

18th Series

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

E. Haldeman-Julius

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By E. Haldeman-Julius

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Questions and Answers

The Bundists keep saying the American press is controlled by the Jews. Is this true?

This is a subject which I've touched on many times, as may be seen by referring to my numerous volumes of questions and answers. I don't want to repeat myself. But, I find a clipping in my newsclip filing system which I want to use. It quotes Mr. Arthur Robb, editor of *Editor and Publisher*, the trade organ of the newspaper business. According to Mr. Robb, statistics disprove the oft-repeated charge that the U.S. press is controlled by Jews, directly or indirectly. He says that 1,700 proprietors own 1,900 English language newspapers, with a combined circulation of almost 40,000,000 daily. Of these 1,700 owners only 15 "are of the Jewish race or faith, less than 1 percent." Of the metropolitan press, he added, Jews own newspapers only in New York and Philadelphia. There is not a single Jewish officer or director of any of the three major news agencies. "Less than 10 Jews are listed as editors or managing editors of daily newspapers, and less than 25 as business managers, advertising managers, or circulation managers," he said.

* * *

Recently I heard the statement made to the effect that Lenin and Trotsky believed in democracy, that they accepted dictatorship only as a temporary expedient. Please comment.

The remark is without factual support. Both Lenin and Trotsky had no use for democracy. They practiced and preached dictatorship. Listen to Lenin's own words, in a letter he sent to the American workers, issued in Moscow on August 20, 1918:

"Let incurable pedants, crammed full of bourgeois democratic and parliamentary illusions and prejudices, shake their heads gravely over our Soviets; let them deplore the fact that we have no direct elections."

Trotsky held the same contemptuous views about democracy. In Feb-

ruary, 1919, he wrote "The Principles of Democracy and Proletarian Dictatorship," from which I quote:

"And only political pedants who do not take into account the revolutionary logic of class relations, can, in the face of the post-October situation, deliver futile lectures to the proletariat on the benefits and advantages of democracy for the cause of the class struggle."

Such a philosophy makes a Stalin almost inevitable, and a Stalin makes it possible for what was left of the Revolution to be betrayed into the hands of Hitler. A true democracy would have made impossible the program of the Stalin dictatorship which calmly went into cahoots with Nazism, the most reactionary set of anti-labor ideas ever promulgated. The extreme Left, which hates democracy, has gone into unholy wedlock with the extreme Right, which also hates democracy. I have, in my numerous writings on the Russian situation, gone to great pains to show that while the Moscow Communists made great economic and industrial progress (compared to conditions under the czar), the lack of appreciation for democratic processes and the crass contempt for the ideals of freedom make the Soviet Union something that's millions of miles from a civilized, progressive State. The Bolsheviks under Stalin built a vast, mighty State, but they crushed the ideas that make such an establishment worth living in. Stalinism and Hitlerism, we learn, are brothers under the skin, because both represent the ideology of dictatorship. As I've written a thousand times, true Socialism is impossible under a dictatorship. There must be democratic control as well as social ownership of the instruments of production, distribution, etc. There's no hope for humanity in a social order which crushes democracy and freedom of expression. Red Fascism is just as hateful as Brown Fascism. But the blame isn't entirely Stalin's. The builders of the Russian Revolution—Lenin and Trotsky—laid

the foundation of dictatorship by their contempt for democracy and freedom. The record supports me in this seemingly extreme assertion. Knowing the ideological background of Stalinism, I wasn't surprised when the mighty Russian dictatorship signed a trade agreement with Hitler and later accepted a non-aggression pact that seems to carry the implications of an out-and-out military pact. The near future will tell the whole story. As I write this piece, on September 11, 1939, I can find no direct evidence of a military pact, but there's every reason to believe that the next few days or weeks will let the world look behind the scenes and behold what Hitler and Stalin have cooked up. It stands to reason Stalin demanded his price for his "neutrality" while Hitler conquered the Western half of Poland. What was his price? Was it the Eastern half of Poland and the Eastern half of Rumania? Was it the Dardenelles? Was it a free hand in the Far East? Was it all these conditions? If the answers are in the affirmative (and I've the feeling they can be answered in only that way) we have the final evidence of Stalin's betrayal of the Revolution and his inauguration of a policy of Red Imperialism.

* * *

I've heard it said that the food card system established in Naziland even before war began shows that Germans are limited to a ration which is below the minimum subsistence diet of relief clients in the U.S. Is this true?

Yes, there's no doubt about the truth of the statement that an American on relief is better off, by far, than a skilled mechanic in Hitlerland. Below I give a comparison between the new German rations and the minimum subsistence of relievers in the U.S.:

Germans	Food	Americans
1½ lb. weekly	Meat	1½ to 2 lb.
¼ lb. weekly	Sugar	10-14 oz.
.26 qt. daily	Milk	Pint
.14 lb. weekly	Coffee	4 ozs.
1/3 lb. weekly	Cereals	1¼ to 2 lbs

* * *

Do you believe Hitler was sincere when he signed a new treaty with the Soviet Union?

If he was sincere in 1939 he certainly was insincere when he wrote his famous book, "Mein Kampf," for in that blueprint of the Nazi revolu-

tion he made bitter opposition to Bolshevism the cornerstone of his movement. Hitler and Stalin are in the same bed at this writing, but I can't get over the suspicion that regardless of what happens in the near future the ultimate end will be an elaborate double-cross on both sides. Stalin knows what Hitler really thinks of him, for Stalin has read the book just mentioned. He undoubtedly was impressed by the following words which Hitler put into that amazing volume:

"The fact of the conclusion of a treaty with Russia embodies the declaration of the next war. Its outcome would be the end of Germany . . .

"The present rulers of Russia do not at all think of entering an alliance sincerely or of keeping one.

"We must never forget that the regents of present-day Russia are common bloodstained criminals; that here is the scum of humanity, which, favored by conditions in a tragic hour, overran a great state, butchered and rooted out millions of its leading intellects with savage bloodthirstiness, and for nearly ten years has exercised the most frightful regime of tyranny of all time.

"Nor must we forget that these rulers belong to a nation which combines a rare mixture of bestial horror with an inconceivable gift of lying, and today more than ever before believes itself called upon to impose its bloody oppression on the whole world . . .

"One does not conclude a treaty with someone whose sole interest is the destruction of his partner. Above all, one does not make them with parties to whom no treaty would be sacred, since they inhabit this world, not as advocates of honor and truthfulness, but as advocates of lying, deceit, theft, rapine, and plundering. . . ."

Hitler, in order to swallow the above strong language and make "peace" with Stalin, sacrificed Japan, Italy and Spain. History will tell whether or not his switch was a good one. Today we can only guess, and the most likely one is that Stalin will be a most dubious ally, one who may not, in the end, be of as much service to the Nazi leader as the former supporters of the anti-Comintern pact. Hitler will stab the Soviet Union at his first opportunity. And, on the

other hand, Stalin will double-cross his new "ally" the first moment he sees concrete advantages can be won by such a policy. But, the fact that Stalin could even think of tying up with a swine like Hitler is the final evidence of the complete moral bankruptcy of his regime.

* * *

As there is a strong likelihood of our joining in the war against Hitlerism, don't you believe it would be advantageous to this country if we were to nationalize the munitions industry?

I do. It would be a tremendous move if we were to take away from the munitions interests the opportunities to make excessive profits. Only the other day I saw a report of U.S. army officers who gave convincing proof that it would be to the interests of the American people if their government would take over the business of making armaments. According to these officers, a certain rifle is being produced in several Federal plants at a production cost of \$28 each. The specifications were submitted to privately-owned munitions plants and figures were requested, the purpose being to provide a sufficient volume of rifles in case of emergency. The same rifle, which costs only \$28 in plants owned by Uncle Sam, would, according to estimates, cost \$80 in private factories, in lots of tens of thousands. If we get into the Second World War—and I don't see how we can stay out more than 90 or 120 days—we should see to it in advance that no selfish interests are given opportunities to grow rich at the expense of the people's sacrifices and sufferings.

* * *

Are streamlined trains faster than the trains of previous years?

That impression seems to have wide acceptance, but it isn't true. No stream-lined train has yet broken the record of the Broadway Limited (Pennsylvania Railroad) which, 30 years ago, in Ohio, hit a top speed of 127.2 miles per hour.

* * *

When a workingman owns even as little as a single share of stock in a corporation doesn't that automatically make him a capitalist?

Nonsense. He's still a member of the proletariat, for his genuine economic interest is tied up with his job and not with the share of stock he happens to own. A genuine capi-

talist controls a vast corporation, which means that his will prevails despite the fact that hundreds of thousands of small owners may each possess a few shares of stock. Capitalistic editors like to picture workers who own a little stock as being parts of the capitalistic setup, but this betrays a superficial understanding of our economic forces. Lenin, on page 45 of his book, "Imperialism," wrote, "experience shows that it is sufficient to own 40 percent of the shares of a company in order to control its affairs, for a certain number of the scattered, small shareholders find it impossible in practice to attend general meetings, etc." Lenin was pretty close to the truth when he wrote the above, but today, in our country, economic power has been concentrated to the extent that much less than 40 percent of the shares of a company can be used to control the 100 percent of the corporation's capital as represented by the money put into the body by its numerous shareholders. As Anna Rochester shows in her book, "Rulers of America," the Morgan and Rockefeller "interests control or influence 797 corporations worth \$150,000,000,000—through ownership of minority shares of stock, and especially through representatives strategically placed on various boards of directors." Under such a setup it's possible for a small group to exercise vast economic powers through comparatively small blocks of stock, but that's entirely different from the situation in which a workingman owns a single share of stock (or 20 shares, for that matter) and doesn't know the first thing about the corporation's affairs. As I showed in another article (which will be found in my volumes of questions and answers) at the close of 1938, 28 corporations in the U.S. controlled assets worth \$53,000,000,000. Such aggregations of wealth are controlled by insiders who are real capitalists and not by workingmen and women who managed to get their names on stock certificates that show ownership of a few shares, even though there may be a thousand such "owners" in the corporation to each insider who really has the final say about what the corporation is to do. I wonder how many workers who happen to

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all farewells should be sudden. Zon's was that. It was his way. No belly-aching, no whining, no moaning. Hail and farewell!

* * *
Is the phrase "holding the bag" of recent origin?

No. It was coined by Thomas Jefferson, our third President, who, in 1793, wrote:

"If the bankruptcies of England proceed to the length of a universal crush on their paper, she will leave Spain the bag to hold."

* * *
Can you tell me how we came to use the word "central" to describe a telephone operator or exchange?

Mark Twain fathered it in "The Connecticut Yankee," written in 1889, as follows:

"I used to wake and say 'Hello, Central,' just to hear her dear voice."

* * *
How many votes are there in the electoral college and how do we come to establish that number?

There are 531 members in the electoral college. This number is reached by adding together the memberships of the House and the Senate.

* * *
How much will a "10-gallon hat" actually hold?

The average size of such a hat is 7½ with a 7½-inch crown and will hold about 1.4 gallons. It's about time that 10-gallon business got debunked.

* * *
Was the sandwich named after the Earl of Sandwich because he was its inventor?

It's something of a popular fallacy that the sandwich didn't come into use until the 18th Century when the Earl of Sandwich lived. Slices of bread were used with meat between them long before the famous Earl was born. In fact, the sandwich goes back to ancient times. The Earl was an inveterate gambler and begrudged the time taken to eat, so he had servants bring him slices of meat and bread, which they served him in the familiar form. Other gamblers followed suit, giving the combination the name of Sandwich.

* * *
I've heard it said that the giraffe has more bones in its neck than any other animal. Is this a fact?

No. The giraffe has the same number of bones in its neck that man has

—seven. The only difference is that the giraffe's bones are longer. The swan has 25; the goose, 19.

* * *
I go into a cold room and touch wool and metal—the latter is colder than the former. Why is this?

If the temperature is evenly distributed in a room all objects in it have the same temperature. Wool is of the same temperature as any metal object in the room. Metal, being a good conductor of heat, absorbs heat from our skin much faster than wool, which is a poor conductor and absorbs very little heat from the skin.

* * *
Are bats blind?

No. Bats have eyes and can see. But millions of people believe the old expression "blind as a bat." Bats, being nocturnal animals, become bewildered when in the sunlight or near a bright light. But that isn't because they're blind. However, during night flights a bat has little or no use for its eyes, depending on its wonderfully sensitive ears and wings. One can really blind a bat and it still can fly around without bumping into any object, because of its sense of hearing. Experiments have shown that blinded bats could fly around in a room and avoid strings hanging from the ceiling. But when the bat's ears were sealed it had great difficulty negotiating the same room.

* * *
I've heard it denied that camels are voiceless. It was claimed they can make peculiar squeaking sounds when confronted with food. What are the facts?

The camel is really voiceless. However, when in the sight of food, the camel emits a peculiar sound by grinding its back teeth.

* * *
Are stars pointed?

No. Artists give stars points because they look nicer that way. Frequently stars really appear to be pointed, but that's just an optical illusion.

* * *
Did Galileo believe in Astrology?

Yes, but that doesn't mean anything. Until a few decades ago men of science, while effective in their own fields, had a tendency to fall for all kinds of bunk. Today, however, there isn't a first-rate scientist in the world who accepts Astrology. They have

learned to be more realistic and critical. Dr. August A. Thomen, lecturer in the medical department of New York University, in his recent book on medical problems, has an interesting paragraph on Galileo's use of Astrology, as follows:

"Persecuted scientist Galileo once predicted that the stars were all in favor of the Grand Duke of Tuscany, who was seriously ill. Two weeks later the Duke died."

I was surprised to read that H. G. Wells's home was stormed by hundreds of Moslems in protest against something the great author had written about Mohammed. Can you tell me what Wells wrote that offended them?

"A Short History of the World," written by H. G. Wells—a good book, by the way—caused some 400 followers of Mohammed to march to the author's home in London, but he was away at the time so was unable to receive their protests or make the apology they were determined to get. This happened more than 15 years after the book was first published, which makes the performance surprising indeed. The Moslems carried a banner, on which was written: "Down with H. G. Wells' Short History of the World." Being firm believers in Mohammedanism they hold to the view that the Koran, written by Mohammed, carries God's own thoughts. Wells, who is a Freethinker, rejects such a notion. Wells's "offending" comments on Mohammed follow:

"Mohammed married a number of wives in his declining years, and his life on the whole was, by modern standards, unedifying. He seems to have been a man compounded of very considerable vanity, greed, cunning, self-deception and quite sincere religious passion. He dictated a book of injunctions, the Koran, which he declared was communicated to him from God. Regarded as literature or philosophy, the Koran is certainly unworthy of its alleged Divine authorship."

In another place Wells writes as follows:

"He was tortuous in the Arab fashion. Even by the standards of the desert he was uneducated. At 25 he had made no religious discovery. To anyone who visited Mecca (after Mohammed's first marriage to Khadija) he might have seemed

something like a loafer, a poor poet and an altogether second-rate man. . . . After Khadija's death his love of women developed.

"After the battle of Badr he ordered the assassination of a number of his opponents among the Jews in the town of Medina who had treated his prophetic claims with a disagreeable levity."

In still another place Mr. Wells describes the Prophet as "a lustful and rather shifty leader . . . vain, egotistical, tyrannous and a self-deceiver." Vigorous speech, of course, but the truth. Religious people everywhere often react to the truth in ways that betray their bigotry and dogmatism. We don't have to go to a mob of Moslems for instances. We see too much of that sort of thing closer to home. All religious ideas are bunk. Man will never be completely free intellectually until he rids himself of all notions of supernaturalism and superstition. All religions are saturated with superstition, differing only in degree. Freethought is the true antidote for the poison of religion. As civilization advances and man progresses, religious ideas grow weaker and weaker. It's safe to assume that when man becomes a truly intellectual being he will be a complete Freethinker. Rationalism is the philosophy of the future. And once established universally, it will remain permanently because it's based on sound logic, clear thinking and verifiable truth.

