny for the good of the people. As a matter of fact, that is just what they usually do claim.

"Then there are the regimes which seemingly start out from the opposite extreme. They quickly develop a complete similarity of method with their bitterest enemies, for they have all one great point in common—the utter suppression of the freedom of thought.

"On the other hand, any regime accepting this freedom of thought and the resulting freedom of speech and writing as the fundamental cornerstones of its policy, may have weaknesses, be full of contradictions, absurdities and even injustices, but these are all certain to be only temporary.

"For the freedom of thought, as history proved many times, leads

inevitably to a quest of social justice. And inversely, history also shows that to suppress or suspend freedom of thought under the pretext of a short cut to a better social order, is to make a grave and dangerous miscalculation if one is sincere, and a criminal plot against humanity, if one is not.

"All our confidence in democracy, all our active affection for free government, is based on this principle."

* * *

The September 3, 1938, issue of *Liberty* contains an interview with Stalin by Princess Catherine Radziwill. Is it authentic?

The first thing that made me suspicious about this alleged interview was the fact that the "Princess" failed to mention when or where the interview was held. After that it didn't take me long to decide that the whole thing was a journalistic fake. Later, *The Daily Worker* carried a cable from Moscow, as follows:

"Interview with Stalin by Princess Radziwill is gross invention. We can categorically state that from beginning to end it is a lie."

Bernarr Macfadden's *Liberty* is becoming almost open in its support of Fascism. Its Stalin hoax is one more evidence of blatant red-baiting.

* * *

Does a college education make fools?

Of course not. It develops them.

* * *

Can you tell me something about the activities of the Soviet Union in Siberia?

Wonderful things are being done by the Russians in vast Siberia. The facts are almost unbelievable. The whole effect is to convince any honest student of affairs that the pioneering spirit that built the American West has taken a new lease on life in mighty Asiatic Russia.

The Soviet Union—which is larger than all of Alaska, Canada, the United States and Mexico combined—is taking its gigantic domain seriously. To give my readers an idea of how vast the country is, just register the fact that when one leaves Moscow for Vladivostok one has to make a railway journey that takes almost 10 days and is as far as from London to San Francisco.

Of course, much of Asiatic Russia will never amount to a great deal, particularly the desert country in the

South, the steppes in parts of the center, the vast forests in the North, and the tundras of the Arctic. But that doesn't mean all of Siberia is a waste. There is enough promising land there to keep the Russians busy for generations. And, true to their responsibilities, the Russians are making tremendous headway in the program to supply Siberia with railroads, motor roads, collective and State farms, gold, iron, and coal, and other valuable products. All this is accompanied by a vast program of industrialization, leading which is the production of steel in Western Siberia.

Great cities, some of them containing as many as 400,000 population, have sprung up in the past 20 years. Villages that contained anywhere from 100 to 6,000 inhabitants are now modern cities with populations ranging from 20,000 to communities the size of Milwaukee.

The East-West railroad which cuts through Siberia—the longest line in the world—has been double-tracked and modernized, some sections of it being run by electricity. Impressive additions have been constructed in a number of directions, some of which are being kept secret, for military reasons. The vast Trans-Siberian railroad is no quiet affair. In fact, the volume of business done on it staggers the imagination. George B. Cressey, who studied Siberia at first hand and wrote a valuable article about it for *Harper's Magazine*, July, 1938, says he spent several weeks traveling back and forth on the main line, "and frequently counted the freight trains going in the opposite directions." Believe it or not, this independent, reliable observer says he counted an average of one train every 17 minutes. He adds, "On two different dates during intervals of several hours we passed freights every seven minutes." This is in addition to passenger trains, which are numerous. There are numerous locals and four through trains daily, according to Mr. Cressey. Since 1923, the rolling stock has been "vastly improved," one being the addition of 1,500 powerful freight locomotives, which the Russians built in their own plants.

Where Siberia's population, under the Czar, (in 1914) was only 10,400,-

000, in 1933 the population rose to 25,636,900. I have no figures for 1938, but feel safe in estimating the population at between 30,000,000 and 35,000,000.

The tremendous expansion of Russian agriculture in Siberia, makes food plentiful, but there is a shortage of clothes and proper housing, problems that should be solved in a few years. Mr. Cressey says he spent months in the Arctic and had fresh vegetables every day.

The Soviet Union is following the most scientific methods of agriculture in Siberia, emphasizing mechanization. There are 6,000 machine tractor stations in Siberia, with 367,000 tractors and 104,000 combines. Last year (1937) 75 percent of Siberia's agricultural lands were plowed mechanically. Yes, the Russians in Siberia are going places. In 1937, the grain yield for all Russia amounted to 4,200,000,000 bushels, the wheat harvest being particularly good, averaging 16 bushels to the acre. The railroads are spotted with large concrete elevators, where surpluses of grain will be kept in order to avoid the horrors of famine, a condition that prevailed too often in Czarist days.

Prior to the fall of Czarism, Russia's gold mines produced 2,000,000 ounces annually. In 1937, gold production amounted to 10,500,000 ounces. As Mr. Cressey says, 10,000,000 ounces at \$35 an ounce is worth \$350,000,000, and this means that the Soviet Union has it in its power to spend \$1,000,000 per day in world markets, using nothing but its own new gold. No wonder the Soviet Union's credit is so high. It talks the language that world commerce can understand—gold.

The Soviet Union has at last achieved one of its great objectives—to make the Far East independent of European Russia. Today, Siberia can supply the munitions for the great Russian army that's facing the Japanese. That army can be fed and maintained by commodities and food raised near at hand. The land that was a waste only a few decades ago is moving forward so that in a few years Russia's Far East will become a Pacific power. Mr. Cressey closes his article with this thought:

"But the most significant thing about the development of Siberia is perhaps not its value in case of war, or the material benefits which it brings, but the fact that it has given the Russian people a pioneering thrill which has turned their thoughts from vague goals to present realities. Here is Socialist ideology in application. For two decades the Russians have lived in the hope of a better life; they have had to imagine the fragrance of the flower while it was still a bulb. Two Five Year Plans have now brought enough of more comfortable living to give them a definite and substantial faith in the future.

"Whatever may be the final possibilities of Siberia, they are far beyond the current achievements. Vast progress is within grasp. And what is more, world peace is so essential to the continued development of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and this country has so much to lose even by a successful war, that the development of Siberia has become a major safeguard for world peace."

No wonder Hitler is casting covetous eyes Eastward. If only he could rob Russia's cabbage patch he would, as he himself said in one of his speeches, see his economic and financial problems solved for a long time. But the Russians don't intend to let a gangster like Hitler steal their great and rich country without a fight. The Russian masses have something to fight for, and if things come to a test, Hitler will find that the new Red Army is able to defend its treasures of rich land, mines, factories, improved transportation systems, teeming cities, growing fleets, and the other forms of wealth that bless the people of Russia. Hitler will want to fight, because there's loot that's beckoning him; but the Russians will want to fight even harder, for they will want to preserve the wealth they created for their own uses and not for the glory of the Fascists.

* * *

What's your opinion of the Nazi theory about a short war?

Hitler and his fellow hoodlums have the idea that they will be able, when finally prepared, to overwhelm an enemy or group of enemies by a "total war." The theory has it that a single tremendous assault by aircraft, tanks, and the other arms of the mili-

tary establishment should be able to decide a great war in a few days, or weeks. Japan, which has Fascist ideology regarding warfare, thought its war in China would be short and sweet. It's almost a year old and the end isn't in sight. Hitler and Mussolini thought their backing of Franco would mean a quick defeat for the Loyalist government, and at this writing the war's been going full tilt for almost two years. I think the facts permit me to conclude that a surprise attack on France, Russia, or any other large power, won't be the means of finishing off the enemy. A surprise, in these days, can't be kept secret for more than 15 or 20 minutes, after which the defenders can bring in their powerful forces to meet the issue. The theory of the short war sounds impressive on paper, but it doesn't seem to work out on the battlefield.

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Editor, The American Freeman:

I have been interested in your comments on questions raised on current events. Especially I appreciated the way in which you clarified the questions relating to the end of the war period. But I cannot sympathize with your attitude toward the present occupant of the White House. What man could have made a greater mistake than he made when he recalled Secretary Hull and Prof. Moley from the London Economic Conference? The dictators and the Ethiopian war are plain results of that obviously politically inspired move. The morale of the country is rapidly going down under the machinery of centralization. I have intimate experience of that. Watch it!

Stanhope, N.J. EMILY S. HAMBLÉN

(Editor's note: I don't understand how Miss Hamblen can blame Roosevelt for dictators like Hitler and Mussolini, and the Ethiopian war. Hitler stole power before Roosevelt became President, and Mussolini had been bossing Italy for a decade. As for the Ethiopian war, that was caused by Fascism's greed for power and prestige and was being planned by Mussolini and General de Bono before Roosevelt entered the White House, according to General de Bono's book on his experiences before and during the war in Ethiopia.)

* * *

Joe Louis made quick work of the "flower" of Nazism. Could he do the same with an adult gorilla?

You are asking the same question which the late Arthur Brisbane ask-

ed after every big fight during his journalistic career. It was his untested theory that a gorilla could whip two or three Jack Johnsons or Max Baers. Unfortunately, Brisbane never produced a gorilla and a good heavyweight in a ring to see what would happen when they went to it with everything they had. Gene Tunney, who was a good fighter in his day, claims a well-trained, well-conditioned pugilist could knock out a gorilla, and his opinion should carry more weight than that of a dead scribbler. Tunney writes that a prize fighter "could put the great Gargantua to sleep or to rout within two minutes," which means that Max Schmeling is only four seconds better than a gorilla. I suggest that Mr. Tunney prevail on some circus or zoo that has a gorilla to put the animal up against Joe Louis, selling tickets at the usual high prices, and giving Louis his usual share of 40 percent, with an extra bunch of bananas (if gorillas care for bananas, and I believe they do) as its share of the draw. The result would be of scientific value. After listening to the radio report of Joe Louis' bout with Maxie I'm inclined to put my money on the Brown Bomber, even though Adolf (Velvet-lips) Hitler, in his "Mein Kampf," insisted that the "pure Aryan" (which here means Schmeling) is superior to any black man who ever lived. Hitler was wrong about Joe Louis, and the late Brisbane may have been wrong about his pet gorilla.

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Editor, The American Freeman:

May I be permitted the courtesy of your valued columns to take exception to the random observations on Soviet Russia made by Mr. B. P. Horton in your issue of June, 1938?

I believe Mr. Horton to be an honest observer and that he has set down what he has seen and felt to be true.

As one who has resided and worked in the Soviet Union for a period of six years, however, I believe myself in a position to comment on certain matters mentioned in his communication that strikes me as rather misleading.

Mr. Horton has dwelt on the creation of a Soviet "bureaucracy"—but says nothing about the means at the disposal of the public to combat such manifestation when it threatens to reach a phase of questionable efficiency. There is a sharp distinction between administra-

five office-holding and bureaucracy, and when the former threatens to degenerate into the latter, periodical purgings at which the public-at-large becomes general prosecutor and judge are held. "Bureaucrat" is a term of contempt in the Soviet Union—and if the danger of "bureaucracy" is real, no less real is the attitude of the Soviet government in coping with such danger.

For one who has worked in the Soviet Union over a period of years and has been a witness to a nation lifting itself out of post-war chaos unaided (indeed, hampered in a thousand ways) by other governments, and freeing itself of every trace of capitalism, root and branch, there is something well nigh miraculous in the progress it has made. I have seen the country emerge from a starvation diet to a stage where even casual observers like Mr. Horton admit there are no signs of malnutrition among the populace.

As for slums, no country has advanced so comprehensive a program of civic reconstruction as has the Soviet Union where imaginative daring combines with industrial enterprise in reshaping the contours of an entire continent—and with the one aim in view: to make of it a finer and better place for every citizen to live and be happy in.

I am acquainted with the learned arguments of those who would consider "tragedy" and "sorrow" as an innate part of our cultural universe; who claim that a man-made world that might banish from our planet the useless woes of mankind and all the potholes that goes to making an average livelihood in a wealth-rotting world, might resemble that fantastic machine-made utopia described a few years ago by Aldous Huxley, or even before Aldous, by the Russian novelist Zamyatin whose novel "We" portrays just such a world. Or the nightmarish picture of Russia given us by E. E. Cummings.

I disagree with these gentlemen. I suspect that they have found under capitalism that modicum of sacrosanct security which entitles the Haver to look on the sufferings of his fellow-creatures much as we may watch the squirmings of fish in some grandiose aquarium. Did they but plunge into the sea of uncertainties that is the daily struggle for bread, did they but measure the suffering and death that is part of the struggle for an elemental bellyful, I suspect theirs would be another tune.

Finland, by size, by its national homogeneity and by the fact that Finland is not attempting any break in the continuity of a social system whose end-products are inevitably hunger and war is, it would seem, easily disqualified as

the base for any fair comparison with the Soviet Union which in actuality represents a federation of states, many of them amongst the most backward known in the past, and a welter of nationalities all of whom are learning to live in harmony with one another. Fairest of all comparisons might certainly be with the United States which, in size, natural riches and nationality problems may furnish analogies for a detailed comparative study.

Outstanding impressions made on me during my Soviet residence have been the glowing optimism of the Soviet peoples—most optimistic of any people in the world today; their enthusiasm for knowledge, and social activity; their passionate dedication to an idea whose realization would, it seems to me, free mankind from its age-long bondage to things, and truly ennoble Man as the challenger of Nature.

Commonwealth College

Mena, Ark.

ED FALKOWSKI

* * *

I would welcome your comment on the Nazi criticism that democracies are too top-heavy and cumbersome to get anything done in a hurry.

As I've said before, sometimes it's a good thing to put brakes on certain departments of government and on certain top officials. For example, the power to make aggressive attacks on peace-loving countries should be curbed to the limit. But, when Hitler lined up almost 200,000 Nazi troops for what he thought would be a picnic jaunt through Czechoslovakia, that democratic country wasn't the least bit slow about mobilizing 400,000 men and letting the Nazi hoodlums know that Czechoslovakia would fight if attacked. Benes was quick enough to slow Hitler down, for the time being, at any rate. Democracies can act quickly, when they have to. Ask Adolf (Velvetlips) Hitler.

* * *

Can you explain why so many Jews make jokes about Nazi persecution of their people?

Persecuted people and that includes Jews, Irish and Negroes—are given to laughing at their troubles. It's a form of letting off steam, a semi-hysterical substitute for tears. The latest story to illustrate this comes from Vienna, where it was reported that 1,500 Jews had committed suicide during the first month after Hitler stole the country. The joke actually aims to squeeze a laugh out of suicide, which any professional hu-

morist will tell you is a pretty hard job. The story has it that Levi, on meeting Cohen, says: "It's terrible. Moritz has gone and committed suicide." To which Cohen replies: "Well, why shouldn't a man take a chance to better his position if he can?"

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman: -

In the September, 1938, Freeman you affirm your belief in the Marxist theory relating to depressions. But how do you reconcile this theory with the historical fact that the upturn from the bottom of a depression has never been preceded by a general increase in wages and salaries, or a marked increase in employment, these changes not taking place until after the upward movement has begun?

What actually ends a depression is not the development of new purchasing power as required by the Marxist theory, the making of something out of nothing, but a release of already existing latent purchasing power.

At the bottom of every depression, however severe, there are always many millions whose incomes have been cut but who are still able to buy some articles which they desire, but which they refrain from purchasing because of their fear of the future. When any considerable section of these become convinced that the worst has happened, they begin purchasing the articles mentioned, thus starting a revival of business and this movement is accelerated by the investment in stocks, bonds, and business enterprises of hitherto hoarded funds.

What brings about a restoration of confidence after the liquidation of a panic caused dislocation of industry is the occurrence of some relatively unimportant economic change which "primes the pump," to use Roosevelt's phrase relative to government spending. But if after the return to better times has started fear should revive, people will again curtail their purchases and investments and so cause a recession and this is what has been in progress during the past six months.

Marx's economic interpretation of history contains a great deal of truth but his surplus value theory will not stand analysis.

Oak Park, Ill. BENJAMIN P. HORTON

(Editor's note: I'm afraid Mr. Horton didn't quite get my ideas about Marx's theory of depressions. It's important to remember that Marx showed clearly that after millions of workers create too heavy inventories and are, therefore, laid off, that other millions continue to remain at work and therefore able to buy in the markets. Such work-

ers help reduce the inventories, thus making it profitable for the employers to call back all or part of the men who were laid off. The cycle is a vicious one—creation of a surplus of commodities by a large class that can't buy it back; that's a depression. Intense suffering by the unemployed while they sit by and wait for others to remove what their labor created—that's the depth of a depression. Gradual reduction of inventories so that idle machines may be put into action again—that's recovery. The creation of new inventories as the foundations of future panics—that's booming prosperity. As for Marx's theory of surplus value, which Mr. Horton seems to think can't stand analysis, it's the simplest of the economist's theories. Surplus value is merely the difference between a man's wages and the value of the work he performs. If a man produces \$10 worth of wealth in a day's labor and gets only \$2 for it, he has turned out surplus value to the extent of \$8. That proposition is self-evident.)

* * *

Is there anything to the charge that alien families get most of the relief money in the big cities?

Connecticut State College sent investigators into the field to study the above allegation and learned that "only 22.8 percent were foreign-born relievers in areas where 43.2 percent of total population was foreign-born."

* * *

You write frequently in praise of freedom of research. What do you mean by this?

Jean Perrin, Nobel prize-winner in physics and one of France's foremost scientists, explains the meaning of freedom of research, as follows:

The research worker must be free.

His action must not be limited by any ideology or regulations. He must be able to think, work, rest and even dream for the greater good of his task. Every discovery is due to what time and space bring. The scholar must know at all times of the latest advances made throughout the world. No barrier should be raised between him and his colleagues in all countries. No question of race must play a role.

No one can deny that this full freedom can only be attained under a democratic regime. The research worker there enjoys the full use of his faculties. He may express himself without fear of reprisals. His security is the essential condition of his serenity. How could he think or create, or have the energy to

bring his scientific investigations to a successful conclusion if he felt suspicion and menace around him? A scholar worthy of the name cannot tolerate regimentation. Science evolves, progresses and extends its benefits. It does not march in the goose step.

A dictator like Hitler can't tolerate freedom of research, because of his fear that free inquiry might establish the fallaciousness of some of his notions—particularly those dealing with race—and might serve to undermine the ideology that upholds a totalitarian State. We who live in democratic countries know that Hitlerism's assumptions are without foundation in fact, because we have made intelligent and candid use of the instruments of free inquiry. We therefore express no surprise when we see the havoc Hitlerism has played with German science and culture in general. It couldn't be otherwise.

* * *

A Nazi sneaker defends his fellow Hitlerites with the claim that they are human beings. Please comment.

That's just like a Nazi—always bragging.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Your piece on honey reminds me of how I first became suspicious of Bernarr Macfadden 'way back in my intellectual callowness. Barney let loose something sententious about honey being a "natural" sweet while cane sugar, derived from a grass, was for that reason essentially a cow feed. Now, I have usually preferred honey to sugar if I was permitted a choice, though at the present I may not choose more than a taste of either. But this crappy reasoning of Mac's stuck in my craw even then. I realized, of course, that the bovine tribe still has a couple of stomachs solely because it has always had to gorge in a limited time a vast bulk of grass, a relatively unnutritious food, but the only one available to it ever since its appearance on the earthly stage right down to the mere yesterday of its domestication by man. I reflected, too, that this arrangement must have been quite common among the early generalized mammals and that when some of them, including man's ancestors, started to enrich their diets by nibbling at various other things—among them each other—and when, along with this new practice, there developed a restlessness which was not conducive to long ruminating periods under the protection of a guard, that

then this secondary digestive organ began to shrivel from disuse so that now when it belatedly attempts to function as of old in man it only succeeds in bailing things up so that it has to be completely removed.

But all this, I further realized, has not necessarily prevented man from still using the grass—after greatly altering it, to be sure—and by wisely (or unwisely) concentrating and refining its chief food ingredient: sugar. And yet this sugar is essentially a part of the original mammalian fodder.

And now came Macfadden to tell me that a stuff made partly out of bee-bait supplied by plants to ensure the plant's reproduction, partly out of complex chemicals derived from the bodies of the bees themselves and partly out of other things—the whole for the palpably obvious original purpose of nourishing the bees, which are insects and therefore infinitely farther removed biologically, from man than is the cow—was a more natural human food than cane sugar!

Well, it's out of such incidents that the honorable tribe of debunkers arises. But I'm convinced that for the mass, a certain minimum of bunk will always have a greater allure than good horse-sense; it supplies more comforting illusions on which to slide through life. Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG

* * *

"From the viewpoint of the liberator of trammelled thinking Wm. J. Fielding's 'The Shackles of the Supernatural' is an excellent piece of work. I liked especially the last part of it where he adduces a mass of evidence and expert opinion to show that in all living species, including man, those groups thrived best which most effectively developed their social structures with a view to the well-being of the mass rather than the individual. A correct evaluation of this evidence has a direct bearing on the opinions which one is likely to form about some aspects of today's conflicting social ideologies. It has cleared up my own ideas in regions where I was formerly a little hazy."—C. A. L., Mo.

* * *

I have two questions I want to ask you but I want the answers right away instead of waiting perhaps months before they appear in The Freeman. What can you do for me?

Questions are answered by personal letter only when accompanied by the usual fee, \$1 per question. Questions intended to be treated in the columns of The Freeman are handled free of charge. If unable to answer question

which is accompanied by \$1, refund is made in the form of trade coupons, good for anything published by us, now or at any time in the future.

* * *

What is intelligence?

Controlled ignorance.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

The first time I saw The Freeman I was a little disappointed. When I compared its humble appearance with the gaudiness of its brother magazines it reminded me of an urchin.

Then, when I began to read, I found that it really was an urchin—a gay, boisterous, carefree child of the streets. His personality has not been cramped by superstitious fears and unnecessary repression; he has formed his ideas with reason instead of having them crammed down his throat; he sees the world as it is, not as he would like it.

I love this fearless, little scamp whose witty remarks make sour puritans blush, who throws snow-balls of clear white truth at top-hatted bigots, and laughs heartily when they lose all dignity groping for their toppers in the slushy street. I love the way he tramps on the toes of self-righteous hypocrites, the way he exposes powerful crooks.

This child has many bitter enemies, but his friends love him dearly. He will win, for he fights with the truth—the weapon most dreaded by malefactors. May this urchin grow ever stronger, even more devoted to his cause. We will not despise his simple clothing; rather we will admire him because he does not kow-tow to unscrupulous advertisers in order that he may wear their finery at the expense of his readers.

JOHN W. MORTIMER

Elora P.O., Ontario, Canada

* * *

Please give pronunciation of name of President of Czechoslovakia, Benes.

Benesh.

* * *

How would you define a gentleman?

I like President Taft's definition: "A gentleman is one who never hurts anyone's feelings unintentionally."

* * *

What is a bore?

There's no end of definitions, but one that suits me goes this way:

"One who, if you ask him how he is, tells you."

* * *

What's your opinion of crackpots?

I've met more than my share of crackpots, and have come to the conclusion that the trouble with them is

that they're right too damned often.

* * *

Please debunk spinach.

Sorry, but I'll have to disappoint my reader. There's no bunk about spinach. At the convention of the American Medical Association, in San Francisco, Calif., June 13, 1938, the organization's council on foods reported its studies of the scientific and medical aspects of spinach and concluded that it is "a wholesome and valuable food, a rich source of vitamin and also contributes vitamin C, iron and roughage to the diet."

* * *

Do you believe kissing is unhealthful?

Yes, if the husband is looking.

* * *

Why do we say a woman is as pretty as a picture?

That's because they're hand-painted.

* * *

The Nazis say no loyal Aryan will stoop so low as to buy from a Jewish store. Please comment.

That's true. They prefer to steal the goods.

* * *

Can you explain why Hitler and Mussolini are always starting building projects, monuments, memorials, and the like?

It's done to impress the world with their importance. Dictators haven't changed since the days of the Pharaohs, who would use 100,000 slaves for 20 years to build a pyramid, just to impress the world and themselves with their importance.

* * *

Why is it that man is the only animal that blushes?

Mark Twain said this is because man is the only animal that needs to blush.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

In The Philadelphia Record, for June 22, 1938, appeared an article from the "current" issue of the Catholic weekly, Commonweal. I believe you would be interested in parts of this article, so I quote therefrom—inserting comments of my own as they occur to me.

"The war continues, and the manner of waging it, both in Spain and here in our own country, seems to change very little with the passage of time. . . .

"We feel that some distinction must be made between the Spanish problem in Spain and the Spanish problem in the U.S. In Spain there is an active civil war which is being fought by both sides

in order to achieve, from the point of view of each (!) political group, a better social order. The same struggle to achieve a better social order exists in every country but not in the form of an armed struggle, of a civil war." [Note:—But it probably would exist in that form, if the hierarchy could maneuver it. See *The Nation* for June 4, 1938. "Nothing on the American horizon—not Southern reaction nor the reign of terror among share-croppers nor the tyrant corporations nor the cold suppressions of a Hague—is as dangerous for the next decade of our life as the organized propaganda of the Catholic hierarchy."]

Back to *Commonweal*: "A Spaniard, unless he is one of the few who are determined and able to make the 'double refusal,' seemingly must choose between two governments whose characters are mixed and are impossible (?) to know from here with any comprehensiveness.

"One government, or part of it, has instigated, or at least permitted, the murder of priests, nuns and lay people; has utilized ruthless methods of accomplishing social and political and economic ends." [The methods of Franco and his German and Italian allies, I take it, not being ruthless.] "Its alliance with Russia implies some, if an unknown degree, of identification with the evils of the Soviet regime. The second government, which gives the Church open support [shouldn't that be t'other way around?] yet in its conduct of warfare, repeatedly, and despite protests from the Holy Father, destroys defenseless civilians, particularly by its air raids on cities. Air raids made by one side cannot cancel out those made by the other. . . . Its alliance with the Fascist and Nazi elements implicates it to some, (!) if an uncertain, extent in the evils of those regimes.

"In this country there has been violent partisanship either for the Spanish nationalists or for the Madrid-Barcelona government. We feel that violent American partisanship on either side with regard to the Spanish question is bad, not only because the facts are obscure, but chiefly because both sides include elements that no American wants imported into this country. Neither has begun to enforce, or even propounded anything comparable to the Bill of Rights which protects an individual from unbearable use of authority. . . . The best, because the only effective way, to fight anti-Christian totalitarianism is to make one's own country a thoroughly decent place to live in, to 'restore all things in Christ.'" [As they were in the Age of Faith, when we know what a thoroughly decent place Christendom was, to live in!] . . . "We believe the

wisest, as also the most charitable and perhaps the most difficult, policy for Americans is to maintain that 'positive impartiality,' a sanity of judgment toward both sides in Spain," etc.

In the same issue of *Commonweal*, Michael Williams, its former editor, says: "For my own part, I am most regretfully constrained to say that such advice (as given above) tends to be harmful.

"My chief reason for thinking so is, the fact (as it seems to me) that the *Commonweal*'s statement carries its suspicion, and its repudiation, of the propaganda emanating from both sides in Spain far beyond a justifiable degree, and therefore, it seems to ignore what to my way of thinking is the determining, ultimate truth concerning the Spanish situation, namely; the fact that what I would regard as unimpeachable testimony exists which goes to prove that there was a well-planned, long-prepared, deliberate and frightfully significant effort made by the predominant forces controlling the government of Spain, prior to Franco's counter-revolution, utterly and finally to destroy the Catholic religion in Spain—to wipe out its sacred ministry, its consecrated teachers, and its lay leaders, in fact to liquidate, if possible, the entire body of believers, and thereafter the plan was designed to proceed against the Church on all fronts and in all the highly effective ways taught and practiced by the anti-God experts of Russia, and followed . . . by other atheistic revolutionary governments and parties throughout the world. . . . I cannot agree that I lean toward any form of totalitarian political tyranny if I decide and say, after reading what the Spanish bishops tell the whole world [and who wouldn't believe a bishop!] that it is true an anti-God revolution was let loose, or at least could not be stopped, by the United Front government of Madrid. . . . I consider that the facts, not mere propaganda, show that against that revolution . . . predominantly a terrorism aimed at the Catholic Church in Spain, there was a counter-revolution led by Franco and validated by the adhesion of a vast number, probably the majority, of the Spanish people."

[Mr. Williams' logic is equalled only by his style. No fair using sentences more than half a page long.]

Then the aftermath. The press reports, June 28, 1938: "The attitude of the editors of 'The Commonweal' in urging an impartial attitude toward the Spanish civil war was deplored today by another Catholic weekly, 'America.' . . . Despite the faults and mistakes of the insurgents, 'America' contends, they are

Christian and truly Spanish, and are progressively eager to build a new social order founded on justice and charity!" "Touching on the reported bombings of cities by General Franco's forces, 'America' replies that Franco has a 'tender regard for babies, mothers and noncombatants, and declares his corporate views are 'highly consistent with Catholic principles and Papal encyclicals.'"

Wilmington, Del.

W. MATTHEWS

* * *

In your attacks on Fascism you often plead for the right of the free personality. What does this quality mean to you?

I like the way Arthur Engberg, minister of public instruction of Sweden, describes the meaning of free personality, as follows:

The thing that matters most, is the development of a free personality. I do not hesitate to affirm that the greater the number of such men in a nation, the greater and richer will be its contribution to the cause of human civilization.

In my opinion, nothing can give a better measure of the degree of cultural maturity of a people, than the amount of consideration and respect it shows for the liberty and independence of the individual. The human spirit cannot be standardized. Its very basis is freedom. Truth is not a finished product laying on a shelf. It is a growing thing submitted to the laws of all growth. It is by thinking, by the exercise of free speech, by a free support or opposition to an opinion and criticism of ideas, that little by little it is possible to form a judgment which can come nearest to being the truth. The more citizens a country has, endowed with a critical spirit and a capacity for thinking freely, the less will be the danger of its yielding to sheer demagoguery and to herdlike mass suggestions.

* * *

In the June 13, 1938, issue of The Cleveland Press, Richard J. Davis, under "Today's Thought," said: "Have you ever noticed that one of the characteristics of the so-called atheist or agnostic is a kind of futilism? The man without God almost inevitably looks on the world with a depressing hopelessness, a kind of what's-the-use attitude." Please comment.

Mr. Davis, who is a Christian Science writer, is merely voicing a piece of pious nonsense. (I suppose Mr. Davis means futilitarianism, instead

of futilism.) His point is that since the Atheist or Agnostic doesn't believe in heaven or hell, in God or immortality, it follows that life can have no meaning for him, that all acts of high social morality are empty and useless, and that one who entertains such a philosophy settles back into a bovine existence. The facts don't support such an assumption. When the Atheist says that observation of nature convinces him there is no purpose in life or nature, it doesn't follow that he has surrendered to pessimism and indifferentism. Instead, he decides that observation proves it's possible for him to put meaning into his own life, and that all well-intentioned men can do the same thing. This realistic philosophy is, in truth, a high form of optimism, for it moves him to put meaning and humanism into his work, his living, and his world. He translates such a philosophy into a love and search for truth, justice, progress, culture, humanitarianism, peace, brotherly love, and other uplifting emotions and intellectual reactions. A study of the lives of Atheists and Freethinkers in general will prove to the most skeptical that such an inference carries validity. Take, for instance, a great Atheist like Joseph McCabe. Does his record show futilitarianism, depressing hopelessness, and a what's-the-use attitude? I think not. Now entering his seventy-first year, Joseph McCabe can point to 50 years of devotion to popular education, science, research, and an immense literary output. He has written almost 200 clothbound books for other publishers and an equal number for me—and all are moved by an optimistic philosophy, enthusiasm for life, hatred for injustice and persecution, and strong confidence that through reason and intelligence man will, in time, turn this sorry world into something close to Utopia, especially when humanity learns to apply the glorious lessons of creative science. Bertrand Russell, another Atheist, is coming this Fall to the University of Chicago, where he will teach philosophy, after decades of rationalistic authorship. There's nothing solemn or depressing about Mr. Russell. And, recalling a letter he once wrote to me, he is completely reconciled to life. That was

his joking way of saying that he was finding happiness and satisfaction in serving humanity as a teacher and guide. He has done his share of smashing supernaturalism. What's about him that gives one the right to look on him as a sour-puss? Robert G. Ingersoll, another great Agnostic, fought theology for about two generations, and he always kept his sense of humor intact while he served the people by trying to break the chains of intellectual slavery. Clarence Darrow, who was a life-long Atheist or Agnostic, never felt life wasn't worth living so long as there was a victim of injustice anywhere who needed his help, though he was as firm as any Atheist in his belief that nature—blind, chaotic nature—gave forth no proof of such a being as a God. I could, if space were available, cover some of the ground discussed in Joseph McCabe's forthcoming book, "How Atheists Have Served Civilization," but I must pass up that pleasure. Suffice it to say, McCabe shows, by his convincing reports from the record, that Free-thinkers in every age have made immense contributions to civilization—in the fields of art, philosophy, culture, music, poetry, literature, science, history, education, statesmanship, peace and the like. The facts prove, it seems clear to me, that men always have worked more constructively for humanity after they were able to free themselves from the shackles of the supernatural.

* * *

Did Shakespeare mention America in any of his plays?

Yes, once, in "The Comedy of Errors."

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

In regard to your article on page 1 of the August, 1938, Freeman, there is no need to worry about our National Debt increase. Those bonds will never be paid. Our children, like us, will find pretty ways of repudiating grandpa's debt, just as we did in "devaluing the dollar" and then declaring that we won't pay, as we promised, in gold.

Hardly any bonds are ever paid anyhow—they are "re-financed"; that is, new issues are forced on the banks, who have to dispose of them and the proceeds used to "take up" the current maturities. Almost all the international war-bonds have been repudiated, and the

commercial bonds will soon follow.

Why should our descendants pay for our "relief" and other fool things of which they will not in the least approve? What more plausible and convenient way to "soak the rich" of our ill-gotten gains than that?

If I had to keep U.S. government bonds, if I were not allowed to sell them until "the expiration of the lives in being" I would not give a dollar in the hundred for them. I don't think anyone else, who could help doing so, would buy them.

New York City * * * BOLTON HALL

Did Darwin coin the phrase "the Survival of the Fittest"?

Charles Darwin's phrase was "Natural Selection." The other phrase was invented by Herbert Spencer, a fact which Darwin gladly admitted, in his "Origin of Species," as follows:

"The expression often used by Mr. Herbert Spencer of the Survival of the Fittest is more accurate, and is sometimes equally convenient."

Herbert Spencer, in his "Principles of Biology," wrote:

"This survival of the fittest, which I have here sought to express in mechanical terms, is that which Mr. Darwin has called 'natural selection,' or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life."

Darwin, in his epoch-making "Origin of Species," showed how he used the term Natural Selection, in these words:

"I have called this principle, by which each slight variation, if useful, is preserved, by the term of Natural Selection."

* * *

Can you say a good word for poverty?

Poverty, even when our friends desert us, sticks to us. What loyalty!

* * *

Your criticisms of Mussolini's policies in running Ethiopia are true enough, but, after all, what difference does it make whether a colony is run by a Fascist dictator or a democracy? Both aim at the exploitation of the country and its people.

There's a great difference between democratic colonizing and Fascist imperialism. An excellent example is Denmark's management of its vast colony, Greenland, an island that's four times as large as France. Here we find how it's possible for a demo-

cratic country to serve a colony instead of enslaving and robbing it, though I'm not trying to give the impression that Greenlanders are living in an ideal system of society. However, Greenland at its worst is better than Fascism at its best. Inhabited by about 18,000 natives—Eskimos with a strain of European blood—and several hundred Danes, mostly employees of the government, we find that about two centuries of enlightened rule has bettered the condition of that vast, beautiful island, economically, industrially, educationally and culturally. Education in Greeland, during the past 25 years, has been compulsory, with the result that every youth and adult in the country can read and write, a record that compares favorably with the best sections in the world. Also, during the past century, more and more rights have been given the natives, so that they accept the guidance of the mother country because they know it is sound and friendly, and at the same time participate in running their own affairs to a greater degree as the years pass. With the gradual decline of sealing and whaling, the two previous sources of livelihood for the natives, the Danish government helped provide facilities and show the way to establish a growing, prosperous canning industry. Theo. Stauning, the Socialist Prime Minister of Denmark, in a recent statement, said:

"... Greenland is now becoming an important canning center for fish products. Greenlanders today are thoroughly familiar with the most modern methods of food canning, and apply them with an inherent ease. Also, in a land where stock-breeding was unknown, there now prospers an important sheep-raising industry, and Greenland today not only covers its own requirements in wool and meat, but also succeeds in exporting a sizeable amount of both....

"As for the checking of any over-zealous mercantile spirit on the part of the colonists—the Danish government accomplished this by increasing the general volume of its trade with Greenland, whereby the State saw to it that the natives could always find an adequate supply of consumers' goods at the lowest possible prices. In removing any incentive to

profiteering, this system has already been amply tested and secured international recognition.... We hope that this beautiful and curious land, with its affable and intelligent population, will continue to prosper more and more under our government—and its own."

The democratic Danish government—one of the most civilized and enlightened in the world—has never dropped a gas bomb on a single Greenlander's home. Not a single Greenlander has been enslaved by militarism. What would the record be had a Mussolini or a Hitler taken over this gigantic island?

* * *

Can you suggest how a guy like myself can click in this City of Sleep, Philadelphia? You can appreciate it, for you've lived here. Perhaps you can advise me how to go about creating events or circumstances in order to enable me to build up to a name personality.

There's no cut-and-dried formula for becoming a "name personality." But, broadly speaking, there are two boulevards. First, to do the eccentric, sensational thing. Second, to do the sound, substantial, important job. If you take Road No. 1, you have to act like a clown. If you take Road No. 2, you have to forget about publicity and concentrate on your task, whatever it is. The latter is the surer, more satisfying way, but it takes genius, or something akin to genius, and I wonder if you are ready to admit such a condition. You ought to know, if you aren't addicted to the vice of self-deception.