* * *

Does catgut come from cats?

No, from sheep.

* * *

Isn't it true that Germany's mass mania is an echo of similar outbursts of mass hysteria in previous centuries?

Yes, there's no question about it. This subject is discussed convincingly in Raymond B. Cattell's recent book, "Crooked Personalities in Childhood and After" (Appleton-Century), as follows:

"In all ages there have been abnormal psychological states afflicting society as a whole and urgently needing the psychological physician. The genuine Crusades brought in their train a series of migration manias which affected even children, and caused whole villages and towns to take leave of their homes and their common sense. Again, the

Middle Ages produced wave after wave of dancing hysteria, in which masses of respectable citizens would dance themselves into complete exhaustion, and hence we get the unpleasant echo of 'St. Vitus dance.'

"Fashions in witchcraft followed; after which mass hysteria took on the more sedate form of Stock Exchange excitement. . . . Today Europe groans under a nightmare emotion of war fever and suspicion; and no one knows how to alleviate the vicious psychological circle of fear and aggression."

As previous mass hysterias wore themselves out in time there's reason to infer that the Nazi exhibitions of Brutalitarianism will burn itself out, but that doesn't mean we have seen the disease at its peak, by any means. There's serious danger that the spell may spread to other peoples. We see would-be leaders at work even in this free country, the aim being to arouse precisely the same kind of mass mania that we find in Nazi Germany. I refer, of course, to men like the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod and Father Coughlin. Others, of more or less ability, may appear from time to time, and if we were to be unlucky enough to be cursed with a maniac of the tremendous powers of a Hitler (Americanized, of course, to suit our own talents and capacities for hysteria) we could, in a few years, be guilty of the same excesses that have befallen the unfortunate and unhappy German masses. Recognizing the grave possibilities, it's possible for the sane and sound elements in American life to prepare for such eventualities by making generous use of the processes of education—a work which absolutely demands the building of a powerful press that's independent of reactionary movements. Nazi mass mania can be as infectious a mental disease as was the vast flu epidemic at the close of the World War, when the germs spread to almost every part of the globe, including remote parts of the Arctic. The flu disease burned itself out, and, as I said before, we may see Nazism also destroy itself and leave the race limp and weak for a while but at least rid of the dreadful mental ailment. The science of psychiatry tells us it isn't necessary to surrender before any onrushing mass hysteria. It's possible, through

intelligent, sound, scientific measures, to meet the onslaught and defeat it. But this can be done only by careful planning and eternal vigilance. We must keep our eyes open for every sign of the spread of the affliction. That's why I make a practice of listening to everything men like Father Coughlin and the Rev. Winrod say. They and their ilk mustn't be permitted to catch us unawares, as happened to the Germans in 1933, when the world's greatest madman stole power and put the German masses into physical and intellectual slavery. We anti-Fascists have our work cut out for us. We mustn't shirk.

* * *

I wish you would give your readers a sketch of your life.

The piece in the 1938-39 edition of *Who's Who* doesn't tell everything (thank Gawd) but enough for my purposes, thus:

HALDEMAN-JULIUS. E (manuel), editor, author, pub.; b. Philadelphia, Pa., July 30, 1889; s. David and Elizabeth (Zamost) Julius; prefixed Haldeman to surname after marriage to Marcell Haldeman, writer, actress, of Girard, Kansas, June 1, 1916; children—Alice, Henry. Pres. Haldeman-Julius Pub. Co., pub. Little Blue Books, Big Blue Books, The Key to Culture, The American Freeman. Agnostic. Author: The Color of Life, 1920; Dust (novel, in collaboration with wife) 1921; The Art of Reading, 1922; Miscellaneous Essays, 1922; Literary Essays, 1923; Studies in Rationalism, 1924; Culture and Its Modern Aspects, 1925; Iconoclastic Literary Reactions, 1925; Today's Persons and Personalities, 1926; An Agnostic Looks at Life, 1926; Free Speech and Free Thought in America, 1926; Myths and Myth-makers, 1927; Snapshots of Modern Life, 1927; Sane and Sensible Views of Life, 1927; The First Hundred Million, 1928; The Outline of Bunk, 1929; The Big American Parade, 1929; Violence (novel, with wife). Editor, with an introduction, The Story of Religious Controversy, 1929; Questions and Answers (15 vols.) 1938 (treating of internat. affairs, science, philosophy, religion, literature, politics and govt.); also two vols. of short stories, with wife. Home: Girard, Kansas.

* * *

I am glad to see that you have replied to the canard that tries to make Benjamin Franklin an anti-Semite. Does

Carl Van Doren touch on this issue in his recently published biography of the great American?

This lie, which makes Benjamin Franklin an anti-Semite, was started recently as 1934 in an obscure Fascist paper published in a Southern city. It was picked up by the Nazi press and since then has been trotted out regularly. Only a few weeks ago, when President Roosevelt condemned Brutalitarianism in a statement that appeared in every country except in the coordinated German press, Hitler's own newspaper, *Voelkischer Beobachter*, reprinted the Franklin libel. Van Doren's authoritative biography gives only a single sentence (so far as I could find) to the Franklin falsehood, in which the author dismisses the tale as a crude forgery. However, Mr. Van Doren reports he receives many letters from Jews and non-Jews, in which he is asked for the facts regarding the efforts of the fascist anti-Semites to claim Franklin as one of their kind. He answers all such letters and promises to continue doing that, because he wants to help in the valuable work of refuting a brazen invention which is being spread with no other purpose than to discredit and damage a helpless minority. According to a press report, Mr. Van Doren, in his letters, always makes three points:

1. The Journal of Charles Pinckney, in which Franklin's speech is supposed to be quoted, doesn't exist. (Pinckney is alleged by the anti-Semites to have kept a diary of the Constitutional Convention, at which, according to Pinckney, Franklin is said to have warned the American people against permitting Jews to come to these shores. The fact of the matter is Pinckney kept no diary. It's a fake.)

2. The original manuscript is not, as stated, in the archives of the Franklin Institute. (My readers will recall, in a recent Freeman, I quoted a statement from the director of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pa., in which he said categorically there is no Pinckney diary in its collection of documents. It would be safe for any truth-loving citizen to offer a cash reward of any size to anyone who could produce the so-called Pinckney diary. It's certain he'd

never be called on to pay the reward for no such document can be produced.)

3. Franklin's sympathy for the Jewish race is evidenced by records of his contribution (five pounds) to the Jewish synagogue of Philadelphia.

Another important fact that should be mentioned in this controversy is the one known to all authorities on American history, that Franklin never made an extemporaneous speech during any of the sessions of the convention. All of his statements were written down in advance and read to the body. All these speeches have been preserved.

The lies of the anti-Semites are kept in circulation because the leaders have nothing but contempt for the truth. They keep on repeating the Franklin libel in the same way that they continue using the crude forgery known as the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, with the avowed object of injuring a people who can be attacked with ease because they are a minority wherever they happen to be found. Father Coughlin, in several of his recent broadcasts, and in his magazine, *Social Justice* (what a name for a lying, hate-mongering, dirty rag!) makes contemptible use of the faked Protocols. He knows, from evidence he admitted previously, that they aren't true. Such conduct shows what tactics win favor among fascist-minded anti-Semites. They are capable of any form of intellectual depravity. Nothing is too low for them.

* * *

You don't really believe, do you, that your little pop-gun of a Freeman can out-shoot the howitzers of the capitalistic press?

My little pop-gun, with its 50,000 circulation, isn't scorching the earth, by any means, but I get proofs in every mail that the paper does exercise an influence beyond its meager circulation. And, since we enjoy a free press, let's not forget that through the proper action on the part of the friends of democracy it's within our powers to turn this pop-gun into a howitzer. Meanwhile, I must follow my habit of talking endlessly to my rather limited audience, for it's my second nature to want to tell anyone who'll listen to what I think's

wrong with the world and how it can be fixed. I get no end of comfort from the lines of Lord Byron, in his "Don Juan":

But words are things, and a small drop of ink,

Falling like dew upon a thought, produces

That which makes thousands, perhaps millions, think.

* * *

Can you tell me the meaning of the superstition that it's good for the husband to marry a weeping bride?

The superstition isn't as popular as it used to be, but there's no denying the notion still prevails among many uneducated persons. The idea is that it's a bad omen when the bride fails to weep copiously at the ceremony. The belief got its start in the days of witchcraft, when it was held that a witch could never shed more than three tears from her left eye, while none at all could come from her right eye. If the bride wept profusely from both eyes at the wedding this was sure proof she wasn't a witch.

* * *

You have told us several times that you like birds' nest soup. Can you tell me what goes into it? Do the Chinese cooks take an entire nest and throw it into hot water? That sounds uninviting.

What's actually done is even worse than you suspect. The nest itself doesn't go into the soup. It's the birds' nests' linings. The Yei bird, in an attempt to make its home more comfortable, spits up a lot of gooey stuff, which serves to form a lining on the nest's inside. It's this lining that's turned into soup. I know it sounds awful, but I can assure you it's delicious when served in the form of soup. One doesn't talk about the technique of birds' nest soup; one just eats it.

* * *

Do you think the way to a man's heart is through his stomach?

If that were true men would be writing ballads to cafeterias. The old tried and tested way to a man's heart is through flattery. Puff up a man's belly and he wants to go to sleep; puff up his ego and he'll begin to think it's time to get married or indulge in another affair. At that, flattery merely echoes self-flattery.

"Self-love," said La Rochefoucauld, "is more artful than the most artful man in the world."

* * *

Do you accept the idea held by some that if enough people want a certain thing to happen it'll happen?

Bunk. People don't want to die, and yet you know what happens.

* * *

I've been told that geese never go in flocks, nor quail in coveys. This reminds me that sportsmen have worked up an elaborate terminology to describe flocks of birds. Can you supply me with a fairly complete list?

Of all sticklers for the exact word sportsmen who are interested in birds are the most fastidious. I've seen them wince after hearing about coveys of quail, flocks of geese, and the like. Of course, they carry it too far, but I'm glad to give space to their list in order to show to what extremes the over-technical are inclined to go. At that, Reader C. A. Lang says I'm a black reactionary when it comes to sticking to the precise forms of the King's English. I'm afraid he's telling a little of the truth, though I never hope to attain the high degree of accuracy demanded by bird-men. Here's the list:

Badelynge of Ducks. Bevy of Quail or Kocs. Cast of Hawks. Chattering of Choughs. Company of Widgeon. Covert of Coots. Covey of Partridges. Desert of Lapwings. Exaltation (or Congregation) of Larks. Fall of Woodcock. Flight of Doves. Gaggles of Geese (when on ground). Herd of Cranes. Murmuration of Starlings. Muster of Peacocks. Nye of Pheasants. Parliament (or Building) of Rooks. Plump of Wildfowl. Siege (or Sedge) of Herons. Skein of Geese (when in the air). Sord of Mallard. Spring of Teal. Watch of Nightingales. Wisp of Snipe.

* * *

ANSWERS TO UNASKED QUESTIONS

We must fight Fascism abroad and Capitalism at home. We mustn't forget Socialism in the U.S. while we resist Fascist aggression.

Freedom of thought, without freedom of speech, is of no social value. It isn't enough to be able to think our own thoughts, regardless of sectarian or secular authority. We must also have the right to communicate those ideas.

The brain is a lazy organ. This is true of extraordinary as well as average minds. In the case of the brilliant

thinker, one finds an amazing capacity for overcoming mental laziness for minutes at a time.

Man becomes most admirable when he accepts the idea that coercion of opinion is wrong and must be rejected.

Social man is old, but only a small portion of the civilized world has caught up to the idea that opinion shouldn't be coerced.

The Rationalist (who seeks to enthroned reason) uses only one weapon—discussion. His implacable enemy, Theology, avoids that weapon and resorts to force, authority, a holy book, social ostracism, and legal compulsion.

Whenever I hear anyone thank the Lord for a bountiful harvest I'm reminded of the story of the colored gardener who, when his parson commented on its fine vegetables and suggested that he thank the Almighty for His goodness, answered: "Pahson, did you ebbah see dis piece of ground when de Almighty had it all to hisself?"

The late W. K. Brooks used to say: "The only way to know is to find out."

Those New England transcendentalists never fooled me, even when I was a kid. I detected something fishy about their notion that the mind is separate from the body—a spiritual area installed in a material world. Piffle. The stuff that makes the body also makes the mind.

Here's a letter from a reader who chides me with this: "Come clean now and admit a dictatorship is better able to conduct a war than a democracy." Lots of people have that idea, and the only fault I can find with it is that the recent lessons of history show it to be false. I have in mind, of course, the fact that during the World War it was the totalitarian states that played out, the more despotic ones falling first. They collapsed in the order of their tyranny—Russia first, followed by Turkey, Austria-Hungary, and Germany. Yes, dictators can send the people to mass murder, but they can't make them put spirit into their attempts at conquest. Napoleon rated "the moral factor to the physical as three to one." There's a lot of truth to that. Democracies are slow to wrath, but when they are driven to war they fight better, if given the means with which to fight.

Recently I wrote a few sentences in which I said The Daily Worker isn't as bad as it used to be, but this doesn't mean it has become a good newspaper. I agree with a leftist philosopher who tells his friends he doesn't read this Communist newspaper because "I don't like being bored from within."

The Nation says Londoners are telling a story about a ghost who met a Nazi

soldier and boasted: "I can disappear at will." "Poof, that's nothing," the soldier retorted, "I can return from Spain without ever having been there."

Like everyone else, I'm deeply suspicious of anything I don't understand.

Friendship! How beautiful that noble word sounds! Throughout the ages the poets have written endless poems to this magnificent emotion. What kind of a world would this be if friendship were taken out of it? These ruminations bring to mind a little story about an old Chinese servant in San Francisco who proudly showed his employer the picture of a beautiful woman and two fine boys about 12 and 15. His eyes beaming, his voice throbbing, he explained, "My wife and two sons in ol' country." His employer exclaimed: "What! You have been with me 20 years. How do you account for those sons?" Replied the Chinese: "Oh, vell, I got a fiencl over dere."

Nazi propaganda explains away many unfavorable conditions in Hitlerland by placing the blame on Germany's lack of colonies. This brings a newspaper in Switzerland around to printing an entertaining paragraph, thus: "Before Gretchen returns to Germany from a vacation which she spent in Switzerland, she receives a letter from her sister: 'Dear Gretchen: Please bring some coffee home. Our coffee here is abominable. Of course if we had colonies, we would have better coffee.' Gretchen answered: 'Dear Sis: I'll bring coffee home with me. But I can't understand what you write about colonies! Switzerland has no colonies, but the coffee here is fine.'"

An old Negro man got up one night in a revival meeting and said: "Brudders and sisters, you knows an' Ah knows dat Ah ain't been what Ah oughter been. Ah'se robbed henroosts, and' stole hawks, an' tole lies, an' got drunk, an' slashed folks w' mah razah, an' shot craps, an' cussed an' swore; but Ah thank de Lawd dere's one thing Ah ain't nebbber done: Ah ain't nebbber lost mah 'ligion."

Leonardo da Vinci is credited with the ribald joke about the painter who was asked why, since he made such beautiful figures, which were but dead things, his children were so ugly; to which the painter replied that he made his pictures by day, and his children by night.

Dr. Inge, England's "Gloomy Dean," who, for many years, said quotable things, recently wrote a couple of sentences which I want to reproduce here. Before doing so, let me tell my readers that I make a practice of reprinting interesting thoughts of a skeptical, ra-

tionalistic, freethinking, or heterodox nature because our standard press is always careful to avoid such strictures, lest the God-fearing, pious, righteous brethren be offended. So, let's listen to Dr. Inge: "I have always liked Voltaire as much as I loathe Rousseau. There never was a man who loved liberty and hated cruelty more than this queer little mummy of a man who was always oscillating between life and death, and who lived to be 84, enjoying life to the last."