* * *

I have felt for some time that the legal profession rates very badly as a class because of its way of charging for services, usually taking about all that is to be had. A large medical and surgical clinic in this country, some years ago, adopted this same scheme and later the entire medical profession, more or less, took it up. It seems to me, as a medical doctor, that none of us personally like it. I am sure I don't. Will you discuss this?

I've long been of the opinion that medical doctors shouldn't charge whatever the traffic can bear but should, instead, abide by a fair schedule of prices which should be applied impartially to all. Thus, if a doctor's fee is \$2 per visit at his office, he shouldn't raise it to \$4 because his patient happens to draw a salary

somewhat above the average. Many doctors in small communities stick pretty well to the idea of charging all patients the same fees, the only exceptions being the very poor, who are given deserved advantages. When we come to surgery we find that it becomes again a matter of getting whatever the doctor thinks he can draw, though even here there are many doctors who stick pretty well to so much money for an operation, so much for a broken limb, and so on, the cases with complications being exceptions, of course. I believe the doctor who lets it be known that he charges all patients alike, except the very poor, will benefit financially in the end, though there may be times when particular cases could produce more revenue. I don't see why the man whose income or salary is twice or thrice the average should be given the works, for it's more than likely that he has additional responsibilities that take care of his extra income. Speaking as a layman, work out a fair code and hold to it. The public will be grateful.

* * *

I do eye, ear, nose and throat. In selecting a location for building a practice would the psychology differ from a mercantile establishment? Would a downtown office be preferable or one out in the residential district? Please answer by personal letter.

A specialist like the writer of the above should select a location in the downtown section of the community. Records show that such locations are sources of increased practice. I especially recommend quarters in a Medical Arts Building, if my reader's community has such a place. There is support for the position that medical doctors do better when they are housed together, either in a commercial office building or a formal clinic.

* * *

Can you tell me a little about Australia's wool crop?

Australia's wool industry is only 140 years old, starting with the importation of 26 Spanish merino sheep by a few young Australians who wisely saw the possibilities of this important industry. From that modest start Australia's sheep population grew steadily, until now there are more than 110,000,000 sheep in the country. In the infancy of the indus-

try the sheep gave an average of only three pounds of wool per head. The clip today is nine pounds, and it's growing. Exceptional sheep yield as much as 40 pounds. Leaders in the industry claim the day will come when the average clip will be 40 pounds, the reason being that better stock is being developed. Australia's greatness as a wool country got its real start in 1866 when a ram named "Emperor" was bought from the French merino stud farm at Rambouillet. "Emperor" ought to have monuments erected to his memory, for that fellow did wonders as a breeder. Ambitious in the extreme, he scattered his seed where it would be sure to do the most good. His dynasty is scattered all over Australia, with excellent results. The Island Continent is the world's greatest producer of wool—the world's oldest industry. Sydney—the largest market for Australia's wool—handles more than 1,000,000 bales yearly, which is about one-third of the country's production. Australia produces more than a fourth of the world's wool.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Regarding a request and comment in your September, 1938, issue concerning an anti-New Dealer predicting that "before long the mines will be equipped with bath rooms." I beg to advise that the State of Ohio has had a law for years requiring companies to furnish bath rooms with private lockers for employes near the mine entrance where the coal miners can wash and change their clothing.

Byesville, O. Howard B. Potts.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

I hope you read in The Nation, for June 25, 1938, an illuminating article on Dorothy Thompson. The author, Margaret Marshall, says, in part: "She became very sentimental about Schuschnigg, though she knew that it was Schuschnigg's 'greatest friend' Dollfuss who scattered by dissolution and massacre the working-class forces which might have saved Austria. And in a preface to Schuschnigg's book she worked herself up to the bad taste of saying that she, Dorothy Thompson, would have died for Austria. In a curious column called 'Christianity's Crisis' she wrote as follows: 'The issue in the Germanic world . . . is not even in the first line the issue of Austrian independence. It is whether the Germanic world is to be Christian or pagan.' Yet Cardinal In-

nitzer, Schuschnigg's boss and high priest of Austrian Christianity, was the first to hail Hitler when the blow fell."

READER

Since Italy has less than 50,000 Jews in a population of more than 40,000,000, why does Mussolini turn to anti-Semitism as a policy of State?

I have written several pieces on this question, showing that Mussolini's main reason is to toady to Nazism. Now comes George Seldes with five reasons for Italian Fascism's anti-Semitism, as follows:

1. It is part of the deal recently made with Hitler. Mussolini promised not only to make an anti-Semitic gesture but to do something drastic.

2. It furnishes a scapegoat, just as it does in other countries. Ethiopia has ceased to occupy the minds of the people. The Fascist war in Spain has added shame instead of glory to Italy. An anti-Semitic scapegoat campaign or a military campaign is necessary, and the former is cheaper.

3. It gives an opportunity to attack Freemasonry again.

4. It makes it easier for Mussolini to revenge himself on those of his intellectual enemies who happen to be Jews.

5. It provides ammunition against Britain through anti-Semitic demagoguery in Palestine.

I am 51 years old and my face shows it. I have quite a few ugly wrinkles. Several persons have advised me to have my face lifted. Is the operation safe and sure? Will it take that "old" look out of my face?

I advise you against having your face lifted. Plastic surgeons who are really ethical don't perform this operation. Hundreds of quacks, who call themselves plastic surgeons, will do this work for you, if you have enough money, but the results are certain to be disappointing. At best, the improvement (if any) can last only a few months. Take my advice and adjust yourself to your years.

Editor, The American Freeman:

I think it would add to the popularity and circulation of The Freeman if you gave the name and address, wherever it is allowed and at hand, of your correspondents. Most persons who find their name printed show it or send it to others. Also it would make the paper more personal, would bring new

acquaintance (and mail, which most persons love, because it adds to their importance). It would also stimulate controversy. I would give, where known, sex, married, age (young, middle aged, or mature), occupation, and education.

I think also the more distinctive use of headlines to the letters would make it easier reading, and catch the eyes of many who don't want to embark on a whole column or more of reading.

New York City

BOLTON HALL

(Editor's note—I'd like to hear from Freeman readers on Bolton Hall's two points. Do they want the names, etc., of those who ask questions, when available? Do they want headlines on letters to the editor? I'm willing to be guided by the wishes of the majority.)

WINROD DEFEATED

The Rev. Gerald R. Winrod, fanatical Nazi and race-baiter, was defeated in the Kansas primaries, after a vigorous campaign in which he spent immense sums of Fascist money in order to capture the nomination for the United States Senate. In a four-cornered fight he ran a poor third. The citizens showed by their vote that they appreciated the issues in the campaign and wanted no Nazi to represent them in Washington. The issue was met candidly by men like William Allen White, the Emporia editor, who fought Winrodism without compromise or mercy. The voters were given the awful, devastating facts of Winrod's record. They showed by their behavior at the polls that they still believe in democratic institutions and civil rights. Kansas like the rest of the Union, isn't anxious to surrender to Hitlerism. Winrodism was defeated by the tremendous power of free discussion. There's a lesson here for all friends of liberalism, freedom and democracy. So long as supporters of democracy retain their right to free discussion so long will the menace of Winrodism be kept at a safe distance. We should take this lesson to heart and fortify our position by working hard to build up a powerful, independent, unsubsidized press. That's a sure antidote for the poison of Winrodism.

The editor of The American Freeman preferred to have other Kansas citizens openly lead the campaign fight against Winrod, such as William Allen White and the anti-Fascist Protestant ministers. This was considered good strategy. At the same time, The Freeman editor saw to it that the immense amount of anti-Winrod material collected into his 14 volumes of questions and answers was made available to the pro-democratic forces of the State. The exposures

were used with wonderful effect. My quotations from Winrod's writings or publications were used everywhere. I take credit only for having done the hard job of digging up Winrod's record, proving him to be pro-Fascist, pro-Hitler, an anti-Semite, a Negro-baiter and a sworn enemy of the Catholic masses—in short, a perfect Kluxer. While on on this subject of credit for the work done in Kansas, let me quote a letter in THE PHILADELPHIA RECORD, August 5, 1938, under the headline "Cheers Foe of Kansas Fascist." It is written by a person who signs himself Democritus. The letter:

"Credit where credit is due" is a good axiom. And since the newspapers and magazines are lately filled with information against the Kansas Fascist Winrod, who is running for Senator, here's an item worth noting:

The first attacks on this Fascist came from Haldeman-Julius, of Girard, Kans., who has been exposing him unmercifully for some time.

Such exposures always build a better and stronger democracy; especially when directed against its avowed enemies.

Hats off to Haldeman-Julius!

* * *

What's the meaning of Hitler's award to Henry Ford?

On July 30, 1938—which was the 75th birthday of Henry Ford and the 49th birthday of the editor of The American Freeman—Adolf (velvet-lips) Hitler presented, and Ford accepted, the Grand Cross of the German Eagle, the first such award presented in the United States. Hitler is quick to recognize and honor one of his own kind. Ford's and Hitler's ideas jibe perfectly. Both are bitter, unrelenting anti-Semites. Both are ruthless enemies of labor's right to organize into independent unions. Both believe in dictatorship, Ford himself being one of the economic dictators of America. Our greatest industrialist accepts Hitler's "honor" at a time when he is defying the American government, which has a law making it a crime for any employer to attempt to deny his workers the privilege of organizing into unions of their own choice. Henry Ford is dead set against recognizing a free union of his men. He uses the boycott, espionage, terror and economic pressure to coerce his industrial slaves into accepting the Ford idea of

"organization," which means nothing more than yellow company unionism. Yes, Hitler knows a man after his own heart when he sees one. About the only difference between them, so far as I can see, is that Ford's sexual life has always been normal while Hitler's has been that of a practicing homosexual. And, while on this subject, let me quote a line from Walter Winchell, a writer who has a positive genius for delving into the bed-room secrets of celebrities. Bluntly, without fear of the consequences because he knew whereof he spoke, Winchell charged in his column: "Adolf Hitler is a pansy and by that I mean he is a homosexualist." Yes, Hitler is a yoo-hoo, while Ford isn't. That's all the difference.

* * *

A newspaper writer says the Italians are the greatest road and street building engineers in the world. What do you say?

It would be foolish to deny that there are some fine roads in Italy, many of which were built long before the world ever heard of Mussolini. But this doesn't mean the best work is now being done in Fascist Italy. If we are to believe the reports of competent observers, we'd have to say that Il Duce's street builders are among the worst. Listen, for instance, to the sad words of Kenneth Mann, who writes in a recent *Esquire*, as follows:

When a street is repaired in an Italian town, there is no mistake about it; none of your half-way measures, such as working one side of the street at a time. The place is littered from curb to curb with debris and paraphernalia. When the work is fairly started, all hands forget the original intention and go off to start repairing something else.

All over Italy street repairing goes on and the jobs are more instructive for the tourist spectator looking for "significance" than the National museum or a new excavation at Herculaneum. So many cooks mix the cement that they are always tripping over one another. Boys carry it in buckets down narrow ladders, and an efficiency expert would have a fit noting all the time they lose waiting at top and bottom for this vertical one-way route to be clear. It doesn't occur to the foreman, the engineer, or the Duce, that

a second ladder would relieve the congestion.

When it comes to all-fired efficiency, who can beat a gang of road-builders out here in the wide, open spaces of the U.S.A.? These American road-builders, in my own observation, use very little help and push concrete slabs ahead at the rate of tens of feet per day. It's a sight for sore democratic eyes that are tired of reading fulsome praise of the lousy Fascists.

* * *

"I have known E. Haldeman-Julius for almost 30 years. He has been all that time a tireless Socialist propagandist, and he is the possessor of one of the most capable minds I know. He has read omnivorously, and he knows how to present his ideas in plain and sometimes in eloquent language."—Up-ton Sinclair.

* * *

I find that you have presented a wide array of facts to prove Father Coughlin's Fascism and anti-Semitism. Did this priest ever circulate the discredited Protocols of the Elders of Zion?

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion—concocted by Czarist officials to provoke massacres of Jews—are intended to "prove" that the Jews are in a conspiracy to ruin and then rule the world. The so-called document has been branded as a rank forgery. Until recently only the German race-baiters, led by Hitler and Julius Streicher, actually believed this nonsense, or pretended to believe it. Also, in this country only hate-mongers of the type of a Rev. Gerald B. Winrod actually circulated the Protocols with a view to arousing persecution against a helpless, innocent minority. Now, at last, even Father Coughlin has joined in this chorus of hate, as may be seen in the July 18, 1938, issue of *Social Justice*, in which Father Coughlin takes an entire page in "showing" how "true" the Protocols are. He says this article is the first of a series on the forged weapon of intolerance and bigotry.

Father Coughlin supports the Protocols with quotations from Henry Ford and Walter Rathenau, failing to state that the protocol argument advanced by Henry Ford in 1921 was repudiated by him six years later. He quotes the statement but ignores the retraction. That shows the priest's intellectual dishonesty. In

the case of Rathenau, Father Coughlin resorts to misquotation. He gives the impression that Rathenau had charged that 300 Jews in Europe were "over and above the governments." Here again Father Coughlin ignored a later statement, for Rathenau, in a letter written on October 30, 1921, went to great pains to explain that he had intended to show, in the language of *The Jewish Transcript*, "the danger inherent in the fact that a handful of men controlled the entire economic life of Europe." Rathenau added: "I do not have to mention specifically that in speaking of the 'three hundred' I had in mind the leaders of international business and certainly not Jews." But Father Coughlin prefers to ignore Rathenau's explanation and spreads the canard that this German statesman had warned the world against 300 Europeans who were working to "carry out" the items listed in the forged Protocols. One could as easily say that the journalists who speak of the 60 American families who control the economic life of the United States must refer to Jews, when, as a matter of fact, the record shows that Jews have only the tiniest minority control of American wealth, a minority that's so small as to be lost when compared with the gigantic fortunes of our non-Jewish Fords, Rockefellers, Morgans, Mellons, du Ponts, etc.

Father Coughlin, by his public behavior, proves himself to be nothing more than an imitation Hitler, as my writings have shown again and again during the past five or six years. In my 14 volumes of questions and answers I have given an immense body of facts to stamp this master of demagogic Jew-baiting and subtle campaigns in support of totalitarianism, or rather, in plainer speech, Fascism. It would be the essence of folly to ignore such a menace to our liberties. It's the duty of all social-minded, democratic, liberal editors to expose and brand this contemptible spokesman for everything that's uncivilized and reactionary in our country. Whenever a Coughlin opens his mouth to spread lies and ideas of race hatred he should be exposed. The best weapon against our Coughlins is the power of pitiless publicity.

I write this piece on August 1, 1938, the day before the voters of Kansas go to the primaries to accept or reject our first Fascist candidate for U.S. Senator, the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod. I have done my share in the educational campaign to call attention to Winrod's Nazism, anti-Semitism, and other reactionary policies, which I hope have done some good, but I am free to confess that the facts I garnered and printed in my 14 volumes of questions and answers were used brilliantly by other friends of liberalism and democracy, including our William Allen White, editor of *The Emporia Gazette*. A few days before the primaries I wrote a friendly letter to Mr. White congratulating him on his brilliant fight against Winrodism. Mr. White's reply, written on July 30, 1938, follows:

"Of course, I am proud and happy that you approved my campaign against the Winrod menace. I think we have Winrod licked.

"As you know, I have my limitations sometimes, as who has not, but I have always rung the bell when I have been confronted with any enemy to civil liberties.

"So long as we maintain our constitutional rights of freedom, whatever economic or social changes we may make are of little importance and they will be overcome by reason; our wrongs and errors will be rectified."

That last paragraph contains sound political philosophy and I urge my readers to commit it to memory. It's the key to the liberal's world. Take away our civil liberties and we are lost, but so long as we retain the right to speak and print our true thoughts so long can we feel assured of a future filled with the blessings of democracy and freedom. And, while I'm speaking of Mr. White's great struggle for real democracy—in which he spent thousands of dollars from his own purse on newspaper advertisements in order to warn the voters against Winrodism—let me add a word of commendation for the liberal, educated portions of the Protestant Churches. They came to the front with almost complete unanimity in denouncing the Rev. Winrod as a race-baiter and Fascist. It was wonderful to see how the most prominent ministers in practically every

Kansas community struck against a fellow-preacher who was trying to use political office as a means to exercise governmental authority in the direction of Fascism, anti-Semitism, and race-baiting in general. Yes, this country's democracy has powerful supporters in every walk of life and it's not going to be easy to crush that strong feeling for civilized institutions.

* * *

Is Mussolini sincere in his belated acceptance of anti-Semitism as a policy of his regime?

I've gone into this subject several times, showing that Mussolini's anti-Semitism is sheer hypocrisy and bunk. First, consider the fact that there are less than 50,000 Jews in all Italy—about one Jew to 1,000 non-Jewish Italians. I repeat, for the tenth time, that Mussolini's sudden acceptance of anti-Semitism is nothing more than a device with which he hopes to hold Hitler to the Berlin-Rome axis, a combination that's been wavering of late because of Mussolini's weak economic and financial position. Hitler sees in Mussolini a dubious ally. Mussolini, on the other hand, sees himself left out on a limb should England and France come to the conclusion—as they seem to have done—that Mussolini's bark is worse than his bite. When I say that Mussolini's quick conversion to Hitleristic ideas on the Jewish question is rank hypocrisy I mean it literally. I can prove it by Mussolini's own words. In November, 1927, in a speech before a gathering of foreign journalists, Mussolini branded anti-Semitism as "a product of barbarism," as follows:

Fascism means unity, anti-Semitism destruction and division. Fascist anti-Semitism or anti-Semitic Fascism therefore implies a crass absurdity. To us in Italy, it appears extremely ludicrous that the anti-Semites of Germany should try to win their way through Fascism. And from other countries, too, information reaches us that a Fascism of anti-Semitic shade is trying to strike root. We protest with all our energy against Fascism being compromised in this way. Anti-Semitism is a product of barbarism.

When the new anti-Semitism of Italian Fascism was announced in July, 1938, the secretary of the Italian Fascist party, and one of Musso-

lini's most important henchmen, charged this was necessary because Jews everywhere "are the general staff of anti-Fascism." Of course, the statement isn't strictly accurate, for Jews are divided on political and economic questions—as are most other groups—but if it were literally true it would be the greatest compliment ever paid the Jews in their entire history. If to be a Jew means to be an anti-Fascist (I wish that were always true) then these persecuted people are setting an example that the civilized world could follow to its betterment. I have, for many years, urged Jews to stand by democracy. That means they should oppose Fascism. Many of them do. That's fine. Let's hope all of them soon line up with the supporters of liberalism, democracy and freedom in general, as opposed to brutalitarian Fascism.

* * *

I am seriously alarmed over the manner in which the Catholic Church is using every possible means to establish censorship or control over speech and press. We have seen what the Catholic Church could do to Hollywood. You have shown, by numerous illustrations, how the Catholic leaders are using their cups to bombard publishers of newspapers and magazines in order to suppress your book advertisements. The public librarians stand in holy horror whenever representatives of Catholic Action swoop down on them because some "forbidden" (usually liberal) book has been added to the collection. Has anything been done by the Church to exercise control over radio, outside of its demand for time to expound its dogmas and line up protests against progressive thinkers?

The Catholic Church has its eye on radio, as shown by an editorial in *America*, a Catholic weekly. This quotation was lifted by *The New Republic* and printed in its August 10, 1938, issue as a warning to liberal-minded people. *America's* blast follows:

"Another thing which we Catholics must take over soon, unless we want to let our poor people be turned wholesale into a crowd of boobs and morons, is the radio. And I do not mean merely in our broadcast hours of Catholic doctrine. I mean almost more imperatively in our music, entertainment, instruction, fun."

We know what happens to thought,

education, entertainment, art, literature and culture in general when Catholic-Fascism gets control of the instruments of communication, as in Italy, Poland, Portugal and Nationalist Spain. The aim isn't to save the masses from being "boobs and morons" but to indoctrinate them with the dogmas of its particular brand of supernaturalism and a servile acceptance of the hierarchy's reactionary, medieval ideas of economics, labor unions, education, and the like. Our free democracy has plenty of boobs and morons, in all conscience, but it would be a thousand times worse if the leaders of Catholic-Fascism were to gain complete control of our press, schools, the motion pictures, and the radio. At least we still have the freedom to educate our illiterates and underprivileged citizens. Under Catholic-Fascism it would be a matter of public policy to keep those masses steeped in superstition, ignorance and social backwardness. Those who felt otherwise would be treated as traitors, heretics and criminals. Concentration camps would be put up in every State. The educators and writers who dared tell the truth would be killed or imprisoned. The radio would be used entirely for Catholic-Fascist propaganda. This isn't scare-mongering I'm indulging in. My charges are based on the facts of the record in countries where Catholic-Fascism is able to assert itself.

* * *

Does Hitler have much faith in Japan as a member of the Fascist International?

Hitler keeps his mouth shut about Japan's military situation, but he must know he has tied himself to a government that's getting bogged deeper each day. The organ of the Hitler Youth Movement, *Wille und Macht*, admits in so many words it doesn't expect much from Japan. The quotation, which appeared in the July 30, 1938, issue of the *People's World*, which is responsible for the *Wille und Macht* translation, reads:

"Another question, in any case, is it advisable for Japan to enter into an arms race with England and the United States, whose economic and technical facilities from the long view are still greater than those of Japan. In other words, can Japan

keep up an arms race in the long run? It should not be forgotten that Japan, fundamentally, is a poor nation and can carry only with the greatest efforts its large military establishment, which rests most of all on the weak shoulders of the Japanese rice-farmer."

As I write this piece, the press is giving considerable space to reports of new border fights between Japan and the Soviet Union. It's hard to tell what the Japanese militarists have in mind, if they can be said to have minds at all, for their cavortings seem to indicate bad cases of jitters or downright insanity. If, after making such a mess of its undeclared war in China, Japan were to take on Russia, it's downfall would be well-nigh inevitable, as the facts all indicate that the Far Eastern army of the Soviet Union is all set to go to town in a big way. With perhaps 500,000 trained Russians ready to go into action, and with anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000 first-line bombers capable of "visiting" Tokio in three or four hours, with at least 50 up-to-date submarines at Vladivostok, with improved communications with European Russia, and with sources of immediate supplies more than enough to keep the Russian soldiers in action for at least a year without help from Moscow, Japanese militarists must be completely devoid of their sense if they intend to provoke a war in that part of the world. A year ago, before they bankrupted themselves in China, the Japanese might have whipped the Russians, but today, with the tables turned and the Russians on top, the Japanese can go into a new war with only one purpose in mind—collective suicide. It may be that the Japanese want to trade their bad war in China for a nice, fresh, new war with the Soviet Union. If that's their notion, they'd better wake up. They're committing hara-kiri.

* * *

What's the latest report on our gold holdings?

On July 27, 1938, the U.S. Treasury reported gold holdings of \$13,000,839,409, or 371,438,268 ounces of the metal. This is about 55 percent of the world's estimated monetary gold stocks. The underground vaults at Ft. Knox, Ky., are holding about \$5,000,000,000 of our gold. The re-

mainder is being held in various treasury mints and assay offices throughout the country.

It is generally agreed that the gold held by the U.S., Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union will serve militarily should the great democracies find themselves at war with the Fascist countries. The three great Fascist governments—Germany, Italy and Japan—have very little gold, without which a long war could hardly be fought, for these countries must buy raw materials in the world market, where only gold or foreign exchange is acceptable. Italy, it's estimated, has hardly more than \$125,000,000 in gold; Germany probably has less than \$75,000,000, while Japan is digging into its gold reserves so fast to buy raw materials for its undeclared war in China that it's hard to say just what the country's gold balance amounts to, but it seems \$200,000,000 is a liberal figure.

* * *

Can eyes be made larger by plastic surgery?

No, there's nothing one can do to make the eyes larger. Quacks who call themselves plastic surgeons offer (how much money have you got, miss?) to cut the skin at the corners of the eyes. This exposes more of the eyeball. The result is bad. As Dr. Joseph Urkov, in his exposure of quacks in the beautifying racket, explains, "this work is an insult to Nature, and she often retaliates. When 'big eyes' tries to laugh, she weeps. Tears roll down her cheeks due to a permanent disturbance of the tear mechanism by the quack's hasty knife." Women—they are the main victims—should be satisfied with the eyes nature gave them.

* * *

Can you give me the fundamentals of the Swift Tax Plan?

Dean Swift, the great English satirist, purely as an exercise in spoofing, proposed a tax on female beauty, or, as we'd put it in these more sophisticated days, sex appeal. His "plan" suggested that each woman be given the right to assess her own physical beauty. Such a tax, said Jonathan Swift, would be paid gladly and would bring in enough revenue to take care of any sized budget. I'm afraid such a tax would bring little revenue from the really

beautiful women. A Marlene Dietrich or a Greta Garbo, secure in their ample stores of sex appeal, would put themselves down at two for a nickel while the nation's slatterns, of whom there are plenty, would soar into the millionaire class. As there are more plain women than glamorous ones, the treasury would come out well up in front, but just try to get some statesman to propose the plan.

What is your opinion of the numerous remedies advertised in the newspapers?

Advertised remedies—patent medicines—shouldn't be used by ailing people. If sick, see a doctor, but first make sure he's a good doctor with proper educational background and professional reputation. One of the dangers of patent medicines is the encouragement given to uneducated, untrained laymen to diagnose their own diseases. Self-medication isn't a bad thing if one is afflicted with a minor ailment, but when there's the possibility of serious complications one should always turn to a competent physician for relief. Patent medicines are always to be avoided. They're an unmitigated evil. When I advise my readers to consult a doctor, bear in mind I always refer to a medical practitioner. Avoid freakish, unscientific cultists, faddists, Naturopaths, Chiropractors, and the like. They're as bad as patent medicines, sometimes worse, and always more expensive.

I have learned that Canada imports great quantities of coal from the U.S. Doesn't Canada have any coal deposits?

Canada has plenty of coal, but it happens that deposits are far from the centers of population. Excessive transportation charges make it economical to import U.S. coal.

We are a family of five and are considering the purchase of an electric dishwashing machine. Please send your recommendation by personal letter.

I don't recommend any kind of dishwashing machine for an ordinary family. They're all right for restaurants and hotels, but they aren't worth the high investment when put into a home that has a family of only five members. The machines are very expensive and never do an entirely satisfactory job. Also, their up-

keep is high. Operating costs are completely out of line. The old system of hand dishwashing is still the best for the average family.

How many American troops were engaged in the Spanish-American War?

About 280,000.

Did Robert G. Ingersoll oppose attempts to gag free speech and other civil rights?

There never was a greater enemy of organized bigotry and censorship than Ingersoll. In order to quote a sample of his opinion I must make my choice among many expressions. Here's a good one, but there are hundreds just as pointed:

"I would not wish to live in a world where I could not express my honest opinions. Men who deny to others the right of free speech are not fit to live with honest men. I deny the right of any man, of any number of men, of any Church, of any State, to put a padlock on the lips—to make the tongue a convict. I passionately deny the right of the Herod of Authority to kill the children of my brain."

There are undoubtedly a great many people, Roman Catholics in particular, who derive considerable comfort from their religion. Many of them claim it helps them in trying times. Life for most of us is a pretty tough proposition, so if anyone is able to believe that somewhere, sometime, he will be compensated for earthly trials and tribulations, don't you think it would be a pity to deprive him of this consolation? Ingersoll said the time to be happy is now—the place here. That may be possible for the Ingersolls, but we all cannot live the life he did or anything approximating it.

I know of no Rationalist who strives to deprive any individual of the "consolation" he derives from his religion. Freethinkers everywhere demand that religionists shall have every right to practice their religion, and ask in return that they be permitted to approach their own problems in the spirit of realism. If religion serves as a crutch for some aged, helpless, fragile individual, by all means let that person enjoy the benefits of that crutch. No one aims to break that crutch. A Freethinker doesn't believe in idol-smashing. If someone prefers to worship an idol,

that's his right and privilege. No one will move a finger to interfere, at least among the Freethinkers. I have made this same point many times in the past, always emphasizing the fact that Rationalism is a voluntary philosophy which must never be advanced by force. Too many religionists prefer to use the powers of the State to crush non-believers, or in other ways compel them to embrace religious ideas. Religious persecutions are too well known to students of history. The whole record of religious history is one long attempt to tyrannize, persecute, torture and punish the more tough-minded men and women who prefer to approach life without the trappings of ecclesiasticism. It took many centuries of struggle for Freethinkers to win the right to free speech. Now that they have this right in many civilized countries—particularly those countries which enjoy democratic institutions—they certainly don't intend to repeat the experiences of their religious enemies and go in for forceful acceptance of their ideology. Freethinkers say that those who get consolation out of their superstitions have a right to hug such delusions to their bosom. In my own experience I have known many persons—especially among the aged—with whom I never even discuss religion, knowing that my views can only cause them pain and unhappiness. At the same time I insist that I shall have the right to express my views in print, where those who want to study them may do so, all in the spirit of give and take. If a religious-minded individual is shocked by Freethought literature, he need only refuse to read it. There are, on the other hand, many individuals in the ranks of the religious-minded who don't need the crutches of superstition to sustain them, and such persons have a perfect right to listen to or read after a Freethinker's philosophy. Most Freethinkers of my acquaintance once held religious notions, and the facts show that their intellectual emancipation worked to their benefit. They are better men and women for their ability to think out for themselves the great problems presented by Church propagandists. They know, however, that they would

be wasting their time if they were to go out of their way to try to dissuade a believer who gets comfort from his faith. Freethought would be untrue to its basic principles if it didn't give its opponents the unqualified right to free choice.

* * *

I have \$400 in U.S. bonds in safe deposit. This is absolutely all I have of value. I can earn only 50c per day on odd jobs because I am 63 years of age. Am single and in good health and I manage to exist on what I make. I can buy city real estate for \$400, paying \$5 per month rent. Or I am offered two acres of land with 100 chickens, fruit trees, etc., for \$400. Now, I am afraid of inflation. I would rather keep my government bonds and 50c a day work. Please answer by personal reply at once before I take up one of the business propositions now being offered me. I want to arrange my affairs so that I will never have to ask for charity.

Take my sincere advice and keep your government bonds intact. Don't, under any circumstances, turn them in for real estate or a few acres of land and some chickens. Stick to your bonds, unless you prefer to turn them into money, in which case put the cash into the nearest postal savings bank. Don't waste time worrying about inflation. Your \$400 worth of bonds will serve you well for years to come, for the chances of dangerous inflation are rather remote. You stand chances of losing your money much faster in real estate than in inflation, so let me urge you to keep your modest nest-egg.

* * *

If the democratic countries were to go to war with the Fascists, which side would American opinion favor?

The American Institute of Public opinion, on July 27, 1938, announced the results of a poll of Americans, who were asked: "*If England and France have a war with Germany and Italy, which side would your sympathies be with?*" The vote showed overwhelming support for the democratic side, by better than 20 to 1. The vote:

| | Percent |
|--------------------------|---------|
| England and France | 65 |
| Italy and Germany | 3 |
| Neither side | 32 |

This vote is one more proof of America's tremendous enthusiasm for democratic institutions. With only 3 percent voting for the Fascist gov-

ernments, it's clear that a war would find America's "sympathy bloc" lined up with England and France, a fact that would be of value to the democracies in more ways than one.

Another question that was asked in the same poll read: "*If England and France do go to war with the Fascist powers, can the U.S. stay out?*" Fifty-four percent felt we could stay neutral, while 46 percent declared we would go in on the side of the democratic powers, according to the survey. This is in contrast to a poll taken a year ago for answers to the same question, when it was found that 62 percent said we could stay out of the next European war, thus showing that the American people are gradually coming around to the position that our participation in a war against Fascist governments is desirable.

The American people hate Fascism. Yet, here are Fascist elements in this country which are hard at work trying to break down this resistance to tyranny and dictatorship. Democratic liberalism must remain dominant.

* * *

Is the idea of a publication devoted entirely to questions and answers original with you?

So far as I know, The Freeman is the first periodical of its kind in the United States, but if you'll go back three centuries in England you'll find the *Athenian Mercury*, a paper given over entirely to questions and answers. I'm still to see a copy. If any reader can lend me a volume or two (I understand the journal was issued for years) I'll be thankful for the favor. The *Athenian Mercury*, like the Freeman, never echoed copy-book maxims, as shown by the original and entertaining manner the editor answered a reader who wanted a few thoughts on early rising. The editor responded with the advice that it is better to go to bed early and rise late. Here's the way he worded his devilish philosophy:

"Though it be a kind of recession from the common opinion to prefer going to bed and rising late—yet is it to be noted that most persons of great position and the more judicious sort, observing that course of life, are of that judgment, since that to approve a thing is to do it.

Now we see that all the great Lords and Ladies about the Court, the most refined spirits and such as are able to judge of all things, nay, most men who have anything more than an ordinary burthen of affairs for the most part go to bed late and rise late (the more quickly does time slip away). They therefore are to be thought the happiest who if they had their own wills would go to bed latest; not only for that reason which made a certain King of this part of the world say that he would be King as long as he could, inasmuch as when he slept there was no difference between him and the meanest of his subjects."

And that, my pious readers, is all I know about the publication that beat me to the draw three centuries ago. I'd like to know more. Maybe some reader will be able to help me.

* * *

Please let me know how much money the American people paid each year during the last 10 years for national and State government. Also let me know what our national income was each year. Then give the percent of tax to national income.

The figures, for fiscal years, compiled from the National Industrial Conference Board studies on "Cost of Government in the United States," follow:

TAX COLLECTIONS IN THE U.S.

| Year | (In millions.) | | Percent of tax to national income |
|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Total federal and state collections | National income | |
| 1926 ... | \$ 8,605 | \$73,473 | 11.7 |
| 1927 ... | 9,059 | 73,913 | 12.3 |
| 1928 ... | 9,432 | 75,847 | 12.3 |
| 1929 ... | 9,759 | 79,438 | 12.3 |
| 1930 ... | 10,266 | 72,340 | 14.2 |
| 1931 ... | 9,300 | 60,122 | 15.5 |
| 1932 ... | 8,147 | 46,358 | 17.5 |
| 1933 ... | 7,501 | 44,358 | 16.9 |
| 1934 ... | 8,773 | 51,052 | 17.2 |
| 1935 ... | 9,731 | 55,700 | 17.5 |
| 1936 ... | 10,498 | 63,790 | 16.5 |
| 1937 ... | 12,300 | 67,544 | 18.2 |

* * *

You sometimes use the initials U.S.S.R. when speaking of Russia. What do they mean?

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

* * *

Have you anything to say about the recent sensational suicide of John W. Warde, in N.Y.C.?

Warde, a young man of 26, several times in and out of mental hospitals, went through a suicide ceremony, in

which he stood for 11 hours on the ledge of the 17th floor of a hotel before jumping to his death. In plain language, Warde was crazy. He'd been suffering from a suicide complex for years, having made numerous attempts to end his existence, and then gave full expression to his frustrated personality by leaping to his death before a big audience. During these hours Warde sipped the sweet, heady wine of importance, something life had withheld from him. It was worth dying for such a send-off. Police begging him to desist, a priest praying for him from a nearby window, a beautiful blonde promising to go to bed with him if only he would change his mind and not jump, tens of thousands of people—many of them frustrated Wardes—watching, scores of reporters, newspaper extras being sold in the streets below while he was trying to make up his mind when to throw himself to the street, photographers all set to catch the last, dramatic moment, newsreel cameramen—it was all made to order for Warde's defeated ego. When he had taken all the stimulation he could get from this scene—11 hours of it—he went over. He thought it was worth it. That's just one more evidence of Warde's insanity. He didn't realize that the crowd would scatter and look for new thrills; the newspapers would turn to a new sensation; the beautiful blonde would adjust herself to some other man; the police would close the record and go after new problems of behavior. His moment of "glory" was only a delusion. Had he known how empty his gesture was he would have been sane and therefore wouldn't have stood up there for 11 hours before deciding to finish the show. By this I don't mean to infer that all persons who kill themselves must be crazy. Many sane men decide calmly and rationally that they have a perfectly good reason for doing away with themselves—incurable diseases, uselessness to society, family or self, helplessness in old age or in some misfortune. Such people are as sane as the healthy-minded person who enjoys living and wants the process to continue for a long time. But, being sane, they do the act of individual retreat from life as though it were a private ritual,

which it certainly is, instead of falling victim to delusions of grandeur and making their suicide a spectacle that carries all the marks of masochism and exhibitionism.

* * *

What are Hitler's intentions with regard to Holland?

Judging by the way the Hollanders are arming, they must have good reasons for keeping their eyes on Hitler. A story is going the rounds of the foreign press that's worth telling:

A swashbuckling Nazi accosted a Dutchman. "Hitler will be in Holland next" warned the Nazi.

"I wouldn't doubt it," came the Hollander's calm reply, "we already have the Kaiser."

* * *

My name is Minsky, which causes me much embarrassment because lots of wise guys kid me about strip teases, ask me to introduce them to Gypsy Rose Lee, and in other ways rib me. I'm thinking of changing my name to Pinsky. Do you think that's a good idea?

Just why you should pick on Mr. Pinsky, Mr. Minsky, is beyond me. Now, Mr. Pinsky—I mean Minsky—while you're at it why not do a thorough job of Americanization? But don't do like the fellow in the popular story. This bird went into court with an application to have his name changed from John Splinterbottom. "How old are you?" the friendly judge inquired. "Thirty-five." Mr. John Splinterbottom replied. "Do you mean to tell this court that you've actually lived with that name for 35 years?" the judge asked in amazement. "Well, you certainly deserve relief. What do you want to be named instead?" The man's face lit up as he replied: "Clarence Splinterbottom, your honor." That fellow, to my notion, is a whole lot like Minsky who wants to switch over to Pinsky.