Those persons who want to control all media of communication and regiment all thought should heed the wise words of Professor Huxley: "No man nor any body of men is good enough or wise enough to dispense with the tonic of criticism."

As my readers know, I'm fond of quoting Mark Twain stories. Here's one that's told often, especially by people in the newspaper business. Back in Mark Twain's early newspaper days a subscriber, finding a spider in his copy of the paper, asked the editor if it meant good or bad luck. Mark Twain replied: "Finding a spider in your paper is neither good luck nor bad. The spider was merely looking over the paper to see which merchant was not advertising so that he could go to that store, spin his web across the door and lead a life of undisturbed peace ever afterward."

* * *

I want to know the rate at which the world's consumption of rubber has been increasing.

In 1900, world consumption of rubber was 50,000 tons; in 1910, 75,000 tons; in 1913, 110,000 tons; in 1922, 400,000 tons; in 1932, 670,000 tons; in 1937, 1,080,000 tons; in 1938, 910,000 tons; for 1939, an estimated 950,000 tons. This rapid growth was caused by the demands of the motor car industry.

* * *

OUT IN KANSAS

[The article below is taken from the column conducted by W. G. Clugston, in the Kansas City, Mo., Journal, September 3, 1939:]

E. Haldeman-Julius, of Girard, who has marketed more than 200 million of his Little Blue Books by mail order, has now launched upon a venture to take book culture to the people of the United States by way of the slot machine. And he expects to sell so many of his Little Blue Books in this manner that he will make all previous production figures look small in comparison. Also, he expects to invade Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other for-

eign countries with his new selling campaign.

A Chicago firm [O. D. Jennings and Company, 4309 W. Lake St., Chicago, Ill.] has perfected a vending machine that will handle the Little Blue Books under the name of Automatic Library. Each machine will display 18 Little Blue Book titles. The machines will be placed in railroad and bus stations, hotel lobbies, subways, department and drug stores, hospitals and other public places. Those who have bookish inclinations can pick out any book on display that appeals to them, insert a coin in the slot, pull the lever and the book will drop out.

In his Girard plant Haldeman-Julius has a stock of 1,300 titles, covering almost every subject that has ever been written about from "Facts You Should Know About Arkansas" to the classics of all ages—and to "self-help" lessons of all kinds. When the automatic library saturates a community with one set of titles another set will be placed on display. Test machines have been placed in operation in New York, Chicago and St. Louis, and they have all sold many more books than had been anticipated. One machine in New York City has brought in as much as \$9 a day.

Seated in his comfortably furnished office in his Girard plant, Haldeman-Julius took enough time off from a discussion of the European situation, and an argument as to why Roosevelt must be reelected for a third term, to tell this column that in a very short time he expects every city in the country to be able to boast several of his "automatic libraries."

* * *

Will most any prostitute, if she is not an active flagellant, administer the lash to a passive flagellant, if she is paid more for it and the patron furnishes his own whip, rod or strap? How do flagellants who are not acquainted find those places and special institutions where flagellation is practiced? What is the usual fee?

The recreation you ask about isn't on the businesslike basis you seem to imagine. The people addicted to this practice aren't very numerous, which puts its business side on a haphazard foundation. Institutions that offer this speciality can be found only in the large centers of population, and even there can be identified only after numerous difficulties. Prostitutes frequently cater to the desires of passive customers, but naturally the fees are flexible. The price is us-

ually adjusted to the customer's ability to pay.

* * *

Kindly give your readers official figures showing what government expenditures were during the entire year of 1938, Federal, State and local.

The U.S. Treasury Department's August, 1939, bulletin contains data showing that Federal, State and local disbursements, in 1938, amounted to \$18,199,000,000, or 21.8 percent of the national income, as follows:

Function	(In millions of dollars.)			
	Federal	State	Local	Total
1. Education	177	818	1,418	2,413
2. Highways and streets	260	900	510	1,670
3. Agriculture and natural resources	1,000	73	3	1,076
4. National defense	1,610	12	...	1,622
5. Police and other protection	44	138	566	748
6. Relief, welfare and social security	2,182	637	266	3,085
7. Net additions to social security reserves	489	516	...	1,005
Social security reserves	574	707	...	1,281
Withdrawals included (6) above	85	191	...	276
8. Health and hospitals	36	270	265	571
9. Interest	926	121	592	1,639
10. All other	902	738	2,001	3,641
11. Total expenditure	7,626	4,223	5,621	17,470
12. Debt retirement	65	135	529	729
13. Total disbursement, including debt retirement	7,691	4,358	6,150	18,199

The same source estimated Federal, State and local tax collections, in the 1938 fiscal year, at \$14,811,000,000, which, based on an estimated January 1, 1938, population of 129,818,000 amounts to \$114.09 per capita. The property tax is the country's most important source of revenue, amounting to \$4,745,000,000 during the 1938 fiscal year. The bulletin gives the sources of Federal, State and local revenues, in the 1938 fiscal year, as follows:

Source	(In millions of dollars) Amount	P.C.
Customs	359	2.4
Property	4,745	32.0
Individual income	1,562	10.6
Estate, inheritance and gift	562	3.8
Corporation income and privilege	1,762	12.0
Payrolls	1,450	9.8
Motor fuel and vehicle	1,481	10.0
Liquor and tobacco	1,466	9.9
Sales and other excises	1,306	8.8
Other tax revenue	118	0.7
Total	14,811	100.0

* * *

What's the difference between a hobo, a tramp and a bum?

Our greatest authority on this subject, Jeff Davis—"king" of the hoboes

—says: "There is a vast difference between hobo, tramp and bum, for a hobo will work, a tramp won't, and a bum couldn't if he wanted to."

* * *

Has medical science been able, through any discovery, to develop the male organ? My age is 30 and I am a Utah cowboy. It is embarrassing to be below normal.

Science has nothing to offer the man who would have his organ ex-

panded. If I knew of any wonderful method I could quit the publishing business and spend the rest of my life in luxury and ease showing men how to make big ones out of little ones. I get a surprisingly large number of letters from disappointed males, which would indicate that the condition is prevalent on a large scale. All science can offer is the suggestion that better use be made of what nature has bestowed on one. Nature can be pretty niggardly at times.

* * *

What is the cost of an up-to-the-minute camera used in Hollywood studios? About \$10,000.

* * *

What is the face value of life insurance policies which lapsed during the past few years? I mean lapses that resulted in total losses to the insured.

A report covering the last 20 years shows that \$100,000,000,000 (a hundred billion dollars) was represented in lapsed policies. Such an immense loss could be used for socially constructive ends if the insurance companies were nationalized, for the money value of lapsed policies could be used by the government to make the premiums lower for those carry-

ing insurance. As it is, the financial benefits from lapsed policies fall into the laps of the interests in control of the private insurance corporations.

* * *

How much time do American women spend before mirrors?

I don't know, but some unidentified authority is quoted in *Advertising Age* as saying he estimated that American women spend 14,620,000,000 hours before mirrors annually. Don't ask me to verify this.

* * *

Kindly refer to the marked passage in the enclosed pamphlet. This piece of publicity was handed to me by the cashier of the bank where I keep my money.

The pamphlet referred to above says:

"For example, a recent survey showed that more than two-thirds of the country were being carried at a loss to the banks."

This "survey" is used to substantiate a whole series of service charges on the accounts of depositors, who are expected to keep a minimum balance, pay a monthly maintenance tax of 40c or 50s, and meet miscellaneous charges against each deposit or each check issued by the depositor, with additional charges against checks deposited to the credit of one's account. The numerous items, deducted monthly from the customer's bank balance, amount to a considerable total during the year. These service charges, in the aggregate, enable the banks to collect many millions of dollars yearly from the people who supply the banks with their money—in short, the customers pay for the privilege of letting the bankers use their money. The banks, needless to say, go right ahead collecting interest on loans. The service charges are just so much gravy. The whole idea (which has made marked progress in the past few years) is based on the sentence just quoted. The banks say they must collect these items because "a recent survey" shows that only one-third of the checking accounts don't cause a loss to the banks. Interesting, if true—but is it true? This point concerns millions of Americans, so there are good reasons for looking into the situation. Silas Bent, the widely known writer, received one of these pamphlets at his home in Old Greenwich,

Conn. Being of a suspicious nature, Mr. Bent, with his characteristic thoroughness, took the booklet to the bank and asked who had conducted the "recent survey." He was told the American Bankers' Association had made this important inquiry. Mr. Bent then turned to the ABA and learned that this organization of bankers had conducted no such survey. He then discovered that experts in the field of banking say they question seriously that it would be possible to segregate checking accounts that cause losses from the run of accounts that result in profit for the bank. Mr. Bent then followed the trail further and finally nailed the source of the pamphlet. It had been issued by a Chicago advertising agency that specializes in financial accounts. From this agency Mr. Bent learned that "no real survey had ever been made and that nobody could prove that the statement made was true." But the statement continues to be used by thousands of banks as an excuse for a system of service charges that many business and professional people are finding onerous. This brings me to a pet crusade of mine that I've been neglecting of late, but about which I've written numerous columns, as may be seen by referring to my volumes of questions and answers. I have tried to show my readers that they should make as little use of the banks as possible, in order to keep service charges down to a minimum. Thus, many bills can be paid in cash. Out-of-town bills can be paid with postal money orders. And, above all, citizens can bring pressure to bear on their senators and congressmen to have a law passed which will permit the postal savings banks to honor checks, on the public's accounts. Such a reform would knock out the banks' service charges in a jiffy.

* * *

How many cities, towns and villages are there in the U.S. which have no local taxation because of surplus earnings of their municipally owned light and power plants and other utilities?

86.

* * *

Will excessive use of the brain cause baldness?

Certainly not. An educator who conducted a survey among high-

school and college students, and ordinary adults, discovered that 5 percent of the persons queried believed this superstition. Six percent of the college students and 9 percent of plain adults, said they believed milk can be soured by thunderstorms. There's no scientific authority for this notion. The Department of Agriculture's milk experts explain "It's the action of bacteria multiplying in milk which produces the souring. Heat is an aid to bacteria in their multiplication, however; and cold retards their development. But thunderstorms are most likely to occur during a period of warm weather, and that is behind the fallacy. Before the days of effective refrigeration, after a spell of hot weather followed by a thunderstorm, someone would look at the milk and find it sour. Deduction was: Thunderstorms made milk sour. Keep your milk cold, and you needn't worry about thunderstorms." Another fairly common superstition has it that beefsteaks will take the swelling out of a black eye. Forty percent of the high-school students, 36 percent of the college students, and 20 percent of the adults believed that. According to *Consumers Guide*, "Doctors from the U.S. Public Health Service say that if you're unlucky enough to acquire a black eye the thing to do with the beefsteak is to eat it—and apply a cold compress to your eye. It's quite true that raw meat pressed against a black eye will reduce the swelling. But that is because a raw beefsteak is likely to be cool and moist. Anything else that is cool and moist will do the trick just as well. And a cold compress will do it better and at less cost."

* * *

What is mutton?

Mutton is the meat of ewes more than 12 months of age and wethers over 18 months old.

* * *

I wish you would explain why we usually enjoy such a splendid period of pleasure and uplifting satisfaction after a normal, healthful evacuation?

This is a question that has brought many responses from philosophers down the ages. Samuel Butler, who was Bernard Shaw's intellectual godfather, offers an explanation that takes only two paragraphs, which

I've long admired in his odd and refreshing note-books. Of course, I refer to the Samuel Butler who wrote "Erewhon" and lived in the last century. Here are his thoughts on evacuations:

"There is a resemblance, greater or less, between the pleasure we derive from all evacuations. I believe that in all cases the pleasure arises from rest—rest, that is to say, from the considerable, though in most cases unconscious labour of retaining that which it is a relief to us to be rid of.

"In ordinary cases the effort whereby we retain those things that we would get rid of is unperceived by the central government, being, I suppose, departmentally made; we—as distinguished from the subordinate personalities of which we are composed—know nothing about it, though the subordinates in question doubtless do. But when the desirability of removing is abnormally great, we know about the effort of retaining perfectly well, and the gradual increase in our perception of the effort suggests strongly that there has been effort all the time, descending to conscious and great through unconscious and normal from unconscious and hardly any at all. The relaxation of this effort is what causes the sense of refreshment that follows all healthy discharges."

The last half of the second paragraph is a little involved, but the whole thing simmers down to this: It's good to evacuate because it removes strain and stress. Reduced to such simple words, we're led to believe that philosophers frequently occupy themselves with telling us things we already know in words we don't understand.

* * *

How in the devil do you know so much? How, for instance, do you find out if Shakespeare mentions America in his writings? Or find the story about Hitler and St. Peter? Or the definition of a bore? Can't you give us a peek at your system? Some of us might like to know.

Have'n't you heard about my news-clip filing system?

* * *

Which U.S. President was the oldest in years?

William Henry Harrison, who was 68 at the time of his inauguration.

Is it true that Nazis claim they know the difference between Aryan and non-Aryan hogs?

An Associated Press dispatch from Germany says:

"There is an important racial distinction in Germany between pigs. The blue bloods among Germany's hogs are 3,600,000 belonging to a race which is aristocratically labeled as 'German noble white hog.'"

Speaking of hogs reminds me of Julius Streicher, the most fanatical of Nazi Jew-baiters, who paid the following tribute to the beauties of German citizenship:

"If, after a period in a concentration camp, anyone fails to appreciate the privileges of citizenship in the Third Reich, he had better leave the country."

And, speaking of concentration camps reminds me of an article in the *Frankischer Tagezeitung* (where would I be without my newsclip filing system?):

"Concentration camps are no disgrace; on the contrary, they are an ornament to Kultur. Here neglected individuals are educated to real life with the firmest kindness."

And, while on concentration camps let me bring forth another clipping from my ever-useful file. It tells of a Catholic who was sentenced, in Berlin, to a year in a concentration camp "on a race defilement charge on the ground that he was formerly a Jew."

Nazi lunacy is endless and would be diverting if it weren't so tragic. Here, for example, are a few more extracts from my folder on Hitleristic cavortings:

From the Berlin *Weltpolitische Rundschau*:

"Proper breathing is a means of acquiring heroic national mentality. The art of breathing was formerly characteristic of true Aryanism and known to all Aryan leaders."

From the writings of Dr. Alfred Rosenberg, Nazi philosopher:

"The absence of all-around abilities in woman is directly attributed to the fact that woman is vegetative."

From a Nazi report to the *London Times*:

"The Nazi party in Upper Austria has presented to Herr Hitler a prehistoric stone club as a symbol of

the absorption of Austria by the reich."

From the *General Anzeiger*:

"The centrifugal handwriting of the Aryan race and the tendency to write up the page is a sign of creative and expansionist force."

From the writings of Dr. Theodore Lewald, president of the German Olympic committee:

"Catholics cannot be recognized by the shapes of their noses in the same way that Jews can be recognized, so that if they keep their mouths shut they can even be housed with the Aryans."

From a Nazi editorial:

"Even in the German streets the new spirit is visible. . . . The ash-cans are lined up as if standing at attention."

So, in the face of the above and many other clippings, let me close with a sentence from the No. 2 Nazi, General Hermann Goering:

"If what we have done here is lunacy, then lunacy becomes us."

Well said, thou true and faithful upholder of the Hitler ideology.

* * *

Your various points about the spending policy of the Federal Government and the national debt are convincing, especially with regard to the gains the country is enjoying through permanent improvements. Let me suggest that you take just one great item that's being paid for by the government and show what it means to the public.