* * *

Can you explain why Esquire stopped using Meyer Levin's department of movie criticisms?

For something like four years, Meyer Levin wrote for *Esquire* excellent reviews of movies. Personally, I found them helpful in my own editorial work. Now comes the news that David Smart, the publisher of *Esquire*, has decided, in response to complaints from reactionaries, to dispense with Levin's services. Mr.

Levin, in an open letter, says, among other things:

The issue is not merely one of whether I or someone else or no one shall write movie criticism for **ESQUIRE**. The issue is clearly the freedom of the press. This is the first instance, to my knowledge, where a systematic pressure campaign (for your information, organized chiefly by the Catholic Church) in terms of letters and postcards to advertisers in these magazines, has been utilized to suppress the free expressions of views by writers. Mr. Smart has made it very clear that it is not his editorial policy to suppress me, but that he is bowing to the express commands of certain advertisers, who in turn confront him with hundreds of postcards advising them to withdraw their advertising from magazines which employ writers like myself.

The Catholic-Fascists have won another battle. These organized letter-writers are doing the cause of a free press limitless damage through their ganging up tactics. As Freeman readers know, the same forces swamped publishers of magazines and newspapers in a conspiracy to compel them to throw out my Little Blue Book advertisements. Now they've gone after a publisher (who would like to be liberal on some subjects) and compelled him to discharge a writer whose only offense was that he wrote criticisms that were unacceptable to the Catholic-Fascists. Americans who believe in a free press should answer these reactionaries by giving their fullest support to those editors who aren't afraid to tell the truth even when it hurts the delicate sensibilities of the Catholic-Fascists. The organized letter-writers are able to scare certain kinds of publishers, especially those who are dependent on advertising. When the Catholic-Fascists don't get what they want direct from the publisher they gang up on his advertisers, and that usually brings quick action. Freeman readers must learn the lesson—one I've been pounding on for years—that our only hope in the fight to ward off Fascist tyranny in the U.S. is to build up a powerful progressive press that's able to operate without leaning on the money-bags of the big advertisers. Such publications can be published—there's evidence at hand

to this effect—but they need moral backing. It isn't asking too much of lovers of democracy that they should make reasonable sacrifices for such an unsubsidized, free, independent, out-spoken press. If we lose our free press, Fascism will capture the country without much of a fight.

* * *

Will a child outgrow cross-eyes if the condition is left alone?

No. According to an eye specialist (referred to in *Science News Letter*, July 23, 1938) "children do not outgrow cross-eyes—the condition nearly always grows worse unless corrected by glasses, training, or an operation."

* * *

Last night I heard over the radio, for the thousandth time, a sales talk for Fleischmann's Yeast. It's supposed to be good for pimply youngsters and those past 40 who are beginning to slip. What do you say?

Don't pay any attention to that yeast crap. It's just high-pressure salesmanship. Yeast is all right in bread, but it shouldn't be taken as a medicine or a tonic. The American Medical Association has never admitted the truth of the claims for yeast as a laxative, blood purifier, tonic, or the like. Certain scientists have shown that the living organisms in yeast, instead of doing the human system any good, do a great deal of harm by living off needed elements in the body, especially vitamins. The medical profession doesn't recommend yeast as a laxative. It produces irritation in the intestines. All this runs counter to the claims made in expensive radio, magazine and newspaper advertising, but I insist my advice is based on the findings of sound authorities and should be heeded by the ailing. The yeast people spend millions of dollars yearly to exploit their nonsense, which accounts for the way the press keeps quiet about their extravagant claims. The press is always sure to pussyfoot when it takes in great sums of money from advertisers who are putting something over on the public. But the Federal Trade Commission shouldn't be hesitant about stepping in and protecting the consumers from advertising that is plainly false and misleading. The Freeman is always free to expose fake advertising because it is

a really free press. It isn't answerable to big advertisers. It is unsubsidized. That's why it isn't afraid to tell the truth about rich rackets.

* * *

I have trouble with my shaving brushes. After a few shaves the hairs begin falling out. Please recommend something reliable.

I've been using a *Rubberset* for more than 25 years, with complete satisfaction. I used to go in for the \$1 brand, which was a good buy, but something like 10 years ago I started using one of their brushes made of badger hairs, with great success and satisfaction. I believe the last one I bought (something like three years ago) cost me \$2.50, but it was worth it. It's as good as new and ought to last another five or six years. The *Rubberset* is so well made (by the *Rubberset Company*, 75 West St., N.Y.C.), that it's no exaggeration to say the hairs wear out instead of fall out, which is a real testimonial to the manufacturer's skill.

* * *

What kind of toilet paper do you suggest? Sterilized? Chemicals removed? Which brand is the best buy?

There's a lot of bunk printed in the toilet paper advertisements. Wise consumers shouldn't be deceived. The chatter about "dangerous chemicals" is so much hooey. The quantity of chemicals that go into the manufacture of paper is so slight in proportion to the paper's bulk that the danger is just about zero. A generation brought up on mail order catalogues and newspapers (without having the ink removed!) should be immune to the "menace" of chemicals in toilet paper. Of course, by all means pick out a sheet that's soft and pleasant to handle. There's no reason why harsh, hard papers should be applied, especially since the soft papers don't cost any more. The best chemists in the industry have been working hard on the problem of turning out something that will polish as well as wipe, and reports indicate that they have been successful. Experiments show that low-priced toilet papers offered in the chain stores are just as good, and frequently better, than the expensive papers offered for the delicate, swanky, fastidious, carriage trade. The best buy I know of is the paper which is sold, under the

trade name of *Grandee*, in the Woolworth stores. For a nickel you get 1,000 sheets, which is a lot of usefulness and sound pleasure for such a small sum. The J. J. Newberry stores offer, at 5c, the *Imperial* brand, but this contains only 600 sheets. For a dime the same chain sells *Red Clover* (a delightful name for toilet paper, for it suggests tenderness and poetry) and it contains 1,500 sheets. There are many other brands, some of them worth the money, but I think I've offered enough suggestions for the present. By the way, the much-advertised *Scot Tissue* sells at 10c and offers only 1,000 sheets, which makes it a pretty steep buy, though the quality is all right. The same people who make *Scot Tissue* offer *The Waldorf*, which retails at 6c but contains only 650 sheets, a high price, to my notion. By the way, don't fall for that crap about sheets of toilet paper having been exposed to sunlamps, that's just a lot of salesmanship baloney. If the roll of paper is securely wrapped, you can depend on its "purity."

* * *

Recently a friend of mine made this remark: "How do you know that The American Freeman has a monthly deficit of \$500? If Haldeman-Julius said the deficit was \$1,000 a month, you'd believe him also." Please comment.

Tell your friend he's right when he says I could set the Freeman's deficit at \$1,000 per month instead of \$500, and no one would be the wiser. However, let me add that \$500 per month means \$6,000 per year, and a glance at the paper—totally devoid of commercial advertising—should convince him my figure is entirely reasonable. If the paper were crammed with expensive advertising, my story would sound fishy. But remember the paper's income comes only from its readers, many of whom get the paper at reduced rates through premiums, special offers, and the like. It would take columns of figures to prove what I'm saying in this paragraph, and I'm sure the paper's friends wouldn't want me to waste time and space on such a task. The Freeman's deficit is remarkably small, considering its liberal, progressive, debunking policies and the ease with which it goes out of its way to expose quacks and make enemies. For years I've been paying

the paper's deficit out of the sale of books, but I can't go on like that forever. That's why I suggest that the paper's friends assume the load.

* * *

Do you recommend mechanical massagers? I have a chance to buy one for \$50 less than list price, but want your advice before acting. Please reply quickly by personal letter.

Motor-driven mechanical vibrators shouldn't be used at all. They are dangerous. Doctors have reported serious results from their use by ailing persons, including even ruptured appendix, hernia, and damaged bladder. Persons with certain diseases may be permanently injured through the use of these violent machines. Take my advice and leave them alone. If you are in need of exercise, go in for walking, short spells of swimming, and games that aren't too fatiguing. These mechanical massagers aren't selling the way they used to, which indicates that the consumers are getting wise to them. Don't let yourself be high-pressured into taking a "bargain."

* * *

I want to buy a car and take delivery at the factory. I work hard for my money and can't see the point in paying a dealer \$100 to \$150 profit on a transaction that isn't going to take over 15 minutes of his time. Am enclosing fee for personal reply, which please send at once as I must settle this car deal in the near future.

I doubt you'll get very far trying to buy a motor car at the factory in order to save the dealer's commission. Persons who call at a large motor car factory—such as Ford, General Motors, or Chrysler—find that they can buy at dealers' discounts only when they are able to qualify as bona fide dealers. The companies are always on guard to prevent ordinary buyers from getting machines at trade discounts. If you can't satisfy the company you are a real motor car dealer you will be referred to the local car dealer, who will insist on the full cash price, unless you happen to have an old car to turn in.

* * *

We, a group of men employed by a concern which desires to do the right thing by its employees, find that we are being run-rid by a foreman who, only a few years ago, was raised from the ranks. After he received his promotion he immediately went to work on

his former friends, driving some out and harassing the others. He always takes the attitude that he's the only man in the world who's right. He seems to derive a great deal of satisfaction from inflicting mental anguish as well as physical suffering on the men under him. The more harmless and conscientious they are, the greater the suffering he imposes on them. His attitude is unbearable. He insists it's necessary to use his men like a bunch of convicts for the sake of economy. Most of us have families and aren't in a position to quit. He yells and blusters all the time. He irritates everyone who works under him to a point where many are nearly nervous wrecks. We want a word of advice from you by personal letter, for which we enclose the usual fee.

I don't wonder you and your fellow-employees are suffering from ragged nerves. You'd have to be a brass monkey to tolerate that kind of a nuisance and still remain calm. The type of foreman described in your letter is a source of torture to the men under him and a constant source of waste and financial loss for the men over the foreman. No real executive throws himself into a fit every-time he deals with the men in his department. The signs of a real, intelligent, effective foreman are poise, calm, and soft speech. The blusterer betrays signs of suffering from an inferiority complex. He gets a kick out of making his "slaves" hop around whenever he snaps the whip. It soothes his ego to be made to feel "important." Perhaps your employers will get on to this worthless trash some of these days and give him the gate, as he deserves, for he's costing the company money every day he's in the shop. If the company's higher officials are blind to what's going on, maybe all or a great majority of the men could be prevailed on to sign a round robin asking this cockroach Mussolini to pipe down. I pity a bunch of men who have to work day after day under a louse who thinks he's another Hitler.

* * *

Why is Mussolini joining Hitler in his anti-Semitism?

Mussolini, after making fun of Hitler's notions about race, has gone over to Nazi anti-Semitism because he wants to toady to the great Adolf (Velvetlips) Hitler, fearing he might be left alone to face the de-

mocracies. He doesn't feel so good now that Japan isn't having an easy time of it in China. The way the Soviet Union got Japan told in late July, 1938, didn't sit so good on Mussolini's tender stomach. He sees the Fascist international isn't able to scare everybody by merely crying "boo."

Anti-Semitism in Italy is especially farcical because there are only 50,000 Jews in all Italy—about one Jew to 1,000 of the general population. It's hard to pump up much of a "menace" out of such an insignificant minority. But Mussolini will gladly persecute such a tiny group, if it'll put him in a better trading position with Hitler. Hitler, on the other hand, knows Mussolini is busted financially, and no blackmailer ever likes to waste too much time with anyone who's flat broke. He'll play along with Mussolini and Japan, if there's any hope of getting some loot, but if they don't hold out promises of real gain he'll shy away from them. Japan, he knows, is in terrible shape after a year of fruitless violence in vast China. At one time it looked certain that Germany would attack Russia from the West once Japan got busy with its armies in Eastern Siberia, but today the picture has changed. The Soviet Union's position is stronger than ever, and instead of taking any of Japan's lip it's letting the Fascists know that anytime they want to start anything they'll find the Soviet Union ready to finish it. And, the longer Russia waits, the weaker Japan will become, as a result of its troubles in China. A year ago, Japan could have played havoc with Russia in the Far East, but today the possibilities are all the other way.

Meanwhile, Mussolini is wondering what's going to happen to the great Fascist international which, a few years ago, was to destroy Russia and all the "sick" democracies. He reminds me of the fellow who organized a league for the protection of hen-pecked husbands in a neighboring Kansas town. At the first meeting he was chosen chairman. While banging for order he turned pale at a terrible sight before him. There stood his big, powerful, stern-looking wife. She rushed up to the platform, grabbed him by the collar and dragged him away with this remark:

"You come home! What business have you in a place like this! You god-damn little shrimp, you ain't hen-pecked!"

After yelling to Hitler, years ago, that Aryans (Nordic blonds, with blue eyes and tall bodies) are the bunk, he now turns loose some of his prize "scientists" to prove that Mussolini's short, stumpy, black-haired, dark Italians are Aryan pals of the northern Nordics! It looks as though Mussolini is henpecked.

Of course, Fascist propagandists will insist that Mussolini's surrender to Hitler's crazy ideas about race is only another proof of his passion for progress. But this is the kind of progress a man met up with in a restaurant, where, after ordering sausages and mashed potatoes, he found one sausage contained a piece of motor tire. Calling the waiter for an explanation, he found that worthy to be something of a diplomat. "Yes, sir," the waiter said in his oiliest tones, "we are proud to demonstrate our progress. It's just another example of the motor car replacing the horse."

* * *

What's your opinion of facial massages?

They can't do any harm. As for doing a person any good, I'm yet to meet with a case. At best, a facial will make the patient feel better for a couple of hours. That's because the skin has been given plenty of blood circulation, which is pleasant, but can't last long. Facial massages can't remove wrinkles, however firmly the beauty parlor operator may insist that her facials are "beautifying." Dr. Joseph Urkov, in an article entitled "New Faces, Quack Style," in the August, 1938, *Esquire*, says facial massages can never make an old skin youthful. The skin, says Dr. Urkov, "is tragically like a pair of suspenders: we can stretch new suspenders and they snap back every time, but when they lose their elasticity nothing can restore it. Precisely so with the skin."

* * *

English newspapermen complain that U.S. sports writers use a jargon that can't be understood by Britishers. Please comment.

I don't doubt that's true, but the British critics should bear in mind that they are guilty of the same of-

fense. Here's a piece, headed "Great But Capricious Cricket," which appeared in the July 1, 1938, issue of *The Manchester Guardian*:

A snick by Paynter off McCormick nearly undid him.

Ames was caught after lunch in the slips off McCormick, and England was 142 for 7 with four hours to go.

He received a rising ball from Farnes with displeasure, and turned another hazardingly to leg.

McCabe hit two fours and sent a high chance to the slips off Farnes, who flung himself against the elements, with his hair in a tangle.

He bowled Hassett at 5 minutes past 6 with a frightful leg break.

As I am an old-time expert on cricket (having edited a complete edition of "The Cricket on the Hearth") I understood every word of the above, but I'm positive most of my American readers won't get much out of it. Sports jargon is an international ailment.

* * *

What is your opinion of the Kenmore sewing machine from Sears Roebuck? I want a personal reply so am enclosing fee. Please rush answer as must make up my mind within next few days.

The Kenmore Full Rotary Electric sewing machines sold by Sears Roebuck is an excellent buy that's well worth the price.

* * *

Has science ever made a study of honeymooners? We all know (many from actual experience) how love-making is intensified during that period, some of the reports indicating amazing physical powers. What I want to know is this: Has science ever found that the honeymooners' intensity and hysterical concentration endured for exceptional periods of time? We usually think of the honeymoon being over in two or three weeks, when the couple settles down to more normal relationships. Have you any statistical tables showing extraordinary longevity?

I'm afraid this is a subject that has been neglected by science, though I insist it's worthy of the most careful study. I'm reminded of a story that goes like this:

One of the best errors I ever saw occurred recently in a Nashville evening paper. The reporter was describing the collapse of the famous honeymoon bridge over Niagara Falls. It fell, if you remember, under the weight of an ice coat, into

the torrent below—and he wrote glowingly of the many couples who had stood on the bridge in years past.

The effect was spoiled, however, by a typesetter who was either thinking of something else at the time or was a gloriously irreverent soul. I like to think of him in the latter category, for the head over the story said:

"HONEYMOON BRIDE COLLAPSES AFTER FIFTY YEARS."

* * *

How can I get rubber stamps at reasonable prices? I live in a rural community far from makers of rubber stamps.

You'll find just what you want at either Montgomery Ward or Sears Roebuck. Both concerns charge the same price—29c per line, limited to three inches. Three lines cost 79c. Carriage is extra. (Free adv.)

* * *

What's your opinion of the Berlitz School of Languages?

The Berlitz Schools are conducted in 26 countries. They have been in existence for more than half a century. The schools are well run. However, I believe the language departments of our tax-supported universities, colleges, training schools and high schools are at least just as good—most are better—and at fees that are almost nominal.

* * *

How'd you like "In Old Chicago"?

I never care for the usual run of super-spectacular films that cost a million or more just to give the customers an empty, childish thrill. Great fires and other catastrophies in the movies usually bore me, especially this hackneyed story about the O'Leary myth, a legend, by the way, which I exposed just about the time the film was released. A big fire, after all, is just another big fire. If a fire can be made to bring out story and character, then I'm for it, but when it's slapped all over the lot just to make chills run up your spine (mine was quite relaxed) I have to yawn and think maybe I'd have done better if I'd put my few dimes into a couple of beers. Some day Hollywood'll learn that a good story about real people, and done in a spirit of simplicity, is worth no end of spectacles that cost \$1,400,562.89. I don't think Mickey Rooney's recent picture, in which he discovers the great and

sacred sexation of love, cost much over \$300,000, and it carries more entertainment value than a dozen big concoctions like "In Old Chicago." A thing doesn't always have to be big in order to be good.

* * *

Did you see "Yellow Jack"?

Yes, and I liked it, except for the silly comedy of gravel-voiced Devine, who, it seemed to me, went out of his way many times just to break the picture's spell. The story was the dramatic search for a disease-bearing insect. That sounds unmovie-like, but the way Lewis Stone, Robert Montgomery and Virginia Bruce translate the material into life it becomes a dramatic, intelligent, enlightening performance. This is one of the few times motion pictures took research as its theme, and, to my notion, with real success, for never did this film lose the mood of its story—except, as I mentioned before, when the big buffoon went through his idiotic contortions. This drama of science's efforts to serve mankind deserves the support of the thinking portion of the population.

* * *

If a person says time after time, "I'm glad the world is filled with sunshine," does that mean he is an optimist?

Either that or he's selling straw hats.

* * *

What proportion of the nation's population is enrolled in schools and colleges?

About one-fourth.

* * *

Why is it that all kinds of politicians make good bedfellows?

Because they use the same kind of bunk.

* * *

How many people are there in the world who are afflicted with leprosy?

About 3,000,000.

* * *

Can you characterize the average oilman?

An oilman is always a hundred miles from a million dollars and a million miles from a hundred dollars.

* * *

I think dimples are cute. Can a good plastic surgeon fix me up with a couple? I want to be more glamorous.

No plastic surgeon—no matter how clever—can put dimples in your cheeks. He can cut holes there, but

they'll always look just what they are—phoney. Besides, they're dangerous, for the operations frequently result in infection.

* * *

I suffer a great deal from bunions. Please advise.

Avoid advertised "cures," for they can't do you permanent good. The same goes for "bunion shoes." A person suffering from a bunion can be cured in only one way—an operation by a good, reputable doctor.

* * *

I read in the newspapers that Japan has "assured" President Manuel L. Quezon that the neutrality of the Philippine commonwealth will be respected. Please comment.

There's only one comment possible—any "assurance" from Japanese sources can have no value. Let's not forget that in Washington, on February 6, 1922, the Japanese government signed a treaty, from which I quote the following:

The United States of America, Belgium, the British Empire, China, France, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands and Portugal, desiring to adopt a policy designated to stabilize conditions in the far East . . . agree: (1) to respect the sovereignty, the independence and the territorial and administrative integrity of China; (2) to provide the fullest and most unembarrassed opportunity to China to develop and maintain for herself an effective and stable government.

The three great Fascist powers—Germany, Japan and Italy—are notorious treaty-breakers. Any agreements signed by these governments are mere scraps of paper.

* * *

Do you favor using yellow fog lights on automobiles?

No. They're expensive—costing around \$10—and have absolutely no value. The theory that a yellow fog light will penetrate mist better than white light is pure bunk. Technicians who know the subject insist a fog light is only one more gadget. Stick to the lights that came with your car. They are the best known to automotive engineers.

* * *

Would you advise me to invest \$100 in an "overdrive" gear for my motor car?

There's no doubt that the new cruising gear (overdrive) will save you perhaps \$1 or \$1.50 on each 1,000 miles your car travels, but would it

be a sound investment to put up so much money in order to save so little? I think not. Another point to bear in mind is that these overdrives entail more working parts, with the constant danger of the mechanism going out of whack and costing extra money. I wouldn't dream of ordering an overdrive put into my car. If it were to come as a non-extra feature of a standard car, I'd take it, provided it didn't move the dealer to allow me much less for my old car in the trade-in. The average driver will find, I'm sure, that if he puts anywhere from \$50 to \$100 into a cruising gear he'll be "saving" on gasoline and oil for perhaps 50,000 miles before he can say he has regained his original investment.

* * *

What's an agitator?

Anyone who objects to playing in a game in which he knows the other fellows are using marked cards.

* * *

What was the bison population before the white men settled this country?

One conservative estimate puts it at 100,000,000.

* * *

Is it true that only male birds sing?

A British scientist insists it isn't true that only the male bird sings. He points to the female robin, which can sing.

* * *

How do you like the movies about the Hardy family?

I like 'em fine. The first Hardy picture I saw told of the family's amusing adventures in Washington. Then, the other day, I saw the one called "Love Finds Andy Hardy," which suited me from first to last. Mickey Rooney has been one of my favorite comedians for some years, and he gets better with each picture. Everything he says or does is funny—to me, at least. Incidentally, Mickey Rooney is doing the plain-looking boys of the world a real turn when he shows how a kid with a funny mug can make lots of pretty girls fall in love with him. That's doing the freckled, pug-nosed, underslung youngsters a service. And most boys are just about like that. Only some are worse. Look over a crowd of 1,000 lads and how many incipient Clark Gables and Robert Taylors will you see among them? Maybe two in

a hundred. And the 98 percent need lovin' just as much as the slicked up, pretty, or glamorous boys. Yes, Mickey Rooney, it seems to me, is doing the plain, home-spun ducklings of the world a big turn. And they appreciate his services in their behalf, judging by the way they jammed into the movie the other night to see (and laugh) at Rooney's adventures of the heart, especially when he started out with three girls and no car and ended up with a car and no girl. I like the whole Hardy family, including Lewis Stone as the kindly, understanding, patient judge. The world's waiting for more Hardy pictures. And each picture must show plenty of scenes with Mickey Rooney. His mere presence makes a scene take on liveliness. Mickey may never make a great lover, but he's willing to try—and that goes for the rest of us. He's learned the great secret that even when you don't make good in the sport of love you can still have lots of fun. Just tryin' is worth while. That's one sphere of activity in which the little fellers can have as many thrills as the big ones—if given half a chance.

* * *

What was the life span of the dinosaur?

Some scientists have estimated the dinosaur's life at about 500 years. (This is an illustration of how an animal, as adjusted to its environment as the dinosaur, could die out. The dinosaur had a plentiful food supply and consumed anywhere from 500 to 1,000 pounds a day, and yet the species disappeared. Scientists claim that one of the greatest reasons was the fact that they made no provisions to properly protect their eggs. Small mammals, especially monkeys, stole the eggs.)

* * *

Please tell how leather is processed into shiny patent leather.

Patent leather continues to grow in popularity. One now sees the shiny leather not only in shoes and slippers but in hats, belts, coat lapels, and many other articles. Women in particular are fond of patent leather because it's so bright and cheerful. The process is described by the American Petroleum Institute, as follows:

That perpetual gloss so discouraging to shoe-shine boys comes from hours of baking in the sunlight. Skins are stretched over frames,

after being tanned with chromite, and put in nature's oven.

Other processing is necessary, however, including lubrication. Tanning removes natural oils, so petroleum products go into the leather to oil the millions of tiny fibers and to assure pliability. Oils, dyes and chemicals are used in succession, then a d.p. in naphtha to remove surface grease.

Special paints are applied while the leather is sunning. A bit of rubbing with pumice now and then makes the finish bright and firm.

* * *

Didn't Ingersoll recant shortly before his death? Religious authorities insist he regretted his lifetime of error as an anti-religious lecturer and writer. Please comment.

As I've explained perhaps two dozen times in the past 30 years, Ingersoll never recanted. Stories about Ingersoll's terrible, miserable deathbed recantation are so much bunk, for, as my readers know from previous explanations, Ingersoll never had a deathbed, for the man died suddenly of a heart attack. Fully clothed at the time, he leaned over to tie his shoestring—and toppled over dead. This happened on July 21, 1899. Eight days earlier, on July 13, 1899, the great Freethinker, in a letter to C. J. Robbins, declared:

"First accept a thousand thanks for your good letter. The only trouble is that it is too flattering. You are right in thinking that I have not changed. I still believe that all religions are based on falsehoods and mistakes. I still deny the existence of the supernatural, and I still say that real religion is usefulness."

Ingersoll lived and died a Freethinker.

* * *

How much closer to the sun would this earth have to travel to have its rocks melted?

If the earth were to move about 70,000,000 miles closer to the sun it would become 2,000 degrees hotter. This would melt the rocks.

* * *

Can you give me a summary of Clarence Darrow's philosophy of life?

Clarence Darrow's realistic evaluations of the meaning, or lack of meaning, of life will be found in his numerous lectures, most of which are still in print. For a good summary, let me pass on an entry from the journal of

Mary Bell Decker, wife of the President of the University of Kansas City. She entered in her journal the impressions of her first meeting, some years ago, with Darrow, in Bloomington, Ill., from which I take the following:

He was talking about Fabre, the French entomologist, whose life and thought he used to voice the ancient sadness and fatalism so characteristic of his own philosophy. He stressed the formlessness of the cosmos, the ruthless struggle for existence, the helplessness of puny man. "There is no vestige of evidence that the earth was created for man: it is easier to believe it was made for the insects that use man as a meal ticket, that live on, in and destroy him. . . . Nature isn't kind or sympathetic or beautiful. She is cruel, wasteful, amoral. . . . Design? Purpose? Then how account for pestilence, plague, violent eruptions that destroy saint and sinner alike? The world's history, as told in the rocks, is as hard and as unyielding as the medium recording it—a story of blind struggle, of infinite pain, in which jungle ethics prevail. We are born and live and die on this speck of dust floating through endless space. With millions of other inconsequential atoms, we fight to live as long as possible. Nature sees to that. It is she that has planted this struggle-for-existence instinct, and it is she that makes the struggle as bitter and brutal as she can. In the end, she has her way. She sends us all, Darwins and tadpoles alike, back to the void from which she called us. . . . But men hope, so Faith is born for some. The only way out is compassion . . . to make the way a little easier."

He speaks in a soft pleasant drawl—no vitriol. Dry humor and a Puckish whimsicality rob his most devastating remarks of bitterness. Utter simplicity and sincerity save him from sentimentality.

At home he kept dinner waiting an hour while he counseled with some poor devil who followed him here from the lecture to beg him to help his brother, who is serving a life sentence. While the roast cooled, the great Darrow listened patiently and sympathetically to the man, a day laborer, told him what to do, and sent him on his way comforted.

Darrow, the Rationalist, looked at life with seeing eyes. He refused to

put on the rose-tinted glasses of faith. His vigorous, inquiring mind rejected the myths and fables of supernaturalism. His own life—filled with acts of kindness, help for the friendless, defense for the undefended victims of an unfair social order—was his answer to the enigma of nature's brutalities. He saw no purpose in nature, but he discerned, through the light of reason, how it was possible for intelligent, civilized, constructive, free-minded men to put purpose into their lives by making their brief life-spans receptacles for peace, harmony, prosperity, justice, mutual helpfulness, and social cooperation. The great processes of life in nature are blundering and blind; man's life also is, mainly, filled with stupidities and errors. But man, through Reason, has within him the potentialities for beauty and nobility—if only he would throw off the shackles of the supernatural, the blinders of faith, and the tyranny of bunk.

* * *

Please tell me how to exterminate rats.

Assuming that you mean real rats and mice and not Ratzig (Walter Winchell's excellent word for Nazis), I recommend "Rats and How to Exterminate Them, Bulletin No. 30," which may be bought from the British Library of Information, 270 Madison Ave., N.Y.C. The price is 20c. Space doesn't permit me to outline the contents of this useful book, but I want to mention that it not only goes into matters of extermination but treats the problem of prevention of infestation and how to deodorize dead rats which are between walls and other places that are difficult of access.

* * *

Which is correct, "centre" or "center"?

"Centre," which is French, is accepted in England, but in the U.S. "center" is preferred. The English, in choosing "centre," are ignoring the fact that from the 16th to the 18th Century "center" was used generally, and will be found that way in Shakespeare, Milton and Pope.

* * *

What was your father's occupation? What was his income level? Were you always on friendly terms with him? When did you leave home? Give details of your education.

My father was an excellent book-binder who did fine work in the days

before books were turned out by machines. Each volume was an individual job, slow and conscientious. My father was a precise craftsman who always took immense pride in his work. When I was a little boy, in Philadelphia, I used to carry my father's lunch to him at his place of employment and when I arrived before time, as was often the case (I did this chore only during the Summer months), I took immense interest in the way he went about the job of binding a book. He had a rack of the smoothest wood I ever felt, on which he sewed the signatures (sections) one at a time by hand. When the machines came in my father had to step aside, for he was too old to learn to handle thousands of books around noisy machines. His personal enemy—the machine—turned out jobs that aroused him to quiet, muttering scorn. Little did he—or the little fellow who stood at his side—imagine that this hauler of bread, hot soup and boiled chicken would some day turn machines loose to make more than 200,000,000 books. Another thing about the shop that impressed me was how quiet everything was. The men worked at long tables—rows of them—without a word and hardly a sound. But I didn't like the smell of the place. The cooking glue made an awful stink, to which I could never grow accustomed. While the clatter of the machines destroyed the wonderful stillness of the old shops, that same monster banished the stink of glue to a corner of the shop, from whence its odors hardly ever departed to offend the nostrils of one person who has always been super-sensitive to bad odors.

As for my father's income level, it was very low, but let's not forget that life in the '90s was much simpler than it is today and costs were much lower. I don't believe my father ever earned more than \$1,000 a year, which seems too low when one has a wife and six children (I was the third) to support. But here a wonderful mother took charge of the funds and performed daily miracles that even I, in my first decade of life, wondered at. So far as I know, she never was overcharged once in her entire life. She had an unerring impulse that led her to the places where

she could get the best bargains in food, clothing and the rest of the supplies that must go into even a modest home. We were always well fed and we always looked decently dressed. I saw my older brother go through high-school and into an accounting job for a great corporation. My sister also went through high-school and a teachers' training school, after which she went into about 20 years of teaching in the Philadelphia public schools.

I could have gone through high-school, but it worked out that I went only as far as the eighth year, at which time I switched to a night school so I could go into the world and make a little money. By this time—with three earners in the family—financial conditions eased considerably, though we all were still too poor.

My father and I were always on the best kind of terms. I liked to talk with him, for I always was amused by his dry, wry, sarcastic wit. He had the knack of disposing of great issues with a devastating sentence or phrase. When he disliked a person he had the actor's trick of merely repeating what the offensive individual said, with just enough artistry in the voice to make the objectionable one ridiculous in the eyes of all right-minded people.

My mother, on the other hand, was the realist of the family. She dealt in the practical things of life. She, like her husband, was a great reader, especially of books, which she approached in the spirit of pure skepticism. She was the kind of person who doubted everything and everyone. She believed nothing she heard and only half that she saw. I look on her as the first debunker who ever came into my life. She could spot a shoddy idea as fast as she could catch a grocer trying to put over on her a tomato that was spotted. My father could always dismiss something offensive by merely waving a hand and coining a never-to-be-published epigram. My mother, on the other hand, was given to bursting into a torrent of words—streams of hundreds of words—that would tear a fake or a piece of bunk to shreds. She hated persecution, prejudice and oppression.

I could always get a job—low-paying ones, of course—so I drifted around wasting my time at tasks that were boresome and fatiguing. But all along I read the best books in the world, some of which I bought but most of which I took from the public library, which at that time was located somewhere on Chestnut Street. I always enjoyed walking two or three miles to get my new pair of books. One book would lead to another, and as the years passed I became what even educated people described as well-read. Later I got a job holding copy in the proofroom of a Philadelphia newspaper. Meanwhile I was writing on my own—endless streams of pieces that were aimed at the editors of radical and labor papers. Most of them got into print. After a year or two of this sort of writing it was easy to land a job on one of these organs of progressive opinion. The rest is history.

* * *

You speak of yourself as a businessman. Is your fight on the cancer-quacks "business"? If not, what other ideas have you espoused for non-business reasons?

I'm a businessman in the sense that I must operate this plant according to the rules of business, that is to say, bills must be paid when due, wages must be met, postage, express, freight, repairs, and so on down the line for a thousand and one items. Making all the pieces jibe constitutes business. The business personality ends there and a new one steps in—the editor and writer. A man who writes on his own and edits the works of others has a serious responsibility to his public. When I approached the scandal of cancer quackery I didn't stop to ask myself whether or not it was "good business" to attack such an unspeakable practice. When I heard Norman Baker sending his broadcasts from Mexico (after he had been kicked off the air in the U.S. because of his disgraceful quackery) I spotted him as one of the most brazen quacks in the history of the healing arts. When I read his catalogue, I knew exactly what his quackery consisted of. When I got a bulletin on Quack Baker from the American Medical Association, I had at my disposal an evaluation that was based on logic, science and truth. With the

material before me, and with a question from one of my readers asking me for the facts about Norman Baker, nothing remained for me to do but to make use of the data. Had I put that collection of data aside I would have established myself, in my own mind, as a quack editor. The public interest demanded that I tell my readers the awful truths about this notorious character who makes his fortunes by exploiting the dying. I did the only thing my nature permitted—I let loose with both fists. It's true that two large libel suits followed—and they're pending, at this writing—but even if I had known in advance that such suits would result from my exposure, I would have gone ahead just the same, for I knew I was right in what I wrote about Quack Baker, and I would rather go down in ruin than stultify my press. This businessman forgets the rules of the counting department when he comes up against a great moral issue—that's to say, if he stands forth as a real editor instead of a quack journalist. I'm proud of the fact that the notorious Norman Baker is one of my enemies. He has caused me trouble and expense, but such difficulties must be met in a manly spirit when an editor is given the opportunity to serve his readers in a useful, constructive, humanitarian way. The right of a free press was bought with blood and suffering, and no editor who is a real man will permit a cancer quack to terrorize him into silence and thus give him a free field in putting over his fake cancer cure. I used vigorous language in branding this charlatan, but the circumstances demanded simple, straight, blunt speech. I didn't intend to pull my punches, nor do I intend to quit now. So long as Quack Baker continues to promote his fake cancer cure so long will my press be used to warn suffering humanity against his disgraceful business of palming off a lot of quackery in the name of sound science. Norman Baker's cancer business is a disgrace to this country, but I would consider myself miles beneath him had I permitted myself to suppress the simple truth about his vile way of raking in tremendous amounts of money from dying victims of a disease which science is still to conquer.

As for the "other ideas" that I "have espoused for non-business reasons," I can answer this by pointing to the printed record. I don't believe I have ever compromised with my convictions in my entire editorial career. I have never hesitated to take the unpopular side in politics, economics, religion, and education in the broadest sense of the term. Even since I've had full authority to pass on what is to go through my presses I have been guided by only one idea—to issue literature that reflects the truth. I don't mean to infer that I have a monopoly on the truth. I have found many of my ideas, when put to the test, to be so much nonsense, but at the time I expressed them I really believed them. And when subsequent inquiries enabled me to check myself and find myself wrong, I didn't hesitate about making an about-face. I try to express my views modestly, but I notice that a note of arrogance manages to emerge because of my positiveness of expression. Let me assure my critics that I am uncompromising only when I believe I can voice the truth, but when I see that what I thought was the truth isn't that at all, I'm more than anxious to pull in my horns. I have made countless enemies because of my ideals of a free press, but I prefer such people to remain as my opponents. I'd rather have a smaller audience that wants the truth than toady to a large following that wants the same old bunk. But, as a matter of simple, good sense, I'll always try to go about my job in such a way that my project will be solvent in a business sense. There's the businessman speaking. If that side of my make-up didn't function there wouldn't be an establishment going full tilt and turning out substantial quantities of printed matter devoted to the truth as one man sees it.

* * *

How does it feel when one starves to death?

C. C. and S. M. Furnas, in "Man, Bread and Destiny," describe the process, as follows:

After you have missed your first meal you will have hunger pains. You will drink considerable water but you can't fool a stomach with mere water for very long. The pains will persist and will later be aug-

mented by nausea. The first few days are the worst, however, and if you drink sufficient water (no one can live more than three or four days without water) the body settles down to its new routine within a week and there will be no particular discomfort except for the probable appearance of deficiency diseases and the insistent voice of hunger. In the last stages of starvation even this ceases.

* * *

Doesn't it ever dawn on you that you are making a mistake in putting out so many little works? People who hate superficiality go in for thoroughness.

Listen to Schopenhauer: "To gather much thought into few words stamps the man of genius." And ponder the words of Balthasar Gracian: "Some reckon books by the thickness, as if they were written to try the brawn instead of the brain."

* * *

How many calories has the average person stored in his body? How long will they serve to keep one alive, if one stays relaxed and at rest?

The average healthy man has about 75,000 calories stored in his body. If he went on a fast, to find out how long they could keep him alive, he should last about 75 days, if he kept absolutely quiet and didn't pass out while trying the experiment.