Let's take the first that comes to mind—the vast Grand Coulee Dam of the Columbia River, in the Northwest, a project that will be completed before 1942, at a cost of \$404,000,000, in round figures. I'm indebted to Richard L. Neuberger, of Spokane, Wash., for the facts used in this article, all of them accurate because I feel sure this newspaperman, and author of "Our Promised Land," is the best-informed man writing about the Pacific Northwest. He describes the Grand Coulee as "the greatest construction venture in history . . . four times as big as the Great Pyramid and three and one-half times as big as Boulder Dam." Engineers report that, when finished, its battlement "will be 500 feet thick and more than four-fifths of a mile long." The entire enterprise will cost more than the Panama Canal. Mr. Neuberger

quotes the late General Goethals, builder of the Panama Canal, as having said, in 1922, that Grand Coulee is "an undertaking of greater importance and would add far more to the national income." The enemies of our government's "spending policy" should call attention to such facts when voicing their criticisms. Hugh L. Cooper, who died a few years ago after serving the Soviet Union as engineer in charge of the building of the great Dnieperstroy dam, said, shortly before his death, that "Grand Coulee was the greatest power site in the world." According to engineers, this dam, now in its fifth year of construction, with about three more to go, "will generate four times the energy produced at Niagara Falls." As Mr. Neuberger puts it, "enough power will be generated at Grand Coulee to light two-thirds of the farmhouses of the nation." Its 12 pumps "could provide water for two-thirds of the population of the U.S." Mr. Neuberger also says "it will produce the largest chunk of hydro-electric power available at any one place in the world, and it will irrigate and reclaim a huge tract of land as big as the State of Connecticut." He quotes costs to the government, as follows: dam and power plant, \$181,101,000; irrigation canals, \$208,532,000; interest charges, \$15,000,000; aggregate, \$404,633,000. In short, Grand Coulee is "simultaneously the greatest irrigation, flood-control and power project ever planned. It will irrigate and reclaim more than 1,500,000 acres of land." Mr. Neuberger calls attention to the interesting historical fact that the dam has been President Roosevelt's dream for 19 years. In 1920, when Mr. Roosevelt was running for Vice-President, he visited the Pacific Northwest during a campaign tour. One day, while riding on a train near the banks of the Columbia River, he expressed himself as follows: "Look at all that water running down unchecked to the sea." Later, at Spokane, he told an audience that "some day the hinterlands of the Columbia Basin would be developed to contain the homes of thousands and hundreds of thousands of citizens like us." Yes, it's costing a lot of money, but who can deny the project is worth

while? This immense dam will provide enough irrigation to supply 75,000 families with fertile farms, according to John C. Page, Commissioner of Reclamation. The facts above—and I have complete confidence in Mr. Neuberger's ability as a conscientious reporter—show indisputably that the country is being benefited by the government's spending. The same people who bewail such expenditures never utter a word of complaint when new \$75,000,000 battleships are launched to destroy lives, but let a public servant prefer to turn the people's money to useful, life-saving ventures and we're compelled to hear endless bellyaches about how the country is being pushed into insolvency. The government's credit never was better than it is today. Government bonds and other obligations command high prices among the very people who complain the most. They can keep their editorial writers howling day after day, but they can't make us forget the fact that the country is being improved and that we'll be better off than ever when we finish the jobs outlined for the near future, even though they're costing a lot of money. A country that builds a Grand Coulee can't be described as going to the dogs. We're going places. True, we make many missteps, but at least we're on our way. Think of a country that tackles a single job that's bigger than the Panama Canal and hardly says a word about it! If a Fascist country were to turn out a single job like that, the whole world would be called on to look and wonder.

* * *

Editor: The Hobbs "concentration camp" bill (H.R. 5643), which has just passed the House, should be soundly defeated in the Senate. We strongly urge you to point out the essentially unjust nature of the measure. The bill provides for the establishment of detention camps for non-citizens ordered deported but for whom passports cannot be obtained to effect their deportation. The objections to such legislation are:

1. There is no real evil to be met by providing places of detention for aliens who cannot be deported. Those who commit crimes can be proceeded against like anyone else.
2. The number of aliens for whom passports cannot be secured

is comparatively small. The Department of Labor gives figures showing that from 1930 to date 1,647 aliens could not be deported—an average of less than 200 a year. The creation of places of detention at considerable expense to the government is a measure unjustified by so small a group of aliens.

3. The proposal constitutes a form of punishment not consistent with the procedure in regard to aliens, which is civil not criminal. It is no fault of the aliens involved that governments refuse to issue passports. They should not be penalized for the technical and other difficulties arising in the intercourse of governments.

4. Imprisonment for inability of the government to deport would condemn these aliens to indefinite punishment. It is highly questionable whether confinement of aliens in "places of detention" is constitutional except as punishment for crime.

Federal Judge Anderson, of the Massachusetts District Court, ruled in 1925: "There is no power in this court or in any other tribunal in this country to hold indefinitely any sane person or alien in imprisonment, except as a punishment for crime. Slavery was abolished by the Thirteenth Amendment. It is elementary that deportation or exclusion proceedings are not punishment for crime."

We hope Freeman readers will register effective opposition to this bill.

ARTHUR GARFIELD HAYS

General Counsel, American Civil Liberties Union, N.Y.C.

* * *

I am deeply puzzled by the situation in Cuba. We all remember how Batista established a military dictatorship, but some reports insist he now isn't a dictator but a liberal. What are the facts?

The situation in Cuba isn't at all simple. Conflicting reports come frequently from that beautiful island, some describing Batista as a supporter of democracy and others insisting he's a Fascist. A careful review of the evidence seems to give one the right to agree with those who insist that Batista, since coming under the influence of President Cardenas, of Mexico, is really trying to establish a regime in which the common people will be guaranteed democratic rights. In the May 8, 1939, issue of *The Daily Worker*, the able Communist writer, Mike Gold, says, after studying the situation in Havana, that Cuba, un-

der the leadership of Batista, is developing "an awakened conscious and militant democratic movement." Mike Gold adds:

Remember the background: the bloody dictatorship of Machado, a tyranny as brutal and bloody as Hitler's, which the masses finally toppled over one glorious morning. A young soldier from the ranks, Sergeant Fulgencio Batista, came to power in the change, and ruled by army means. But the people would not be downed. And the trade unions grew, the democratic spirit spread. Then Nazi fascism lifted its ugly head. Batista was placed in a position where he had to base his rule on naked fascism, openly controlled by Spanish, Italian and German interventionists, or he had to go with the Cuban masses.

He chose the latter course. It was a remarkable change of heart, and it is right to remain a bit wary of all-to-sudden conversion. Nevertheless, it is just as politically correct to accept them realistically as part of world events today, where the lines shift rapidly as on any hard-fought battlefield.

Batista chose, even for himself, the most practical course. Otherwise, he would have had to make constant war on the Cuban people, with only a small nucleus of upper-class Cuban fascists and foreign agents to support him.

Say what one will, he has given some remarkable demonstrations of his desire for a democratic Cuba. . . . Some weeks ago Batista wrote a long letter to "Hoy," the labor daily here, in which he vowed to drive Nazis and fascists out of the Cuban army.

He has removed quite a few such officers. He has initiated legislation to keep out fascist goods; only today all Japanese hats were banned from Cuba. His government, like that of Mexico, invited all Loyalist refugees from Spain to come here; and donated \$25,000 to help repatriate the 600 Cubans who went over to fight in the International Brigade. He has also outlawed the Cuban Falangistas (fascists).

Yes, interesting and stimulating things are happening in Havana, the Paris of the Western world.

* * *

What fun do priests have?

Nun.

* * *

Is it true that Germans can't hear foreign broadcasts?

No. The Nazis have forbidden the

people to tune in on foreign news reports, but it's almost impossible to enforce such a decree. The people listen to British, French, Russian and U.S. broadcasts, thus getting the facts about international affairs. Frequently they learn the truth about what's happening right in their own communities, especially when Hitler's gangsters conducted their mass pogrom against the Jews last November. The American reports sent out by the National Broadcasting Company are especially popular in Nazi Germany, for countless thousands of people have learned from experience that these announcements on foreign affairs, especially the position of the great democracies, can be relied on implicitly. They serve as effective antidotes against the poison-gas of Nazi propaganda. During the past 12 months thousands of "fan" letters have been received from Nazi listeners by the managers of American networks, particularly the NBC. This company recently released a letter received from one of its German listeners. As it's worth studying, I'm printing it in full:

"From: Somewhere in Germany
"To: The Speaker of the German Hour,

"New York.

"Before beginning, I must say that I doubt that you will receive this letter, for a severe censorship rules in free and coordinated Germany.

"Here one can do only what is pleasing to the Gentlemen above. But the fact remains that most Germans listen to foreign reports and not to those here, for we have lost faith in our government in spite of the motto of the Berlin Radio Station 'Ueb immer Treu und Redlichkeit' (Practice always Faith and Honesty). Our government has adopted this motto too, but the people know what to think of it. We are also acquainted with the term 'Freedom'; but we detest the use made of these terms from the bottom of our hearts.

"Goebbels said of the Jewish pogroms that the German people acted spontaneously. These words have created bitter feeling among the German people. The truth is, the people had to look on with gnashing teeth as Storm Troopers and Black Shirts smashed and plundered everything.

"There is a deep rift between the people and the government; and

here it is proven once again that a minority rules. The people must bleed and the big shots bathe in champagne. How long can this last?

"How stupid they make us, and how they lie to us about everything, above all in these infamous speeches, this self-deification. If we weren't forced to, no one would listen to this swindle. The biggest fraud is always when we have to vote. When half the votes would be NO the results are always YES; and then they say that 99 percent are behind the Fuehrer. At the most, it is 10 percent; and these are the recipients of government salaries. They receive, of course, very high salaries, otherwise they wouldn't cooperate any more. . . .

"I could write much more; but you would only shake your head at some of it and say that it can't be possible. I am thinking just now of the so-called Inheritance Law for peasant land (Das Erbhofgesetz). They say that the peasant has regained his freedom; what a swindle! In reality he has been expropriated. Today everything is Common Property (Volksgut). The term is no longer Farm Owner, or Factory Owner, but Manager of Operations, a man who can be replaced at any time by someone else.

"We have come back to the Middle Ages. We are just as ignorant as in those days even though we do have newspapers. But Goebbels says that the people will realize the truth—he'll keep the lies for himself.

"The most devilish is the education of our youth. If a teacher gives religious training he is considered an enemy of the State. The wedding ceremony is performed by a Storm Trooper, and in place of a Bible Text, a quotation from Mein Kampf is read. At other times they still speak of God, and say 'With God's Help.'

"The impudence with which they lie is unbelievable; but Goebbels tops them all. We thought a short time ago that he was done for—all kinds of rumors were floating about; but you know, of course, that this type of man is the most useful.

"Dear Announcer, Mr. Marsching, let me know if you receive this letter—I hardly believe you will. My Address, of course, is false. If you wish to get in touch with me, do so through the Mail Bag on the air. Please say, 'Letter of A.B. received,' then I shall write you in greater detail. I have told a number of people about your broadcasts. They

all like to hear you. Just don't mince any words.

"And don't be frightened by the saber-rattling in Berlin, for the people sympathize with America, England and France, not with Mussolini. Nor do the people want Communism.

"Mit Gruss

"A.R.

* * *

Where was Father Coughlin educated?

In the land of his birth—Canada. At Hamilton, Ont., he attended St. Mary's Parochial school, later going to St. Michael's Collège, where his father, an American-born Catholic, was sexton of the Catholic church. He then went to the University of Toronto, where he was graduated at 20. After being ordained in Toronto he became a teacher at the Assumption College in Sandwich, nearby. While still a young priest and teacher he was sent to Detroit to deliver occasional sermons. He became popular there, the result being that he was invited to remain, which he did. He never took out naturalization papers, insisting he became an American citizen because of his father's citizenship, despite the fact he was born in Canada. He would be technically right if his father had gone to an American consulate in Canada to register the fact that he wanted U.S. citizenship retained for his son. But there is no such record. This, in the language of the Institute for Propaganda Analysis, Inc., N.Y.C., leaves a serious "doubt about his citizenship." The fact is, of course, that the doubt is a real one, for Father Coughlin is in reality a Canadian citizen. American supporters of democratic ideals and opponents of Fascism and anti-Semitism, should write letters to the State Department, Washington, D.C., demanding a thorough investigation and report on Coughlin's status. By a peculiar coincidence, Hitler wasn't a German citizen until after he stole power and established his dictatorship, when he rewrote the German constitution to suit his own Nazi ideology and granted himself full German citizenship, despite the fact he was born in Austria and never attempted to become a citizen of Germany during the days of the kaiser or the Republic. Perhaps Father (of what?) Coughlin figures on a similar coup, in which he will give the U.S. a constitution that will fit into his

Fascist and racist ideas, incidentally making himself a citizen of the U.S. by decree. Citizens of the U.S. don't object to an alien expressing himself on social, economic, political, religious and other subjects, but they properly oppose any line of action by which an alien can assume U.S. citizenship when he really isn't a citizen at all. Citizens who live in Detroit ought to see if Coughlin voted in any elections, in which case his citizenship could be made a legal issue. If Coughlin is an alien, he should be compelled to accept an alien's status. The right to vote in an American election must always be reserved for citizens. We must be on guard because a study of Father Coughlin's record shows he has ambitions to become America's Hitler. If he intends to overthrow our democracy, establish racial persecutions on a legal basis, and inaugurate a Fascist, totalitarian, corporate State, then he should be compelled to return to his native land, Canada, in the same way that we would deport any other alien who conspires to overthrow our republican form of government. It's Coughlin the political demagogue, and not Coughlin the religious leader, who provokes these thoughts. No one in his right senses would dream of moving a finger to stop Coughlin from preaching his theological dogmas. But when an alien jumps into the political arena, when he strives to establish a corporate State (as he plainly said several times in his articles and radio addresses), when he seeks to bring to the U.S. all the horrors of Brutalitarianism, lovers of our traditional liberties have a right to insist that our government take a hand and see what combination of circumstances brought about a situation in which a Canadian is trying to exercise his will on U.S. political, social, educational and economic institutions. And, at the same time, we ought to insist that either the Dies Committee or the Department of Justice, preferably the latter, look into the sources of Coughlin's funds, for it's known that Coughlin is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars yearly to issue his carloads of literature, his expensive, widely circulated magazine, and to buy time on more than a score of radio stations. L. M. Birkhead, director of The Friends of Democracy,

says Coughlin is getting his money from HENRY FORD. I believe Mr. Birkhead knows whereof he speaks. He has even made the statement publicly, in a speech before a large audience of teachers in Detroit, where his charge wasn't challenged, though Henry Ford and Coughlin were almost within hailing distance of the meeting. I feel confident a formal inquiry will prove the truth of Birkhead's statement. Readers who write to the State Department regarding Coughlin's doubtful citizenship should, at the same time, write to the Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., demanding an investigation into the source of Coughlin's funds, particularly with regard to Henry Ford's interest in financing Coughlin's bitter, destructive, hate-breeding Fascist propaganda. Several hundred letters can do nothing but good. If Henry Ford is financing Coughlin, the public has a right to know *why* and *how much*. If Father Coughlin is a real citizen of the U.S.—a fact which can be established easily if Coughlin's father declared his son's American citizenship in Canada—then the matter should be disposed of for all time. If, as many of us insist, Coughlin isn't a citizen of our country then we have a right to demand that he shall not vote in our elections and that he shall be treated as any other alien who participates in anti-Americanism. How strange is it that America's most active speaker and propagandist has never, in all his millions of words, spoken a single word in favor of civil rights—free speech, free press, free assembly, and so on. The thing, in the light of his record, isn't so strange after all, for his intention is plain—to destroy our civil rights through Fascism and race-baiting, beginning with the Jews and then turning on other minorities, including the Negroes. Yes, Coughlin's intentions aren't in line with democratic ideals. They are shot through with Fascism in its most odious forms. In the face of such a situation why shouldn't real American citizens demand that their government do something, especially in the matters of citizenship and the sources of funds? Father Coughlin's dogmas are nothing more than English versions of *Mein Kampf*. He is the American voice of Hitlerism. As for

the extent of his influence, I don't know what to say. I'm not given to hysteria. I'm given to looking for the facts. There have been many guesses, most of them exaggerated. But one, issued by the American Institute of Public Opinion, Dr. Gallup's well-known fact-finding body, reported on January 9, 1939, that 3,500,000 men and women listen to Father Coughlin's radio speeches every Sunday, and that 15,000,000 listen to him now and then. The Institute for Propaganda Analysis, in referring to this report, repeats that 67 percent of the regular listeners and 51 percent of the occasional listeners approve of Father Coughlin with the remark: "He knows what he's talking about." If those figures are correct—and they don't seem to be very far off—then Coughlinism is an immediate menace to American freedom and democratic institutions. When we add to this radio work the tremendous circulation of his magazine—more than 1,000,000 copies weekly—we get an idea of what American Fascism is setting up for the American people. Such gigantic propaganda can't be financed by the dimes, quarters and dollars of scattered listeners. To be sure, they send in contributions, but not nearly enough to meet the cost of Coughlin's project. Someone with big money is carrying the bulk of the expense—and here I return to Mr. Birkhead's charge—that HENRY FORD is financing this voice out of the Dark Ages, a voice that is repeating many of the ideas of race hatred that were expressed in the *Dearborn Independent*, the weekly magazine which Henry Ford published for many years until he found that the American people weren't quite ready for anti-Semitism, the main policy of Henry Ford's paper. At that time the editorial work was done by the Rev. William J. Cameron, the same gentleman who serves as Ford's mouthpiece on the Sunday Night Ford Hour. The dirty work of provoking direct Fascism and anti-Semitism Henry Ford leaves to Father Coughlin. As for the motive of Henry Ford and Father Coughlin—it's very simple. They seek to preserve their stake in Capitalism—Henry Ford as the world's greatest individual industrialist, and Father Coughlin as a minor-prophet of profit. Let's not forget how Father

Coughlin, a few years ago, was caught red-handed by the *Detroit Free Press* speculating in the silver market. "The simple Catholic priest" was shown up as the owner of 500,000 ounces of silver (see my volumes of questions and answers for the full data), which he had purchased on margin (the largest silver account in the State of Michigan) at the very time when he was making radio speeches in which the following statement was made:

"The restoration of silver to its proper value is of Christian concern. I send you a call for the mobilization of all Christianity against the god of gold."