* * *

Is there any truth to the report that some university professors once experimented on rats as food?

In the middle of the last century a group of Cambridge University professors worked on that problem and summed up their findings as follows:

Rats are not a dainty dish to set before a king,
But for a really hungry man they're just the very thing

Wrap each rat in bacon fat, roast slow before the fire,

Take him down and serve him brown, you've all you can desire.

I'll take mine with a little horse-radish.

* * *

Do you know where I can find the report of a farmer who conducted a series of experiments on horses in order to train them to get along without food?

The experiment is described in "Man, Bread and Destiny," by C. C. and S. M. Furnas. It was a great idea and the experiment was carried successfully to the point where the

horse required no food at all, when the whole idea blew up because the horse died.

* * *

For several months I have been on a raw fruit diet, but my constipation and nervous indigestion haven't been helped. Now a friend tells me I should switch over to a nut and fig diet. What would you suggest?

Pay no attention to these nutty faddists (no pun intended) and go about the business of living in a sane, sensible way. Eat everything that pleases you, avoiding excess. I haven't any use for these faddists who offer cure-alls. To listen to such fanatics one would have to—

Drink two gallons of hot water daily; drink only goats' milk; eliminate all salt from one's food; avoid using utensils made of aluminum; let an osteopath jiggle your belly-button; pay a chiropractor to massage your fundament; avoid coffee and tea; go to bed hungry; go to bed with a full belly and sleep like a pup; buy a sun lamp; avoid sun burns; eat nothing but whole wheat bread; suck nothing but lemons for 14 days; go on an 18-day diet; go on a banana diet; mix two ounces of Russian mineral oil in your salad three times a day; try auto-suggestion; try Christian Science; try naturopathy; let Doc Brinkley massage your prostate; let the Unity School of Christianity pray for you; never smoke; never drink beer or hard liquor; bathe in stale beer; learn Hindu breathing exercises; drink nothing but sour milk; don't let your heart get overstimulated by kissing, petting and worse; think only about wholesome things; drink a gallon of slippery elm; avoid any woman, however beautiful, who has designs on your virtue; have your spine adjusted.

Fads everywhere, and new ones pop in as old ones die. A fad, let me add, is nothing more than bunk.

* * *

You write glowingly of McCabe's ability as a popularizer of science. It's just here that I cross lances with you, for I don't believe science needs popularizers. We should go to the original sources if we want the full, undistorted truth.

"Go to the original sources," writes my reader in his attack on popularizers. That's very good advice, if you have the proper training to digest the original sources. As an editor I soon learned, before I had edited my

first 100 books, that only one person in a thousand can go to original sources. Let's take just one example—relativity. I claim that it's possible to write on this subject in the language of the man in the street—without destroying the subject's great and beautiful values—while the scientists themselves frequently succeed only in confusing readers who are without proper technical training. As support for my case I quote a single sentence from Prof. Albert Einstein, and defy the average layman to decipher it without the help of a popularizer:

"The empirical quantum of the gravitational equation bridges the corpuscles of the material exchangelogy by subliminal energy evolved counter-clockwise out of analogous infinities."

* * *

I frequently read quotations of Edison's views on religion which would indicate he was an Agnostic. Have you, or do you know of, any book that contains his views?

You will find considerable material on Thomas A. Edison's Agnosticism in my collection of 13 volumes of Questions and Answers.

* * *

Please tell me what you think about "the fall of man"?

That old religious notion is held today only by the Fundamentalists, and, needless to say, Fundamentalists are among the less educated portion of the population. The triumph of evolutionary science knocked the myth of man's fall into oblivion among intelligent people by proving beyond debate that man, in his evolutionary process, rose from primitive, savage beginnings to what he is today. Instead of falling from perfection, man has been rising towards perfection, though I grant you the parade has been too, too slow and that there are countless millions of people in the world today who are so crude intellectually that they are capable of accepting as truth the myths and fables of supernaturalists.

* * *

Why did the church turn on Copernicus so viciously?

It was a case of self-preservation. If Copernicus' cosmology could be made to stand it would mean, among other dire things, the end of the Bible story of how Joshua made the sun

stand still. The supernaturalists fought hard for many generations, but in time they had to admit—at least by their silence—that the sun doesn't move around the earth. Superstitions die hard, but even such mental diseases have to pass away when science is able to grow and assert itself among the people who aren't afraid to think.

* * *

Is it all right to use toothache drops?

I advise against their use, especially those sold in drugstores. They are expensive and dangerous. Also, they lead their users to neglect going to a good dentist for proper treatment. Toothache waxes and drops can't do more than give temporary relief, which can be had by using a few drops of oil of cloves, first dipping a bit of cotton into the liquid in order to get the oil into the cavity. The commercial waxes and oils usually contain carbolic acid (phenol) and I don't have to tell my readers that such an application may cause serious consequences. Some deaths have been traced to the use of toothache drops, especially among children. Consumers Union reports that the American Dental Association has rejected Polaris Dental Poultice because it is "irrational, unscientific, needlessly complex, ineffective and highly expensive." The report says it consists "mainly of ground hops."

* * *

Would you advise me to use fasteners for false teeth?

No. Denture fasteners, which are widely advertised and are expensive, consist of a powder, which is sometimes flavored. They are claimed to be able to hold sets of false teeth in place. The American Dental Association, in one of its bulletins, says such powders "should be used only temporarily, if at all, because the patient who uses them is less likely to build up a system of habits necessary for the successful wearing of an artificial denture. In addition, the continuous use of adherents may encourage the user to prolong the wearing of a denture which no longer fits correctly. This may result in serious irritation." It's interesting to note that this important warning, issued by a recognized scientific body, was not carried in the newspapers, even though it was news, because of

the substantial sums of money paid for advertising space by the sellers of denture fasteners. It's amazing how the consumers are misled by our unfree press. Consumers must learn to be skeptical regarding many advertised articles.

* * *

Do you recommend Glover's Mange Cure for the scalp?

Glover's Mange contains creosote, which can't cure scalp conditions like dandruff, etc. I advise against the stuff. The company that makes this preparation has been cited before the Federal Trade Commission for making false claims in its advertising.

* * *

Will Listerine cure dandruff? What would you suggest?

No, Listerine can't do what the advertising claims. If you are troubled with dandruff, shampoo the hair thoroughly at least once each week. If the case is very bad, see a doctor.

* * *

Did Thomas Jefferson ever make an attack on priests?

In his "Writings," volume 14, page 119, Thomas Jefferson said: "In every country and in every age, the priest has been hostile to liberty. He is always in alliance with the despot, abetting his abuses in return for protection to his own."

* * *

How many American people are there for each doctor? How many people in this country are sick every day?

There are 815 people for each doctor. Out of 100 people, five are sick every day, which means a doctor ought to have 41 patients all the time.

* * *

Can you explain why spiritualists and other workers in so-called psychical phenomena always insist that they do their stuff in the dark?

They demand darkness, or at least a dim, red light, because they are frauds and can do their stuff only under conditions wherein it's difficult to catch them red-handed. If these fakes and quacks could really make objects dance around or float through the air they would be as ready to do them under a strong light or in sunlight as in darkened chambers. But trickery is more easily detected in brightly lighted rooms, so they get off some mystical hokum about the

spirits being sensitive and shy, that the spirits need repose, and all that rot. The fact is, they need the dark because tricksters can operate better under conditions that make detection difficult, or at times even impossible. The clever ones will often pretend to submit to certain controls, but under the cover of darkness they can overcome those controls. Dim lights help charlatans kid dimwits.

* * *

There's nothing wrong with my eyes, but I wonder if it wouldn't be sensible hygiene for me to treat them regularly with some eyewash.

If your eyes are healthy there's no sense in doing that. Let them alone. However, if you feel you simply have to do the unnecessary, don't buy any of those expensive drugstore eyewashes, but use, instead, a little boric acid, which is always safe and as good as the best eyewash on the market. Put one teaspoonful of boric acid in a glass of hot water, which should be permitted to cool before applying. An eye cup may be used, or, lacking one, the corner of a clean towel.

* * *

How much food does it take to keep one pound of a man's body functioning during an ordinary lifetime?

About 700 pounds.

* * *

How many calories will the human body consume when it's absolutely relaxed and comfortably situated in a restful position?

About 100 calories per hour.

* * *

As we are both printers, maybe you can give me a word of advice on how to handle customers who want all kinds of bids on a tiny job. Sometimes it takes more work and time to figure out the different ways of doing one little job than it does to get the work out.

Ernest A. Cattaneo, editor of *The Mulberry News*, at Mulberry, Kans., tells how he handled a doctor who asked for bids on some letterheads of different sizes, different grades, and different colors, with the additional request that the bid cover holding the forms for future use. Here's what Mr. Cattaneo told him in a letter:

"Am in the market for bids on one operation for appendicitis. One, two or five-inch incision—with or without ether—also with or without nurse. If appendix is found to be sound, want quotations to include

putting back same and canceling order. If removed, successful bidder is expected to hold incision open for 60 days as I expect to be in the market for an operation for gallstones at that time and want to save the extra cost of cutting."

* * *

Can you give me some sentences which contain every letter in the alphabet?

Here are a couple:

A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Pack my box with five dozen liquor jugs.

* * *

How much money is invested in the oil industry?

\$12,000,000,000.

* * *

I would like to go hitch-hiking (or should I say prospecting?) for gold in the U.S. Where should I hit out for pay dirt?

You can, of course, hit for Alaska. If that's too far, head for California, our biggest producer of gold. If that isn't convenient, swing your pick in any of the following gold-producing States:

Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, or North Carolina.

* * *

How fast does a camel walk?

About 2½ miles per hour.

* * *

Do you care for proverbs?

Yes. With Cervantes, I say, "Proverbs are short sentences from long experience."

* * *

Why is marriage like a cafeteria?

Because you grab the first thing that looks good to you and pay for it later.

* * *

How is Thoreau's name pronounced?

Thoreau himself said the correct pronunciation of his name is "thorough."

* * *

Do you hold to the idea that sudden wealth ruins people?

If one's to be ruined, I can't picture a pleasanter way.

* * *

How many condoms (rubber sheaths) are manufactured in the U.S. yearly?

317,000,000.

* * *

Viscount Halifax, British foreign secretary, warns the people of Europe that "the nightmare of fear" must be dispelled by avoiding another World War.

"That way lies madness," he says. Please comment.

It's a good sentiment, but the only comment I can think of at the moment is that it isn't quite right to misquote the Bard of Avon. In his "King Lear," Shakespeare put it this way: "that way madness lies." Bring peace, blessed peace, but not at the price of Shakespearean inaccuracy.

* * *

At what time of the day are birds most active?

Shortly after dawn.

* * *

How much money did the U.S. Bureau of Internal Revenue collect during last year?

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938, the Revenue Bureau collected \$5,658,385,125, the largest to date.

* * *

What are sins of omission?

They're sins we haven't got around to yet.

* * *

What size should a tailor make a man's pockets?

Personally I favor the quart size.

* * *

What's your opinion of a woman without a bosom?

She's like a bed without a pillow.

* * *

Is it true that frequent water drinking prevents one from becoming stiff in the joints?

The trouble is the joints don't serve water.

* * *

How much time does the average man spend shaving during his lifetime?

Roughly, about 2,000 hours. That's about 83 days—a lot of time to spend mowing surplus stubble.

* * *

Is a citizen of Birmingham a Birminghamian?

No, he's a Birmian. But I can't decide whether a citizen of Alabama is an Alabaman or an Alabamian. The authorities are at loggerheads.

* * *

Does the federal government carry theft and fire insurance on its property?

No.

* * *

Some years ago you printed in The Freeman an item about the South's refusal to pay some war debts and you said the Soviet Union's position today was similar. Could you repeat that comment?

No, I can't repeat Freeman pieces because they've all been incorporated

into my 14 volumes of questions and answers. Readers who want to refer to my earlier writings in The Freeman should look into these volumes, which are carefully indexed.

Which part of the skull is the weakest?

At the base.

What percentage of the people of the U.S. have no servants or paid help of any kind?

About 95 percent.

What is the diameter of the moon?
2,160 miles.

Who is sworn in first, the President or Vice-President?

The Vice-President.

Is there any way to play the horses and win?

The way to beat the races is to bet on winners.

Editor, The American Freeman:

I am wholeheartedly in favor of your aims and objects, and also for The American Freeman. No one appreciates the need of a free and untrammelled press more than I do. I am 62 years old and from the time when I was 18 years of age I have been more or less involved in the struggle for the betterment of the working class.

I fully understand that the one great need in this war of justice against injustice, greed, ignorance, superstition, and oppression is money and that to raise this much-needed money we must all make certain sacrifices. I enclose a dollar for the deficit. The deplorable part of the whole thing is that the class on the side of righteousness is composed almost entirely of those who have little money to spare after the necessities of life are provided for. While on the other side are those who have the power and the means of massing large sums of money to carry out their tyrannical plans. They control everything, the source of money, education and information.

Norfolk, Va.

A. E. BLOOD

"An article in the Philadelphia Record, July 24, 1938, reports that courageous clergymen in Kansas are fighting the anti-Semite and Fascist, Gerald B. Winrod, D.D. Here's hoping they are—but it's remarkable that the press can never give credit for courageous fighting against reaction and oppression to a Freethinker like E. Haldeman-Julius, who was the first journalist in the coun-

try to expose the Nazi ideology of the Rev. Winrod. The clergy must have the glory!"—W.M., Del.

"A significant item in Leonard Lyon's column, 'Broadway Gazette,' July 4, 1938: 'The N.Y. Library now refuses to show its books on birth control, and refers all questioners to the Academy of Medicine.' Wouldn't it be interesting to know who was behind this banning of books on birth control? And if every pressure group may keep from the public any books it happens to dislike, where will it end?"—Reader.

How much profit is there in Coca-Cola?

It's almost all profit. In 1937, gross sales amounted to \$60,000,000. After taxes, expenses, salaries to the executives, and an advertising bill that went into the millions, Coca-Cola was still able to report net profits of \$25,000,000.

Please comment on this press report which tells how Sam Romano, Los Angeles, paid a fortune teller to locate a barrel of gold under his house. He couldn't find the treasure despite the fact that he put out \$400 for a pot of cannibal's blood, \$150 for a magic prayer, \$1500 for a share in the temple of gold in India, and \$300 for miscellaneous items of expense.

Romano put out \$2350 for nothing. Neither he nor the police can find the slick fortune teller. One of Romano's mistakes was in paying in advance.

Does hair grow after death?

The belief that hair continues to grow after death is a superstition. The basis for this widely accepted piece of bunk is the fact that the skin shrinks after death, thus giving the appearance of hair growth.

She knew she had, she thought she was, the doctor said she wasn't. What was she?

Damned lucky.

Can you give me an official definition of Communism?

Earl Browder, secretary of the Communist Party of the U.S., offers the following definition:

"Communism is the political movement of the working class, in alliance with other exploited classes and groups, directed toward superseding the present capitalist system, based upon private ownership

of the means of production, by 'a Socialist system based upon the common ownership of the means of production, exercised through a government directly responsible to the toiling masses.'

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

In The Freeman for August, 1938, you called attention to The Bergen Evening Record, (Hackensack, N.J.), published by one John Borg. It was reported that The Bergen Evening Record "has a headline stating that... Holy Name Societies will send a representative to confer with the paper's publisher, threatening a Catholic boycott"—because of the paper's liberal vox pop columns.

Well, Catholic pressure must have been successful.

Here is an editorial from The Philadelphia Record, July 12, 1938:

"One of the few New Jersey publishers who have attempted to defend Mayor Hague's dictatorship in Jersey City is John Borg, of the Bergen Evening Record, in Hackensack.

"For months Borg has gone right down the line for Hague, justifying the worst of his suppressions of civil liberties, echoing loudly his fake cries of 'Communism.' Editorials and headlines both have been devoted unswervingly to the Hague defense.

"The pay-off came last week.

"John Borg was appointed by A. Harry Moore, Hague's puppet governor, to a six-year term on the Port of New York authority. Thus the boss of Jersey City pays another of his bills—at public expense.

"And that's how Hague's power is maintained—through countless such jobs, all filled by Hague—and always with the taxpayers footing the bill. This also explains why New Jersey's government becomes more expensive every year, and why Jersey City is one of the most overtaxed communities in the nation."

Wilmington, Del. W. MATTHEWS

* * *

As the human body is an electrical-chemical mechanism, is it possible to use it in such a way as to receive radio broadcasts?

S. Smith Stevens, of the psychological laboratory of Harvard University, reports he can receive radio programs "by filling one ear with salt water, inserting a piece of wire into the water and strapping a second piece of wire to another part of the body." He added that he could receive musical programs but was unable to hear announcements. The ex-

planation was offered that "energy carried into the ear by the wires caused hairs in the inner ear to vibrate."

* * *

Where can the correspondence between Karl Marx and Abraham Lincoln upon Socialism be found?

There's no such correspondence. Marx and Lincoln exchanged letters during the Civil War, the great Socialist theoretician sending the President a communication in which he expressed the International Workingmen's Association's support of the Union cause. The text will be found in Marx's collected works and letters.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Concerning Mr. Benjamin P. Horton's letter in the October, 1938, Freeman in which he questions the Marxist analysis of depressions, and your answer thereto, something further might be said:

His remark that, "At the bottom of every depression, however severe, there are always many millions... who are still able to buy some articles which they desire, but which they refrain from purchasing because of their fear of the future," inspires the question: What if this fear had never existed and all of these had continued to spend their entire incomes as fast as earned? Would not the same end have been reached, only perhaps a little later?

If, as we must assume in a capitalist economy, their total income had been less than their total productive output, then the time when they would have produced more than they could purchase back, would just as inevitably have been reached as if they had laid aside "something for a rainy day."

Of course, it is perfectly true—and I suspect that this is what Mr. Horton more or less clearly perceives—that among his "millions... who are still able to buy" are many whose incomes exceed their productive capacity. However, except for the relatively few who now own practically the whole productive and distributive machine and who cannot by the wildest extravagances expend even a small part of their incomes for consumption goods, the excessive, and to a large extent saved, incomes of these others are in the usual vicissitudes of capitalist society expended anyway. A moderately rich family has children; the division of the estate is likely to reduce the individual holdings, and besides that there are generally a few who during their lives completely dissipate their shares, either foolishly or through misfortune.

The income of the productively use-

ful members of society, who are the preponderant majority and, therefore, the only real "market," is, therefore, completely spent in the long run, and yet we have depressions. The reason, of course, as you pointed out, is the absolute soundness of the theory of surplus value.

In my study, too, of this subject I have not yet come upon anything of Marxian origin which has led me to think that, "as required by the Marxist theory" there had to be a "development of new purchasing power" by "the making of something out of nothing." And, as for this last expression, instead of saying that something has been made out of nothing through the government thus creating purchasing power, we should, if we take a sensible attitude, rather congratulate ourselves—if our consciences do not bother us too much—for having acquired these many public improvements and services, things which we should have had long ago, so cheaply. For the outlay per individual worker has been ridiculously small even if the sum total is huge.

Also, the lumping together as factors favorable to recovery of such things as "purchasing the articles mentioned" [consumption goods] and "investment in stocks, bonds and business enterprises of hitherto hoarded funds," betrays a hazy understanding of the whole subject. Investments always mean an augmentation or improvement of the capital structure; more mines, mills, railroads, etc., or the perfection of these for greater and more economical production. Inasmuch as this structure is already top-heavy so far as its distributive ability—purchasing power of its workers—is concerned, any tendency in this direction, no matter how early in an era of revival it is begun, far from being an aid to recovery, actually has in it the means of accelerating the pace toward the next breakdown.

Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG

Are there any standard remedies on the market for Gonorrhea or gleet?

By "standard remedies on the market" I take it you mean some sort of a bottled preparation (or a box of pills) which you can buy at any drug-store in order to cure gonorrhea. I'm sorry, but there's no such article to be had. Many persons are using "standard remedies" (another way of saying "patent medicines") but they are only doing themselves harm. Any person who is suffering from a venereal disease should realize, once for all, that his ailment is a complicated one—many different kinds of treat-

ments may be necessary—and the work should be handled only by a good physician. Self-medication is another quick way of getting rubbed out, especially among venereal victims. (This question was accompanied by a dollar for a personal answer, which was sent, but the material is printed here for the usual reason.)

* * *

I would like to see you join the educational campaign against the dangers of cooking in aluminum pots and pans. Do you happen to know that aluminum cooking is one of the commonest causes of cancer?

This is the third time I've written on the subject of aluminum dishes. A small, but vocal, minority of freaks and faddists keep the anti-aluminum propaganda going. I repeat—this time, I hope, for the last time—that there is absolutely no danger to health from the use of aluminum ware. Also, there isn't a shred of evidence to support the superstition that aluminum causes cancer.

* * *

"If your correspondent, Handley, way out in the Gilbert Islands, who might well lie down under a banana tree and tell the world to go to Hell, feels so keenly the need of an unrelenting fight against Fascism, then how much more should the rest of us, who are more likely to suffer immediately by its advances, feel this need?"—Reader.

* * *

Which book most scientifically refutes the doctrines of vicarious atonement, human re-incarnation, prophesy, and the infallibility of the Pope?

A general study of Freethought literature is recommended here. I refer, of course, to the substantial works of Joseph McCabe, Thomas Paine, Voltaire, Robert G. Ingersoll, Charles Bradlaugh, and numerous other Freethinkers, Agnostics, Rationalists, and Atheists.

* * *

Why is it that, of all people on this earth, truck-drivers are the most eager, audacious and shameless in the manly art of ogling the women?

Usually they're good specimens of masculinity—strong, amorous, and always ready for the great pantomime. I've noticed, incidentally, that truck-drivers are the most deceived husbands in the world—the women they leave behind being among the most active booze-hounds and ardent seekers for affairs of the heart. This dual

condition opens an interesting field for devout study. Being on the go most of the time, the truck-driver has to make his catch right now, while the game's in sight, for if the issue isn't clinched almost immediately the scene changes, with the feminine prospect out of sight, perhaps for all time. They're like many horny husbands who are on their own for a few hours and who suddenly feel biological urges—they have to get results by the clock, and a split second counts in that game. They work fast because they have to.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Headlines, Sunday, July 3, 1938. "Italy opens Drive on Jewish authors. Purge planned. . . . Booksellers instructed not to display or advertise books written by Italian Jews."

July 6, The Philadelphia Record: "L'Osservatore Romano today asserted that anti-Jewish propaganda has produced results 'unworthy of 20 centuries of Christian civilization.' . . . Toward the Israelites we are not only extremely anti-Christian and anti-civil, but inhuman."

"For them the misery of exile and outlawing is not enough; it goes on to the pillory, beatings, wounding and death." [Strikes me this is worded rather ambiguously; might mean more than appears at first blush.]

The Philadelphia Record, July 8, quotes Archbishop John T. McNicholas, of Cincinnati: "Germany and Russia should be condemned by sane men everywhere for their well-worked-out but brutal plan of persecuting the Jews" (Why single out Germany and Russia?) "The rulers of Germany seem almost as degraded as the powers of Russia in their practical Atheism." [Persecution of Jews being, I rise again to point out, evidently quite proper if carried on by true believers.] "It is the rejection of a personal God and the unchangeable moral code founded on the eternal law of God which makes these governments trample under foot the native and inalienable rights of individuals and families." [How convenient to forget the Age of Faith when men did indeed believe in a personal God—and massacred Jews and heretics by the millions.] "This rejection of a personal God makes them reject the common brotherhood of man. It makes them destroyers of freedom and a grave menace to humanity." [How's that for nerve—considering it was the Freethinkers who were the first humanitarians?] "Our radical and com-

munist propagandists . . . are misleading the public regarding Fascism. Italy, Portugal, Germany and Nationalist Spain are classified alike as evil Fascist States. And a public that does not analyze statements or trace their source (!) is told that Fascism is the greatest evil facing America today."

And if it isn't, what is?

Headline in The Philadelphia Record, July 18, 1938: "Vatican Fights Anti-Semitism." Then follow the half-hearted protests I have quoted from L'Osservatore Romano, page 2. I am reminded of a remark made by Lowell Thomas in one of his broadcasts. Referring to the Vatican's "protest" against persecution of Jews, he mentioned that many Jews have embraced the Catholic faith. Doesn't that seem to you to account for any protests on the part of the Catholic clergy—what few and belated ones there have been? Naturally the Church speaks in defense of its own, but if it is sincere in its professions of brotherly love, why does it not object to the persecution of ALL human beings—not merely those who happen to have turned Catholic? [Not that Lowell Thomas implied any of this—bless you, no! He would not be so reckless as to criticize The Church.] Which reminds me—Mr. Thomas on March 9, 1938, jocularly referred to the "New England witch burners," not at all disturbed by the fact that the New Englanders did not burn humans. They hanged some, to be sure, but why not be accurate? I'll wager that if he had made a misstatement about Church history, he would hasten to correct it the very next night! The Southern colonies, said Thomas, didn't burn witches. Maybe not—but they don't hesitate, even in this enlightened day, to burn human beings who happen to be black. Wilmington, Del. W. MATTHEWS

* * *

What is the physiological difference between an old man and a young man? In other words, why do men grow old?

Dr. Henry S. Simms and Dr. Abraham Stolman, of Columbia university medical school, have an article in *Science*, which tells of their attempts to solve the age-old riddle of why men grow old. They studied the bodies of young and old men who had just been killed in accidents and whose bodies were known to have been in normal condition. According to their conclusions, more water, chloride, sodium and calcium are found in the bodies of the old than in the young. On the other hand, the young have greater quantities of

potassium, magnesium, phosphorus, nitrogen and ash than the old. The old men used in this study were 75 years of age, on the average, while the young men ranged from 30 to 40 years. These two pathologists report that "similar changes, not quite so marked, however, were found in the tissues of men in the 30-40 year age-group who had died of disease, indicating a connection between the changes and approaching death."

* * *

Every day I stop several times before the same red stop-light near my office, and I've noticed again and again that it doesn't shine with the same brightness. Can you explain this?

Even when the volume of current is exactly the same the red light varies in brightness. This was discovered by Professor S. V. Kravkov, director of the Central Institute of Ophthalmology, Moscow, who made scientific tests to discover why red lights seem less bright at certain times. He reports that when the traffic is noisy the light is less bright, proving that sound affects the eye's sensitivity to colors, the effects varying in character for different colors. This scientist has demonstrated that "on receiving auditory stimulation a normal eye becomes more sensitive to green and blue and less sensitive to red."

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

While in New York last week I stopped in to see William J. Fielding and was impressed by this mild-mannered, unpretentious scholar. On leaving, I promised to write him my opinion on his book "The Shackles of the Supernatural" which he had given me with his compliments.

Settled in my home, I picked up the book intent upon sweeping through it at one sitting but hit a snag. This book is not a light and trivial one nor a rehash of familiar rationalistic arguments, but a solid piece of scholarship that must be digested slowly. In spite of its 150 pages, the ground covered is surprisingly encyclopedic. He points out very effectively how religion poisons and discolors every aspect of life; how it hampers a realistic, rationalistic and purely scientific approach to the problems which confront us.

In the Introduction, Joseph Lewis says of Fielding's book that it "is one of the most vital and essential books of our time." That is high praise and perhaps not short of the mark. What

makes this book particularly valuable is the comprehensive grasp the author has of the naturalistic basis of Ethics so excellently expounded by the late Peter Kropotkin. It is positively astounding the way academic philosophers have slighted and overlooked the contributions that Kropotkin made to ethical science. Merely calling moral law, social law, is not explaining it—a weakness which even Joseph McCabe carries in his armor. Kropotkin strove with a massive scholarship to explain morality on a naturalistic basis and did it so successfully that his researches are anathema to the religious-minded, lay and scientific. Fielding has caught the meaning of Kropotkin's contributions and this fact alone is a feather in his hat.

In short, get a copy of this book and carry it in your pocket as dynamite to be thrown at every supernaturalist you meet.

Neville Island, Pa. MELVILLE KRESS

* * *

As a new reader I want to suggest that you resort to fewer technical terms, especially when discussing science, philosophy, finance and economics. We laymen need more common speech.

I always try to make myself clear to the simplest mind, for that is the final test of a writer. But this doesn't mean a writer should avoid all technical terms. They are absolutely essential to clarity. Those who object can always remedy matters by investing in a good dictionary, a book every reader should own. Mark Twain, in his "A Tramp Abroad," had some good, clean fun when he tried, without using technical words, to describe how a horse was hitched up in Europe. His little masterpiece of spoofing is worth reprinting:

"The man stands up the horses on each side of the thing that projects from the front end of the wagon, throws the gear on top of the horses, and passes the thing that goes forward through a ring, and hauls it aft on the other side of the horse, opposite to the first one, after crossing them and bringing the loose end back, and then buckles the other thing underneath the horse, and takes another thing and wraps it around the thing I spoke of before, and puts another thing over each horse's head, and puts the iron thing in his mouth, and brings the ends of these things aft over his back, after buckling another one around under his neck, and hitching another thing on a thing that goes over his shoulders, and then takes

the slack of the thing I mentioned a while ago and fetches it aft and makes it fast to the thing that pulls the wagon, and hands the other things up to the driver."

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Last month, for the first time in my life, I ordered from you over \$4 worth of Little Blue Books. During the 14 years that I lived in the U.S. I had no occasion to buy any. Strange to say, I had to come to China to do so.

The parcel arrived safely, and I thank you. Three copies of The American Freeman included in it, as first copies of my subscription, were a revelation to me. They were worth the price of my whole order.

During all the time I lived in America, my adopted country, how on earth I never discovered The Freeman is indeed a mystery to me. Here's a paper without any commercial advertising, if ever there was one. This fact alone helps make you free from the interests who would control the press for their own ends. You are free to work for the good of the people, and expose and attack all sorts of parasites, whether they be centuries-old institutions or modern racketeers.

The copies of The Freeman that I've just read convince me your paper truly upholds democratic, liberal, humanitarian ideals.

Tientsin, China.

T. O.

* * *

"The few scraps of your autobiography in the September, 1938, Freeman make me wish that you'd do a real, full one."—Dr. Isaac Goldberg, Mass.

* * *

What causes a bruised place to turn black-and-blue?

Dead blood cells.

* * *

Why is it that our preachers and priests rarely look into the sky for "signs and wonders" as most of them did only a few generations ago?

Halley's law of comets helped kill that superstitious practice.

* * *

How much food did it take to keep a dinosaur going?

Anywhere from 500 to 1,000 pounds per day.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Isaac Goldberg only once; and that was when I called on him at his house in response to your suggestion. He was most kind, and we had a very interesting talk.

I am sure that Boston was the poorer for not having drawn more generously

on his conversational powers and his ability as an authority on many interesting and live subjects. Harvard—not in Boston, as you may know—did call him to be a lecturer for a while; but in this city he was neglected. I'm afraid that the sons of the Brahmins are drawing closer and closer to themselves. They will admit an occasional Irishman into their select circles, but that is hardly enough to prevent them from paying the price of almost complete isolation from the main currents of American thought.

There are still, of course, an amazingly large number of fine physicians, surgeons, architects, etc., in other words, men of great technical competence in fields of activity not directly related to the basic issues of American life. But when it comes to economic questions and the "conduct of life" in this modern world of ours, Bostonians have little or nothing to contribute.

Boston, Mass.

JOHN G. GREENE

* * *

How many restaurants are there in the U.S.? How many of them belong to chains?

In 1935, there were 153,000 eating places, of which 4,000 belonged to chain restaurants.

* * *

The main argument that's used everywhere against Roosevelt's policies has to do with money. The point is made again and again that Roosevelt is spending the country into insolvency, that the government's headed for bankruptcy, and that Roosevelt must be kicked out in order to get the budget balanced. With a national debt of about \$37,000,000,000, they insist, the country's financial situation is critical and heroic measures are urgent lest F. D. R. spend us into ruin and chaos. Please comment.

While it's true that our national debt is about \$37,000,000,000, it isn't at all fair to blame all of it on the President. About half that money went to pay for a nice, little war to "preserve democracy." I've shown, in previous articles, that our government's debt isn't at all serious, that it could be increased to \$100,000,000,000 and still be in line with the national debt of England, and that the money Roosevelt is spending is being used to save lives, to feed the hungry, and to improve the country. Roosevelt's spending is for constructive, humanitarian ends. I grant you it's possible to point to some WPA workers who know how to lean on a shovel too often, but it happens that I've heard this criticism more than once

from high-powered executives who had their feet on their desks while uttering these damning words against the New Deal. Even if we grant some soldiering among the relief workers, the results of their labors are so plain and obvious as to place the bulk of them beyond criticism. The country has, during the past few years, been enriched with bridges, dams, soil conservation projects, good roads, school buildings, public libraries, public structures of various kinds, museums, fair grounds, athletic fields, swimming pools, fire houses, orchestras, art works, theaters, playgrounds, new parks or improvements of old parks, university buildings, scientific laboratories, hospitals, airports, harbor improvements, street improvements, CCC camps, home building projects, new sewers, new municipal power plants, State and national power sites, countless millions of young trees, thousands of artificial lakes, and so on. Yes, in the emergency of the depression many dollars went to men and women who didn't deliver the goods, but that loss can't be very much when compared to the magnificent results one sees on all sides. Just take a motor car ride through your own community and check up what the government has done in the way of local improvements. Then multiply the results to include the entire country and you begin to realize that the government, despite its heavy spending, has driven a good bargain. Mouths have been fed, but at the same time the country has been enriched. Such constructive aims deserve praise, not blame. The President, I insist, has done an excellent job. He has earned the respect and confidence of his fellow-citizens. The country, it seems to me, has been luckier than it deserved in getting such a man in the White House. If he runs for a third term—and I hope he does—the American people will send him back to the White House because his policies have helped the country. This doesn't imply perfection on Roosevelt's part. He has his faults, many of them, but he has shown a genius for getting necessary reforms through the mill—not only public works such as I described above, but reform measures like social security, unemployment in-

surance, old age pensions, minimum wages and maximum hours.

The economic royalists hate Roosevelt because he has compelled them to submit to simple measures of fair play and justice. They despise the sound of his name because he has forced them to accept social reforms that should have been enacted into law a generation ago. And yet, their noisiest protestants are the first to demand more spending in their own communities. Take, for example, the benign, social-minded, tender-hearted *Chicago Tribune*, which spends its days denouncing Roosevelt's spending on the editorial page and prints front-page articles complaining about Roosevelt's failure to spend enough money in Cook County. The *Tribune* and other anti-New Dealers are great patriots when they see money being spent outside their bailiwicks, but when the "waste" takes place near at hand it becomes an enterprise of obvious practical worth.

These same elements—the reactionaries, the hard-boiled economic dictators of the country—weren't worried over the government's spending during the World War. That war, I'm ready to show, cost the American people almost \$51,000,000,000, and I defy my patriotic friends to produce a single editorial from any capitalistic newspaper complaining about the high cost of killing and destroying property. The moral is clear. It's all right to kill and ruin, but it's all wrong to feed and build. Better "invest" \$50,000,000,000 in a nice, patriotic war than "waste" \$20,000,000,000 on the arts of peace. It costs more to kill a man than to feed him. The world war proved that, and the bill we paid—and are still paying—establishes that assertion. The super-patriots whooped it up for the killing, but the lesser expense—that of taking care of the depression's needy and building useful projects—is greeted with cries of anguish.

I have asserted that the World War cost the U.S. a little less than \$51,000,000,000. That, I realize, must be demonstrated beyond debate. I'll proceed to do that at once. Here are the figures which show what the U.S. spent during the fiscal years 1917 to 1921—the hallowed, sacred, annointed war period:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Operating the war department | \$14,849,594,000 |
| Operating the navy department | 3,401,343,000 |
| Cost of federal control of transportation | 1,634,118,000 |
| Cost of war-risk insurance | 504,773,000 |
| Interest paid on the war debt | 2,746,641,000 |
| Cost of war emergency corporations and miscellaneous expense .. | 2,592,531,000 |
| Prearmistice loans to other nations | 5,319,852,000 |

Cost during war period \$32,048,852,000

The above doesn't tell the entire story, for the U.S. government continued to spend money on the World War from 1921 to 1937 (fiscal years), as follows:

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Interest paid on war debt | \$ 8,846,416,000 |
| Cost of caring for the disabled | 8,102,969,000 |
| Payment of veterans' adjusted compensation | 1,823,493,000 |
| Settlement of the war claims act of 1928... | 88,000,000 |
| Costs resulting from the war | \$18,830,878,000 |

Add up the totals of the above two tables and you get this grand total: \$50,979,730,000. That, let me repeat, is what the super-patriots whooped it up for, including the *Chicago Tribune* and the rest of the reactionary outfit. They cried for that war, they ballyhooed it through—and they said the bills had to be paid as a patriotic duty. Their precious little war helped bring about Capitalism's numerous dislocations, with the resultant depression. So the depression can, to a considerable degree, be credited to the very element which is now engaged in smearing the President because he sees relief and public works as public and humanitarian obligations. Roosevelt will have to spend many, many additional billions before he approaches the money spent by the super-patriots in their destructive, inhuman World War.

It's 100 percent Americanism to spend more than \$50,000,000,000 on a destructive war; it's Communism and Bolshevism to spend less than half that much to heal the wounds of the depression.

* * *

We read a great deal about the 8th

Route (Communist) Army in China, but I've never learned how effective they are as guerillas. Have you any figures?

The 8th Route Army operates mainly in territory already "occupied" by the Japanese. They strike at Japan's lines of communications. They are so effective that it's literally true that the Japanese rule only the main railroads and key cities of the occupied territory. The masses are overwhelmingly against the invaders. This mass support helps the guerillas in fighting the Japanese, for it makes possible the hiding of small bands, the quick destruction of bridges, portions of railroads, roads, and the like. They also capture large stocks of food, ammunition, guns, etc., from the Japanese. As for the number of Japanese killed by these guerillas, the best authority I can quote is W. H. Donald, confidential adviser to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, who, in a letter, on June 9, 1938, wrote:

"The Japanese are suffering a constant drain, and it is estimated that from guerilla activities alone the average casualties run to about 6,000 a month. Of course, they are much higher when it comes to actions with the armies."