That sounds dramatic and eloquent, but the record, as shown by the *Detroit Free Press*, was tainted with the poison of greed and commercial sordidness, for the priest was out for a killing. All Father Coughlin could say in his own defense was that he had a right to make an "investment." The record shows more than a mere "investment." He was rigging the market for a big haul. As one commentator put it, "To many it seemed as though Father Coughlin had been less concerned with Christianity than with private gain." Now Father Coughlin talks no more about "Christian" silver as opposed to non-Christian gold. He keeps harping on the fact that his program "incorporates the principle that Congress shall coin and regulate the value of money." If ever a demagogue found something phony to harp on here is the perfect illustration. If I may quote myself, for I've covered this point in several places in my volumes of questions and answers, the Constitution of the U.S. has always carried these words: "The Congress shall have the power . . . To coin money, regulate the value thereof. . . ." This political quack would put into the Constitution what's already there. In another place, under his own signature, Father Coughlin gives a picture of himself as one who could be guilty of the worst crimes if only he were to renounce his faith. He must know himself. Here are his own words:

"If I threw away and renounced my faith, I would surround myself with the most adroit highjackers, learn every trick of the highest banking and stock manipulations,

avail myself of the laws under which to hide my own crimes, create a smokescreen to throw into the eyes of men, and—believe me—I would become the world's champion crook."

As I said a while ago, Father Coughlin must know himself or he wouldn't speak that way. We know many people who have renounced their faith—men of the caliber of Joseph McCabe, Ingersoll, Voltaire, Diderot, Bradlaugh, Bertrand Russell, Dr. Freud, Clarence Darrow, and scores of others—and still devoted themselves to sincere, honest, constructive efforts to educate humanity and to rescue the victims of a theocratic system which serves to keep the race bound in the shackles of the supernatural. These Freethinkers and Rationalists didn't want to go out and rob and exploit humanity just because they had succeeded in ridding themselves of a lot of superstitious twaddle. They took their mental liberation as a good reason for offering brotherly aid to the millions who were still in the throes of religious obscurantism. But this great Fascist priest wouldn't turn to thoughts and acts of social uplift if he were to free himself of his dark, medieval dogmas—no, he'd want to become the world's most magnificent crook. As I said, we can't argue with a man when he tries hard to tell the truth about his own character. In this case, Father Coughlin has succeeded in saying more than he intended. And most of it sounds like cold, objective truth, except that he has shown a powerful aptitude for dishonesty and crookedness even as he continues to wear the robes of a priest, for the man lies without conscience, he distorts, he spreads falsehoods, he stirs up race hatred, he spits on freedom and democracy, and he presents himself as a hero to the world's Brutalists. Father Coughlin hasn't renounced his faith and yet he continues as a cultural highjacker, an intellectual crook, and a poisoner of men's minds and hearts. As already said, Father Coughlin is a "hero" in Fascist Italy and Germany. I have, in recent months, quoted from numerous Fascist sources to prove how the radio priest is admired and even worshipped in the lands of the dictators. The priest himself returns the compliment, because, as he once said, he sees in

the Fascist countries the birthplace and development of his favorite policies. If you doubt the truth of this seemingly extreme statement, let me quote from Father Coughlin's own writings, in the February 13, 1939, issue of Social Justice, as follows:

"I am beginning to understand why I have been dubbed a 'Nazi' or a 'Fascist' by the Jewish publications in America; for practically all the . . . principles of social justice are being put into practice in Italy and Germany."

Yes, Italy and Germany contain friendly soil for the weeds of Coughlinism. And, while on this subject, let me add that on March 13, 1938, his radio address contained praise for the "Corporate State," which is another way for saying the Fascist State. If he wants the Corporate State for the U.S. then it follows that he wants to destroy our representative form of government. This also means the scrapping of Congress. You can't have representative government and at the same time have a Fascist, Corporate State. The two can't live in the same country.

What does Hitler mean when he speaks of his regime as the Third Reich?

Many editors, speakers and professors betray ignorance when they speak or write of the First Reich as the pre-war German empire under the kaiser, the Second Reich as the years of the postwar German republic, and Hitler's regime as the Third Reich. That's the general idea, and it's all wrong. In Hitler's opinion, the years of the republic must be skipped, must be ignored. He says it's the kaiser's empire that was the Second Reich. Then, one asks, what was the First Reich? Ah, here we go back pretty far—hundreds of years. In fact, the First Reich was pretty well gone by 1648. There were a few traces of it in 1806, but they weren't worth considering. This First Reich is, in reality, the old medieval Holy Roman Empire (das Heilige Roemische Reich) which somehow insisted that it had some sort of mortgage on the earth. Its size was pretty big—western parts of the Germany as we know it today, hefty slices of territories now belonging to France and Italy, and the low countries. If Hitler's right, Germany didn't exist from 1918 to

1933, but a little thing like that couldn't bother a Nazi. Funny guys, these Ratzis.

I am enclosing a clipping from The New York Times, which quotes Father Coughlin as having said "they did not inform the American public how Soviet Russia was instrumental in robbing 9,720,000 square miles of China. . . ." Please comment.

When Father (of what?) Coughlin settles down to plain and fancy lying there's no telling where he'll end up. Perhaps the Fascist, anti-Semitic priest will explain how a country like China, that has only about 3,000,000 square miles, can be robbed of precisely 9,720,000 square miles. Even if you throw in all the immense sections stolen by Japan—including Manchuria—you get only about 5,000,000 square miles.

In one of your volumes of questions and answers you speak of the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod as having been a poor man only a few years ago. Then where did he get the large sums of money necessary to establish his large publishing plant?

The Rev Winrod, notorious anti-Semite and Nazi, was poor before the advent of Hitlerism. He made a lean living as a small-time evangelist, getting by as well as he could on tiny contributions from the followers whose souls he'd "saved." Then, after a trip to Nazi Germany, he settled down in Wichita, Kans. with no end of funds, and before long he was employing many workers, sending out tons of literature, and printing publications that required carloads of paper. The money, let me explain, came from Hitler's propaganda machine. William Dudley Pelley, head of the Silver Shirt Legion, also runs a large printing plant in Ashville, North Carolina. Only a few years ago Pelley was broke and discredited. Now he's in the big money again. The answer? Hitler's propaganda machine. Father Coughlin, who spends more money than any 10 Fascists put together doesn't get a penny from Hitler. Henry Ford keeps Father Coughlin's publishing and radio enterprises going. The real reason why the Nazis have turned to financing American Fascists is because they've found it doesn't work out very well to follow the old policy of smuggling anti-democratic, pro-Fascist, anti-Semitic

literature into the U.S. via German boats. That method was too dangerous. The stuff could be traced. But it's much harder to trace cash, especially when it's handled by men who pretend to be employes of great shipping corporations. Here's how David Karr explains the situation:

Several years ago, when the Nazi espionage and propaganda machine was first being established in America, it was necessary to print the Fascist papers, magazines and pamphlets in Germany. They were then smuggled into the United States for distribution among our populace. The McCormick Congressional Investigating Committee (generally referred to as the Dickstein Committee) exposed this practice.

The Committee learned of how every Nazi steamship was required to smuggle in its quota of literature. This was accomplished by many devices. The most favored method was to use dummy compartments in huge packing-cases of machinery and other imports as the hiding-place. In addition, crew members were ordered to remove much of the material from the boat when they went ashore between sailings.

This method of smuggling has been largely discarded today. However, it may have been reverted to only recently, during the mammoth campaign carried on by the German-American Bund to stage a "pro-American" rally in New York's Madison Square Garden. Huge quantities of leaflets and placards were necessary for advertising purposes.

The brilliant four-color placards for the "pro-American" rally were drawn by Egon Schiebe, staff cartoonist of Hitler's own Volkischer Beobachter of Berlin!

The amazing and alarming growth of American Fascism in recent years has removed much of the need for wholesale import of the mass distribution matter.

Much of the material used by American Fascists and anti-Semites comes from *World-Service*, a clearing house for "news" that's printed in eight languages. The headquarters of *World-Service* is Erfurt, Germany, where specialists in the creation of magnificent lies are subsidized by Hitler's funds. These lies, which are circulated through Fascist organs in numerous countries, are disseminated faster than they can be exposed. By the time a truth-telling editor exposes

one lie the organization comes along with a dozen new ones.

The real sources of anti-Semitism in the U.S. are Henry Ford and Hitler.

* * *

What do you think of Garner as a substitute for Roosevelt as a presidential candidate?

You might as well ask me if I thought Lord 'erbert 'oover should be used in place of Roosevelt. Garner is a reactionary. He is opposed to even the minor reforms of the New Deal. No, there's no way of putting him up as a man to take Roosevelt's place as a progressive President. The country needs Roosevelt's leadership for another four years. He should be drafted by the nation's liberals and progressives. Garner, to my way of thinking, is even worse than Hoover, because while the Great Engineer is merely a fathead, Garner is actually a moron. I had occasion to watch him in action about four years ago when he visited a nearby community—Parsons, Kans.—for a speech. He was accompanied by a guard, whose job it was to keep Garner from opening his mouth and putting his foot into it. His speech, by sheer force, was held down to a line of idiotic generalities. I was amazed to think that such a dimwit could actually become Vice-President of our country. Roosevelt, on the other hand, is a giant who has performed wonders during his years in office, and, while I may be wrong, I believe he has it in him to go ahead with his program and tackle the greater issues that are crying for drastic treatment. The country should insist on giving F. D. R. a third term.

* * *

How'd you go for "The Confessions of a Nazi Spy"?

I liked it fine. It's a good movie. Though I won't review it here, because I save my movie criticisms for my regular department in the H-J News-Letter, I want to take space in these columns to advise my readers to be sure to see this brilliant picture. Not only should anti-Fascists see the show themselves but they should take it on themselves to urge their friends and acquaintances to do likewise. When a producer goes out of his way to give the public a true and honest picture of Nazi activities the intelligent public should respond with support at the box office.

This picture is a great success as a truth-teller; it should be a commercial success as well, and that can be achieved if all supporters of democratic ideas will line up for tickets at the theaters where this extraordinary, dramatic, enthralling, well acted and directed film is shown.

* * *

Have you noticed the way Father Coughlin pronounces the word Semite?

Yes, and it's awful. He says it this way: Seem-ite. There's absolutely no authority for this. It should always be sem-ite, accent on the first syllable with the *e* sounded as in *end*. The *i* in the second syllable, of course, is sounded like the *i* in *high*.

* * *

Can you tell me why the big radio stations in N.Y.C., where I live, refuse to carry Father Coughlin's broadcasts?

Like all well-run radio stations, the N.Y. establishments insist that Father Coughlin submit a written copy of his speech at least 24 hours before the scheduled broadcast. This Father Coughlin refuses to do. The facts show that the studio managers are in the right. They have a legal and moral right to know what anyone intends to say through their facilities, for they have to take into consideration the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, the libel laws, plagiarism, and the like. The element of plagiarism isn't to be passed over lightly, for, as I've shown several times in the past, Father Coughlin has proven himself to be an unconscionable literary thief, taking anything that happened to suit his taste. He's been caught several times, and once, as I gave the facts, he paid off a New York publisher with thousands of dollars worth of radio time advertising a book from which he had stolen many paragraphs a few weeks before. I understand that Father Coughlin is able to buy time on 40 U.S. radio stations, all of them passing up the usual demand that speakers submit manuscripts in advance. The cost of an hour's time over these stations amounts to almost \$10,000, or \$520,000 per year. Father Coughlin, in order to hide the sources of his money, makes an appeal for funds from his radio hearers, but this money isn't enough to pay for 5 percent of the time he buys. The real money for his hateful, contemptible, inhuman, despicable, sadistic

propaganda comes from one of the world's greatest bigots, Henry Ford, who beat Father Coughlin's anti-Semitic propaganda by more than 10 years, for, it'll be remembered, he spent millions of dollars sponsoring his *Dearborn Independent*, a magazine that has served as something of a model for Coughlin's *Social Justice*. This magazine contains no advertising and is expensively printed. Receipts from it aren't enough to pay for the print paper, let alone the mechanical costs, editorial department, correspondence, and the other large expenses entailed in issuing a publication with nation-wide circulation. This money, in the main, comes also from Henry Ford, as I've shown before, my informant being that well-posted student of American Fascism, L. M. Birkhead, of Kansas City, Mo., where he devotes his full time to the work of directing the worthwhile, useful, enlightening activities of The Friends of Democracy. Another item of great expense in Father Coughlin's propaganda for Nazism and anti-Semitism, is the distribution of carloads of books and pamphlets containing his speeches and articles. These are sent free for the asking and as they are issued in expensive format, on a good grade of paper, the costs are high, but here again Henry Ford's millions come in handy for the radio priest of Royal Oak. Yes, Coughlin asks his hearers to "send something" for the books, but that's nothing more than a gesture. He adds invariably that the material will be sent free, and here again we can depend on nickels and dimes from hardly more than a 20th of the radio hearers who respond to his invitation. In his biography of Coughlin, Louis B. Ward (chief publicity director for the radio priest), said in 1933 it costs \$450,000 a year just to pay the postage on the free books and pamphlets sent out from his office in Royal Oak. The output is larger now, added to which is the immense postage bill connected with *Social Justice*, so we can feel safe in saying the postage bill is even higher today. It doesn't take a business executive or a statistician to figure that Father Coughlin is being backed by a moneyed angel, Ford, of course. Not for all of it, of course, but certainly for the major part of the bill. As I've shown

before (see my volumes of questions and answers for the full data) Father Coughlin's friendship with Henry Ford isn't a recent phenomenon. They've been close buddies for many years. On this point let me draw on an article by A. B. Magil (*New Masses*, June 6, 1939) which contains important data on Father Coughlin and Henry Ford. Here's a significant passage:

As for Henry Ford, there too the affinity is of long standing. "Coughlin Defends Ford as a Patriot," read a headline in the *New York Times* of Sept. 6, 1933. And he has continued to defend the motor manufacturer at every opportunity. In 1937 the volatile priest, with the consent of Harry Bennett, head of Ford's private Gestapo, the service department, sought to organize at the Ford Dearborn plant a disguised company union called the Workers Councils for Social Justice. It didn't take. Whereupon Coughlin turned his attentions to disrupting the CIO United Automobile Workers from within. It was he who served as go-between for Homer Martin, deposed president of the UAW, in his secret negotiations with the Ford Motor Co. Martin was soon elevated to Coughlin's hall of fame and in the columns of *Social Justice* he was spoken of in terms reserved only for Hitler, Mussolini, and Ford.