An article in the *Honolulu Press* discusses Chinese guerilla fighting from first-hand observation, as follows:

"For months past, the Japanese have been faced with a problem they are unable to cope with—a military problem in which there is no front and no rear, and it is impossible to point in any one direction and say with confidence 'there is the foe we have to fight.' There has been no 'fighting' anywhere near Shanghai for months. Yet Japanese soldiers are being killed and wounded in action daily and considerable numbers of injured men are brought into the city and taken on board Japanese transports to be carried home for hospital treatment.

"Motor trucks loaded with heavily bandaged men are frequently seen moving along the water front in the early morning—evidence that fighting is going on not very far away, although the Yanotze Valley has been officially 'pacified' for several months and the area from Shanghai to Nanking is under enemy 'occupation.'

"Exasperated by the constant attacks of guerilla forces, the Japa-

nese have massacred thousands of civilians and burned their homes. Chinese regarded as quasi-guerillas have been tortured and killed in unspeakable ways, including cutting off of ears, noses and eyeballs. Retaliation of this character, however extensive and savage, will not suppress the guerilla units who are operating all over the territory now under Japanese 'occupation.'

* * *

How many aspirins do we take annually?

A magazine of the trade, *Drug and Cosmetic Industry*, reports the U.S. public bought 5,143,672 pounds of aspirin in 1937, or 7,201,140,800 tablets. You can't blame all those headaches on F. D. R.

* * *

In quoting the lies of the Rev. Winrod and other race-baiters you are doing humanity a service, especially in view of the fact that you go to great pains to expose such adventures in malice and brutal anti-Semitism. I note that you deny the Rev. Winrod's statements to the effect that Benjamin Franklin wrote a screed attacking the Jews. However, let me call your attention to the fact that these Jew-baiters insist that the Franklin statement appeared in Pinckney's private diary and that a copy of this diary will be found in The Franklin Institute, of Philadelphia. The thing to do, in my view, is to ask the institute if it has such a diary.

I wrote to The Franklin Institute and received in return a copy of its bulletin, in which the entire Franklin controversy is treated at length. The statement, signed by the institute's director, refers to the revived report that Benjamin Franklin attacked the Jewish race during a speech at the Constitutional Convention in 1787. In my previous articles I have referred to the Franklin matter and answered it by using the analysis of the American historian, Prof. Charles A. Beard, who, some years ago, branded the Franklin quotations as rank forgeries. But the lie persists because anti-Semites of the stamp of the Rev. Winrod stop at nothing in order to discredit a helpless people.

The purported speech by Franklin is said to be a part of the "private diary" kept by Charles Pinckney, of South Carolina, who was a fellow-delegate with Franklin at the convention. The institute's statement says:

"But this 'private diary' has not

been produced. Historians and librarians have not been able to find it or any record of it having existed. The historians have said further that some of the words and phraseology used in the quoted speech cast grave doubt on its Colonial origin. In plain English, they have claimed it a fake.

"The Charles Pinckney 'private diary' containing Franklin's vitriolic speech is now reported to be in possession of the Franklin institute.

"The truth is, we do not possess the notorious diary. In fact, we know no more about its whereabouts than we did before, and that was nothing."

Insisting that the institute has no sympathy for the way our anti-Semites are engaged in "counterfeiting a good man's language" in order to further "their hellish desire to fan the flame of racial hatred," the bulletin suggests that "they first read about some of the things which Franklin is known to have done. One pertinent and authenticated statement is that when the Hebrew Society of Philadelphia sought to raise money for 'a religious house,' or synagogue, in Philadelphia, Franklin signed the petition of appeal for contributions to 'citizens of every religious denomination,' and gave five pounds himself to the fund."

How crude are these liars! They would actually have their readers believe that it's possible for a diary by Pinckney to be in existence for a century and a half and not a single copy of it to be found anywhere except in The Franklin Institute. I understand this Franklin lie was cooked up in Nazi Germany, where it's being used in many pieces of anti-Semitic literature, and that it was brought into the U.S. by Nazi propagandists. We have plenty of bigots in this country who want to make use of such a rank forgery. This Franklin lie is almost as persistent as the forged Protocols of the Elders of Zion, another document which Nazis like the Rev. Winrod distribute far and wide in order to bring sufferings on the heads of innocent, defenseless men and women.

Let me close with a quotation from Julian P. Boyd, librarian, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, who, when presented with the lies about Frank-

lin's alleged anti-Semitism, wrote as follows regarding the so-called Pinckney diary:

"The history of the document falsely ascribed to one whose liberal opinions are so well known as to be almost axiomatic, is typical of the course of similar pieces of propaganda literature."

These immense lies are hard to kill. A small, tidy lie can be scotched neatly, but when a gargantuan liar gets into action—a liar of the caliber of a Hitler or a Streicher or a Rev. Winrod—it's almost impossible to get it disposed of once and for all. That, by the way, was one of Hitler's own discoveries, for in his infamous bible of bigotry and fanaticism, *Mein Kampf*, Hitler warned his followers against promulgating little lies. Instead, he urged, a lie should be an immense one, for even if it attracts the fire of informed, honest historians there'll be enough mud left to smear the ones intended to be injured. Lying has been put on a scientific basis, at last.

* * *

I have looked through some Catholic-Fascist literature on the Spanish situation. The main points are as follows: 1. The Loyalists have murdered great numbers of priests and nuns; 2. The Loyalists have destroyed many Catholic churches. Please comment.

Let me take the second question first, because I've already touched on it many times. In my volumes of questions and answers I show again and again that the Catholic Church in Spain was an arm of the Fascist cause and as such gave aid and comfort to the Insurgent forces, even to the extent of permitting church edifices to be used as military centers and storehouses for munitions, etc. Such military objectives had to be stormed, and the Loyalists were within their rights whenever they attacked a church. Incidentally, hundreds—perhaps thousands—of churches were destroyed by the rebels themselves, including the immense damage done to the famous Barcelona cathedral that was built in the 11th Century.

We now come to the "murder" of priests and nuns. There's no doubt that some priests were executed, early in the rebellion, by irresponsible groups in Loyalist territory, but

after the Negrin government got control of the situation such excesses were speedily suppressed. As for "atrocities" against nuns, such reports are nothing more than Fascist-Catholic propaganda. In July, 1938, 28 nuns were enabled to leave Barcelona through facilities supplied by the Loyalist government. These Sisters of the Sacred Heart were taken to London where they were interviewed by a reporter for the *London Daily Herald*, a trustworthy newspaper. In its issue of July 23, 1938, we are told that "none bore any trace of the 'atrocities' so persistently alleged by Franco's propaganda." We further learn that "all looked well and happy, despite the poverty of their clothes." One of the nuns was chosen to speak for the group. She testified as follows:

"We had to leave Madrid a year ago. We suffered there, not because of our faith, but because there was war. All suffered—we not more than others. It was war, and in war it is bad for everybody.

"We have been one year in Barcelona. It is hard in Barcelona for everybody, because it is war.

"As nuns we suffered no special hardships. We endured no ill treatment, though we could not continue our religious work. There is war in Spain, and things are different when there is war."

Catholic-Fascism prefers to ignore the fact that these nuns couldn't have lived in Madrid and Barcelona during two years of warfare without injury if the Loyalist government had pursued a policy of persecuting nuns and priests. They weren't ill-treated, they weren't persecuted, they weren't raped, and yet we are given to understand by the propagandists for Catholic-Fascism that its open season for nuns in Loyalist Spain. The nuns, like all others in war-torn Spain, suffer great hardships, but they aren't the victims of atrocities. The facts prove that.

* * *

Please comment on Mussolini's threatened move to make mixed marriages illegal. How can he get excited over such mixed marriages when figures show that Jews number only one in each 1,000 of Italy's population? Besides, what's wrong with mixed marriages from a scientific viewpoint?

I have written several pieces to

show that Mussolini's anti-Semitic spasms have been assumed with startling suddenness because: 1. his desire to satisfy Hitler, who is dubious of Mussolini's real strength; 2. his desire to quiet domestic discontent by bringing up the Jews as favorite scapegoats. The fact of the matter is, Mussolini, as I've shown in direct quotations, ridiculed anti-Semitism only a few years before he and Hitler got to be such great pals. Now I'm able to quote another paragraph from Mussolini, who, in 1932, after examining some official figures on mixed marriages in Italy, wrote:

"These results are a demonstration and a justification of the non-existence of an anti-Semitic movement in Italy. The frequency of mixed marriages ought to be greeted by all those who wish to be sincere Italians. For herein is contained the most perfect proof of the civil and moral equality of Italians whatever may have been their distant origin."

A few years ago Mussolini was proud of Italy's mixed marriages; now he's echoing Hitler's bunk about "mongrels." Mussolini is a murderer and a tyrant and a bad influence generally, but even his bitterest enemies have to admit he's a thousand times more intelligent than the hysterical, sadistic, neurotic, homosexual, mystical, superstitious Hitler. No matter what you say about Mussolini, you have to admit he's always the realist, so when he takes up Hitler's racism we have to conclude that he thinks he sees some real and material benefits from such a brutal policy. It's easy to persecute less than 50,000 people in a population of almost 45,000,000—if such brutalitarianism can strengthen his regime, or gain him some financial or military advantages. Dictators are that way.

The world's greatest anthropologists have long been in agreement on racial mixtures—that it's all to the good when both parties come from healthy stock. Why did civilization spring to life in southwestern Asia, southeastern Europe and northeastern Africa? The answer is simple, now that we know a little about anthropology. Many races met there—the section was the cross-roads of the world—and it enabled men and wom-

en of all races and climes to meet for the exchange of ideas, experiences, knowledge, discoveries, and better ways of living. That great melting pot resulted in a quick growth of civilized institutions. At the same time "pure" races in remote parts of the world—isolated so that they could learn nothing about what others were doing, such as lived in many South Pacific islands—went on century after century making slow, laborious, disheartening headway. Each step took centuries, while in the part of the world just mentioned—where mixed marriages abounded—mankind made giant forward steps from year to year. Racial isolation, like social, economic, intellectual, cultural and scientific isolation, is always bad, in the view of competent students of this branch of science, anthropology. That's why Hitler's racism is running counter to the best knowledge developed by the world's ablest students of the human family. And now Mussolini is taking up Hitler's unsound, unfactual, unsupported notions.

In its own way, the United States has been a melting pot for a century or more, and any fair-minded student of affairs will admit that the results have been in the direction of progress, social-mindedness, higher educational achievements, better living standards, greater development of the country's natural resources, immense material headway, scientific advancement, public health, and the general blessing of culture, including music, literature, the drama, poetry, scholarship, art and the glorious spirit of free inquiry. This glorious country was built by the people Hitler, in his crass ignorance, describes as mongrels. Well, if that's mongrelism, let's have more of it. The American people grow progressively healthier, live longer, show sincere and humane regard for their unfortunate brothers, encourage scientific inquiries, and in a thousand ways show by their behavior that they are headed in the direction of a mighty civilization unequalled in the world's history. The only other country which can compare—not so much in actual achievements but in genuine potentialities—is the Soviet Union, which, in an equal sense, is a "mongrel" nation, having scores of races—all of them friendly

and cooperative—within the country's borders. The argument for free social intercourse between all peoples, for the good of all, brings to mind an illustration I've used before. It goes this way: If you have a dollar and I have a dollar and we exchange dollars, each still has only one dollar. But if you have an idea and I have an idea and we exchange ideas, then each has two ideas. That little experience has worked wonders in the history of the human race. And Hitler won't stop it, even when he's able to point to Mussolini as a convert to his false assumptions.

* * *

Do more people live on the farms than in the cities in the U.S.?

Towns and cities now have 56 percent of the population. This is for the U.S. generally. In the South, about 33 percent live in cities.

* * *

Is Mussolini's aggression (in Ethiopia and Spain) compelling the Italian people to foot the bill by cutting down on the contents of its bread basket?

The facts have been studied by the authoritative *London Economist*, which published data comparing food consumption in Italy from 1926 to 1930 and comparing it with 1936. The facts show that the Italian people are eating less in order to supply Mussolini with the means for conducting mass murders. Only the rich eat meat in Italy. The common people subsist mainly on macaroni, vermicelli and spaghetti. They also get a low-grade light wine which has a production cost comparable to our soda pop. The *Economist* shows that the people in 1936 got 20 percent less wheat than they consumed in the earlier years, which roughly represents the cost of Mussolini's adventures in foreign countries, not counting the money and securities he was able to confiscate from his vassals. Italians are tightening their belts year after year as Mussolini goes from one aggression to another. In Germany the masses are told, in plain words, that it's more important to produce cannon than butter. The people, as I've hinted before, would prefer a little more butter and much less "glory" for the dictators. The cost of dictatorship is less food, shoddy clothes, higher taxes, militar-

ism, terrorism, persecution, suppression, torture, enslavement, and increased poverty in general.

* * *

What do the Nazis mean by a "Blitzkrieg"?

It means "lightning war," which is the probably false assumption that Germany will be able to win a great war by some sudden blow at the enemy's communications, populace, supplies, key cities, etc. As I've written before, Hitler and Goering ought to know by now that the theory of a "lightning war" hasn't worked out thus far, not even in China, where Japan had the men and equipment for a quick victory—or thought she had—and soon learned that the Chinese, though ill-supplied with airplanes, tanks, artillery, and even ordinary machine guns, have been able to hold out for more than a year and seems settled down to firm, stolid resistance. The Italians and Germans in Spain certainly had plenty of chances to prove the theory of the "lightning war," but history tells a different story. Goering is said to have boasted, "Give me 20,000 airplanes and I'll be master of Europe in a week." That would be quite a weapon if no other power had bombers and pursuit planes, but what would Goering's 20,000 airplanes be able to do if vast Russia were to turn loose 30,000 machines, with France and England building up their air forces in proportion. That's a game that more than one can play.

* * *

Please comment on Hitler's oft-quoted assurance that he doesn't want a war.

Hitler doesn't want to fight if he can get what he wants in other ways. As Jules Cambon put it, "Germany does not want war. All she wants is the fruits of victory." Hitler's talk about peace won't fool anybody. The man's set for an immense war, and unless the German people rise and kick out the Nazis that war will come, sooner or later.

* * *

What do the Nazis mean by "Aryan"?

The Hitlerites themselves don't know. I've written many columns on the Aryan myth during the past five or six years, all of which will be found in my volumes of questions and answers. The point of the pieces is that no recognized anthropologist

or biologist in the world recognizes the so-called Aryan theory. They all agree there's no such thing as an Aryan race. As Prof. Julian Huxley expresses the issue:

"We find in Germany today an example of the absurdities claimed in the name of eugenics. It is a shocking story the way scientific method is being prostituted to perpetuate the Aryan myth. Of course, everyone knows there is no such thing as an Aryan race, but even if such a race existed, more than three-quarters of the German people would be non-Aryan, including Hitler himself."

* * *

Recently you gave figures on how much money the Federal government is getting out of liquor. This isn't quite satisfactory. I want to know how much the Federal, State and local governments get from this source, including business taxes and property taxes.

Figures for 1937 are now available, showing that taxes on liquor in all forms is as follows:

FEDERAL

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Internal Revenue | \$587,305,610.26 |
| Import Duties | 45,623,933.50 |

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Total Internal Revenue & Import Duties ... | \$632,929,543.76 |
|---|------------------|

STATE

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Alcoholic Beverage Control Revenue | \$284,412,792.04 |
| Sales Taxes | 21,358,755.70 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Total State ABC Revenue & Sales Taxes ... | \$305,771,547.74 |
|--|------------------|

LOCAL

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Alcoholic Beverage Control Revenue | \$ 33,574,635.51 |
|--|------------------|

MISCELLANEOUS

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Business Taxes (Estimate) | \$25,000,000.00* |
| Property Taxes (Estimate) | 25,000,000.00 |

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Miscellaneous ... | \$50,000,000.00 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| TOTAL | \$1,022,275,727.01 |
|-------|--------------------|

* The estimate of miscellaneous business taxes takes into account such special taxes as federal and state corporation income taxes, capital gains taxes, capital stock taxes, undistributed profits taxes, mercantile license taxes, special gross business income taxes, etc.; it does not take into account social security taxes, unemployment insurance taxes, etc.

* * *

Is it a fact that the Nazis are pirating the air waves?

Yes, there's no doubt about it. Lin-

ton Wells, who is a reporter for the National Broadcasting Company, returned recently from Central and South America, where he studied radio conditions for four months and learned that the Nazis are pirating the air waves in South America. They have signed international agreements controlling frequencies, but as usual their signatures don't mean a thing when they want to drown out certain programs, especially speeches by President Roosevelt. In a statement to the press, Mr. Wells charged:

"In one South American country, I tuned in to hear a speech by President Roosevelt. The opening announcement came clear as a bell. When the President began to speak, however, a German short-wave station on a nearby frequency immediately shifted to the American band and drowned out the entire talk with a piano concert. When Roosevelt finished the Germans also went off the air. This deliberate interference has been carried on repeatedly."

* * *

We hear a great deal about the deaths caused by motor cars in this country, but I don't recall ever having seen a report on the deaths caused annually by horse-drawn vehicles. Can you give me the figures?

Horses and horse-drawn vehicles never caused more than 4,000 deaths in any year. Motor cars, in 1937, caused 39,700 fatalities, or 82 deaths per 100,000 persons.

* * *

Do suicides in the U.S. average about the same in all States?

No. Nevada has the highest suicide rate in the country, statistics showing, in 1936, the surprisingly large rate of 35 per 100,000 population. The rate for the nation as a whole was 14.2. Wisconsin's rate was 16.5 per 100,000 population. South Carolina had the lowest rate in the country—only 3.2 per 100,000 population.

* * *

I want to quit smoking. Do you recommend the tobacco cures one sees advertised in newspapers and magazines?

Advertised cures have no value. Those who have the tobacco habit and want to quit can do so in only one way—they must use their will power to the limit. Many fail because the craving for the fragrant weed is too strong. A good way to quit—if you're

an inveterate smoker—is to psychologize yourself into gradually putting more and more time between your smokes. Instead of quitting abruptly, try to reduce the quantity of tobacco used. You may be able to reduce the amount consumed or you may be able to quit entirely—if you have the strength of will to fight it out with yourself. But don't waste time or money on so-called cures that are offered in drug stores. They're expensive and, in some cases, positively harmful. I pity the poor guy who's been smoking for years and wants to quit. I'm one of those "dopes" myself—except I've quit even thinking about quitting. Someday—perhaps in my late 80's—I'll put aside my cigars and pipes and suck in nothing but pure ozone. It'll probably kill me—but I won't care much in those late years. The habit's silly, expensive, idiotic, insipid, wasteful, and moronic—and yet I continue burning the vile stuff. Isn't that an awful confession to come from a guy who actually calls himself a debunker? Debunker, hell! He's a sucker, like the rest of the saps.

* * *

I pay 12c per quart for my milk. How much of that money goes to the producer?

The producer gets only 4c. The rest goes to the distributors. Here's a situation that deserves governmental action. The public is paying the distributors twice as much money as goes to the dairymen who produce the milk. The public has a right to protection. Either more money should go to the producers or the price of milk should be lowered.

* * *

I liked your letter in the August 16, 1938, issue of The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, on the James Seward case. I suggest that you reprint it in The Freeman, for I'm sure Freeman readers would like to know your views on this interesting instance of miscarried justice.

I'm very happy to oblige, as follows:

To the Editor of the Post-Dispatch:

Your paper is doing a splendid thing in its humanitarian campaign to save James Seward from his living grave in the State Penitentiary. The State has already stolen 17 years of his life for a murder he never committed.

It happens that I became interested in Seward's cause about 17 years ago, when I wrote several pieces in my paper, The American Freeman, in support of this unfortunate man. I first learned about him when a letter from him was put on my desk.

Writing from the St. Louis Jail, Seward sent me a remittance for 20 Little Blue Books and added a note in which he urged that I shoot the order out at once. "I'm to be hanged in 30 days," were his words, "so if I'm to get any good out of these books, please have them delivered right away."

That, needless to say, looked like a dramatic, human-interest story to this old newspaper man, so I fished out his order, because I wanted to see what a man will want to read when he has only a few weeks to live. I was surprised at the kind of books he asked for—excellent literature, with a sprinkling of self-help titles, some even providing the reader with lessons in foreign languages.

The whole thing struck me as a good story, so I ran about two columns on Seward in my next issue, telling what he was up against and the kind of books he wanted to read before the State killed him. The article made an impression, provoking comment in many newspapers. A few days after the issue containing my article was released, I received a telegram from one of the editors of the Post-Dispatch asking me for permission to reprint my piece, which, of course, I granted within the hour. In the following Sunday paper (this was about the time Seward was to have been hanged) the Post-Dispatch reprinted my article.

I hope the information on Seward you are printing will gain him his deserved freedom. I don't know how the State of Missouri can go about making amends for the great wrong it has done an intelligent and fine man. I don't want to repeat the main facts of this case. You've done a good job, and I've nothing to add. The facts clearly establish Seward's innocence. The question, in my mind, is: How long will it take the State to turn loose a man who's not guilty?

E. HALDEMAN-JULIUS

* * *

Don't you agree that the dash lights on the instrument board of our motor cars are too bright?

Yes, they are usually far too bright,

thereby constituting a serious hazard, for they tend to draw the eyes away from the road. They also tire the eyes, thus causing many drivers to fall asleep at the wheel. A dash light should be dim.

* * *

Wouldn't it be a good idea if all passenger cars had a row of three or four lights at the front of the top?

Yes, the idea has been suggested by a number of psychologists who have studied the problem of motor car accidents. Trucks and buses in many States are compelled to carry lights at that place, and there's no doubt they are great helps in assuring safety. I've noticed many times that those small lights can be seen, when a truck comes over the top of a hill, several seconds before the headlights come into view, thus serving as a warning. Speeding motor cars often come over a hill-top so fast they don't give the driver coming in the opposite direction a safe chance to get ready.

* * *

How'd you like the movie, "Alexander's Ragtime Band"?

It's among the best—if not the very best—I've ever seen. Irving Berlin's songs sounded even better than they did in the old days when they were popular hits. There's no doubting Berlin's genius as a creator of popular melodies, though I still give first place to Stephen Foster. George Gershwin was good, too. In this musical picture, I was pleased with everything but the story, which struck me as a piece of tripe. But the story couldn't hurt those old songs. At that, I'm still a pushover for Beethoven, Brahms, Bach, Wagner, Tchaikowsky, Franck, Dvorak, Goldmark, Chopin, Richard Strauss, the waltz Strauss, and some others of equal ability but whose names don't happen to pop into my mind at this moment. These writers of modern smash hits are clever, facile, adroit, and even downright witty, but they can't hold my attention the way the classical composers do. Those old fellows dig right down into your innermost innards and shake the dew out of you, while these modern songsmiths just tickle your outside. Of course, I don't deny that there's a certain satisfaction to be found in having your outside tickled, but usually more than five minutes

of that sort of thing gives me the jitters. What I'm trying to say is there's something neurotic about this swing business that's so popular nowadays. Irving Berlin isn't as hectic as these swingsters. Alongside the late George Gershwin, Berlin's as simple as Stephen Foster. Maybe that's what pleases me about him—his simple, plaintive, human, unpretentious touch. I refer, of course, to his "sad" songs. His lively ones—like "Alexander's Ragtime Band"—are as exciting as anything that ever came from the clarinet of Benny Goodman. It seems to me that in songs with a tear in them, Berlin qualifies as another Stephen Foster, with just a few frills to entitle him to say he belongs to a later generation. Maybe these constant reservations indicate envy on my part—envy that a simple, almost naive, soul like Irving Berlin should have more influence on the American public than Spinoza, Kant, Schopenhauer, and Nietzsche combined. Our millions make their own gods, usually, as Ingersoll said, in their own image. And their image isn't a Beethoven or a Brahms, but Irving Berlin, Gershwin, Victor Herbert, Jack Dempsey, Joe Louis, Walter Winchell, Charlie McCarthy, Fannie Brice, Tyrone Power, and Mickey Mouse. Some of their gods I admire, a few I respect, but most of them make my seat tired after a few minutes. The facts compel me to admit that for many years to come Jack Benny will overshadow Beethoven. The mass followers of Donald Duck insist that while they don't know nothin' about art, they sure know what they like. That's also the attitude of every ape in the zoo. But if a sufficient number of apes chorus in unison that Dopey of "Snow White" is superior to Rodin, there's no doubt about it that Dopey's fame will ring throughout the land while Rodin will remain obscure, except to a handful of highbrows, esthetes, or similarly subversive sourpusses.

* * *

What's your attitude towards the International Bible Students, the Jehovah Witnesses who are led by T. C. Russell and Judge Rutherford?

I have nothing but respect for many of the policies of the International

Bible Students, especially along the lines of Peace, anti-Fascism, and their vigorous opposition to the awful tie-up between the Catholic Church and Fascism. I also like the way this energetic organization fights for civil rights, not only for itself but for others as well. So long as the followers of Judge Rutherford fight for these ideas I'm for them right down the line. My only objection is that they build their political and economic liberalism and democracy on a theological foundation. I believe that religious superstition is a curse, no matter who advances it. I believe that religious ideas are mental poison. I always have the feeling that when the people who hold superstitious ideas go in for liberal policies it's only a question of time before their reactionary religious notions will conquer and help hold humanity in the chains of the supernatural.

* * *

I've heard say that beginning cancers have been known to go away of their own accord. Is this true?

No. There's no case in medical history which reports a cancer having left by itself without outside help. The human body is able to do wonderful things in healing or curing itself, but it's always baffled by a cancer.

* * *

How'd you like "The Texan"?

Whenever I look out of my library window (I live on a 160-acre farm) I can see a cow pasturing. Let me state, in all frankness, that, after 20 years, the sight of a cow bores me, even when she's in a romantic mood. That cow's good for fresh, warm milk, the same way those steers in the neighboring 160 are good for top sirloins. But I deny that cows (or steers, to be exact) are ideal movie heroes or heroes. If one cow bores me, 10,000 steers, paralyze me. And "The Texan" stars 10,000 steers. I walked out on them, because I could see, so far as I was concerned, there wasn't a top sirloin in the whole herd for me. I suggest that the publicity department that's ballyhooing "The Texan" announce immediately that every person who buys a ticket will be given a free top sirloin, the same way the ladies are given dishes on dish night. That

will save the picture. As for its story, it seems to me that the drippings of 10,000 steers are poor story material.

* * *

What's the best buy in popular cigarettes?

All popular cigarettes are about the same. Don't pay any attention to the advertising writers. They peddle bunk when they ballyhoo their own brands. The cheapest cigarette is just as good as the popular brand that sells for a nickle more. So, I advise my cigarette-smoking readers to buy only the cheapest cigarettes.

The advertisements about "blindfold tests" are also the bunk. All popular cigarettes—especially the big four—taste and smell alike. Tests, in which blindfolded smokers puffed at Camels, Old Golds, Chesterfields and Lucky Strikes, showed that the smokers didn't know the difference. All tasted alike.

As for nicotine in the tobacco in popular cigarettes, here again they're all just about the same. Tests were made with regard to nicotine content and the following percentages were found:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Camel | 1.9 |
| Chesterfield | 2.3 |
| Domino | 2.1 |
| Lucky Strike | 2.0 |
| Old Gold | 2.0 |
| Phillip Morris | 2.2 |
| Raleigh | 1.8 |
| Twenty Grand | 2.5 |

Turkish cigarettes—brands like Melochrino, Murad, Helmar, Egyptian Prettiest, and Lord Salisbury—were found to contain less nicotine than domestic, popular brands. However, the difference isn't enough to get excited about. All cigarettes have about the same effect on the smokers, with damage to the human mechanism being generally agreed to be rather slight. So, when you must buy some cigarettes, insist on 10c brands, for they're just as good as those which sell at 15c or two for a quarter.

* * *

What's your reaction to the argument I've heard several times to the effect that no devout, sincere, deeply religious person can be other than an orderly, law-abiding citizen?

There never was a more devout, sincere, deeply religious man than Jesse James. His father was a

preacher, and his mother was equally steeped in Fundamentalism. All his life Jesse James carried with him a copy of the New Testament. A preacher who once looked through it was surprised at the way Jesse James' Bible was marked-up, showing constant use. Robertus Love, in his biography, "The Rise and Fall of Jesse James," says Jesse James believed in a personal God and in a personal Devil, adding:

"He [Jesse James] accepted the orthodox Heaven and the orthodox Hell, his faith being implicitly simple. He expected to go to Heaven when he died, for he believed that he had lived the best life he possibly could live under all the circumstances, and that, therefore, he was entitled to salvation."

I'm sure all members of the Jesse James gang, including the great Cole Younger himself, were pious religionists. Jesse James, for that matter, wouldn't have permitted any known infidel to contaminate his sacred organization. Jesse James knew where to draw the line. He didn't mind holding up a train or a stage coach, or robbing a bank—with a lot of shooting thrown in for the sake of a safe getaway—but he realized early in life (after attending many of his father's revivals) that a man has to draw the line somewhere. After all, a dozen or a score of murders can be forgiven, if God is convinced of the sinner's true repentance, but an unbeliever—a Bible-scoffer—can't be tolerated under any conditions because he's certain to spend eternity in Hell. It was a case of bliss for Jesse James and blisters for the infidels. He knew this was so because the Good Book told him so. Ah, what a precious, pure, sacred, wonderful thing is simple, unpretentious Faith. Jesse James had it. Today, after his foul assassination by the traitor Ford, he spends his days polishing his halo where only a few decades ago he polished his six-shooters. Of course, I don't pretend for a moment Jesse James is right up front with all the bigwigs in Heaven. After all, God also has his side of the story and he too must draw the line somewhere. But, at the very worst, Jesse James is somewhere up in the first balcony, where he commands a clear view of

the celestial throne and is heard plainly when his cheerful voice joins in the happy hosannahs.

The other day—August 21, 1938, to be exact—I drove down to Pineville, Mo., to take a look at the doings there, for the local papers have been filled with exciting stories about the big Hollywood stars down there to film the life of Jesse James, the title role falling to handsome, glamorous Tyrone Power. There must have been 10,000 people there that day, all set to see the brick courthouse, the bank, the Dixie Belle Saloon and dance hall, the U.S. marshal's office, and the rest of the places to be used in telling the story of banditry's most extraordinary character. It was an amazing sight, showing how the world has changed since the movies took hold. Today, the Gods come from Hollywood. They are sacred. They are holy. If Jesus had dropped in that Sunday evening. I'm sure the immense throng would have paid him scant attention if someone had shouted that Tyrone Power, or Henry Fonda or Randolph Scott had put in a personal appearance instead of hiding out in their temporary homes up in the hills, far from the maddening crowd of autograph fanatics.

Thousands had driven from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and distant parts of Missouri in order to see the the sacred soil that would be trod by Hollywood's own anointed saints. They were too excited for the time being to even notice the presence of a half dozen stands at which "foot long hot dogs" were being offered at only a dime a foot. The God of Jesse James is as dead as the bandit himself; the new Gods are the glamor boys and girls of the cinema. If Tyrone Power had shown up that hectic hour and waved to any of 2,000 pretty, young, plain or ugly gals, he could have banked on at least 99 percent of them making the "supreme sacrifice" in order to appease the appetite of their gracious, beautiful, dark-haired God. The only reason their virtue was left unsullied was because their busy God didn't have time or inclination for them, his interests being elsewhere. After all, even a Hollywood Jehovah can function only just so many times—and

that sad condition prevails in a vast world crowded with palpitating, breast-heaving, fluttering females in slacks, shorts, and the most brazen, provoking, tempting one-piece bathing suits. A just God would turn out more Tyrone Powers in this all-too-prosaic world. How blundering of the Creator to give this world just one Tyrone Power to 10,000 attractive girls! The whole business betrays haste and carelessness. A child could have done a better job there. Instead of making 9,999 plain, even homely, males of the general outline of an Irvin Cobb or an Edward G. Robinson, he'd banish such physical misfits from the scheme of things and give our females a limitless supply of males built along the lines of a Clark Gable, Tyrone Power, Robert Taylor, Robert Montgomery, or Melvyn Douglas. We already seem to have enough pretty girls to go round.

Of course, such chatter would be shocking to Jesse James had he come on me in Pineville as I ruminated on the twilight of the old, flea-bitten, fly-specked, moth-eaten Gods and the birth of the new, and more charming, Gods of this happier, healthier, saner, more attractive generation. Jesse James would be shocked by the whole affair, for not only did he believe in the Bible's every word but he followed, in his sexual life, a regimen that could be accepted only by a cast-iron saint. The man would hold up a bank and kill two or three men without batting an eye, but he was careful to stay away from bad, evil girls—they were the Devil's own, to be avoided like so many plague-stricken sinners. In the old days, maidens worshipped their Gods; today they not only worship them but go forth frankly and openly in the hopes of being able to "make" one of them—for they have more than one, the little Pagans. The shrinking nuns avow they've married Jesus and let it go at that; the hussies in Pineville ask for nothing more than an affair with their celestial idol. It doesn't have to be a long-drawn-out affair. A week-end would be more than one had a right to expect. In a pinch, an hour would be O.K. These worshippers at the shrine of Eros are so reasonable. But most of this yearning is in vain, for a

blind and unjust Creator went stingy when he turned to the job of making Adonises.

* * *

What are your comments on Father Michael O'Flanagan?

Father O'Flanagan, for many years one of the important leaders of the Irish fighters for freedom, is a sincere and effective friend of democracy. American Catholic-Fascists are spreading the report that this tireless supporter of Loyalist Spain is a "suspended priest." While it's true that Father O'Flanagan was "suspended" during the Sinn Féin campaigns, the suspension was lifted and he is within his rights when he speaks today as a priest and not as an ex-priest. After years of struggling for Irish independence, Father O'Flanagan went to Spain where he studied the Civil War at first hand and came away with the unalterable conviction that Loyalist Spain was fighting for world democracy and against Catholic-Fascism. During the Summer of 1938, Father O'Flanagan made many speeches in the U.S. before audiences that sought the truth about the Loyalists and their heroic struggle for freedom. Father O'Flanagan may be suspended again for his new war on Fascism, but at the time I write this piece the hierarchy seems to prefer to lie about the man but do nothing in the form of direct punishment.

Father O'Flanagan is doing sincere American Catholics—most of whom believe in democracy and hate Fascism—a great social service in bringing to them the awful picture of Catholic-Fascism in Spain. He not only fights for the Spanish Loyalists but urges American Catholic laymen to stand by democracy in their own country, even if they have to defy the hierarchy, which, he insists, has no right to dictate to their political conscience. In one of his speeches Father O'Flanagan reminded "American Catholics that Fascism was spawned in the mother city of the Church, grew up in the Catholic city of Munich, and is now showing its medals in the Catholic country of Austria." Father O'Flanagan insists that the Church is "helping Fascism and getting a very bad bargain by doing it," according to an article in

the August 23, 1938, *New Masses*, by Cora MacAlbert. Father O'Flanagan "thinks that the Pope is beginning to realize that it is not good sense to be on the side of Franco when it throws him into the same camp with Hitler and Mussolini. . . ." He adds: "Catholics will get themselves and their Church very badly damaged if they do not organize to fight Fascism."

Father O'Flanagan insists that the attitude of American Catholics on the Civil War in Spain "is not as disheartening as most of the news would have us believe." He says that all over the country, after his meetings, Catholic communicants "come up to me and say, 'Father, I'm with you, even though my pastor isn't.' And very many times American priests tell me, 'I am against Franco's Fascism. I wish I could come out with it, but if I did I'd lose my job.'" This fighting Irishman tells Catholic laymen and priests that:

"A Catholic does not owe his political conscience to his priest, the priest not to his bishop, the bishop not to his cardinal, and the cardinal not to the Pope. And it is well to remember that we, as Catholics, do not believe the Pope to be infallible in anything but matters of faith. He is not even impeccable. The Catholic Encyclopedia admits that many of the Popes were very bad eggs. Each and every Catholic layman and priest must answer only to his own conscience in his duties as a citizen. And it must be a very nasty thing indeed, to examine your conscience, if you support Franco's Fascist terror in Spain. And I say to all men, that a man's manhood, the right to follow his own conscience, is more important than his job!"

I've said it before, and I prefer to repeat myself: When Fascism becomes a pressing issue in the U.S. we friends of Democracy and liberalism will find most Catholic laymen and lower priests standing bravely by democratic ideas. What support Fascism gets in this country then—as now—will come from the hierarchy, which has always been on the side of black reaction and dictatorship. A thousand Father O'Flanagans will spring to the defense of freedom, and millions of Catholic laymen will stand with Protestants, non-believers, Re-

publicans, Socialists, Communists, and the like, to protect with their lives, if necessary, the freedom for which the founding fathers fought and died. Catholic-Fascism will shriek against its own followers, as the hierarchy in today's Spain blesses Franco when his bombers spread death and destruction among Catholic Loyalists. The Father Coughlins will line up with American Fascism, but the O'Flanagans will meet them face to face and challenge them to open battle—a war which I'm sure they'll win. I believe I'm justified in saying that Catholic laymen won't knowingly betray true Americanism. That thought should comfort those supporters of democracy who hold fears for the future of their country. The future isn't dark. There are clouds ahead, but the light of truth and freedom can dispel them. Catholic-Fascism won't conquer the world. And the sooner the hierarchy learns that simple fact the better it'll be for the Church. If the hierarchy refuses to open its eyes to such a simple fact its folly will eventually put it in the position of running a vast Church that'll be devoid of communicants.

* * *

I would be very grateful if you were to give your readers some comments on the California recovery program, which provides \$30 every Thursday for all past 50. I signed the petition the other day, after 800,000 other Californians had put themselves on record as supporting this plan. If you are a true friend of social reform you will put your influence behind this humanitarian measure. After California makes a success of this plan the rest of the States can come in.

I'm afraid I won't be able to join the 800,000 Californians who signed up for \$30 every Thursday for everyone over 50 years of age. The whole idea looks cock-eyed to me, just another attack of Townsenditis, for which Californians are world-famous. The screwy promoters of this crack-brained, utopian notion can't really be serious, except in the matter of collecting dues, donations and services from the foolish voters who are stupid enough to believe that any government can, for very long, supply many millions of citizens with good livings without receiving anything in return. A government can be used

to favor a group or a small class, but it can't by any kind of magic, supply steady incomes to the masses in general, and this case (weekly payments to persons past 50) means governmental support for the masses.

The panacea, or cure-all, as I understand it, provides that the State is to issue warrants, on which the holders are to affix a 2c stamp each Thursday, thus being enabled to use the warrant as \$1 regardless of the fact that it has affixed only a single 2c stamp or the full amount. A warrant with even a 2c stamp on it is to be accepted as \$1 by the State or county treasurers in full payment of taxes and fees. Also, businessmen are supposed to accept the warrants as legal tender in the sale of goods or services.

Let us suppose that a business establishment is offering tires for sale, which are made in Ohio. The Ohio tire manufacturer certainly won't accept California's pension warrants in payment for their goods. They'll demand cash. So how is the tire seller in Los Angeles going to remain in business very long if he has to pay U.S. money to his source of supplies in Ohio and accept from the consumer a piece of paper on which a certain number of stamps have been affixed? Such a businessman would be crazy if he were to put out many sets of tires under such one-sided conditions. The argument, which I may have over-simplified, can be applied to the merchants who sell any number of articles, for, needless to say, most of California's goods come in from other States.

If the scheme were voted in, California would, according to Arthur J. Altmeyer, chairman, Federal Social Security Board, have to raise about \$1,560,000,000 annually to keep its citizens past 50 supplied with \$30 every Thursday. This, according to Mr. Altmeyer, "is four times the State and local tax collections in California in 1936." Mr. Altmeyer says that California, under this scheme, would soon have such immense amounts of warrants in circulation that "they would soon drive lawful money out of the State."

Just because 800,000 men and women sign pieces of paper saying they

are to get \$30 per week it doesn't follow that the government can see to it that the money appears every Thursday, on schedule time. If such a scheme could be made to work merely because enough gullible fools thought they had a right to expect the weekly payments, then all the country would have to do is to find perhaps 50,000,000 people (not a hard job, by any means) to say they want the national government to take over the crazy pipe-dream and put it into force for the entire country. You can't solve great social problems by the mere trick of putting your name to a petition, even when your name is among 800,000 in a single State.

California, which is the home State of quackery, religious eccentrics, and political nostrums, is running true to form. With Townsendism practically disposed of, the same mentality comes forward with a new piece of political tripe, and, judging from reports, it's having a grand run.

* * *

Enclosed please find a clipping from a newspaper. It tells how a mob of 300 Moslems staged a demonstration in front of the home of H. G. Wells in protest against that famous author's writings on the Koran. Please comment. In his "Short History of the World," H. G. Wells wrote that the Koran, the Bible of the Mohammedans, "was unworthy of its alleged divine authorship," either as literature or philosophy. Wells wrote the simple truth, and the protestants who marched before his house shouting "Down with the ignorant Wells" were as ignorant as the Fundamentalists who cry, "The Adam and Eve story is the literal truth!" Mohammedans are as loaded with superstition and supernaturalism as the most fanatical mackeral-snatcher.

* * *

Do you consider the skyscraper a sound business investment? I have a chance to invest \$500 in first mortgage certificates. Please rush personal reply.

No. I consider it one of the worst. In previous articles I discussed skyscrapers as architectural monstrosities. On the business side, let me call attention to the fact that very few skyscrapers have been erected since 1929, for the real estate interests have learned, at last, that the skyscraper isn't an economical item

of property. Building costs are immense, insurance rates are exceptionally high, taxes are way up in the sky, upkeep is heavy, and so on. It's a fact well known to the building industry that very few skyscrapers in the large cities pay even a modest profit. Owners of skyscrapers have to demand high rentals, thus driving tenants to smaller, cheaper buildings. I suggest you put your \$500 in the nearest postal savings bank. As Will Rogers said in one of his bright moments, "It isn't the return on your money that counts, but the return of your money." (The above was sent by personal letter to the reader who ordered my information service, but as the facts may be of interest and value to many readers I'm printing them here.)

* * *

When President Roosevelt, in his Kingston speech, said we could be depended on to defend Canada against invasion, wasn't he stepping beyond his constitutional powers?

The President told the world that the American people would never stand by and permit some outside empire to invade Canada. He didn't pledge the U.S. government to such a defensive act. What President Roosevelt meant, of course, was that the American people would react strongly against aggression in Canada, but actual measures—including a declaration of War—would have to be made by the only body empowered to declare war—the Congress. Roosevelt didn't step beyond his constitutional powers when he made his now-famous assertion. Every progressive American can be relied on to stand by democratic Canada in case of attack by any dictatorial power. This issue isn't a remote one, by any means. Immense progress by the Fascists is being made in Eastern Canada, where the ideology of authoritarianism is enjoying open support from dictator-minded officials. The day is fast approaching when all democratic governments will have to cooperate in order to maintain peace and resist the encroachments of the Fascists. Such cooperation should include every available weapon—commercial treaties, boycotts of the goods and services of totalitarian States, and, above all, military and naval demon-

strations when the enemies of democracy let loose their hoodlums.

* * *

I've read many times during recent years about Norway's progressive and liberal political policies. Of late I've noticed numerous remarks in the press reports from Washington that our Roosevelt liberals look up to Scandinavian countries because of their progressiveness. Can you explain where a country like Norway got its inspiration to forge ahead in the direction of greater democracy, liberalism, etc.?

This is a hard question to answer, but I believe Miss Ingrid Gaustad, of Oslo, Norway, got pretty close to the truth when she discussed this matter with newspaper reporters. Recently she was interviewed in St. Paul, Minn., where she was about to begin work on a book dealing with Norwegian immigration, the expenses of the task having been advanced in the form of a Nansen Foundation fellowship. It's Miss Gaustad's theory that Norway got its advanced ideas originally "from letters sent back to the old country by Norwegians who had left their homeland and come to the United States." Miss Gaustad claimed that "letters from Norwegian settlers in Minnesota and Wisconsin telling how America is a free country, how everybody can vote here, and how every sort of work is respectable, awakened political consciousness in the Norwegian farmer."

* * *

Which country has the highest suicide rate?

The last figures available for the world are for 1930. They show that Austria was at the top of the suicide list, with a rate of 39.9 per 100,000 population. Germany's rate was 27.8. The U.S. rate runs at about half of Germany's. For 1936 our suicide rate was 14.2 per 100,000 for the country as a whole, though there were wide variations in the rate from State to State.

* * *

What is the meaning of the letters "e.g."?

"For example" (Exempli gratia.)

* * *

Is there any truth in the statement that Negroes are less given to committing suicide than whites?

Yes, the claim is based on sound statistical reports. Where the suicide rate for the country as a whole was

14.2 per 100,000 population, in 1936, the suicides among Negroes numbered only 5.1.

* * *

Which U.S. President lived longest?

John Adams, who reached 91.

* * *

In the movie, "Marie Antoinette," I heard one character referred to as the "Dauphin"? What does it mean?

The word refers to the king's oldest son.

* * *

Where does the word "fortnight" come from?

It's a contraction of "fourteen nights."

* * *

Do cats go to heaven?

Yes, they're needed to supply strings for angels' harps.

* * *

Please tell me why most prayers are said at night?

As they are messages to God, they get cheaper rates at night. (I like to keep my readers informed on all possible economies.)

* * *

Suppose one were to take all the leaves of a large oak and spread them over the ground. How much area would they cover?

About two acres.

* * *

How much time did those fast ships make in sailing from New York to San Francisco around the Horn?

The fastest trips took 89 days.

* * *

What quantity of insecticides do we use annually in fighting insects in homes and crops?

About 100,000,000 pounds.

* * *

How many square miles are there in our territories? How many in continental U.S.?

Territories, 711,606 square miles; continental U.S., 3,026,789 square miles.

* * *

Is it painful to freeze to death?

No.

* * *

Does Coca-Cola contain caffeine? Cocaine?

Coca-Cola contains caffeine, but no cocaine. A six-ounce "Koke" contains as much caffeine as will be found in a cup of coffee. There's nothing particularly harmful about this, but, as the late Dr. Harvey W. Wiley said in his book, "The History of a Crime Against the Food Law," the makers

of Coca-Cola should be compelled to obey the food and drug law and declare the presence of caffeine. When Dr. Wiley, as head of the Bureau of Chemistry of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, brought action against the Coca-Cola Company for failing to declare that its product contained caffeine, the government ordered the destruction of a large quantity of impounded Coca-Cola, but, through some strange influence—which I believe was the power of Coca-Cola's millions—the corporation was permitted to go ahead with its production of Coca-Cola and still refrain from informing the consumers regarding the contents of its beverage. Meanwhile, Coca-Cola interests had gagged the press through immense advertising appropriations. That left the consumers without a friend. The consumers always get it—in the neck. Since "The Pause that Refreshes" contains caffeine—and the law says such an addition should be branded—the Coca-Cola Company should be compelled to obey our laws. The Coca-Cola Company made a net profit in 1937 of \$25,000,000—out of gross receipts of \$60,000,000—so there's plenty of money on hand to hire clever lawyers to slip it over on the consumers and at the same time pass millions of dollars in advertising money to newspapers and magazines in order to keep the truth from the public.

* * *

Speaking favorably of dictatorships, Bernard Shaw says: "The point is: Do we want to get things done, or not?" Please comment.

That isn't the point at all. Shaw ought to know that we don't want the things done that dictators do right along.

* * *

Please recommend a good height increaser.

Let me, for the 50th time, warn my readers that all height increasers, nose straighteners and bust developers are fakes.

* * *

I am an old man who has never gone in for exercise. My friends tell me I should take exercises if I want to live longer. Please hand me some advice.

I suggest you adopt the system used by the late Chauncey Depew, who lived to old age. When advised to

take on some exercises, he replied: "I get my exercise acting as pallerbearer to my friends who exercise."

* * *

I am a cigarette smoker who would like to throw my business to union-made brands. Can you name them for me?

The following cigarettes are union-made:

Twenty Grand, Wings, Raleigh, Spud, Kool, Avalon, Clown, Carmen, Longfellow, Ramrod, Viceroy and Yankee Girl.

The Big Four—Lucky Strike, Camel, Chesterfield and Old Gold—are all made in open shops in which the workers are exploited unmercifully. The profits made by the Big Four are prodigious, while the labor bill is amazingly low. At wholesale prices, in 1933, cigarettes brought receipts amounting to \$637,579,000, while the labor bill amounted to the sensationally low figure of \$13,818,000. The Tobacco Workers International Union comments on this outstanding fact, as follows:

Out of every dollar, therefore, paid by the dealers at wholesale prices, a tiny fraction over 2 percent went to the cigarette worker. His wages could have been doubled without any raise in the price of the product; and the Big Four would still have been reaping enormous profits.

Think of it! The cigarette workers who produced values (at wholesale prices) of \$637,579,000 received for their labor a mere \$13,818,000. I'm repeating these facts because I want them to sink in and be remembered when the tobacco capitalists yelp about having to run their industry in harmony with the Wages and Hours Law. With labor costs cut down to about 2 percent, we find that the companies make immense dividends. Says the Tobacco Workers International Union, on this point:

From 1930 to 1934 inclusive, the R. J. Reynolds Company paid [dividends] of \$30,000,000 each year. . . . For five years, four of them bitter depression years . . . R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company paid dividends of \$1,500 a year out of the products of each of its workers. . . .

Let that register with you enemies of union labor! One company—the R. J. Reynolds Co.—alone got dividends of \$30,000,000 in a single year,

when all the labor in the entire cigarette industry during that year received \$13,818,000. The dividends referred to above are in addition to the notoriously large salaries and bonuses paid to executives in the cigarette industry. According to *Fortune Magazine*, for December, 1936, George Washington Hill, president, American Tobacco Company, received salaries and bonuses, as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1928: salary, \$ 75,000; plus | \$280,203 |
| 1929: salary, 144,500; plus | 461,113 |
| 1930: salary, 168,000; plus | 842,567 |
| 1931: salary, 160,000; plus | 891,630 |
| 1932: salary, 120,000; plus | 705,607 |

The above doesn't tell the whole story with regard to Mr. Hill, for the record shows that he received, in 1930, a "special credit" of \$273,470. This made a grand total of \$1,284,097 for a single year. And, let me add, this takes no account of any dividends Mr. Hill received from his common stock. In other words, Mr. Hill alone received about one-tenth as much money as went to all the employes in the entire cigarette industry. Mr. Hill, by the way, is one of those energetic and vociferous anti-New Dealers who insist that the Wages and Hours Law will ruin the country!

In view of these facts, isn't it right that cigarette smokers should switch their business to the smaller companies that sell union-made articles? The fair brands listed at the beginning of this piece have even their packages printed in union shops. Give them your patronage.

* * *

Time Magazine reports (August 22, 1938) that Professor C. E. M. Joad, of the University of London, is answering the public's questions at \$25 each. Don't you think that's an outlandish price to ask?

It sounds unreasonable, but it may be that Prof. Joad, specializing in questions dealing with philosophy, science, and related subjects, in which case he may have to do a great deal of research in order to give a correspondent the data he seeks. Also, I don't know how much time he puts on the actual writing of his answers. So, I refuse to criticize him for charging \$25 per question. He may be delivering service for the money.

By the way, let me add that Prof. Joad is a queer combination of Free-thinker and spookologist. He writes and lectures for Freethought and at the same time writes reams of nonsense about psychic phenomena. Persons who ask his opinion on spiritualism will be given liberal doses of bunk. But, to return to the fee business, let me say that my own compensation for answering questions by personal letter—a dollar per question—isn't high, though I make it a fairly consistent practice to limit my answers to one side of an 8½x11 sheet of paper. I'm proud of the fact that during August I answered 95 questions by mail, handling every request that came for information or advice. Some months I miss about 1 or 2 percent, but August went along just right, with every question answered. By the way, when I fail to have the information or advice handy, I make refunds in the form of trade coupons, good for anything published in this plant. Let me say (modesty being thrown out the window) that I know many of my answers are extremely valuable to my correspondents. I have saved them many thousands of dollars. Literally scores have been warned away from dubious investments, business deals, etc. Others have been told what to do about health and emotional problems. I feel I give them real value for their money. Of course, questions that are intended for the columns of *The Freeman* are handled without charge. It's only when the reader wants a hurry-up answer by return mail that he pays a small fee.

* * *

Does wild asparagus grow anywhere in the world in sufficient abundance to be used to pasture cattle?

Yes, there are sections of the Russian steppes that have so much wild asparagus that cattle eat it like grass.

* * *

Have the world's great scientists registered any kind of a protest against the way science is mistreated in Fascist countries?

I have given much space to scientists' reaction to brutalitarianism. In the past five or six years I have quoted many protests against Fascism's attitude towards science. Recently, *Nature*, the dis-

tinguished English scientific magazine, contained a moving "Scientists' Oath," proposed by L. L. Whyte, which I want to pass on to my readers:

I am the inheritor of the tradition of civilization which has proved more lasting than empires. Whenever I use the language or the products of science I unconsciously pay homage to the countless men for whom no sacrifice was too great in the struggle to develop the human mind and establish the truth. Toleration and freedom are the heart of this tradition; for individual thought and love of truth are the basis not only of science, but also of justice and of civilization.

I declare my loyalty to this tradition, my belief in the freedom of the individual to develop his talents for the enrichment of the Community, and my conviction that man's community is now the whole human race, within which each nation must play its characteristic part. The natural balance between personal freedom and the proper demands of society, which is the life and health of civilization, is today doubly threatened: in certain societies by the denial of freedom and in the democratic countries by the irresponsibility of individuals. In the face of this threat:

I pledge myself to use every opportunity for action to uphold the great tradition of civilization, to protect all those who may suffer for its sake, and to pass it on to the coming generations. I recognize no loyalty greater than that to the task of preserving truth, toleration and justice in the coming world order.

The New Republic, which reprinted the above oath, invites individuals and societies "to affirm their adherence everywhere, regardless of forms or dorse such a suggestion. It's sheer blindness to think that science is science everywhere, regardless of forms of government. There's all the difference in the world between science in decent countries like the United States, Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and other countries that are democratic or at least working in the direction of democracy. In Fascist countries scientists are gagged and enslaved; they are mere puppets of the militarists. They are supposed to sanction every false assumption proposed by the dictators, among others

being the poisonous lies they serve up in support of intolerance, racial persecution, and group spoliation. In truly democratic countries scientists are free to search out the truth. They are expected to track down lies and expose them. Scientists are free only in democratic countries. That's one of the glories of democracy.

* * *

Kindly give me some authoritative figures dealing with the movie industry—attendance, investment, costs, etc.

The *International Motion Picture Almanac*, issued yearly by Martin Quigley, released an edition in August, 1938, from which I take the following facts:

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Weekly U.S. attendance | 83,000,000 to 88,000,000 |
| Weekly world attendance | .. 220,000,000 |
| Cost of U.S. 1937-38 production | \$135,000,000 |
| Average U.S. admission price | 22c |
| Hollywood payroll | \$86,000,000 |
| Total U.S. theaters | 17,541 |
| Total U.S. investment | ... \$2,000,000,000 |

* * *

What's your notion about the Pegler-Bufano controversy?

Benjamin Bufano is at work on an immense statue of St. Francis of Assissi, which is to be erected in San Francisco. Bufano, let me say in passing, is the man who created the buffalo on our buffalo nickel, a right nice piece of work, if I'm any judge (and I'm not, of course), but the pictures I've seen of his St. Francis gives me a pain in a private part of my anatomy. This Bufano, by the way, is the same fellow I wrote about recently, telling how he spent days in one of Mussolini's jails because he was caught red-handed with a batch of Little Blue Books. This alone ought to make me take Bufano's side in his argument with Westbrook Pegler, the pugnacious and energetic columnist. But I can't work myself into any sort of a lather defending a statue that looks to me as though it was carved out of a bar of Ivory Soap. Pegler's right. The statue should be sent to the junkyard. San Francisco's too beautiful to be spoiled by such a monstrosity. *The New Republic*, which also takes Pegler's side, tells why the statue is lousy, as follows:

"The statue, with both arms aloft, violates the most elementary of all the rules of art, that you must not

portray an immobile figure in a position which would cause great anguish if sustained for more than a few minutes. And in any case, the last thing San Francisco needs is a gigantic statue, which would be dwarfed by its two vast bridges. We hope that the project will be treated as somebody's far from happy thought and that no more will be heard of it."

With Pegler, *The New Republic* and Haldeman-Julius all lined up together, it looks like a great day for San Francisco.

* * *

What's your opinion of these quiz programs that are all the rage?

There's no doubting the fact that the American people like information quizzes that are presented in question-and-answer form. I see that even movie theaters are giving over a part of a night each week to questions put by a master of ceremonies and answers by persons in the audience. But let's face the simple truth that the sponsors of these quizzes are careful to see to it that important questions on politics, economics, unionism, Fascism, democracy, clericalism, totalitarian aggression, and the like, are dropped like hot coals. The trick is to dissipate the interest in information by drawing the public's mind to silly, superficial, or frivolous questions. As editor of a questions-and-answers publication—the first to turn his entire paper to such a policy in the history of American journalism—I can say that the American people are deeply interested in information, but prefer discussions on questions that have some meaning in these hectic days of social reform, brutalitarianism, undeclared wars, bombing of civilians, Catholic-Fascism, Free-thought, labor's growing power in free countries, and so forth. Questions that are important are suppressed in the radio and movie theater programs. Even the program conducted by Clifton Fadiman, every Tuesday night, under the name of "Information Please," aims at superficial entertainment more than sound information. The other night I heard three celebrities worry their heads over idiotic limericks, and when Franklin P. Adams supplied the last line to several—right out of his head—Mr. Fadiman expressed amazement

and wondered if the man was really human after all. A minute or two could be wasted on such trivial matters, and no one would object—not even serious-minded students of affairs, for all of us like our moments of play and nonsense—but when such foolishness is made the main subject of a program one is forced to the conclusion that the quiz crazy is being corrupted by persons who want to keep the public from trying their brains on questions that mean something in these exciting, world-moving times. At a movie in a nearby town, I listened for a half hour while a questioner poured out a stream of questions to his audience. He went in for questions like these: "Finish the proverb, 'People who live in glass houses,'" "Who is the Bard of Avon?" "How far can a person run into a woods?" "How long is a piece of string?" These were the little \$2 questions, for which he paid on the spot. When he came to the "biggies," for which he paid \$25 for the correct answers, he avoided even the danger of a cash settlement by asking questions like these: "What was the date of George Washington's inauguration?" Or, "How many people came over on the Mayflower's first trip to New England?" Not one person in a million, even among the informed, should be expected to answer questions like these right out of his head. Only a freak could answer such a question, and there are few such freaks in the world. By the way, these "biggies" aren't directed at the entire audience—they are hurled at selected individuals, which means the chances for winning the \$25 award figure out at about 1 in 10,000,000. Another quiz program came over the other night as I listened to my radio—I take in a program now and then since I put a tiny set near my desk in the office at the plant—and this time we were asked to listen to three married couples asking one another questions. Here are a few that were put in all seriousness and were expected to entertain or interest the nation's adult, intelligent people: "What did your little brother do and say the day I proposed to you?" "What happened of importance the day we got married, besides our own marriage?" (The answer: The Red

Sox opened their season.) "On what day of the week were you born?" (The wife knew the date but couldn't name the day, so she lost to her wise husband, who produced a page from the *World Almanac* to prove that it happened on a Thursday.) And so on, for a tedious, dull, childish half hour. I make the assertion that if any really important questions were asked—along the lines of many handled regularly in *The American Freeman*—the radio company would cut off the facilities of the system. I repeat the fact that I like my bits of nonsense—I scatter pieces of foolishness in my columns, just for the fun of the thing—but I follow a policy of giving the overwhelming bulk of my space to questions that mean something to the present generation, questions that touch on controversial subjects and delve into them without fear of offending religious powers, economic royalists, Catholic-Fascists, Nazis, anti-Semites of the caliber of a Rev. Winrod or a Father Coughlin, and that sort of thing. I insist that such questions are of great reader-interest. My correspondence proves this assertion. The American public is quiz-conscious, but the people in control of our radios and other means of communication prefer to keep that interest centered on infantile, weak topics. Wherever we turn we see how the powers that be work together to keep the people from discussing or debating important public issues. They succeed too frequently, but there are still some editors who aren't afraid to call them and who are free of their influence through their expensive advertising. The quiz craze would be all to the good if the reactionary interests weren't in a position to shunt the discussions into blind alleys.

After writing the above I turned to look at the August 29, 1938, issue of *Life*, and came on three pages of pictures and text, entitled "Life Goes to a Broadcast of 'Information Please,'" in which this quiz program is treated in the hushed notes of hero worship, but instead of being impressed I found confirmation of everything I said about the program. As though to give proof of the tremendous intellectuality of Mr. Fadiman's "experts," *Life* gives space to some of

the questions, from which I want to quote a few—questions about on a par with the examples listed above. Here they are:

1. Who were the first diet enthusiasts, according to Mother Goose Rhymes?

2. Answer four of the following questions on Alice in Wonderland: a) Why did the Whiting want the snail to walk a little faster? b) Why was it that the shoes of the little oysters were so clean and neat? c) About what kind of soup did the mock turtle sing? d) What subjects were taught in the school of the sea? e) What was the name of the cat that witnessed Alice's trip through the looking glass?

3. How many baseball players were on base when Casey struck out?

4. Can you name two of the five famous persons who were born on the day of May 28th?

5. What sextet sang their way to fame recently?

(Knowing my readers will want to know the answers, I join in the jamboree just to entertain my pious friends and keep their minds off more weighty matters: 1. Jack Sprat and his wife. 2. a) "There's a porpoise right behind me and he's treading on my tail." b) Because they hadn't any feet. c) "Soup of the evening, beautiful soup." d) "Reeling and writhing and drawing." e) Dinah. 3. Two. 4. Dionne quintuplets. 5. The Seven Dwarfs, because Dopey, of course, could not sing.

* * *

How many oranges does California produce annually?

8,000,000,000.

* * *

Which is the most hunted fish in the world?

The herring. It's man's most important food fish.

* * *

Please tell me something about the Youth Hostels Movement.

The youth hostels movement, which got its start in Europe, is making headway in this country, especially along the Atlantic seaboard. Recently, I heard the movement invaded the Chicago district and a few other sections of the Middle West, East of the Mississippi. It's only a matter of time before it covers the nation. The plan is very simple. It provides good facilities for young hikers and cyclists. Trails are laid out, with ap-

proved farmhouses and town residences serving as stopping places. Each approved place is given a small sign, which tells passing members of the youth hostels movement that they can get good, clean overnight lodging for only 25c, with the privilege of cooking their breakfast at no extra cost.

* * *

Will you explain how it is that every time Hitler puts one of his policies to a popular vote he gets such an overwhelming majority?

Dictators always arrange to have their "elections" result in almost unanimous endorsement of their regimes. They do this by controlling all forms of communication—the press, meeting halls, discussion, and now, the movies and radio. Opposition is outlawed. That leaves the voters nothing to do but vote "yes." It's an old story. Go back to that great dictator, Napoleon, and study his election figures, and what do you find? The people—permitted to hear only his side—voted this way in Napoleon's "elections":

1799—3,090,445 to 1,502.

1802—3,568,885 to 8,373.

1804—3,572,329 to 2,579.

The dictators' bag of tricks never change. Even Napoleon's instructions to Fouché, his chief of security, sound a lot like the way dictators' censors work today, as follows:

"Repress the journals a little; make them print wholesome articles. Let them comprehend . . . that the era of revolution is closed, that there is now but one party, and that I shall never suffer the journals to say or do anything contrary to my interests."

The only word Hitler or Mussolini would omit in the above is "little" in the first sentence. A Fascist censor represses the press a whole lot, not merely a little. Otherwise, what Napoleon said he wanted from the press goes for Fascism and Nazism. There's nothing new about Fascism. The only change is the fact that a few new words have been thrown into the vocabulary of brutality and barbarism.

* * *

Why are Freeman issues dated so far ahead? I got the November issue early in September.

The Freeman is issued about 60 days ahead of time because of the

fact that it's a one-man paper. I do all the editorial work myself, without the help of even a stenographer, and, incidentally, without any kind of salary. If I were to get sick or in some sort of an accident I'd be in a jam for fair, if the paper were released later than is the practice now. Publications with large editorial staffs can mail, let us say, the November issue in October, knowing there'll be plenty of help available to get out subsequent issues on time, but in my case if I don't do the job it simply won't be done, so I give myself this extra time as a kind of insurance. This doesn't have any effect on the editorial contents of the paper. I date items that have to be identified with dates, giving day, month and year, so there's no reason for confusion of any kind. I never speak of something having happened "this month" or "last month," and the like, but give the real dates, when such information is needed to make the piece stand up. A periodical must be issued regularly in order to enjoy the post office's second class privilege. If I were to miss a couple of issues the paper would be denied its second class entry, a calamity that would end in the paper's suspension. By dating the paper ahead two months I minimize this danger, for, if everything goes right, I ought to be able to recover from some unforeseen illness and get back into harness without jeopardizing the paper's existence. I've made this explanation a dozen times in the past, but many readers insist on writing letters of astonishment, demanding why I'm doing what I'm doing. It all sounds as though I was caught in the act of deceiving my pious readers. They're getting what I promised—12 issues per year, so what's the difference if I find good reasons for bringing the paper out a little ahead of the usual time? I hope this will stop such letters for at least 10 days.

* * *

How does the U.S. compare with the rest of the world in the production of important commodities?

The productivity of the U.S.—which has only 6 percent of the world's population and less than one-tenth of the world's land area—is staggeringly large. Take that vital, all-important article, oil, without

which the mechanized world is helpless. The U.S. produces 59 percent of the world's oil. The U.S. also produces 42 percent of the world's cotton, 13 percent of its wheat, 41 percent of its steel, and 37 percent of its coal. Roughly, the U.S. produces 40 percent of the world's wealth. This showing is staggering, but we shouldn't blind ourselves to the fact that the social order under which this wealth is turned out is unjust to the masses of workers and farmers. Because we tolerate the capitalist system—which means the private ownership of the essential means of production, distribution and exchange—we find that the world's richest country permits only 13 percent of the population to own 90 percent of the wealth. Government figures prove that 87 percent of the people own only 10 percent of the country's wealth. We're a tremendously rich country, but not for the people. It's a case of enormous riches for the benefits of the few. These conditions justify Socialists in insisting that the people remedy our economic inequalities by instituting a system in which the large-scale industries will be owned by the people. The old Socialist slogan, "Let the nation own the trusts," is still valid. The trouble with our capitalistic civilization is that it's based on economic dictatorship. What makes life endurable in a country afflicted with such an economic system is the fact that the masses are fortunate in being blessed with political democracy. They have the political power to change the social order through the ballot, without having to resort to violence. This political democracy is what enables us to vote for the candidate and policies of our choice, to talk as we see fit, to print our opinions, to hold meetings, and in other ways act like free, American citizens. That's a wonderful improvement on countries like Germany, Italy and Japan, where the people not only have to endure economic tyranny but are denied all political rights. The fact that we have political democracy means that we hold in our hands the instruments that can, if properly used, inaugurate a system based on economic democracy. We don't have to tolerate economic authoritarianism if we would

have a mind to make intelligent, constructive use of our political rights. Political democracy alone isn't enough. It must be the foundation-stone of industrial democracy. Meanwhile, we must be on the alert to keep the Fascists from destroying our democracies, and through such aggression depriving us of all the benefits of democracy. Progressives must be on guard. They must fight Fascism by strengthening political democracy, and later they must vote in a social order that establishes the right to put democracy into the mines, mills and factories. That's the road to a free world. The other road—Fascism—is the way to slavery of mind and body.

* * *

The September 1, 1938, issue of my daily paper contains a Believe-It-or-Not in which Robert L. Ripley tells about a couple that was married 147 years. Do you believe it?

Rubbish. Ripley should be ashamed to give publicity to such nonsense. His cartoon claims that Sarah and John Rovin, of Stádova, Hungary, lived together for 147 years. He adds that John lived 172 years and that Sarah lasted 164 years. Their youngest son lived 116 years, says Ripley. The date was supposed to have been compiled in 1725. As many of my readers know, I've written several pieces on this question of longevity, in which I expressed the most extreme skepticism regarding yarns about people living well over a century, and some approaching the second century. If I may repeat myself, let me say that these stories usually come from remote places, where poor records are kept, so that it's easy for oldsters with vivid imaginations to pile on the years after they approach or pass the century mark. I've also called attention to the fact that our insurance company actuaries are the best authorities on all aspects of longevity, for it's their specialty, and one in which they have to be experts in order to hold their important positions. All insurance companies agree that stories like the one told by Ripley is the bunk. Here's what they claim, in brief: During the past century and a half they've written hundreds of millions of policies, and the highest figure they can produce, in the

matter of longevity, is 106 years. When accurate records are available—and it's their job to see to it that the records are straight—the top limit, for all time, is 106 years. I'd rather believe these experts than put my trust in Ripleyesque sensationalism. The creator of Believe-It-or-Not should stick to his three-legged horses, two headed calves, dogs that have hearts outlined on their heads, armless paperhangers, two-foot cucumbers, eight-fingered fiddlers, and the rest of Ripley's childish bag of tricks.

* * *

Please explain why you write so many articles in support of socialized medicine?

Let me say, first of all, that I am not opposed to private medicine. I have always taken a middle position on the question of socialized medicine, urging that this country can support both methods—private medicine for those who can afford to pay the bills; socialized medicine for the great masses who can't afford to meet doctors' bills and therefore must go without life-saving services.

The facts show beyond argument that illness and death increase as the income of the masses go down. As the need for medical attention grows its presence becomes rarer and rarer. That's the real reason why a system of nationalized health insurance is a great public need which must be met as soon as possible. Government statistics show that "for the 10 most deadly diseases, the deathrate is almost twice as high among the unskilled workers as among professional workers. For seven of these, there is a steady increase in deathrates as income goes down."

An Associated Press dispatch from Washington, D.C., August 29, 1938, quotes the U.S. Public Health Service's estimate that "if all unemployed workers were called back to work suddenly, at least 350,000 could not report because of illness." The same report says that preliminary surveys in eight of 83 cities showed illness is "more than twice as prevalent among unemployed as among the employed." From another source I learn that "the gross sickness and mortality rates of the poor of our large cities are as high today as they were for the nation as a whole 50 years ago."

Another fact to give some thought to is this: over 40 percent (1,338) of the counties in this country "do not contain a registered general hospital to serve their total of 17,000,000 people." According to data supplied by the Technical Committee on Medical Care:

"Preventive health services for the nation as a whole are grossly insufficient. Hospital and other institutional facilities are inadequate in many communities, especially in rural areas. . . . One third of the population, including persons with or without income, is receiving inadequate or no medical service. An even larger fraction of the population suffers from economic burdens created by illness."

The statement was made at the National Health Conference, in Washington, D.C., in July, 1933, that "there are counties in the United States where for a five-year period there were no maternal deaths; there are others where the maternal deathrate is more than 200 for each 10,000 children born."

In the face of such facts—and there are many more which I have at hand but can't quote for lack of space—it's plain that we have a great social duty to perform in meeting the needs of the sick poor. It can be done only through governmental agencies.

Have you ever commented on the favorite argument of Hitler and many of his followers that Fascism or Nazism was necessary in order to prevent the spread of Communism, especially in Germany?

I have written on this theme dozens of times, as my volumes of questions and answers show. One time I gave the actual election figures in the last free German election, and showed beyond dispute that the Communists polled only 15 percent of the total votes cast, thus proving that at the time Bolshevism was "threatening" to engulf the German Republic the official figures showed a Communist following that was still a small minority. This fact doesn't halt Fascists when they tear loose on the Communist line. One day they're saving the world from the Communists; the next day they're saving humanity from the Jews—both arguments being nothing more than red herrings.

A member of the Fascist Parlia-

ment, Signor Pavolini, is quoted in *The Living Age* to prove that it's Fascism that seeks to capture the world, not Communism. Here are his actual words:

"The true difference between Bolshevism and Fascism consists chiefly in this, that the Russian experiment does not make proselytes and does not extend beyond its frontiers. After more than 20 years, no other country has turned Bolshevik. Fascism, on the contrary, is becoming universal. Today, 150,000,000 men live in authoritarian and totalitarian states. The German Third Reich was a derivative of Fascism; and partially Fascist are Japan, Turkey, Portugal, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Poland and Greece."

With Fascists in high official positions talking like that, what does it make Hitler out when he keeps repeating that the purpose of Fascism is to stop Communism? As *The New Republic* says, Signor Pavolini has spilled the beans. Yes, the danger is Fascism, not Communism. We must never permit ourselves to be confused regarding the real issue facing civilization.

* * *

Editor, *The American Freeman*:

I have been reading your publications for many years and have discovered that you are the only radical writer who is not opposed to organized medicine. In fact, I was often impressed with your proper insight in replying to medical questions, and wondered how you had acquired that medical approach and response, which only doctors can have due to their medical training.

Most liberal or radical writers have opposed organized medicine. Many years ago, Frank Harris, in his *Pearson's Magazine*, fought in behalf of the now discredited Dr. Albert Abrams, of California. At the time he was fulminating against the American Medical Association for its selfish, conservative policies, many other writers were doing the same in less colorful language, but in no less uncertain terms. No doubt all radicals reading Harris agreed with him. Had I not been a physician, I might have agreed with him. But I knew better.

Remember that "organized medicine" is organized for scientific purposes. There is no economic organization whatever. Had there been such, I am confident that doctors would not be giving their services free in the clinics and hospital wards. Doctors must pay for everything they need in this capitalist system. They paid dearly in money and

hard study to obtain their medical degrees. How can they survive economically, if there are so many forces agitating against the private practice of medicine, in a system which is still capitalistic? If it is logical to socialize medicine because of the medical needs of the economically "underprivileged," (the new respectable but hypocritical word for the poor) isn't it more logical to socialize all industry, so that the people may first benefit economically?

New York City B. G. LIPTON, M.D.

(Editor's note: I'm afraid Dr. Lipton over-simplifies my position in the above letter. I have never supported the economic program of the A.M.A., because it has long been my position that socialized medicine is a reform seriously needed in this country, where the poor are deprived of adequate medical services. I accept medical science—and here I grant that the A.M.A. is the world's highest body devoted to medical science—but I oppose medical economics. I have, on several occasions, told my readers that I can't see eye to eye with Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, in his attacks on the plan to provide the poor with health insurance. Medical individualism is bad for the country, and the President is right in supporting the elements which seek to socialize this important branch of science. I have, in my previous articles, said that I never favored complete socialization of the profession of medicine. I suggested many times—and still hold to the view—that we have room in this country for individual medical practice and socialized medicine at one and the same time. Both methods can be used, with genuine benefit to the country, thus leaving the moneyed elements to employ the services of individual doctors of their choice and giving the poor the right to governmental facilities with a view to raising the nation's health standards. Dr. Fishbein's reactionary position is doing organized medicine untold harm. Its attempts to compel medical doctors to refuse their services to cooperatives are serious missteps that will take many years to retrace. I admire organized medicine for its intelligent exposures of quackery, for its research in medical science, and for its higher educational standards in our schools of medicine, but, let me repeat, I reject in toto its backward and unhumanitarian stand on medical economics. The Surgeon General of the U.S., Dr. Parran, states my case, as follows: "All the people, rich and poor, now demand a minimum health protection as a right." However, I'm glad to be able to say that Dr. Fishbein's medi-

cal economics aren't acceptable to the entire profession. The recent manifesto signed by 430 physicians, in which they endorsed the principle of socialized medicine, represents a position which I feel will, before long, be the accepted policy of the entire American Medical Association. I repeat their words: "The health of the people is a direct concern of the government.")