Last December there emerged fresh evidence of Coughlin's intimate relations with the Dearborn rugged individualist. On two occasions Harry Bennett used the priest's broadcasts to issue statements designed to clear Ford of the stigma of having protested the Nazi pogroms. Coughlin has undoubtedly learned much from Ford's pioneer work in anti-Semitism. It is not so many years since the auto magnate's Dearborn Independent was, under the editorship of William J. Cameron, publishing articles of the same type as those now appearing in *Social Justice*.

In another place Mr. Magil shows that Father Coughlin's clerical force consists of 105 girls, which gives one another look into the enormous expenses entailed in Father Coughlin's propaganda. There are more employes, including high-priced publicity, editorial, circulation, mechanical, and other executives. In short, Father Coughlin is Big Business. "Clearly," says Mr. Magil, "these huge operating costs cannot be cover-

ed by the small individual contributions from the radio public. The big money must come from other sources." He's right. It does. Mr. Magil closes with this excellent suggestion: "It is time the Dies committee did a little unfrocking job and revealed the brown shirt under the cassock."

* * *

What is the point of origin of America's anti-Semitic propaganda?

Most of it comes from Germany. Even individual propagandists like the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod and Father Coughlin get much of their material from Nazi sources. David Karr, investigator of Nazi activities, writing in *The World*, charges that "Anti-Semitism in the U.S. is of German origin, German sponsorship and German control." Mr. Karr reports that "the Institute for Aryan Study of Chicago, Ill., which currently is holding competition for pamphlets and books of an anti-Semitic character (\$1,000 in cash prizes) is in actuality directed from Germany and has its headquarters in England." To back up his assertion, Mr. Karr publishes copies of the letter sent to American citizens from a point in Germany and includes in his article a cancelled post-marked letter from Germany.

* * *

Does Henry Ford dictate to his employes outside their working hours?

Henry Ford conducts an elaborate espionage system. His paid snoopers pry into every phase of the private lives of his employes. The company knows everything about its workers—their personal habits, their contacts, the kind of friends they mingle with, the meetings they attend, the kind of reading they indulge in, and so on. The extensive system isn't used only to prevent real, independent unionism. It goes far beyond that in its aim to exercise paternalistic authority over its immense army of workers. That's why a Ford employe usually acts like a hunted animal. He's afraid to speak his mind. He becomes secretive and suspicious because he feels, with justice, that he's being dogged every foot of the way. I happen to know that several of my readers, who work for Ford, get their reading matter at a private postoffice box instead of at their homes, because they know that Ford's espionage system hasn't yet been able to open Uncle Sam's

mailbags. The whole Ford arrangement smacks of Feudalism. What puzzles me in how a hard-fisted, driving, malicious employer like Ford can get such a reputation for being a "philanthropist." The man doesn't have a single humanitarian impulse. And yet the majority of people I talk to always look on Ford as the ideal employer. This is because Ford has hired clever brains that know all the devices of publicity.

* * *

Please comment on the criticism frequently heard that the Soviet Union's army can't be counted on as an effective fighting machine.

The British and U.S. newspapers have, in the past, played up this point, without taking the trouble to look into the facts. But the Germans have refused to kid themselves. The Nazis have a healthy respect for the Red Army. Let me quote a few sentences from *Deutsche Wehr*, the official organ of the Nazi War Ministry, as follows:

One must guard against underestimating the military power of Soviet Russia. Efforts made by this country in the domain of armaments for years past have given it a war potentiality not to be scorned.

* * *

I am enclosing a clipping of a review of "The Confessions of a Nazi Spy." Please comment on the remark that "this picture is nothing more than a modern version of the war-thriller of 1918, entitled 'The Kaiser, Beast of Berlin.'"

The comparison is silly. The movie, "The Confessions of a Nazi Spy," is a documented picture that is based on strict truth. It's a report of what really happened. I recall the 1918 "Beast of Berlin" tripe. It was an awful chunk of trash, intended to sell the war to the public on the basis of bunk, exaggeration, distortion, and deliberate untruth. In selling a film, Hollywood companies always draw up a synopsis of the story in order to give the exhibitor a quick idea of what he's being asked to buy. David Platt, of *The Daily Worker*, has dug up the company's synopsis of the 1918 potboiler, which I want to pass on to my readers:

Marcus is a peace-loving blacksmith of Louvain, Belgium. In a palace in Berlin lives the kaiser. A captain of the guard, chided for the appearance of his men, knocks down the kaiser and then commits suicide.

The kaiser soon after starts the World War. Title: I am asking you at any moment to strike at your own mother, sister, or sweetheart. Second title: We all know his major weakness for soft white hands and we shuddered.

Louvain is invaded. The blacksmith is wounded. He saves his daughter from the German soldiers. Title: Stand back, old woman, it's the girl I want. Later the Lusitania is sunk. The commander of the submarine is decorated and then goes mad. In an interview with American Ambassador Gerard, the kaiser says he will stand no nonsense from America in the war. The United States declares war and Gerard gets his sailing papers. Scenes of battle. The armistice. The close of hostilities finds the principal Allied generals gathered in a palace in Berlin. The kaiser is a captive. He is turned over to the king of Belgium whose chief jailer is the blacksmith.

As Mr. Platt says, "There is documentary evidence in Washington to support every single scene in the Warner Bros. film ('The Confessions of a Nazi Spy'). But only idiots and dopes will find any truth in the other one."

* * *

I am enclosing a page torn from the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod's magazine, *The Defender*. In it you'll see that he denies he is a Fascist. Please comment.

The clipping is a copy of the Rev. Winrod's letter to *The Saturday Evening Post* protesting against Stanley High's article which branded the Jayhawk Nazi as a supporter of Hitler's ideology. I've also seen a circular sent by Winrod to his subscribers, in which he repeats his denial that he's a Fascist. That, needless to say, is typical of many of our Fascists. They support the ideas but reject the label. Many of my readers have noticed how Father Coughlin continues to broadcast and print lies about the Jews, at the same time denying he's an anti-Semite. Such tactics fool few people, I'm convinced. In the Winrod circular mentioned above we find a whole page devoted to denying he's a Fascist but the second page is given to advertising the fact that one of his forthcoming issues will contain General George Van Horn Mosley's statement to the Dies Committee, a statement that can't be described as anything but an ex-

pression of Fascism. It's a poor time to advertise a Fascist's philosophy—at the very time one is denying his Fascism.

* * *

Is the present Pope really opposed to Nazi and Fascist persecution of the Jews? I have seen several references to the Pope's alleged objections to racial discriminations.

You have been exposed to the usual Fascist-Catholic propaganda, which is aimed at working harmoniously with the Fascists and at the same time giving the impression, in democratic, liberal countries, that the Catholic Church is using its powers to stop the racial policies of the Brutalitarianism. It's an old Vatican trick, but the informed are never deceived. Anti-Semitism doesn't worry Pope Pius XII any more than it did his predecessors, and, as I showed in numerous articles (all of which will be found in my volumes of questions and answers), anti-Semitism, as a formal policy, got its beginnings at the hands of the Catholic Church. The present Pope poses as a supporter of peace, but in Fascist countries he's recognized as a friend of Brutalitarianism. An insight into this situation will be seen from the utterance of Mussolini's undersecretary of the interior, Guido Buffarini, who said recently that Rome's anti-Jewish laws "have not seriously disturbed the harmony of accords between the government and the Vatican." The Catholic Church, next to the armaments of the dictators, is the most powerful supporter of totalitarian dogmas.

* * *

Could a Jew who becomes a convinced Atheist and Freethinker still be classified as a Jew?

A Jew, even though he becomes an Atheist, is still a Jew, in the same way that a Chinese, who becomes a Christian, is still a Chinese. Race has nothing to do with religious beliefs.

* * *

Do you agree with the opinion of so many liberals that Pius XII is going to be a pillar of democracy?

What piffing nonsense! Why expect support for democracy from a Pope who, as papal secretary of state under his predecessor, gave Mussolini his OK when he promoted his campaign to bomb civilization into the Ethiopians and later gave General Franco the support that enabled that

mass-murderer to destroy the democratic, liberal republic of Spain? Pius XII can be relied on to do everything in his power to further totalitarianism.

* * *

Do you believe Col. Lindbergh was right when he said Russia's air force wasn't worth serious consideration?

I've written a number of pieces about Lindbergh's position with regard to the Soviet Union, and as they are in my volumes of questions and answers I don't intend to waste space reviewing the material here. The whole world was impressed by Lindbergh—except the Germans, who know better. The Nazis have respect for military facts. In his book published in 1938, entitled "Air War Threatens Europe," Major Lothar Schuttel, of the German army, shows genuine respect for the Soviet Union's air force, as may be seen from the following sentence on page 146:

"One must expect that if the curve of increasing production in the Soviet industry for military airplanes continues steadily the output figures will rise in 1940 to about 12,000, perhaps even to 15,000 airplanes."

There's another point I want to cover here, even though no reader has thought of asking about it. I refer to the Russian navy, which other experts are inclined to ignore, thus showing that too often our experts go wrong on important matters. Here again I prefer to go to German sources. The German Admiralty issues an annual, called "Nauticus," which said, in its last issue: "It is necessary to recognize the incontestable fact that the U.S.S.R. possesses the most powerful submarine fleet in the world." I've said the same thing a dozen times in the past few years (for verification see the index of my volumes of questions and answers) which the experts prefer to ignore. Maybe they'll listen to the most authoritative publication on naval affairs published in Nazi Germany.

Now let's turn to Hitler himself, who is something of a student of military affairs. If you'll refer to Lord Londonderry's book, you'll find Hitler quoted as saying:

1. The Soviet Union's territory is immune from attack;
2. Blockades can never bring the Soviet Union to its knees;
3. The Soviet Union's industries

are so located that they're immune from air attack;

4. The U.S.S.R. has the strongest army in the world;

5. The U.S.S.R. has the strongest air force in the world.

I wonder why Hitler ignored the Soviet Union's limitless supplies of raw materials and immense resources in men. He surely knows about them.

* * *

How do you reconcile your numerous obvious Socialist leanings with your praise, in the best traditional words of capitalists rugged individualism ("giving work to otherwise idle workers"), of Herr Busch, the German exile, and of the way he rehabilitated himself by really exploiting his fellow man in the good old way? (I ask this question not because I don't know the right answer—which is that Herr Busch had a new idea, he was working in and with a capitalist economy and could not, therefore, even if he wanted to, by himself establish a Socialist ideal, and that his idea did not threaten to assume monopoly proportions anyway, that being, even in a State dedicated to Socialist objectives, the only sensible excuse for State interference with private initiative—but because I believe your answer would be of value to some old doctrinaire Socialists as well as more than a few new ones.)

I don't see how I can improve on my reader's answer to his own question. It says everything.

* * *

What does religion mean to Dr. Freud?

As I've shown before, Dr. Sigmund Freud is an Atheist. Numerous rationalistic quotations from his works will be found in my volumes of questions and answers. As for what religion means to Freud, let me refer to a sentence in his latest book, "Moses and Monotheism," in which he says he "sees religion as a counterpart of neurosis in the individual."

* * *

I can't recall your ever having written about the money theory that goes under the name of Social Credit. Do you favor it?

No. I look on the theory of Social Credit as just one more utopian cure-all that's guaranteed to clean up quickly all our problems of poverty, unemployment and insecurity. The supporters of Social Credit base their program on the reason that consumption has fallen because we lack the money to buy the goods that we produce. They then offer their peculiar solution, which is to give money to

the producer of consumption goods. When the producers have this extra money, we're told, they will be able to reduce prices because they will then be able to cover their cost of production. Prices are high, assert the Social Credit theorists, because the cost of production is very high. Giving money to producers meant to give income to others, and lower the cost of production.

This sounds impressive and plausible, but let's examine critically what it means. The great omission in this argument is that the Social Credit theorists forget the distinction between the two types of goods which we produce. Production is divided into consumption and production (durable) goods. If we are to give money to producers who will be able to sell to consumers we must necessarily give money to consumers' goods producers. But there is no need to buy all the commodities that are produced. The average customer has no use for the steam engine, nor for the railway switch, nor for the steamboat or dynamite, he needs only consumers' goods. But if you give all the money to consumers' goods there is no money available for the workers in the production goods industries. What the Social Credit theorists forget is that there are inter-industrial transactions. That buying and selling goes on in between the consumption and production goods divisions of our industries.

* * *

I wish you would dig into your famous newsclip filing system and bring out data that will show the amount of taxes paid to the Federal government by the States, and the amount paid by the U.S. in farm subsidies and relief. In short, I want to know which States paid more into the Federal treasury than they took out, and which paid less.

The official figures below cover the five years and six months up to the end of 1938. They show the Federal taxes paid and farm-subsidy and relief payments received by the States. The record shows that 22 States received in farm subsidies and relief payments alone more than they paid to Uncle Sam. North Carolina is on the "give" side because of the cigarette taxes collected from smokers in the 48 States; Illinois and Kentucky is the same through heavy payments of liquor revenue by consumers

throughout the country; and Michigan is in this list because of motor car excise taxes collected from car owners throughout the land.

48 States but pay their Federal taxes from New York City. Most of the money they pay certainly didn't come

TABLE OF TAXES PAID AND AID RECEIVED BY STATES

State	Taxes Paid	Farm	
		Subsidies	Relief Payments
Alabama	\$ 68,160,728	\$ 72,751,409	\$121,015,000
Arizona	15,300,327	7,108,667	42,591,000
Arkansas	28,190,452	79,613,675	104,923,000
California	1,304,035,426	35,612,497	491,240,000
Colorado	134,256,560	3,887,177	111,623,000
Connecticut	339,402,188	3,668,913	95,327,000
Delaware	275,619,126	1,580,880	8,739,000
Florida	159,826,095	7,775,989	116,159,000
Georgia	156,841,394	74,927,471	125,441,000
Idaho	15,246,729	22,575,084	38,144,000
Illinois	2,008,755,669	103,934,352	698,544,000
Indiana	444,658,770	66,436,424	248,766,000
Iowa	120,454,763	178,338,535	96,325,000
Kansas	116,383,435	159,253,517	125,089,000
Kentucky	578,036,110	48,243,918	130,626,000
Louisiana	177,680,545	63,221,838	132,622,000
Maine	56,938,093	2,661,312	34,600,000
Maryland	546,380,886	7,077,590	76,712,000
Massachusetts	779,134,428	2,482,649	409,825,000
Michigan	1,170,952,872	27,171,795	299,856,000
Minnesota	318,719,197	75,701,661	222,984,000
Mississippi	22,084,841	85,209,765	86,442,000
Missouri	575,154,960	81,820,838	245,569,000
Montana	29,248,299	41,279,603	68,496,000
Nebraska	78,585,897	110,640,138	80,068,000
Nevada	17,553,309	523,090	11,577,000
New Hampshire	35,688,176	461,749	27,730,000
New Jersey	905,211,588	2,194,731	339,371,000
New Mexico	9,579,220	11,742,479	40,252,000
New York	5,007,551,014	9,477,423	1,383,748,000
North Carolina	1,739,457,794	67,619,824	99,308,000
North Dakota	8,464,484	88,844,563	66,234,000
Ohio	1,273,696,498	54,407,003	647,529,000
Oklahoma	292,610,674	107,552,074	160,133,000
Oregon	57,752,465	15,811,455	68,927,000
Pennsylvania	1,915,251,030	11,731,619	969,111,000
Rhode Island	128,233,759	74,860	43,164,000
South Carolina	73,764,501	52,248,533	91,137,000
South Dakota	9,036,921	76,884,950	79,637,000
Tennessee	131,684,482	46,632,995	103,539,000
Texas	542,535,964	285,250,457	232,683,000
Utah	32,413,479	8,119,065	48,274,000
Vermont	16,736,952	1,299,423	14,374,000
Virginia	953,732,259	16,371,513	78,210,000
Washington	139,207,518	26,381,890	138,364,000
West Virginia	89,601,996	3,227,200	145,328,000
Wisconsin	388,631,253	40,365,778	259,687,000
Wyoming	11,871,141	8,479,974	19,033,000

One frequently hears of the "injustice" imposed on a great State like New York, which paid \$5,007,551,014 in Federal taxes and received in farm subsidies and direct relief "only" about a third of that money. The answer is obvious. There's no "injustice" about this, for the record shows that New York is the headquarters of many of our largest corporations, which draw their profits from the

from the pockets of New Yorkers. Take large taxpayers like the great insurance companies which have their main offices in New York City—how long would they be leaders in their field if they limited themselves to the money taken from New Yorkers?