* * *

Do men and women commit suicide at about the same rate?

No. Men are more given to suicide, the rate being three male suicides to one female.

* * *

Is there anything to the saying that August is the "suicide month"?

No. May is the peak suicide month. There are more suicides in the Winter than Summer.

* * *

Where does the U.S. government store its silver?

In a vault—252 feet long, 166 feet wide and 22 feet high—at West Point, N.Y.

* * *

How much does the U.S. government's silver weigh in tons?

About 75,000 tons.

* * *

How much more of a load will the average steam locomotive of 1938 pull; how much did the engines of 50 years ago pull?

The 1938 steam locomotive can pull an average train load of 4,000 tons, as against 750 tons in 1888.

* * *

What percent of U.S. locomotives are electric?

2 percent.

* * *

What is the horsepower of the average locomotive in the U.S.?

Freight locomotives today have an average of 6,000 horsepower; in 1904 they had 1,036 horsepower. Passenger locomotives in 1938 have an average of 3,200 horsepower, as against 522 in 1895.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

I notice you have several times referred to Henry Ford's man, W. J. Cameron, as a sky-pilot.

Cameron has always been a newspaperman, I think. He was hired from The Detroit News, along with Pipp and Bradner, to run Ford's The Dearborn Independent. Pipp was an ex-managing editor of the News and Cameron was a staff writer. The News used him on special assignments. Once, I remember,

he was sent to Washington for a series of special articles which they later published in pamphlet form. After almost all these assignments Cameron would disappear for periods of a month or so, and when he turned up it would develop he had been on a "bat."

Detroit, Mich.

A. L. DAY

(Editor's Note: The fact that Ford's Man Friday wrote for newspapers and magazines doesn't alter the fact that (according to Who's Who) he started out as a clergyman, and followed that sacred, divine calling for some years before becoming a writer for newspapers and, later, editor of Ford's anti-Semitic Dearborn Independent, one of the most vicious, lying, dishonest magazines ever published. The Rev. Cameron never was at a loss to think up new canards about the targets of his race-baiting. The Rev. Cameron was the forerunner of The Rev. Winrod and the unspeakable Julius Str  icher. The Rev. Cameron and Ford sowed the poison that has done irreparable injury to an innocent, helpless minority.)

What's your opinion of swing music?

It reminds me of a collision between a truckload of empty milk cans and a car filled with ducks.

Have you ever published a book on the A B C's of lovemaking?

Yes, but it didn't go so well, because the customers were more interested in the X Y Z's.

How do you explain the heavy slump in movie attendance?

Too many bad pictures.

How fast does our hair grow?

On the average, about a half inch per month.

How many letters do we send by air mail yearly?

300,000,000.

How many persons do the airplane factories employ in the U.S.?

36,000.

How many airfields have we?

About 2,300.

Who puts up the money for the press?

Ken, September 22, 1938, quotes an unnamed Scripps-Howard expert, who reported that "an analysis of revenues of newspapers in the 100,000 circulation class, showed an average of 66.2 percent was advertising receipts, 29 percent circulation income,

5 percent from other sources." The average newspaper has a deep respect for the opinions and prejudices of the interests which shoot the most money into the front office.

Recently I came on the statement that Germany is a Dionysian nation, while France is Apollonian. What does this mean?

Michael Demiashkevich, in his book, "The National Mind," first voiced this opinion, by which he meant that the Germans are a nation governed by their emotions and intuitions instead of their reason. The French, on the other hand, are the opposite, being logical and rationalistic. He also said that the British are a blend of both. Just how correct our author with the big, unpronounceable name is I can't say. It's hard to characterize an entire people. However, there's no doubt his description of the Germans certainly is true when applied to head Nazis like Hitler, Goebbels and Goering. France, on the other hand, has plenty of mystics and fanatics, but French culture—its thinking, literature and philosophy—always has been opposed to irrationalism. It's outstanding leaders of thought and literature, for three centuries, have, in the main, been keen Rationalists. French culture and skepticism have been synonymous for numerous generations. If we were to judge Britain by its literature—and there's no doubt about its world superiority—we would have to conclude the English were a practical people, with their feet on solid ground and with a gusty appreciation for the world, people, the body, and food. They are immensely curious about life, which is a sign of superior intelligence, the foundation on which the scientific spirit builds. Add to this a great appreciation for nature and artistic beauty, especially in poetry. Shakespeare not only was as practical as a filling station operator, but he was as ecstatic as any young poet who suddenly found himself in bed with Venus come to life and anxious to do something about it. They are, in truth, a combination of roast beef and the fuzz off a fairy's wings—if I may indulge in my own notion of what constitutes a poetical outburst. That's the astonishing thing

about the British, as expressed in their culture—poets intoxicated with beauty and wedded to earthy, wind-breaking Falstaffs. They both do and dream. What a list—Chaucer, Shakespeare, Marlowe, Johnson, Pope, Dryden, Addison, Steele, Swift, Sterne, Gibbon, Hume, Locke, Mill, Macaulay, Keats, Byron, Shelley, Swinburne, Darwin, Huxley, Dickens, Thackeray, Hardy, Wilde, and the rest of the makers of that puzzling thing known as the English spirit. There's less of French culture, but what there is of it stands with the best produced in England or anywhere else. As for intellectual courage, give me the French. Their great leaders—from Rabelais, Montaigne, Moliere to Voltaire, Baron d'Holbach, Diderot, Hugo, Zola, France, and a half dozen others, were not only great figures in thought and literature, but fighters in the liberation war of mankind. French culture has been two-souled—emotional love of freedom and justice; witty, bright, sparkling master of Rationalism. But its emotionalism has always been tempered by reason. French culture always knew how to smile. "Jesus wept; Voltaire smiled," said Hugo, in one of his orations. When Hitler smiles, he looks asinine, as all humorless men look when they break into a vacant smirk. British and French culture have always smiled, because their geniuses have all been humorists—from Shakespeare to Shaw; from Moliere and Voltaire to Anatole France. Hitler, the humorless one, takes away Germany's butter and says he has something better to offer his vassals—cannon. No French or British leader could ever get away with bunk like that. Hitler destroys truth and brings in its place glory; he murders justice and conjures into life the slogans of conquest; he adulterates bread and tells his dupes to take as a better substitute the heroism of sacrifice; he burns books and offers himself to take the place of the cultures he could never understand and always hated; he strikes down a Heine and elevates a Julius Streicher; he enslaves thought and worships blood; he turns libraries into mausoleums. Hitler is the fanatical mystic brought to pass judgment on things of iron, concrete, bricks, books, pictures, mus-

ic, and thought. He has destroyed a civilization and idolized the vacuum that is his own mind. He is Al Capone turned out of Alcatraz and put into the White House. He would redeem the world by burning its treasures. The humorless one stoops to conquer. The tragic thing about being humorless is the fact that intelligent, witty, logical, rationalistic men and women know the uselessness of even discussing with him the things that should be in order to make life worth living. The hoodlum with blackjack in hand never argues; he demands. The mighty hoodlum of Germany is knocking at the doors of the world and demanding loot. The world daren't surrender, for that would mean suicide. The logic of France and the practicableness of the English will meet this great emotionalist and intuitionist where only one language is understood—force.

* * *

"I'm still not finished with Isaac Goldberg's 'Music for Everyman' but I keep encountering so many refreshing allusions to various things besides just music that it seems the man is alive and talking to me; it's hard to realize that he is actually dead. I'm amazed beyond words to hear that you never personally met him. That goes to show how uncivilized the world is; we actually haven't time, each laboring strenuously in his restricted field, to learn to know and appreciate each other as human beings."—Reader.

* * *

"When I saw that first autobiographical sketch of yours I had the same thought as Isaac Goldberg: you should do it in full. Now that I read that other one about your father and the rest of the family I am convinced that unless it is done, the world will have missed a moving contribution to its literary treasures. This last article is filled with homely pathos. And I am deeply gratified to realize that you, for one, got out of the 'time-wasting, boring, fatiguing tasks.' But as long as Capitalism lasts the ninety and nine of us will not, and can not."—C. A. L. Mo.

* * *

Editor, The American Freeman:

Since the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod's defeat I saw a circular letter from him to a Defender reader. In it he ascribes his defeat to the workings of the "Jewish plot." The Jews, he says, practically coerced Mr. William Allen White into doing their bidding. He doesn't name Mr. White, however, and refers to him only as "a certain publisher." Like-

wise, in one of his veiled allusions, he refers to you as "a publisher whom you would know instantly if I should name him." (I should hope we would.) The pastors who ganged up against him are "the Gentile front" through whom the Jewish plot is being worked out. They are the Jews' gullible tools! (Wonderful people, these Jews.) One of these preachers invited Sally Rand to speak in his church and in the talk which she made she defended "the Communist army in Spain which is slaying Catholic citizens." Strange, this solicitude of Winrod's over Catholics. But if Sally actually talked in defense of Loyalist Spain, I say good for her. Whatever else her fans may obscure, for me they will never hide the fact that she must be a civilized woman with several thousand times the social consciousness and genuine decency of any Winrod. But for the sin of permitting her to speak in his church all of the colleagues of this preacher are "now called by some people Sallyrandites." There was much more of this bilge but the gem comes when we are told that through all of this "unprecedented campaign of lying and character defamation" "we have not lost our Christian charitableness; we have not become bitter"! And, of course, the fight must be carried on, so one is urged to peddle the Defender, buy tracts, books, Bibles, etc.—ad infinitum (and ad nauseam).

Maplewood, Mo.

C. A. LANG

* * *

"The inquirer about toilet paper should be referred to Rabelais' delicate dissertation on the subject. I have, myself, used lots of things, from sticks and stones to corncocks and catalogues, but it was not until I had read about the patient researches of one of his heroes into the sensuo-exotic possibilities of the subject that I realized what a piker I had been."—Reader.

* * *

I see that the Western democracies—mainly England, France and the U.S.—are taking fair-sized bodies of refugees into their countries. Have you any data on whether such refugees, especially Jews are making good in their new environments?

In a lecture at Oxford, Sir John Simpson, asserting that England was making no sacrifice in giving asylum to refugees, especially Jews, showed that they already had provided Englishmen with 25,000 jobs. This means, he said, that more jobs have been created for Englishmen than the number of refugees admitted into the country, a condition which I feel safe in saying prevails in the other coun-

tries. The democracies will learn that when they accept German intellectuals, professionals, craftsmen, journeymen and businessmen they are gaining assets, not liabilities. They not only arrange to provide for their livings but they set about, with amazing aptitude, in establishing businesses of all kinds that distribute goods, hire workers, and in other ways make constructive contributions to our civilization. This is all in addition to the cultural contributions made by refugees from Germany who are experts in various fields of science, education, art, music, literature, the drama, and the like. The Jews, liberals, democrats, intellectuals and others who have been driven into exile by Hitler's barbarism will be better off in the end, though I must add that it's terrible to have to improve one's economic, political or cultural position by such direful experiences. I mean, in short, that since Hitler is hurrying his country into a terrible war, these refugees are out of the Nazi Hell and in free, decent countries. The tragic fact in the whole situation is that so many hundreds of thousands of persecuted people can't get out of Germany. It would be the best kind of luck for them, and a happy break for the decent countries, if they could get out before Hitler's policies of aggression bring Hell and chaos in Germany. Their sufferings are too terrible for words so long as they're compelled to remain in Hitler's crazy house.

* * *

"Thank you for your very nice tribute to my husband, Isaac Goldberg. . . . The New York Public Library is planning to have a permanent memorial of Isaac Goldberg's works and the director writes me that they have none of the small blue books. . . . I am tremendously gratified. It's a rare compliment, but I believe he deserves it."—Elsie Goldberg. (Editor's Note: I was glad of the chance to supply a complete set of Isaac Goldberg's titles among my publications to the N.Y. Public Library. This is the right time to gather in one collection all of the late Dr. Goldberg's books, pamphlets, reviews, articles, letters, and the like. Goldberg's writings are of permanent value. Readers who care to help the N.Y. Public Library make its Goldberg collection as complete as possible are urged to send their material to the director. A fine scholar

has slipped away, creating hardly a ripple. It saddens me to reflect on the meager rewards we pay our foremost scholars and intellectual benefactors. I write these lines only a few hours after finishing the routine of sending Goldberg's last book to press—at least the last book he did for me. It's entitled, "What We Laugh At—And Why," a delightful and valuable job. His last piece of writing for me was gay, rollicking and gusty. An appropriate farewell. He went away with a laugh. That's the way I want to remember my long-time contributor and cultural collaborator. The other day, while looking into my Goldberg file I came on a memo in Goldberg's familiar handwriting. It was the title of the next book he was to do for me, to be called "A History of Love." Over it was my large "OK," which meant I had written to Goldberg telling him to do the job. Under the proposed title Goldberg wrote the following explanation of what he hoped to cover in this never-written book: "The various conceptions—and kinds—of love through the ages, especially as mirrored in writings. In brief, the evolution of relationship between man and woman [with sidelights on man and man, woman and woman] done in a free, non-clinical style, with key excerpts from outstanding sources." It's too bad Goldberg didn't live long enough to write this book. Well, there's the idea, and maybe someone will pick it up. It's free. And if it's done well—as Goldberg most certainly would have done it—there'll be another worthy addition to the library of sound scholarship.)

* * *

How do the Nazis get the backs of their necks so devoid of hair?

I suppose they do it with sandpaper.

* * *

How does Mussolini explain the loss of his hair?

He insists it was an orderly withdrawal.

* * *

Please comment on Thomas E. Dewey.

Mr. Dewey, District Attorney of New York County, is an able young man who has made himself useful in smashing policy rackets, jailing procurers, and exposing political higher-ups who supply racketeers with the "fix." All these things are genuine public services, and this 36-year-old public servant deserves sincere praise for the energetic way he has gone about his difficult job. But, let's look beyond the surface. It's plain that the economic royalists in the Republican party see in Mr. Dewey the an-

swer to their prayer—a young crusader who can carry the party to victory over the "Bolshevists" who are running the New Deal. The way it looks from here, the capitalistic press and the Tories are building up this young lawyer in the hope he'll become Governor of New York and, in 1940, aim his lance at the "Communist" in the White House. That's the way their minds seem to be working. I look on this whole business as something inherently dangerous, for there isn't a shred of evidence to show that Mr. Dewey is anything more than a gifted, courageous cop. The fact that he has been able to put racketeers behind the bars doesn't mean he knows a thing about our great political, social, economic and industrial problems. For all I know, Mr. Dewey may be as conservative as the leaders of the Liberty League. He may be a rank reactionary in the industrial arena. We don't know a thing about his policies—if he has any—on questions of social security, health insurance, the labor movement, and the like. I don't mean to infer that just because Mr. Dewey is an excellent prosecutor it must follow that he'd make a bad statesman. My point is that we know next to nothing about his social views. The fact that the Tories are grooming him makes me more than suspicious. It's one thing to fight some mobs up in Harlem that are robbing the poor of their pennies and nickels in crooked number rackets. It's another thing to fight the system that robs the working class in mine, mill and factory. Just because a pleasant young man is a competent con it doesn't follow he ought to be Governor of our greatest State and perhaps President of the Nation. The Tories must know what they're up to or they wouldn't be pushing forward a young man whose only claim to public commendation is his genius for chasing racketeers.

* * *

Dear Mr. Haldeman-Julius:

Because you are one of the most representative Americans I can think of, I am presuming to invade your privacy long enough to ask your advice.

We are up against a peculiar problem with our new magazine Ken. Its only avowed policy is "to show the dangers that threaten this democracy from without and within." And we have repeated-

ly affirmed that it is equally opposed to dictatorships from both Left and Right.

But in the few months of its stormy existence to date it has been damned from every direction (unfairly and unthinkingly, I firmly believe) and called so many names that it would take up too much of your valuable time even to list them.

Please tell me honestly whether you think that such a magazine is in the public interest at the present time, and whether you think we're well advised in trying to follow, thus literally, Lincoln's dictum of "Tell the people the truth and this country is safe."

Of course, if I could quote you that would be a real break for us. But whether or not you're willing to be quoted, would you give me your frank and considered judgment? It would be a great help.

Arnold Gingrich, Editor, KEN

Dear Mr. Gingrich:

I'm glad to give you my notions about Ken, which you may quote as you see fit. I didn't like the first issue, because I thought you were all wrong in working up a scare about Communism (which isn't a going concern anywhere outside of Russia) and tying it into your attacks on Fascism. But, after reading almost every word of 13 issues, I'm ready to admit you've been doing a fine job, for most of your attacks have been on the brutalitarian Nazis (or Ratzis, as Winchell puts it so well), all of which you have balanced with support for democratic freedom and liberalism. You're doing excellent work, and I want to congratulate you.

But, under our capitalistic economy, a good editorial job isn't enough. If it were, progressive publications would look as fat and prosperous as *The Saturday Evening Post*. Ken has been fat editorially—rich in good articles—but its advertising support has been sliding down so fast it makes me dizzy watching the debacle. This is idiotic on the part of our advertisers for I happen to know that Ken is a good advertising medium. My page (in the first issue) paid out handsomely, so I'm sure no advertiser has ever lost a dollar on Ken space. But that doesn't mean the advertisers will crush one another trying to force their way into your pages. It happens—you know it as well as I do—that our big advertisers are all suffering from a violent and acute case of jitters. They are convinced that anyone who attacks Fascism and defends democracy must have some sort of secret tie-up with the Communists.

There's a remedy, if you'll apply it quickly. Throw out what little adver-

tising you're getting. Change the format right away, going in for a simple, dignified magazine about the size of *Coronet*, but omitting all cartoons, pictures, and arty stuff in general. Rest your case on plain type. You won't lose your audience. Then you will get enough from each reader—25¢—to pay the costs of the publication. Do this all in a hurry. The losses you save by abandoning Ken's expensive format will more than pay for the new magazine. You'll find, I'm sure, that at least 300,000 people will spend a quarter a head to read Ken's liberal pieces. The public will be delighted, and at the same time you'll be able to tell the advertisers to go where they belong. Never try to do business with a man who's suffering from the jitters, unless you have a license to practice medicine.

E. HALDEMAN-JULIUS

* * *

The statement has been made that Hitler aims to return the Sudeten Germans to Germany because they were torn from Germany at the close of the World War. Is this true?

The statement is false, like most of the things said by Hitler or his followers. The Sudeten Germans now living in Czechoslovakia were, in the 12th Century, a part of Bohemia. For centuries they lived on the most friendly terms with the Czechs. When the Austrian monarchy stole the lands of the Czechs and the Sudeten Germans, serious minority problems were created. Later Germany took territory belonging to the Bohemians and the Moravians, so the theft is on Germany's part, and not the Czechs. The Czechs have made their blunders, of course, but their treatment of the Sudeten Germans has been excellent. Students of the problem, when free of propagandistic influences, insist that the Sudeten Germans were the best treated minority in all Europe. Of course, Hitler's attack on Czechoslovakia is plain Fascist imperialism and not, as he says, an attempt to "protect" Germans outside the Reich. There are Germans in almost every section of the world, and if Hitler means business when he describes himself as their "leader" and "protector," an almost endless series of wars must result with governments everywhere. Exaggerated figures issued by the Association for Germanism Abroad, an institution organized by Hitler and supported by Nazi

money, claim there are 34,123,000 "Germans" outside Germany, over whom Hitler insists he has "jurisdiction." If, as the Nazi organization says, there are 12,000,000 Germans in the U.S., then Hitler, under appropriate circumstances, could insist that they be given "autonomy," which would mean—if Hitler were to hand us the medicine he is insisting the Czechs shall take—that the U.S. shall allow its "Germans" to organize into separate States, that they shall not be subject to our laws, that these "German" States shall have the right to formulate foreign policies without regard to the policies adopted by the U.S. government, that Hitler shall have the right to keep troops in these German States to "protect" them against the "brutalities" of our federal government, and so on. If what Hitler is fighting for in Czechoslovakia is right, then the whole world is his oyster. Let me quote the figures given out by the Nazi organization just mentioned, the Association for Germanism Abroad, showing where the "Germans" are throughout the world who are to be "led" and "protected" by Hitler.

EUROPE

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Danzig | 348,000 |
| Austria | 6,300,000 |
| Luxembourg | 250,000 |
| Liechtenstein | 10,000 |
| Switzerland | 2,900,000 |
| France | 1,634,000 |
| Belgium | 50,000 |
| Denmark | 77,000 |
| Baltic States | 248,000 |
| Poland | 1,245,000 |
| Russia | 1,185,000 |
| Czechoslovakia | 3,790,000 |
| Hungary | 385,000 |
| Roumania | 800,000 |
| Jugoslavia | 740,000 |
| Italy | 235,000 |

NON-EUROPEAN STATES

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Argentina | 200,000 |
| Brazil | 750,000 |
| Chile | 720,000 |
| Remaining Latin America | 28,000 |
| Africa | 78,000 |
| Australia | 100,000 |
| Canada | 50,000 |
| United States | 12,000,000 |

Needless to add, 6,300,000 of the above were forced into Hitlerland when Austria was annexed. This leaves 27,823,000 "Germans" still to be "rescued" from barbarism and the menace of democracy and freedom.

Since his appetite is limitless, Hitler, should he succeed in swallowing Czechoslovakia, would turn, one at a time, on the others. That's the idea, but the fly in the ointment is the disconcerting fact that the "corrupt" and "degenerate" democracies may prefer to resist Hitler's attempts to "rescue" the "Germans" who are a hundred times better off where they are.

* * *

"We were so sorry to read of Dr. Isaac Goldberg's death. We have lost a vigorous fighter for intellectual freedom."—Reader.

* * *

"It is interesting to learn that The Atlantic Monthly is a "racket" by admission of the publisher himself, Donald Snyder. According to The Nation, Sept. 3, 1938, a member of the staff received a 64-page magazine, 'The Atlantic Presents,' in an Atlantic Monthly envelope. This booklet attacks Mexico's policy, particularly as to oil. 'We telephoned Donald Snyder . . . he readily admitted that the supplement had been sold in bulk to "numerous trade associations." . . . At the conclusion of our conversation Mr. Snyder remarked amiably . . . 'Well, we have our racket and you have yours.'"—Reader.

* * *

What is the attitude of the Socialists of Czechoslovakia towards Hitler's policies with regard to their country?

The Czech Social Democrats (Socialists) are standing by their democratic government. Willie Wanka, secretary to the president of the German Social Democratic Party in Czechoslovakia, who is lecturing in this country as I write this piece, claimed in an interview printed in the September 3, 1938, *Socialist Call*, that the German Social Democrats in Czechoslovakia are also supporting the Czech government against Hitler's aggression. He said:

"Czech Social Democrats will support their government wholeheartedly in the event of Hitler's invasion of Czechoslovakia. For us it is a matter of life and death. Our organization, built through years of struggle, will be destroyed if Hitler conquers our country.

"Besides, for us individual Social Democrats, Nazi rule in Czechoslovakia means our death. That has already been promised to us by the Nazi adherents."

When asked what the Social

Democratic party offered as a solution of the Sudeten problem, Mr. Wanka answered:

"We are encouraging with all the power at our command the Social Democratic and other working class forces within and without Germany to aid us in ridding Czechoslovakia of Hitler's enormous pressure. Second, we urge the most generous concessions to the Sudeten Germans by the Czechoslovakian government. We believe that we can separate the active Henlein Nazis from the great mass of Sudeten Germans by such a policy.

"Remember, too, that the Sudeten Germans are victims of the most vicious sort of coercion and intimidation from the active Nazis. Terror and oppression are the means whereby the Nazis hold their mass following among the Sudeten Germans. Postpone war and the working class of Czechoslovakia will find ways to bring the Sudeten workers to their side.

"Yes, we believe in collective security. We believe in it because a demonstration of power by the democratic nations of the world will convince Hitler that he is doomed to certain defeat. He would be compelled to iron out his problems through conference instead of war."

The Czech Socialists are fighting for civilization when they support their government in its struggle against Fascist imperialism. They know that the triumph of Hitlerism will mean the death of everything they hold sacred.

* * *
Editor, The American Freeman:

Of course you have observed the praise and publicity heaped upon Father Flanagan for his work in organizing "Boys' Town" for vagrant boys. "Boys' Town" has even been made into a highly publicized film, boosted by the same element that has pulled every wire to keep the film "Blockade" from being exhibited—simultaneously shouting that they are the saviors of democracy, and detest dictatorship in all its forms.

I cannot help thinking of the very different reward given the Austrian Socialists for their splendid work for underprivileged children; the Socialists who instituted "one of the most modern and enlightened schemes of education in Europe. . . . Child psychology was enthusiastically studied, and the physical welfare of the children was carefully consulted. . . . Special classes were

formed for backward or deaf and dumb children. Every effort was made to train personality, and the children had a sense of freedom they had never known before." (Appeal to Reason Library, No. 5.) For their pains they were mowed down by machine guns.

READER

* * *

From a German source I learn that Hitler's real aim is "organized world peace." Please comment.

Whenever Hitler commits a new series of acts of aggression we are told, with sardonic humor, that Hitler's aims are to establish peace. We heard that before he marched into the Rhineland, in direct violation of treaty agreements. Three times he assured the world that he had no designs on Austria, but in the end the great lover of peace stole that helpless country, confiscated the property of its Jews, and continued steps in the direction of the only remaining republic in Central Europe, Czechoslovakia. Now he has that country's rich industries, farmlands, and natural resources, and at this writing there's no telling when he'll stop. Already his conquerors have announced that Czechoslovakia is not only to sacrifice territory but must also pay the costs of Hitler's aggression. Germany is actually to make Czechoslovakia indemnify Hitler for his conquest of valuable portions of the little State. The result can mean only one thing—deserted by its supposed friends (Russia was the only country ready to stand by its promises), its fortifications surrendered to the conquering host, its most valuable industries (outside of Skoda) stolen, it must, from now on, bow its head in shame and accept whatever terms the great Brutalitarian deems fit to impose. Czechoslovakia is now a slave of the Nazis. This is the true picture of Hitler's policies, not the tongue-in-cheek declarations of his pious desire to establish "organized world peace." If we are to understand Hitler's attitude towards peace and international harmony we should read his own frank words, in the original German edition of his "Mein Kampf," page 315, as follows:

"The pacifistic humane idea is perhaps (sic) quite good when the supreme man (der hochststehende Mensch) shall first have conquered

and subjugated the world to such an extent that it makes him the sole master of this earth. The idea will then lack the possibility of a damaging effect in precisely the degree in which its practical application will become rare and finally impossible. First, therefore, battle, and then pacifism."

There speaks the true Hitler. Pacifism will come when the "supreme man" (Hitler) rules the world. That won't be true pacifism but world enslavement. Hitler, unhampered by the cowardly democracies in the West, finds the road open to the South and East. Already the other countries in Central Europe are crowding one another in a rush to fit into the Nazi scheme for the domination of their economic resources. Yugo-Slavia, Rumania, and Bulgaria, like Czechoslovakia, will have to take orders from Germany as to what they are to produce and what disposition is to be made of their output. Germany will take needed raw materials like oil, iron, timber, wool, and the like, and, true to the barter system (which will be operated only in harmony with Nazi ideas of what constitutes a fair trade) the smaller nations will turn over valuable stocks for cuckoo clocks, mouth organs and whatever the Germans think they should have—all figured at prices intended to keep them one step from bankruptcy. Czechoslovakia's enslavement means the ultimate capitulation of Central Europe. To the Southeast stands the Soviet Union, with its beckoning wheatlands of the Ukraine, a territory which Hitler said openly must in time come under the swastika. Russia knows what is ahead and is preparing on its own to meet this tremendous menace, knowing full well that France now is a third rate power, after its ignoble treachery to Czechoslovakia and its abdication as the power that was to stop Hitler. France and Britain obtained a "peace" that is only a lull before a greater war is prepared for Europe by Hitler. Russia, knowing that anything promised by France and Britain can't be depended on, is now compelled to accept isolationism. The four men who met in a room in Munich decided that when they refused to invite Russia to the conference and refused even to permit Czechoslovakia to attend the verbal

exchanges that ended in her dismemberment. The statesmen of France and Britain will rue the day they decided to put Russia adrift on its own. I doubt that the Soviet Union will forget this gigantic betrayal for years to come. And Russia will be right in letting the western powers stew in their own juice while it goes ahead and prepares for the great test of arms Hitler is planning for the not remote future.

France and Britain stand alone now, each knowing that the other's support in case of new Hitler aggressions will be of a most dubious nature. Before long Hitler will be able to make demands on France, and France will have to come to terms, for Britain will treat France with the same villainy that it accorded the Czechs. Honor means nothing. Once France is disposed of—which can even happen without a struggle—Britain will stand alone, facing the mighty German war machine, especially its air force. If Hitler were to threaten an air attack with something like 10,000 planes, all concentrating on one country—England—it's even conceivable that, within the next few years, Hitler could thunder to the muddled English statesmen that they must surrender or take the consequences. Fantastic? Not the least bit. It's within the realm of the possible that Hitler can, in the near future, drive the center of the British Empire away from Europe, and when that happens there'll be no more British Empire. Chamberlain's surrender to Hitler in Munich can, within a matter of only a few years, result in the death of the Empire.

One naturally asks, in the face of such possibilities, what's happened to the British. The answer, it seems to me, isn't hard to find. Great Britain's foreign policy is being controlled by the famous Cliveden set, which takes its name from the fact that England's most powerful Tories meet each weekend at the Astor estate (that's named Cliveden) on the Thames. It was at meetings at Cliveden that Ribbentrop, then the Nazi ambassador to Britain, was given clear and undebatable proofs that England would never really fight if Hitler were to resort to one act of aggression after another. The leadership of

the Cliveden set consists of the British side of the Astor family, including the American-born Nancy Astor, and the Lord and Major who work together to keep the British lion caged while Hitler goes storming through Europe. This set owns two important English newspapers—*The Times of London*, and *The Observer*, both strongly pro-German and committed time after time to permitting Hitler to go ahead unmolested so long as he is headed in the direction of Russia, a country which the British Tories would be glad to see despoiled. They hate Communism so much that they are willing to see a Fascist dictator grow to immense power if that expansion will mean the end of the world's first proletarian State. The Cliveden set knows that a war on Hitler would mean the end of their vast country estates, the depletion of their treasures, and the possibility of their loss of political and economic influence over the Empire. Better, say they, to have Hitler go ahead and win what he can, if that series of aggressions can be made to mean that the great British Tories will be able to rule for years to come.

The Cliveden set will learn in time that Hitler is no respecter of persons. He hates Russia, of course, but there's nothing to show that he'll be satisfied with the dismemberment of that great country. That would mean only the possession of new economic resources that will make an attack on the West a better-than-even gamble. And Hitler has always been a gambler. If he plays his cards right, he can, in the end, cause the collapse of the British Empire. That's the price the British may pay for their sacrifice of Czechoslovakia. The peace that Chamberlain brought home with him from Munich was a fake peace, and the informed people of the world know that simple fact. War may be postponed for months to come—perhaps to next Spring—but the war now being prepared by Hitler is bound to come. The Cliveden set had its choice—democracy versus Fascism—and it preferred the latter, because by its capitulation to the dictator it was able to save its own hide for a few months or years. The members of the Cliveden set go to bed each night with thoughts of their continued

eign, wondering how many more days it'll last. The days are numbered. The British Empire is living on borrowed time, so long as its policies are dictated by the Chamberlains who buy peace through new concessions to the Fascists.

If Britain and France (with Russia squarely behind them) had stood up to Hitler in September, 1938, the Nazis wouldn't have been able to establish themselves along the new and powerful lines they've taken. The democracies, fearing for the loss of capitalism's dividends, sacrificed democracy in order to keep their economic advantages in their trembling hands. The world's greatest gangster will make them pay for their blind stupidity. They will pay with their colonies and their navy, if Hitler can continue his march from victory to victory as he's been doing during the past few years. The British Empire has been shaken to its foundations.

* * *

How do you think Britain will go about satisfying Hitler's demand for colonies?

A Civil War humorist, to prove his patriotism and love for the North, declared he was so anxious to preserve the Union that he stood ready to sacrifice all his wife's relatives. Chamberlain, determined to follow a policy of appeasement, sacrificed Czechoslovakia, and now, faced with the question of colonies, can be depended on to serve Hitler with glorious unselfishness by giving him his pick of the colonies belonging to The Netherlands, Belgium and Portugal. I'm not given to predictions, but in this case I ask my readers to cut out this piece and paste it in their hats for future reference.

* * *

Readers of *The Freeman* would enjoy your comment on the appeals for prayer when the Fascist threat of war was at its peak.

The evidence shows that God is a Fascist. Prayers at the height of the crisis, late in September, were poured forth from the Vatican and Westminster Abbey to Mayor LaGuardia's bailiwick and Wenatchee, Wash. Roosevelt called for prayers. LaGuardia urged his people to spend five minutes telling God what He should do about the four men in a room in Munich. Pope Pius XI, from Castel Gandolfo, told his scores of

millions of children to have recourse to the "invincible power of prayer." God listened and decided to give Hitler the Nazi salute. His decision was clear. Hitler was to get what he wanted in Czechoslovakia without having to resort to war, which is my notion of doing the Fascists a right nice turn. This means that Chamberlain, Deladier, Mussolini and Hitler were God's precious pawns. They did a good job of dismembering a democratic country. The Czechs are through—with God's powerful help. All this should convince the most skeptical that the Fascists are not only building up the most powerful war machines in the world but are lining up God Himself as a member of their propaganda department. God ought to be worth 10 divisions in any man's war. But, seriously, the spectacle of hundreds of millions of people praying to some supernatural bigwig to get them out of man-made jams is evidence of immature intellectual development. When men and women rest their cases on mysticism and supernaturalism they are sure to neglect the worldly, material avenues for social and governmental progress. Economics and political economy are sciences, not systems of religious ideology. Problems of our social life will have to be approached in the mood of the scientist, not the theologian. The industrial and business maladjustments of our day, the evils of poverty and militarism, the horrors of preventable disease and unemployment—all these are material for realists, not spooky, gooeey, moony, otherworldly, superstitious, mind-shackled men of God. Fascism has its feet on the ground, marching from one aggression to another. Democracy won't defeat Fascism by taking excursions into the clouds.

Let me close with some more comments on the use of prayer at times of international tension. Thanks to one of my readers, Dean Mumy, Kansas, I am able to quote a few telling sentences from Judge Rutherford, who, in his October 2, 1938, broadcast, said:

"In the present European crisis the Pope prays for peace. It is interesting to note that in the Ethiopian affair he did not pray for peace, and that with regard to the Spanish conflict he does not pray for peace. But now he prays for peace—so that

Hitler will not be disturbed in his business of stealing Czechoslovakia." That's getting him told.

* * *

I am sending you a copy of a resolution passed by the American Legion at its convention in Los Angeles. You will see that it deals with Harry Bridges. Please comment.

The resolution demands "the trial AND deportation of Harry Bridges," famous labor leader on the Pacific Coast. Bridges is an Australian who has lived in this country many years, becoming in time a potent leader of thousands of workers. Because of his numerous successes, the employers are using every means at their command to get Bridges kicked out of the country. The main charge against him is that he's supposed to be a Communist, a label which Bridges rejects *in toto*. What's surprising about the resolution is that it demands the "trial AND deportation" of Bridges. That's an indication of how the Legion veers in the direction of Fascism or political tyranny whenever serious class issues arise. The Legion goes on the theory that Bridges is guilty before there's even a trial. That's un-American doctrine, if ever there was one. We have developed the enlightened policy of assuming a person innocent until proven guilty. The Legion assumes Bridges' guilt in advance and asks that he be "tried" merely as a part of the unionist's deportation. True believers in Americanism would never ask for the "trial AND deportation" of a man. If there are any charges to be made against Bridges, he should be tried, but no American organization has the right to demand his conviction in advance. The Americanization Committee of the American Legion has some work to do right at home—on its own members.

* * *

One reads, now and then, that the Italians are still fighting the Ethiopians. Is there any truth in this?

The reports are founded on facts, for the war in Ethiopia isn't over, by any means. The fighters of the only independent Negro nation in the world made a serious mistake when they adopted the foolhardy tactic of meeting the highly mechanized Fascist forces in a head-on clash. With their inferior equipment they

couldn't do anything but lose. They suffered grave losses and let Mussolini's men take their capital, but Ethiopia is an immense country with most of it still untouched by the Fascists. We hear little about the Ethiopian war because Mussolini controls the press communications. It's to his interest to keep the war secret, but reports that come out despite Mussolini's censorship agree that Ethiopia is still at war and that Italian fortified garrisons are being harassed by guerilla fighters, a form of fighting that's easy to carry on in this land of steep mountains and bottomless valleys. J. F. Renaud, a Paris journalist, writes of the fighting in Ethiopia, as follows:

Their method is simple and sure: in small bands of 50 men they slip into the Italian-controlled zones where they destroy the harvests and carry off the cattle. These are clever tactics when one realizes that, according to the plans of the Fascist authorities, the occupation army was supposed to live on the land. This year (1938) because of the activities of the rebels the harvests of staple grains like millet, durrah and sorghum amounted to only 30 percent of their normal output.

The fate of the regulars and the Black Shirts in the fortified garrisons is far from enviable. At some points the situation has become so serious that airplanes from Mas-sawa—the road from Addis Ababa having been cut off—had to bring flour to the troops—thereby causing a fantastic rise in the price of bread.

* * *

Please tell me if Germany is larger today, in population and territory, than it was in 1914 and after the close of the World War?

In 1914, Germany had a population of 67,800,000 and an area of 208,830 square miles. After the Versailles Treaty, Germany had 59,800,000 population and 186,627 square miles. In September, 1938, Germany had 75,000,000 population and 214,068 square miles.

* * *

Don't you agree that California has stolen from Kansas the right to be called the country's most screwy State?

I'm afraid California has the honor nailed down, especially with its \$30-every-Thursday scheme. But I

have a political program—which I picked up from a cartoonist called Malman—which I guarantee will bring Kansas back to its old glory. I'm getting ready to start a society to print \$66 bills, which will be sold to the public every Thursday morning for \$66. The purchaser then turns the bill upside down and tries to buy \$99 worth of groceries. How's that for socking the depression and providing purchasing power?

* * *

I have seen a press report about Spain that leaves me puzzled. It's to the effect that Loyalists have appealed direct to the Pope for authorization to reopen Catholic churches. What does this mean?

You have brought up a paradoxical situation, one that is understood by a surprisingly small number of people. It sounds screwy, but it's a fact nevertheless, that Barcelona has been trying to get its Catholic churches open for months, with little success. The correspondent for *The Chicago Tribune*, Edmond Taylor, writing from Paris, reported, on August 28, 1938, that "the Spanish government was ready to authorize the opening of the church of San Severo in Barcelona, but when the Basque and Catalan Catholics in Barcelona applied to the vicar general for the necessary ecclesiastical authorization, their plea was rejected." The same report says that these Catholics "have since appealed directly to the Pope." In other words, "the Catholic hierarchy is the main obstacle to the reopening of its churches in Loyalist Spain." The explanation is simple, indeed. The reason is because the hierarchy throughout the world wants to be able to continue its disgustingly dishonest propaganda against democratic Spain. If they were to permit their churches to be reopened in Loyalist Spain their main argument in support of the Fascist position would be exploded. Ever since the beginning of the rebellion ordinary priests celebrated mass in private homes and at the front, with the full permission of the Barcelona authorities. Protestant churches have been running without interference.

* * *

You write frequently about our superficial press and how it avoids getting down to grips with important questions.

Isn't it impossible for a popular press to be anything but superficial? How could it be profound and popular at one and the same time?

Our press, with its emphasis on divorces, Hollywood scandals, murders, and sensationalism in general, is popular, to be sure, but it doesn't follow that the masses wouldn't be interested in an intelligent, dignified press if given half a chance. In my own experience as a publisher I've found it possible to talk to the man in the street about science, history, philosophy, Rationalism, and the like, without resorting to gutter journalism. It's my idea—and many competent judges of American journalism support me—that our newspapers talk down to the masses because they prefer to keep the public mind in an inferior category, the main reason being the fact that a doped public won't be given to serious consideration of gerat social, economic and political issues.

Let's take a look at the press in the Soviet Union, which our sensational, yellow rags like to describe as being not a whit superior to the regimented press of Nazi Germany. Instead of taking my word for it, let's listen to Dr. Dean Burk, of Washington, D.C., who attended the Physiological Congress in the Soviet Union, in 1935. Writing in *The Scientific Monthly*, September, 1938, Dr. Burk tells us that it was during this visit that "I first became aware of how general has become the replacement of a belief in God by a belief in man and science." He continues with the following revealing sentences:

"Through the newspapers, which devoted more than half of their space to reporting this huge international gathering, all the big names and events of the congress were made known to the man and woman in the street. For a time, it was surprising to find that many people in walks of life far removed from the scientific were familiar with the leading Soviet scientists, and, in instances, with details of their particular accomplishments.

"When the congress as a whole traveled out from Leningrad to Peterhof twenty miles away, in a procession of four hundred automobiles, the entire route was lined with people waving handkerchiefs, and at one point soldiers threw their

caps into the air. On another excursion made by a smaller party to the large recreation park in Moscow, a similar spontaneous reception was afforded at the gate by a cheering crowd, which, of its own accord, in a spirit of self-government often encountered, formed a gangway to let the visitors enter. Inside the park, an open-air theater audience of twenty thousand spectators rose to its feet to greet the congress members as they filed in to their seats. This friendly, albeit embarrassing, demonstration of feeling to the foreign scientists by the general populace reflects, in some measure, the nature and extent of the popularity of science in Russia today."

This certainly gives the lie to those cynics who insist that the world of the learned can be of interest only to a select few. We see what happens when the truths of science are made available to the general public. Our editors will learn this simple lesson and change their tactics to fit this discovery when they free themselves from the chains of the reactionaries who feel more secure when they sit astride a befuddled, mentally-dead populace.

At this point it might be asked if science in the Soviet Union is worthy of the respect of advanced, free scientists. The answer comes from a conservative scientist. Dr. Karl T. Compton, president, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, one of the greatest scientific organizations in the world. After investigating scientific research in the Soviet Union, Dr. Compton wrote that "the Academy of Sciences of Moscow has been called upon to aid the government in organizing the great system of research institutes recently created throughout the country and now in progress of doing some of the finest and most progressive scientific work to be found anywhere in the world." That, I insist, is praise from a source that counts.

Another point suggests itself. Dr. Compton's praise is general. What specific activity can one refer to in order to show that these Russian scientists are doing work that commands the respect of the scientific workers of the Western democracies. Here I quote again from Dr. Burk, who says he learned, during the Physiological Congress, "that, where-

as before the revolution not more than a score of people in the whole of Russia could have taken part in such a congress, 150 of the 500 papers of the congress had been given by Russians, in widely different fields, and, incidentally, in the languages of the visiting foreigners."

The moral is simple. Science in the Soviet Union is of a high order of efficiency, and at the same time the common people in Russia are deeply interested in what the scientists are doing. Why? Because the Soviet Union is blessed with a press that isn't afraid to throw stories about divorce and crime in the waste-basket and give its valuable space to the important, world-shaking activities of men of science.

I live in a neighborhood that's somewhat prissy and given to judging one another by their makes of car, where they buy their goods, and the like. Is it wise to rebel against such a mania for "keeping up with the Joneses"?

It's foolish, and snobbish. Don't hesitate to buy a Ford V-8, if such a car will suit your needs, regardless of the fact that your neighbors go in for swanky Buicks or lower middle class Pontiacs. Just try to be simple and open about your material possessions. Don't use them as a means of impressing people. That's a sign of vulgarity. Middle class people are given to such idiotic ways of "impressing" one another. If they had a genuine sense of humor they'd laugh themselves out of their small-time snobbery. I'm reminded of Walter Winchell's description of the Broadwayites he meets every day: "They spend money they haven't earned to buy things they don't need to impress people they don't like." That's well said, and it describes millions of people who never saw Broadway. Don't try to "keep up with the Joneses," especially if the Joneses happen to be dull, tiring, unimaginative, prosaic clucks.

Is astrology a science?

No. The assumptions of astrology aren't subject to verification, demonstration, or any other scientific method of testing any proposition. A science must always rest on proofs, experiments, tests, and the like. Astrology rests on guesses, wishful

thinking, hunches, faith, superstition and baseless, invalid assumptions. Astrology is bunk.

What do scientists think about astrology?

There isn't a real scientist in the world who accepts astrology. There isn't an institution of higher education that recognizes astrology. Scientists have nothing but scorn for the charlatans who claim to be able to tell about your past, present and future through "reading" the heavens. Professor Frank Schlessinger, director, Yale University Observatory, says this about the exploiters of astrological bunk:

"I knew to the fraction of a second the time when my son uttered his first cry. I gave an astrologer all necessary corrections for various kinds of time at New York and elsewhere, including Peiping. Naturally, at a given hour there would be much difference in the position of the planets according to where you were born. The astrologer became less interested in doing my son's horoscope and not a single thing he told me about my son's succeeding life was true. I am convinced that astrologers are consciously charlatans."

Astrology is looked on as a fake by all reputable scientists. Dr. Albert E. Wiggam, in his book, "The Marks of a Clear Mind," has some fun with the fakers who call themselves astrologers, as follows:

"Clearly indicative of the utter absurdity of this fake science of the stars is the fact that the planets Uranus and Neptune weren't discovered till long after so-called astrologers had neatly charted the part all the stars had to do with human beings. When the two planets turned up they had to be fitted into the scheme somehow. Now Uranus governs the railroads, and Neptune has control of aviation! What were Uranus and Neptune doing all these thousands of years till now? Just waiting for the locomotive and the aeroplane to be invented?"

I don't know how many millions of dollars the astrologers get from the American suckers. One observer, John Mulholland, for many years an assistant of Harry Houdini, the great magician, claims they get at least \$125,000,000 per year in the U.S.

alone. That's a big price to pay for bunk. How long can this racket last? As long as there are boobies who are ready to pay out good money to the shrewd quacks who bamboozle them.

* * *

Is there any truth in the old saying, "the straw that broke the camel's back"?

It's an effective expression when made to refer figuratively to humans, but no camel ever suffered a broken back because he was loaded with a straw beyond his normal capacity. Camel-drivers say no camel will rise from the ground if his load is too heavy.

* * *

Is any part of Florida in the tropics?

No. The southernmost point of Florida is more than a hundred miles North of the Tropic of Cancer.

* * *

Which weighs more—the U.S. government's gold or silver hoard?

On August 29, 1938, the U.S. government owned 2,415,200,000 ounces of silver, as against more than 870,000,000 ounces of gold.

* * *

Why do we speak of the "naked Truth"?

It probably comes from the old fable that tells how Truth and Falsehood went bathing together. Falsehood came first out of the water, and dressed herself in Truth's garments. Truth, unwilling to take those of Falsehood, went naked.

* * *

What does a human being's skin weigh? If laid out flat how much area would it cover?

The skin weighs about six pounds and covers about six square feet.

* * *

Did Hannibal, in crossing the Alps, split the rocks with vinegar?

That's a busted myth. Science showed long ago that the trick couldn't be done with vinegar.

* * *

Were the Damascus swords made of such wonderfully fine steel that they could cut through iron?

There's no truth to that hoary myth. The famous Damascus blades weren't as good as the best steel made today.

* * *

What is meant by "the democratic potato"?

This is because of the vegetable's first acceptance by the poor masses. The rich looked down on the potato as

something ignoble. It took a long time before the rich and the aristocrats would accept the potato. On the other hand, the pineapple has been called "the aristocratic fruit," because it was first accepted by kings and aristocrats, the poor being unable to afford it because of its expense. The canning industry has succeeded in democratizing the pineapple, but the poor masses still look on it as something of a luxury, preferring the cheap, filling, nutritious potato.

* * *

Did Cleopatra dissolve pearls in wine?

No. Experiments have shown that wine can't dissolve pearls. That's just another piece of bunk.

* * *

Did Diogenes live in a tub?

More bunk. All this yarn is based on is the statement, made long after Diogenes died, that "a man so crabbed ought to have lived in a tub, like a dog." The myth got its start from that slight foundation.

* * *

Did ancient Babylon really have Hanging Gardens?

No. That's historical nonsense. Babylon didn't have "hanging gardens." The myth is based on the mere fact that Babylon had some terraces.

* * *

Are there maelstroms in parts of the oceans where ships are sucked down into the depths?

No. Some imaginative writer of sea yarns must have seen an eddy and turned it into a maelstrom capable of sucking in whole ships. How the world loves its bunk.

* * *

How many new milk bottles does the dairy industry buy annually in the U.S.?

About 350,000,000, according to the Milk Industry Foundation.

* * *

How many bottles of milk do the milkmen leave daily in this country?

About 30,000,000 bottles of milk are delivered daily.

* * *

Every week I am compelled to contribute 1 percent of my wages to the government. I need that money for my family's food and my children's education. It isn't right.

You have no reason to complain. Your employer pays an equal amount. This money doesn't go "to the government" but to pay you the benefits of social security when you reach old

age. It's a good investment. You ought to live in Nazi Germany for a while and find out what taxes really mean to a workingman. You'd stop complaining about your "terrible" lot in the U.S. A workingman in Hitlerland has to pay about one-sixth of his wages for taxes. Just try to remember that little fact. Here's a translation of a report card of a workingman in a German furniture factory:

Week of July 18 to 23, 1938.

Salary 60 marks and 75 pfennigs.

Tax deductions:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Income tax | 1.98 |
| Church tax | .14 |
| Citizens tax | 1.16 |
| Government sickness insurance ... | 4.57 |
| Old-age pension | 1.20 |
| Nazi union | .95 |
| Excursion dues | .20 |
| Company sickness insurance | .30 |

Total tax

Salary paid

Now let's take a look at what a skilled workingman can buy for an hour's labor in Germany and what the same kind of worker can get for his hour's labor in the U.S. Alice McKaughan Olen, who made a first-hand survey of conditions among German and American workers, reports:

"Let us consider what a skilled laborer can buy with his wages. With eggs at 14 pfennigs each he can buy five eggs with one hour's pay. With butter or meat at 1 mark and 60 pfennigs a pound he must work two hours for a pound of either of these. (The German pound has 1.5 more ounces than the English pound.) One hour's work would buy three quarts of creamless milk. Or in other words, the American skilled laborer can buy from one hour's work one dozen eggs, one pound of meat and two quarts grade A milk, while the equally skilled German workman will bring home one egg, one-fourth pound of meat, and one quart of skimmed milk. Potatoes are the foundation food. Meat can be served only two or three times a week."

In the face of these facts, American workers should be thankful they aren't living under a brutalitarian regime under the heel of a Ratz. Conditions in the U.S. aren't perfect, by any means—there's plenty of room for improvement—but bear in mind

that in this democratic country you have the freedom to organize into unions in order to improve your economic condition. In Germany free unions are outlawed and those who speak in favor of them are treated by traitors.

* * *

What is our per capita consumption of milk?

We consume 153 quarts per year per person. We come second in per capita consumption of milk. Switzerland is first.

* * *

I've just come across Thackeray's statement that Macaulay would read 20 books in order to get material to write a single sentence. Do you believe it?

I do not. Macaulay was a hard-working historian, but I don't swallow Thackeray's wild statement. Nor do I accept the equally ridiculous claim that Prescott, in doing his "Conquest of Peru," would memorize entire chapters before doing a lick of writing. One author even went so far as to insist that Prescott "kept about 60 pages in his memory for several days, and went over the whole mass five or six times, molding and remolding the sentences at each successive return." That's bunk. I always advise my readers to be skeptical of anything that doesn't sound reasonable, even if it's said by a writer with a big name.

* * *

Is there any chance for the writer of books to get a hearing? I mean, of course, authors who have something to say and who don't worship at the altars of the conservatives.

Writers of good books—no matter how radical—have little to complain about in countries where democratic institutions are supported. Newspapers and magazines usually are anxious to cater to the reactionary or conservative slant—there are exceptions, of course—but book publishers, in the main, aren't afraid of ideas, even radical ones. There are old-fogy publishers who shudder at the sight of a single original, unconventional idea, but they can be dismissed with a laugh, for they really don't count for much. Five Socialist authors come to mind at this moment—Maxim Gorky, H. G. Wells, Bernard Shaw (long before he began to flirt with the idea of dictatorship), Jack Lon-

don, and Upton Sinclair. They never had much reason to complain. Gorky, long before his death, commanded an international audience. Wells and Shaw not only get publishers easily but actually make lots of money in the bargain. Jack London had his troubles getting started, as did Upton Sinclair, but when he arrived he went over with a bang, incidentally receiving more than \$1,000,000 in his lifetime from publishers. Upton Sinclair has just issued a bibliography of his books, and the copy he sent me shows 772 titles in 47 languages, in 39 countries. That isn't at all bad for a Socialist author, though I'm sure he never made a great deal of money any particular year, outside of the months his American edition of "The Jungle" was a best seller. Sinclair has had books published in languages most of us never even heard about—such as Tamil, Gujurati, Marathi, Urdu, Telegu and Cyrillian, languages, by the way, which I could use fluently when I was young and handsome but which I've forgotten as the clouds and frosts of age settled on my head. It's interesting to see what happened to Sinclair's works in brutalitarian countries like Italy and Germany. They were suppressed; after many of his translations had sold well in the days of the German Republic. Many of Sinclair's books were included in the volumes that were thrown to the flames by the Nazi book-burners. Of all foreign countries, the Soviet Union has been kindest to Upton Sinclair, where he has been a best seller for many years, the total sales reaching into the millions. Young writers who intend to turn to books have little to worry about—if they can write good books.

* * *

Who named Alaska? And what does the word mean?

Alaska was named by the Eskimos and means "Great Country." Readers who are interested in this wonderful, and fascinating, territory, are advised to read ex-Governor Wm. A. Sulzer's booklet, "Facts You Should Know About Alaska," a work crowded with valuable data about the land's economic, industrial, social and natural life. The main part of this brochure is the report of a speech on Alaska which Mr. Sulzer delivered at a meet-

ing of "Sourdoughs." We will be glad to supply a free copy to any reader who either subscribes for this paper or renews his subscription, at the usual rate of a dollar per year. A dime should be added for packing, handling and carriage. Americans have long been attracted by Alaska, but, strange to say, a surprisingly small amount of literature has been issued dealing with the vast territory.

* * *

I want a short definition of Einstein's Relativity.

Prof. Einstein gets many requests for such a definition. In order to save himself long arguments and explorations into astronomical mathematics, he worked out the following, which he instructed his secretary to send to all inquirers:

"When you sit with a nice girl for two hours, it seems like two minutes; but when you sit on a hot stove for two minutes, it seems like two hours."

* * *

Have you any figures on solitaire?

The only figures I have were compiled by Charles H. Conklin, of Decatur, Ill., who reports he has kept a chart of 200,000 games of Canfield solitaire, played during 40 years. Conklin has played an average of slightly less than 14 games per day. He got out 1,629,257 cards in his 200,000 games, which is slightly more than eight per game. Once he played 1,107 games before winning, the greatest number between wins. His record also shows that only once in 40 years did he win twice in succession, and he "never played 10 consecutive games in which he got out 10 cards or more for each game." Conklin claims he could beat the game an average of once in every 185 games. "Two times out of the 200,000," Conklin says, "I got out an entire suit of 13 cards without having any card in the other three suits."

* * *

How would one explain Evolution or Atheism to a child or youth? Do you have any children?

I don't think the average person can sit down and "explain" Evolution or Freethought to a child. I think the best plan is to let the children have access to good literature on the subjects, beginning with Thomas Paine's "Age of Reason," followed by

Ingersoll's lectures, after which books by Joseph McCabe, Bertrand Russell, Wm. J. Fielding, Maynard Shipley, Joseph Lewis, and other Rationalists, will help lead intelligent, groping minds to intellectual emancipation. In my own case—I have a son and a daughter—I don't recall ever having tried to win them over to Free-thought. I put good literature within reach, and the effects have been satisfactory. Today—Alice, at 21, has graduated from the University of Kansas, and Henry, at 19, is a sophomore in the same institution—are thoroughly debunked. They did it on their own, which is the most effective way of freeing young people from the chains of supernaturalism.

* * *

What do you think of Nudism? Why don't you visit a camp, or have you?

I've discussed Nudism several times, as my volumes of questions and answers show. While I've never practiced Nudism, I have nothing but respect for the Nudists I've met. From the beginning they impressed me as intelligent, liberal, progressive people. I've never visited a camp, perhaps because I've never had the chance.

* * *

I have been advised to buy an Apco Gas Saver for my Ford V-8, which is supposed to keep down transportation costs. Is it a good buy?

I advise against all gadgets which are supposed to save gasoline. These gadgets are connected with the manifold and, presto, the consumption of gas goes down. It's a lot of bunk. The market is flooded with these worthless devices. Many old ones continue to be brought out under new names. Don't waste money on them. The advertising claims can't be substantiated.

* * *

What's your opinion of the numerous gasoline dopes now on the market?

They're useless. There's no "dope" that can make gasoline produce greater power. Some of the preparations are nothing more than mothballs, which are intended to fool the motor car owners. Just stick to the standard gas which is sold at your favorite filling station. When some smart salesman tries to offer you gasoline pep pills or dope, tell him you're not interested in his trash. These mix-

tures are expensive and absolutely of no value. Don't be fooled by the high-sounding names they take on—Radimite, Inajiffy, Gascarets, Motor-ginger, Lesgo, Gastonic, and the like.

* * *

Did Thomas Jefferson refuse, while President of the U.S., to proclaim thanksgivings?

He did. President Jefferson wrote to the Attorney General (in 1802) to express his fervent "condemnation of the alliance between church and state." He hated and feared the idea of such an alliance. So strong were his convictions that he actually expressed open alarm over the possibility of a Church-and-State alliance, adding the sensational words that he would refuse even to "proclaim fastings and thanksgivings, as my predecessors did." My authority for this quotation is Jefferson's writings, which were issued in a set of 20 volumes in 1903 by the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Association, Washington, D.C. The above expressions will be found in vol. 10, page 305. Gilbert Clinard, Jefferson's biographer, wrote (page 390 of his book, "Thomas Jefferson: the Apostle of Americanism,") that Jefferson "became more and more convinced that the intrusion of the churches into politics was one of the worst evils that could befall any country." The splendid spirit of Jefferson still lives. Our country is still pledged to the rejection of an alliance between Church and State. All progressives, liberals, democrats and Freethinkers should insist that the country stay that way. Religion should never be made an arm of the State.

* * *

I want to know how much is the average cost of municipal government in the U.S., for every person living in our cities. How much of this money goes to necessary services and how much to the officials in the city hall?

Every man, woman and child pays an average of \$77.52 for city government and services. Of this amount \$3.67 goes to the men and women in the city hall for administrative, financial, accounting, judicial and legislative functions. The services which cost \$73.85 consist of the following: garbage collection, fire and police departments, health and sanitation, hospitals and clinics, charity institutions,

recreational facilities like parks, swimming pools, municipal golf courses, tennis courts, public schools, lighting, streets, sewers, and so on. It's interesting to note that most of the services were forced on the municipality by the citizens themselves, who, by their votes, demanded schools, hospitals, garbage disposal, recreation, and the like. When we consider all these services—and they are useful—it isn't accurate to insist that the city man's taxes are very far out of line. He pays a lot, but the facts show he gets a great deal in return. Despite waste, graft and incompetence, the citizens get a pretty good bargain. Take, for example, a simple service like the removal of ashes and garbage. If Mr. John Citizen decided to do this work for himself, hiring a man and team once each week, it's safe to say the expense would be at least \$25 per year, but by shifting the job to the city he gets it done for about \$3 per year, on the average, which means a real service at a real saving. Yes, taxes are high in our cities, but which services would the voters ask discontinued in order to reduce the bill?

* * *

Which crop is the most important in the world?

The first crop that comes to mind is wheat, but that isn't the most important because it isn't the largest, by any means. Rice is grown for more people than wheat, and still rice isn't the crop. I'd say it's grass, without which our vast livestock industry couldn't exist.

* * *

What is the real significance of fan letters in the movie industry?

This is a subject about which I'm a little hazy, for Hollywood's ways always bewilder me, but Jimmie Fidler, who is an expert on the cinema, in a recent *Pictorial Review*, gives us the low-down, as follows:

"Few persons realize the importance of the letters they write to screen stars. In all probability—I hope I'm not shattering any illusions—the star never sees them, yet they may make or break his career. Every studio keeps an exact record of the number received by each of its players—a temperature chart which is accepted by the 'front

office' as final evidence that the actor is either hot or cold at the box office. Fluctuations are studied by the producers as anxiously as the gains and losses of a stock issue are pondered by Wall Street's plungers. And woe to the unfortunate wight whose fan mail slumps immediately after the release of a new picture! He might just as well launch his agent on the quest for a new job."

* * *

Can you tell how to figure the approximate number of years one has left to live?

The American Expectation Table of Mortality, which was prepared by insurance actuaries, gives the following as the best method to learn the approximate number of years one has left to live:

Take the number 80. Subtract your present age. Multiply the remainder by 7. Divide the result by 10. The figure thus obtained is the average number of years you may expect to live.

* * *

"You have a cordial sense of humor. Many of your quips have made me laugh."—Robert McCauley, N.Y.

* * *

1. How much does the average American spend for meat annually? 2. How many separate meat-packing plants have we? 3. What is the total annual production of our meat-packing industry? 4. How many slaughtering plants operate under Federal inspection?

1. \$15.38, according to a bulletin issued by a grocers' association. 2. 1,100. 3. \$2,000,000,000. 4. 299.

* * *

What's your opinion of the recent authors who go in for novels that contain immense wordage?

Frankly, I look on most of them as slingers of verbiage. I don't believe there's an author living today who has so much to say to the world that he can't get it out of his system in less than a million words. Thomas Wolfe, who died in Baltimore, September 15, 1938, is reported to have left a 1,000,000-word manuscript of a novel. I don't know what it's all about—and I doubt I'll ever find out, for life's too short to waste time on such masters of wordiness—but I'm willing to claim that a good novelist could take his story (granting there's a story in the Ms.) and tell it acceptably in one-tenth the words. I'm told that Wolfe has one of his char-

acters make a trip from Asheville to Baltimore, and it takes him 60,000 words to describe it, when, according to competent opinion, the whole point of the trip advances the story only slightly. Three hundred words would have been plenty.

* * *

Are you able to produce a direct quotation from one of the Popes in which the clear-cut statement is made that the Catholic Church is strictly opposed to freedom of thought and speech?

There's a wealth of material available. One that's as good as any will be found in Pope Leo XIII's encyclical (written in 1888), as follows:

"... it is quite unlawful to demand, to defend, or to grant, unconditional freedom of thought, of speech, of writing, or of worship. . . ."

In another encyclical (1885) the same Pope declared that "it is not lawful for the State, any more than for the individual, either to disregard all religious duties or to hold in equal favor different kinds of religion."

By "unconditional freedom" the Pope didn't have in mind unlawful acts by which speaking or publishing is misused for anti-social ends. He meant only one thing—that the dogmas of the Church should be accepted without question.

This reminds me of several letters from Canadian readers who ask, since President Roosevelt spoke in Canada, whether it would ever be possible for the two great countries to combine, a union that would bring many political and economic advantages to both parties. I don't doubt that the more democratic, liberal, progressive western half of Canada could easily become a valuable part of the United States, but when we come to the eastern half we meet a situation that brings up many doubts. The fact that stands out against such union is the attitude of the Catholic Church, which is so powerful in eastern Canada. In that section Fascism is making alarming progress, because of its endorsement by the hierarchy. The Catholic Church is formally recognized as a part of the State and enjoys numerous privileges, especially in education. If Canada were to come into the U.S. the Church

would have to surrender many of its advantages. That wouldn't go so good with the hierarchy. Reactionary, bigoted, narrow-minded, medieval eastern Canada doesn't want to throw off the priests who look on the U.S., with its democratic liberalism, as a thing of the devil. The U.S. hierarchy keeps mum about the country's liberalism, because it's leading only a minority of our people, but when the high leaders get control, as in eastern Canada, they see to it that the blessings of a free civilization are crushed. In the U.S., only a few of our priests—such as Father Coughlin—dare come out openly for anti-Semitism, Fascism, destruction of free unions, and the like, but in eastern Canada the Catholic-Fascists propagandize and assert their policies openly. We must never forget that an all-powerful Catholic Church means the death of all liberalism in literature, politics, education, behavior, thought, speech, and the other ideas of freedom one accepts as commonplaces in progressive, unorthodox civilizations. In the case of eastern Canada, it would take a tremendous upheaval before the hierarchy would accept even as a mere formality these words from our Constitution:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press. . . ."

* * *

How productive are our airplane factories?

In 1937, U.S. plants produced 3,187 planes, worth about \$115,000,000, including accessories. This production is expected to be increased by 25 percent in 1938.

* * *

Enclosed is a letter from a New York publisher concerning a group of my poems which I want you to give careful consideration. As you can see, they expect me to pay part of the expense. Please rush reply by personal letter.

Let me warn you against having anything to do with "vanity publishers," for that's what publishers are who expect authors to pay all or part of the expense of issuing a book. No reputable publisher would dream of demanding money or advance orders from an author. Publishers who promote schemes that call for money or

advance orders are running counter to the profession's best practices. You will be wasting your time and money if you have anything to do with a vanity publisher. Beware.

* * *

Has the world-famous author, Romain Rolland, ever expressed himself on the racial aspects of Fascism? I know he has been outspoken in his attacks on Fascism's political and economic tyrannies, but has he ever written anything in protest against Fascism's anti-Semitism?

Romain Rolland has expressed his opposition to anti-Semitism in plain speech. In a New Year's message to a Jew in the U.S., Rolland wrote:

"I take occasion to beg you to transmit to Jews of the United States and of the whole world my best wishes for the New Year. I have always admired your great race and count many among you my best friends. More than ever, today, in this hour of the world when the shameful persecution unleashed by the Fascism of Germany and Italy has fallen on you, I wish to express my sympathy and esteem. I look upon Hitlerian racialism as one of the filthiest leprosy that has ever sullied and ravaged humanity. Be courageous. We will conquer it."

* * *

At what ages do athletes reach the peak of their ability?

Prof. Harvey C. Lehmann has studied sports records covering many years and claims athletes are tops as follows: baseball players, 28; automobile racing drivers, 28; hockey players, 24—29; boxers, 24—29; bowlers, 30—34; marksmen (rifle and pistol), 25—29; billiard players, 25—29; tennis players, 22—26; and amateur golfers, 25—29.

* * *

I would like to know what you think of the idea of cremation. Does it cost more than an ordinary burial? We live miles from a crematory and expense must be considered. I want a personal reply.

Cremation always is better and cheaper than burial. Frequently the cost is much less than half. I don't know what the terms are in S. Dak., where this correspondent lives, but he can find out by writing to the nearest concern that operates such an establishment and asking for a circular listing terms. Persons who don't know the address of the nearest place should ask for information from their

State Health Officer, at their State capitol. Keep the circular on file, and when the time comes all you need do is to transport the body by motor car or railroad and the job is done in a few hours. The relatives will be given the ashes, for disposition as they see fit. Frequently the ashes are strewn over some appropriate field or bit of woodland. This can be made a simple and beautiful ceremony. It's just as dignified as a stuffy, expensive burial. More dignified, to my notion.

* * *

Christopher Morley, in *The Saturday Review of Literature*, tells about a man who refused to "plant blue morning-glories around his cabin because they would be so beautiful they would interfere with his work." Please comment.

I haven't any blue morning-glories outside the windows of the room in which I do my reading, thinking, and writing. But I have several glorious walnut trees within a few feet of my office, in which squirrels and a half dozen different kinds of birds make their homes. One squirrel stops putting away walnuts now and then to climb onto a window-sill and stare at me for minutes at a time. Of course, I don't do any work while that little rubber-neck is snooping around, because I know that anything I might write could never be as interesting as the goings-on near my window. The minutes I "waste" watching them will never be missed. But there's one little fellow who visits my desk regularly—a mouse. He never shows up while I'm around, but he leaves his "card" for me every night. Each day, the first thing, I notice a bit of black goo over near the far right corner of my glass-topped writing desk. During the night he always comes to that spot and uses it for a toilet at least once—sometimes oftener, as the spirit moves him. That little rogue causes me annoyance, but I'm still to get around to setting a trap for him. Even a mouse. I insist, should be house broke. Besides, there's something of an implied insult in his behavior. Remember, I'm a professional writer. I turn out lots of copy. I don't claim any of it is literature, but I don't like the thought of a crav, little beast leaving that kind of a greeting each morning right in the shadow of the machine on which

I turn out my pieces. It's most distracting—and humiliating. His manners are execrable. Whenever I have to brush his drippings away I lose the thread of my high-powered thought and thus deprive a palpitant public of anywhere from 10 to 100 words of verbal pabulum. There's an insult somewhere. It's different with the squirrels. They look in on me as something to be stared at—a freak who sits for hours and hours away from the sun and open air to stare at sheets of printed paper or to make noises on a black mechanism. I know they pity me, but they don't insult me the way that mouse does. Even the dozens of sparrows who fight and chatter and rustle grub near my windows—I like to think of sparrows as flying mice—don't offend my finer sensibilities by depositing within reach of my typewriter black pellets that look a lot like slivers of pitch. My nightly visitor hurts my pride—but even he has helped me spread my quota of words on pieces of paper, so I can't squawk.

* * *

What's your real, honest opinion of people who turn their radio on in the morning and let it run right through the day and most of the night?

At home, on the farm, I don't worry about any neighbor's radio, because the nearest farmhouse is a half mile away, as the crow flies—assuming that crows always make a bee-line from one spot to another, which I doubt. Right in our own house there are three radios, but as I'm gone most of the day and part of the evening, I don't know, or care very much, whether they're on or off. All I ask is that when, after about 10 P.M., I'm ready to settle down in bed for an hour or two of solid reading that the blasted, bloody wireless be turned off. But, being a man of nerves and lively imagination, and having, in addition, a special horror for noises, I can witv those poor millions scatter-neighbors who keep their radios blasting away from 8 in the morning to 11 or even midnight. I never can understand how these people can let the thing rattle away while they go about their work, read newspapers and magazines, converse, play bridge, and in other ways show that they

don't really hear the radio more than a tenth of the time. I can't even read a newspaper headline understandingly if the radio in my office is on. I can't even write a check while the radio is singing or talking. Well, to be accurate, it's equally hard for me to write a check even when the radio is off. Out this way, in bleeding Kansas, the radio is especially bad because most of it comes from stations that cater to hill-billy audiences. Mountain music is surprisingly popular, which tells volumes. There must be a vast audience for news on the number of sheep bought in Kansas City up to 10.30 A.M., the price of hay in St. Joe, and the livestock reports from Joplin. Patent medicine announcements are on all the time, which makes one think that the American public must have an endless bellyache. Only a few stations within 350 miles of Girard make any attempt to give real news broadcasts, so for the most time my radio is nothing but a damned nuisance. The music is terrible—the ballads of yokels, hillbilly monologues put to crude notes, and, most of all, the kind of Benny Goodman screechings that have turned our young people into so many neurotic jitterbugs. At that, I'd rather have our young people shuffle and squirm to Benny Goodman than to "heil" the hysterical mouthings of a crazy Hitler. There are depths of depravity that sink far below the cavortings of our jitterbugs, as reports from Germany and Italy prove almost hourly. Imagine what it'll be like, a few years hence, when we turn on our television sets and not only hear Hitler make a speech but actually see him at it, his mouth wide open, his neck veins distended, and his face purple to the point of an apoplectic stroke. Equally bad will be the possibility that we may be condemned to not only hearing Mussolini but seeing him jut out his jaw. Well, at least we won't be compelled to look. We can turn it off and remain at peace with the world even if our neighbors insist on turning on their television machine in the morning and keeping it in action the rest of the day. Television will make many new idols, but it'll destroy many old ones. The best kind of a publicity build-up can be destroyed by a few minutes of tele-

vision. The next mass instrument of entertainment holds possibilities of good and bad. But, I insist, mostly bad, as the radio today is about 90 percent bad. But, after all, isn't that just about true of everything? Editors must admit without argument that even more than 90 percent of the printed matter turned out by newspapers, magazines and books are so much trash. But, at least they don't obtrude themselves on us if we don't like their bellywash. One doesn't have to read a pulp magazine or a confessions periodical, or a yellow newspaper, or a book by authors who appeal to the mentally crippled, the culturally illiterate, and the rest of the unhappy crew whose brains stopped growing when they reached their ninth year. We always have the dial at hand to save ourselves from radio horrors—and that's something to be thankful for—but what can we do when neighbors control that dial and refuse to make the necessary twist—who, in fact, like the slop they're hearing? Science has still to supply us with a dial which will enable us to control our neighbors' radios. This shows there are limits to science's powers. We can fire a cannon 30 miles and hit a filling station, but we can't turn off a neighbor's radio. There's something wrong there. But, at any rate, their baseball and football reports, crappy jokes and blatant advertisements carry Shakespearean overtones when compared to what the public has to put up with in a Fascist country. Misery has strict classifications. We aren't hopelessly lost, even when we put on our worst.

* * *

How much money does American business pay for advertising by means of blotters, business cards, calendars, match books, etc.?

Ken magazine quotes Dr. L. D. H. Weld, an advertising expert, "who estimates business pours \$350,000,000 yearly down the sink for such trifles." I don't doubt that these knickknacks constitute an enormous business. Take match books, for example. It seems that every evening, when I go through my pockets, I find an accumulation of at least a half dozen that were picked up during the day. I'm so now that I take them unconsciously, the way I inhale (and exhale) air. There

must be several hundred match books scattered on my various desks. And yet, through force of habit, I continue buying 5-cent boxes of large matches, because I like them, even though I put out money for them while the match books are free. One gets free match books everywhere—in saloons, restaurants, hotel rooms, and the like. Everywhere, I'd say, except in cigar stores. It seems that the fellows who run cigar stores don't believe in them. I, at least, find it hard to get a free match from a cigar merchandiser. He puts a permanent light up near the counter and expects you to use it. If you want matches to take along with you, he offers the implied suggestion that you should get your matches where you get your beer and not expect them to be supplied at the place you think you have a right to look for them. In fact, coming to think of it, I recall now that most cigar stores have a fish bowl on the counter, filled with penny boxes of matches, for which you are expected to pay a penny. I never patronize such projects. Either I pay 5c for a box of large matches or I depend on the distributors of match books. This reminds me, without much reason, that I used a paper match the other night while in the men's "place" in the rear of a saloon. While standing patiently and letting the flow of events proceed in an orderly and satisfying way, I lit a match so I might get my cigar working again, and the light it threw attracted my eye to a sign on the wall before me, which urged, in bold letters: "Please stand close—the next fellow may be bare-footed."

* * *

How many military and naval airplanes have we?

3,100.

* * *

How long can man, dog, scorpion, spider and snake go without food?

Man, 60 to 70 days; dog, 117 days; scorpion, 368 days; spider, 17 months; snake, two years.

* * *

Please list the continents in their order as to size.

"From big to little," as printers say, the continents fall into the following order: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Polar regions, Oceania, and Europe.

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