An even more impressive case is that of Delaware, the tiny commonwealth that could be put into one of

our Western counties and never found again. It's a dot on the map, and yet it paid \$275,619,126 and received in return from the Federal treasury "only" a little more than \$10,000,000. The fact is, of course, there's no injustice here at all. Delaware, as is well known, permits corporations anywhere in our 48 States to evade paying their legitimate State taxes by opening a phony office in Wilmington, Del., and paying a comparatively small "fee" to the State of Delaware. By this crooked device hundreds of large corporations are able to rob their home-State people of the taxes they are entitled to collect. Delaware should be the last State to squawk because a large part of its Federal payments find their way to the impoverished portions of the population in the other States of the Union. This money doesn't come out of the savings of the people of Delaware. It comes from hundreds of corporations that have set up offices in that State in order to evade the tax laws of the other 47 States.

Let's return to New York State for a moment, where one of our greatest corporations, General Motors, holds forth under the leadership of Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., chairman of the board. When Mr. Sloan appeared recently before the Temporary National Economic (monopoly) Committee, in Washington, he showed that his corporation had sold about \$17,000,000,000 worth of products in the past 18 years, out of which it had made profits of \$2,300,000,000. Out of this immense item of profits the corporation had kept in its business \$480,000,000 and at the same time charged off \$520,000,000 to depreciation. Notice where this money came from—profits. The profits, needless to say, came from the consumers. They not only paid for their cars, but they also paid for immense stock dividends, cash dividends, bonuses, depreciation, and new plants and equipment. The fact that the consumers put up the money for the corporation's physical expansion made it unnecessary for G.M. to pay interest to bankers for capital investments or to have investors put their spare funds into such activities. Why pay interest in order to obtain capital investments for the corporation when the consumers stand ready to pay excessive

prices for the articles they purchase? And yet these great industrialists persist in talking about the "risks" of capital. This whole issue is receiving careful attention at the hands of the committee mentioned above. One of its witnesses, Oscar L. Altman, economist for the Securities and Exchange Commission, according to Henry Zon, summed the situation up this way:

1. In no year since 1922 have business enterprises relied upon the capital markets for as much as 2 billion of new savings in any one year for the purchase of new plant and equipment, despite average annual expenditures of 8.5 billion for the years 1923-29 and 5.8 billion for the period 1935-37.

2. The major source of funds for the construction of plant and for the purchase of machinery and equipment has been business savings plus funds set aside as depreciation and depletion allowances.

3. Funds set aside by business enterprises for depreciation and depletion have in recent years been 50 percent greater than they were in the early 1920s.

The facts show beyond debate that most of the system's capital investments come from the consumers. So, when a section of the consuming public gets hard up, just what's wrong about applying some extra taxes to these Wall Street elements in order to take care of the men, women and children who've been hit by the economic injustices of Capitalism? The facts indicate that they're getting off too easy. They really ought to be hit harder. The figures prove they could stand the expense quite easily. If there's one capitalistic element that hasn't much to complain about it's the leaders of America's great corporations.

* * *

You are quite plain when you discuss problems of free speech and free press, but I can't quite make out what you're driving at in matters touching on free speech on the radio. Please discuss this subject.

The Federal Communications Commission has Congress' permission to grant licenses to broadcast up to three years but prefers to issue them only for six months at a time. This gives the commission the power to terrorize large and small stations, because there's never the feeling that one's

position is secure against sudden attack, or, if not attacked, that a license won't be reissued at the end of so short a time. The FCC bases its control on the phrase used in the law, "public interest, convenience and necessity," words that can have widely conflicting interpretations. In fact, the FCC can punish any station at just about any time by merely falling back on these vague words. Friends of free speech on the radio insist that no standards have been fixed by which that phrase can be interpreted. The American Civil Liberties Union suggests it be so defined that it will be understood by both the industry and the public. Formulation of such standards should consider the following, according to the ACLU:

"All radio stations should be required to devote a certain proportion of their time for the discussion of public issues and for educational programs. Stations putting on a program involving a controversial issue should extend equal facilities to at least one important contrary view immediately after the original discussion. All stations should be required to keep a record of programs accepted and refused for inspection by the Commission or any interested public agency in order to determine program policy."

There's no question about the reasonableness of the ACLU's suggested rules and policies. We certainly need to adopt rules to promote freedom on the air. In connection with the granting and renewal of licenses, the ACLU, a body of experts on questions of free speech, holds that the radio industry is inevitably "under an indirect form of censorship and control by the FCC" through its interpretations of the phrase quoted above.

In considering applications for licenses, the ACLU proposes that standards of "public interest, convenience and necessity" should take into account the number and character of stations in a community and the diversity of program service. "Applications from an educational institution, a labor organization or a municipality should be given preference over a profit making enterprise, particularly in communities which already have commercial radio stations."

On the ground that a short term

of license constitutes a method of discipline which "inevitably restricts freedom of the air," the ACLU urges that the Commission extend the life of licenses from the present six months to a considerably longer period within the three years permitted by law. In cases where revocation is contemplated, the ACLU takes the position that the burden of proof should be on complainants and the Commission to show conduct contrary to the public interest. Attacking recent remarks by Chairman McNinch critical of certain programs—notably the Mae West episode and programs involving racial prejudice—the organization declared that "such statements have the effect of exercising duress on the stations."

Two matters touching on freedom on the air should be left to Congress. One is to relieve stations of liability for slander in programs concerning public issues on sustaining time. The other is the provision in the Communications Act concerning obscene, indecent and profane language, "the use of which may be the occasion for refusing the renewal of a license or for revoking it."

The ACLU also called to the Commission's attention the policy of the large networks in refusing to sell time for non-commercial programs. "This policy results in an unfair handling of public issues, for commercial sponsors have used the time they buy for the discussion of controversial public questions which cannot be presented by the other side unless it too has goods or services to sell. Thus a labor organization may not buy time on the networks while employers and employer-industry groups through commercial advertisers may state their case without restriction. The only remedy for this unfair situation is to prohibit a discussion of public issues on commercial time." The problem, it is suggested, may be left to regulation by the industry.

* * *

Does Father Coughlin use scab labor?

I've discussed Father Coughlin's attitude toward labor several times, as may be seen in my volumes of questions and answers. In May, 1939, Coughlin's rotten labor record was reviewed in a radio address by President Frank X. Martel, of the Detroit and

Wayne County Federation of Labor. Martel told about the priestly anti-Semite's use of scab labor to erect his Shrine of the Little Flower; his publication of *Social Justice* (what a name for a Fascist, race-baiting sheet!) in a scab shop; and his work in helping set up company unions to smash legitimate labor organizations. Father Coughlin is a dangerous enemy of organized labor. He tried to help Henry Ford befuddle and mislead the workers in the motor car industry, but couldn't get very far with his company union campaign, even though he held (with Ford's financial support) gigantic mass meetings in and near Detroit that were attended by scores of thousands of employees of the auto industry. After this work fizzled out Henry Ford, as I've written before, put up the big money needed to finance Coughlin's Fascist and anti-Jewish propaganda. This Ford subsidy is creating a serious situation in this country, especially in the large cities, where agents of Father Coughlin sell copies of *Social Justice* on the streets, surrounded by young Coughlinites who yell insults at Jewish passersby. In many instances these "goons" provoke fights in order to beat up defenseless Jews. This movement isn't limited to Ford and a lone priest. The facts show that Coughlin's influence reaches into some of the greatest Catholic institutions in the country. Only recently it was learned that Fordham University, supposed to be a great "cultural" center of Catholicism, became headquarters for groups of Coughlinites who scattered into the Bronx, N.Y.C., in order to yell disgusting, vulgar slogans at the Jews and thereby provoke trouble. Henry Wilson, in a letter in *The New Leader*, May 20, 1939, tells of how he was treated when he happened to be at Fordham Road and the Grand Concourse, in the Bronx, at a time when Coughlinite salesmen were hawking the radio priest's magazine. This group of Coughlinites was working under the personal direction of a priest—in clerical garb—of the Catholic Church. When Mr. Wilson protested against the behavior of the Coughlinites the priest—from Fordham University—cried out: "Mind your own business, you kike!" Mr. Wilson comments: ". . . now it's ap-

parent that at least an official representative of the Jesuit Fordham University sector lost his self-control long enough to shout 'kike' at a group of young Jewish couples who were protesting to bystanders that Jew and Gentile had for decades lived in peace and friendship with each other in that section of New York City." An editorial in *The New Leader* adds that "here [near Fordham University] the dupes of clerical bigots market the anti-Semitism of the Detroit demagogue, and in a neighborhood that once knew no religious hatreds, such hatreds are now all too obvious." This hatred, let me repeat, originates in Detroit with Ford and Coughlin, but reaches out wherever the poison of racialism can be made to influence the ignorant or the malicious. Another arm of the anti-Semitic movement, which threatens to become serious, is being engineered in the South by Senator Reynolds, of South Carolina, who has sponsored a bitterly anti-Jewish and pro-Fascist tabloid weekly which, in a surprisingly short time, has grown to 167,000 paid subscriptions. Senator Reynold's paper, *The American Vindicator*, has the full endorsement and support of the Nazi German-American Bund. A front-page editorial in a May, 1939, issue of the Bund's newspaper, *Deutscher Weckruf and Beobachter*, openly promises its full support to the Southern senator's hate-breeding Fascist campaign. Reynold prints reams of anti-Semitic lies, despite the fact that he has delivered a long speech in the Senate denying his Fascism and anti-Semitism. His own paper brands him as a falsifier. Vincent Rogers, a student of America's shirt movements, reports another development, this time from Coral Gables, Florida, where a new Fascist organization has sprung up, calling itself the "White Front." It describes itself as a "militant anti-Jewish society, defending the White Race and the Stars and Stripes," and prepared to "fight against the alien." Mr. Rogers calls attention to the interesting fact that the "principles" of the White Front are practically the same as Senator Reynold's. The White Front says its membership is limited to "White Gentiles," pays yearly dues, and registers its military experience and firearms with Tho

Director, who is also chief of the "uniformed defense unit of the White Front," a unit open only to able-bodied males. Its chief is William Blanchard. Since this organization is obviously preparing for violence it's the plain duty of the Department of Justice to investigate it. Freeman readers who are opposed to Fascism should write to Attorney General Frank Murphy, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., requesting a formal inquiry into this body's activities, especially with regard to its work of preparing an armed front against helpless minorities, the very people who are persecuted in Fascist countries.

* * *

Do you look on the "Syllabus of Errors" as an authentic document?

Certainly. Its authenticity has never been questioned, though there are millions of American Catholics who've never even heard of this amazing document. The informed priests know it wouldn't be good policy to advertise such an official statement among laymen who, in more or less degree, prefer democratic, liberal Americanism to the horrors of authoritarianism. As I've written many times before, the Church shrewdly keeps its totalitarianism exposed where it can get some benefits—in Fascist Europe—but in America, which has such a long tradition of freedom, liberalism and democracy, it's good politics to keep the true Catholic doctrines hidden. Of course, if America were to become a Catholic country—if, in short, a majority of the people were to embrace Catholicism—the Church would feel free to remove its mask. But it can't—and won't—deny that behind the mask stands the "Syllabus of Errors"—80 of them, issued in 1864 as a challenge to the civilized world's march in the direction of freedom and liberalism. I hope, in the not distant future, to get around to publishing this astonishing document. Many laymen—Catholics, Protestants and even Agnostics—will express skepticism regarding the paper's authenticity, but that won't change things in the slightest, for the hierarchy has never, by word or sign, retracted or repudiated its "Syllabus of Errors." I don't wonder at the average layman's incredulity, for I recall vividly how I

reacted to the syllabus the first time I read it, some 20 years ago. I put it on a par with the exposed forged Oath of the Knights of Columbus, but when I made new studies I learned, to my naive amazement, that I had doubted the cold, literal truth. Of course, space here won't permit me to print all of the 80 "errors" listed by the Church, but I can hit the high spots by quoting a half dozen or more. The "Syllabus of Errors," of course, is written in Latin, from which I quote a sample sentence:

"Domanus Pontifex potest ac debet cum progressu, cum liberalismo, et cum recenti civilitate sese reconciliare et componere."

This means, in plain English, that the Pope and modern civilization—liberal, democratic civilization, of course—are proclaimed irreconcilable. In short, the Catholic Church stands opposed to free thought, free speech, free inquiry, free press, free assembly, toleration, protection of dissenters, the right to believe or not believe—all are "errors." Here are a few other "errors" condemned by the Catholic Church:

It is an error that "the Church has not the power of availing herself of force, or any direct or indirect temporal power." (You see, the Church has never surrendered an atom of its concept of temporal power and the right to resort to force in order to maintain its economic and spiritual position. Its erection of the Vatican State in the last decade is a sign of the Church's desires, a beginning that can result in a temporal State as large and powerful as it was in the days of its medieval greatness.)

It is an error that "the Church ought to tolerate the errors of philosophy, leaving to philosophy the care of their corrections." (This, needless to say, denies civilized man the right to look into the great problems of life for independent truth, to the neglect of the Church's dogmas.)

It is an error that "every man is free to embrace and profess the religion he shall believe true, guided by the light of reason." (In brief, there can be only one religion—that of the One and Only Church. All who hold to religious ideas that are unacceptable to the Church can be treated as heretics or damned souls, should the

Church be strong enough to assert itself.)

It is an error that "men may in any religion find the way of eternal salvation, and obtain eternal salvation."

It is an error that "we may entertain at least a well-founded hope for the eternal salvation of all those who are in no manner in the true Church of Christ."

It is an error that "Protestantism is nothing more than another form of the same true Christian religion."

It is an error that "it appertains to the civil power to define what are the rights and limits with which the Church may exercise authority."

And so on, for 80 errors, most of which civilized people in democratic, liberal communities accept as simple, obvious truths. I wonder how Heywood Brown, now that he's become a convert to the Catholic Church, will get around this "Syllabus of Errors," since the document contradicts most of the liberal ideas he's been propagating for many years. Can it be that he's yet to find out about this expression of Church policy? Is he still to appear before his spiritual guide and have the errors explained to him in simple, direct language?

* * *

The New Republic (May 24, 1939) says: "For a long time we've wondered where Father Coughlin gets the money to support his elaborate propaganda campaign." Please comment.

As I've said before, the man who supplies the money is HENRY FORD. And, by the way, when I first got this important fact from L. M. Birkhead, director of the Friends of Democracy, I decided to show my opposition to Ford's disgraceful behavior by boycotting his car. So, I immediately offered my V-8 to a Chevrolet dealer, who made me an offer that I considered reasonable, so now I'm driving a new Chevrolet, and I like it fine. I don't want to put even a few dollars into the hands of a bigot who's so low in character that he's willing to finance a rabble-rouser and Brutalitarian like the unspeakable Father Coughlin. I know Ford won't miss my few dollars, but if I could get a thousand of my readers to follow my lead we'd be started in the right direction. Not only was I anxious to get rid of my Ford because of the motor car magnate's fi-

nancial support to Father Coughlin, but I further justified my individual reaction by a study of Ford's savage treatment of unionists in his vast plants. I want to urge all readers who are friendly to the ideals of democracy to get rid of their Fords, if that's at all feasible. If you're buying a new or used car, be careful to boycott the products of Henry Ford, which means not only his Ford cars but his more expensive machines. Ford is a scab-herder, a bitter hater of organized labor, and a promoter of the propaganda of the racial hatemongers. He's the creature who makes it possible for Father Coughlin to spread ideas of race prejudice and Fascism. Father Coughlin's magazine and radio broadcasts would blow up in a few weeks if Ford weren't behind him with his overflowing moneybags. Such a beast should be punished, and I can think of nothing more reasonable and proper than for all decent-minded motorists to boycott his cars. I'd like to hear from my readers on this issue. I want to know if they're following my lead in conducting a boycott against Henry Ford. Every real American must show his colors in these menacing times. We mustn't stand by and do nothing about Fascists of the type of Father Coughlin and Henry Ford.

* * *

What, in your opinion, is the most important task facing the American people?

The biggest job that we Americans must take on is to defend and strengthen democracy. I mean every phase of life into which the civilized, progressive philosophy of democracy enters—economic, social, political and cultural. In the world of economics we must make our social system function for the greatest good to the greatest number. In short, we must reform our industrial, financial and business structure so that the masses will be in control of the large-scale media of production, distribution and exchange. Unless we make democracy a part of our economic life democracy becomes an empty slogan. Democracy, used intelligently, can solve our pressing problems of poverty, unemployment, and insecurity. Democracy isn't a cut-and-dried piece of scenery that's to be moved here and there for so much dressing or front. It

must become a part of our lives. We must live democracy—and that, along with economic reform, means cultural progress—racial brotherhood, religious tolerance, and the elimination of blatant, arrogant nationalism. Democracy is a tragic joke so long as we tolerate racial discriminations, prejudices against people merely because of their national origins, and the brutal, sharp, cutting differences of the sects promoted by our bigoted theocrats. If we let democracy fill every aspect of our national lives we'll never have to worry much about the menace of Fascism. The Brutalists won't get anywhere in this country if we use our political and economic power to correct conditions so that our land will express the deepest wishes of an educated, progressive, liberal, humanitarian majority. That means more, and still more, education. Here our school-teachers have a duty to perform. They must raise our children to appreciate the glories of democratic freedom. Democracy must be taught as a living philosophy to the young. Democracy isn't something to be told about when one's ready to cast one's first ballot. Democracy should be made a part of our lives when we're just beginning to have dealings with friends, neighbors, and people in general. That's why I say we must look to our teachers to help defend and strengthen democracy. Democracy can be made to work if we prepare the way through proper education, through deep love of truth and justice. Democracy needs an educated majority if it's to have genuine, lasting meaning. It isn't easy to build up a great democracy, but it can be done, and when it is done the people find themselves able to live better, fuller, happier more civilized lives. Democracy must never be permitted to degenerate into an empty slogan. It must be a way to live, not a mere collection of claptrap phrases. Democracy means freedom—and that in itself makes it worth while. But it means more than that. It means justice for the poor, security for every man, woman and child, equal opportunities to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, free education to every person who seeks it, and an open road to a free, bright, self-respecting, independent, social-minded,

truth-seeking, brotherly environment.

Who first applied the term "muckraker" to those who expose corruption in office?

Theodore Roosevelt. "There is filth on the floor," he said, "and it must be scraped up with the muck-rake."

How long a line can one draw with a good lead pencil?

About 50 miles.

Please advise as to how I must go about having an article copyrighted.

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Did the Red Square in Moscow get its name from the revolution?

No. It was so named by Ivan the Terrible.

What's the meaning of Soviet?

It means meeting, or congress.

What's the meaning of the word "Moscow?"

"The little bridge across the swamp."

ANSWERS TO UNASKED QUESTIONS

When a Paris teacher asked what Ulysses did when he heard the sirens, a pupil answered: "He put on his gas mask."

Too many liberals have both feet firmly planted in mid-air.

Much of America's dirty work of Fascism and race-baiting is being done by Men of God. There's that "simple priest," Father Coughlin. Then there's the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod, who is almost as able as Coughlin in arousing hatred for helpless minorities. The Rev. Gerald L. K. Smith isn't far behind.

The Rev. S. M. Smith, of Pittsburgh, Pa., in one of his sermons, got off a thought that ought to comfort our millions of underpaid workers. "What if you are underpaid?" he asked. "Know the joy of being worth more than you get—the pure joy of unrecognized superiority."

If ever you decide to organize a new hate movement, be sure to base it on religious ideas. Yell about serving God and adoring Jesus. Stand four-square on the Bible. The trappings of religion come in handy when one is wending his way toward Fascism, anti-

Semitism, and any other form of race-baiting. And be sure to repeat, in every speech, that you're trying only to bring a little religion into politics. At the same time be sure to shut your eyes to the obvious fact that 99 percent of the inmates of our prisons believe in some form of religion.

Dr. Goebbels, who did so much to help Hitler establish Brutalitarianism, had the gall to get this line off his chest: "In no European country does such true joy reign supreme as in the Third Reich."

According to *The Nation*, Nazi newspapers have been printing stories about our goldfish swallowing contests and saying they are evidence of malnutrition here.

Our young Communists are making themselves over in order to present themselves as thorough-going Americans. The latest move is to cut out calling each other "comrade," the friendly way Socialists greeted one another for decades. Now the youthful Reds use "brother" and "sister." That brings to mind a camp meeting of the pious brethren, with baptism and sanctification. Have the young comrades forgotten that our most American Americans—the splendid G. A. R. veterans—always called one another "comrade"? But maybe the Communists took into consideration the fact that the younger veterans—members of the American Legion—also use the word "comrade." They probably remember the rough-house tactics used by the Legion 10 and 15 years ago, when they went around breaking up meetings and in other ways demonstrating the glories of free speech and free assembly in the U.S. In those days all they needed was a supply of castor oil and black shirts to qualify as followers of Mussolini.

Critics of the movies in Italy have been sent this notice from the Government: "It is absolutely untrue that we want the critique to be abolished. . . . We don't ask the critique to make a bad Italian film look good, but while the right praise must not be spared on good films, for the bad ones it will be necessary to avoid a true critique." That's pretty good. Either you'll like the bad ones or you'll keep quiet about them. As all Fascist films are bad, this leaves the critics in something of a dither.

I've written plenty about the so-called Legion of Decency, organized some years ago by the Catholic Church in order to terrorize Hollywood. It succeeded in doing the film art immense damage. At first the leaders of the movement said their sole purpose was to keep out indecency, but those who

studied their activities soon saw they had a much more practical and worldly purpose—they wanted to keep liberal, unorthodox, progressive ideas from the screen. *The Nation*, June 3, 1939, calls attention to the fact that the Legion of Decency commented on the great movie of democracy, "Juarez," a film that is surprisingly accurate from beginning to end, as follows: "Reviewers requested that attention be drawn to the fact that the motion picture 'Juarez' is not to be considered as uniformly reliable in its historical references." The trouble here is that "Juarez" is too realistic for the comfort of the priests. The great Mexican democrat, Juarez, let's not forget, took an anti-clerical position, insisting on strict separation of Church and State. The Church never forgets and never forgives. Incidentally, here's one important historical fact this fine movie preferred to ignore—the pious compromise in order to quiet the jittery hierarchy.

Father Coughlin likes to rant about the terrible Atheists "who hate God." I can't see why any reasonably intelligent Atheist, who doesn't believe in the idea of God, should hate something he feels doesn't exist.

An English novelist writes: "Life has taught me to believe that within each man is a living image of a god. When I stand, on a still clear night, beneath the stars I cannot comprehend them, but I can believe in them." Such pretty language pleases a large audience, especially those who like hefty portions of the "spiritual." My English friend should spend a little time in the science department of any good university, where he'll find that many Agnostics are studying the stars and making a fairly good job of learning something about them. My own son is studying astronomy at the University of Kansas, and he likes to study (comprehend) the stars despite his Agnosticism. He tells me his professor explains how astronomers weigh stars, calculate their motions, show what they're made of, and all that sort of thing. Science, not the religious-minded, has succeeded in removing some of the mystery (ignorance) surrounding the heavenly bodies. Our scientists not only comprehend them (in growing measure) but actually believe in them.

Nietzsche, who wrote much that can be classed as Rationalism, said: "The existence of God, immortality, the authority of the Bible, and other postulates of Christianity will always remain a problem." He feared also that "man has been led astray by a mirage for 2,000 years." Brought up in a clerical household, he soon drew conclusions

from his firsthand knowledge of the mental processes of the Theocrats. He wrote: "One recognizes the sons of clergy by the naive confidence with which they assume their case to be proved when once they have stated it stoutly and with warmth."

L. A. G. Strong, writing in *John O'London's Weekly*, a British magazine that circulates among general readers, gets off this surprisingly blunt and frank morsel: "Religious thinkers do little to help us in our perplexity. It is an odd thing, but religion often makes men intellectually timid. Some of the subtlest intellects in the world's history have belonged to Christians, yet the average Christian apologist is not only ineffective in controversy, but positively dishonest."

Heywood Broun's amusing conversion to Catholicism is being greeted with shouts of joy in the Catholic press. The *Register*, published at Denver, Colo., says in its May 28, 1939, issue: "To those who know the Church's real leadership in the reconstruction of the social order, the bulky journalist's conversion will be proof that Catholic thought is reaching the leaders of the masses." Yes, we received an excellent sample of Catholic reconstruction of the social order in Spain, where the hierarchy backed up the murderous Fascists in order to destroy the Republic and restore Catholic darkness in the land where the Inquisition once murdered hundreds of thousands of unbelievers, skeptics and heretics because they rejected the One and Only Church. If Heywood Broun is a leader of the American people then we can expect some funny cavortings from now on, for, as I said before, this intellectual jitterbug can't stay put more than two years in any system of ideology. The Church will be given about two years to make him a cardinal, and failing to do that Broun will get sore and take his soul to some other religious dope factory. If the Church turns him into a cardinal Heywood will be satisfied for another two years, when he'll demand he be guaranteed the Pope's job the next time there's a vacancy. If the Church says No, he'll take his gin-bottles elsewhere and set up a new Church, with Broun as Pope and God and the Virgin Mary rolled into one, which'll be a great break for Broun. But let's return to The *Register's* proud boast that Broun's idiotic conversion is proof that Catholic thought is reaching the leaders of the country. If the editor will refer to *Who's Who*, or to Prof. Leuba's interpretation of that important biographical work, he'll find that the Catholic Church stands with the Seventh Day Adventists, the Holy Roll-

ers and the Latter Day Saints among the leaders of the American public who have attained biographical sketches in that collection of some 36,000 entries. The little Unitarian Church, which doesn't command enough members to fill the outhouses in the Catholic churches scattered along the countryside of the U.S., has a larger number of its members in *Who's Who* than the entire Catholic Church. The same source shows that Catholics who went to parochial schools never achieved distinction as leaders (in proportion to their numbers, of course) as did the graduates of our secular public schools. In short, Catholic thought serves as a hindrance rather than a help. It keeps its masses in mental slavery, in the shackles of the supernatural. Catholic thought is just another device to make sure against becoming a real leader of our civilization. Yes, Heywood Broun's in great company, but I tremble for the Church when he fills up on his favorite gin about two years hence and starts out to get the Church told about what he ought to have handed him in the way of honors and rewards. Of course, the Church'll turn him down—and then watch for the way Heywood jumps next. This intellectual jumping frog will go in any which direction, as is his wont, but regardless of where he heads he'll put on a good show when he lands on his broad and ample fanny. Always depend on that.

We have seen many references to Chamberlain as being given to fiddling while Rome burns. Alex Glendinning, in the *Nineteenth Century*, writes he doesn't think that if Mr. Chamberlain were in Nero's position he would fiddle. Instead, he would make a speech. And then Mr. Glendinning says it would go something like this: "The fact, which I think I may say has been established beyond question, that the greater part of this city is now in flames, will cause, I have no doubt, feeling of profound uneasiness and even alarm among those inhabitants who are conscious of the possibility of a threat to their security. The question we have to ask ourselves is whether this conflagration has not now created a situation which is incompatible with the safety of the community as a whole. I am sure that it will be generally agreed that the collapse of most of our public buildings, so far from relieving the apprehension which has been widely felt, has served only to increase anxiety and to administer a further shock to confidence. If the city is on fire, and if the lives of its inhabitants are in danger, then I confess that I find it difficult to reconcile this state of affairs with the view that there is no cause for misgivings in a situa-

tion which, if permitted to develop, may prove detrimental to the well-being of all concerned. It has been suggested that the Fire Brigade should be called, and I have no hesitation in saying that this suggestion is one which deserves the most serious consideration, and I may add that we are keeping in close touch with representatives of the Fire Brigade, with a view to such measures as it may be necessary to take in pursuit of our general aim to restore the confidence we all so earnestly desire."

A fairy walked into a saloon and asked for a whisky. The bartender refused, with the remark: "We never serve fairies here." The pansy put a hand on his hip, lifted a shoulder to his ear, and scorched back with: "Well, I may have had a few boy friends, but that's no worse than selling whisky!"

"Yes," the bartender continued the conversation, "it's a case of Platonic love—play for her and a tonic for me."

A customer walked into a Berlin store and asked for some eggs. "Sorry," said the shop owner, "no eggs." "Then let me have a quarter pound of butter." "No butter, either." "How about a pound of pork chops?" At that point the owner became angry. "Have you come here to buy something or to talk politics?"

A Berlin newspaper's report that 3,000 Red Cross workers were mobilized to look after the crowds during Hitler's birthday and were instructed not only to take care of accidents but of premature births which might occur. Such births, the paper explained, could be expected because "the future Hitler Youth member cannot await the hour at which he will be launched into the Reich."

Hitler sent this message to one of his leaders in the secret police: "It has been brought to my attention that there are some grumblers in Vienna and Prague. Please send me a list of same. . . ." Whereupon the official sent the Vienna and Prague telephone books to Hitler.

A French journalist wrote to a Paris newspaper that he was living in Tokyo, and closed with these words: "I should like to tell you more, but unfortunately I can't because all letters are opened and read by censors." The next day he was visited by a Japanese official, who, after greetings were exchanged, proceeded to assure him earnestly of his error. "For," he said, "we NEVER open letters!"

Hermann Gauch, one of Hitler's "experts" on questions of race, says in his book, *New Bases of Racial Research*: "Only in the Nordic woman, even with the arm at her side, do we find a firm, rigid semi-circular breast. . . ." Will

skeptics be permitted to test this assertion by taking a feel?

* * *

How can we keep isms out of the U.S.?

Which isms are we to keep out of the United States? There are many isms we don't want to lose—Americanism, republicanism, democracy, liberalism, libertarianism. Others we don't want, because they can't tolerate Americanism—Fascism, Nazism, Totalitarianism, any dictatorship of the right, and, on the left, any dictatorship of the proletariat.

Technically, there are few native American isms. Mormonism is decidedly a home creation. Christian Science is Eddyism, though it's somewhat indebted to Bishop Berkeley's theory of the non-existence of the material world. Emersonian Transcendentalism is one of America's contributions to metaphysical thought—a school about which I've read rather a lot but which I can't understand. It seems related, in spots, to Swedenborgianism. Prof. William James's Pragmatism is America's contribution to philosophy, though even here we find echoes of John Stuart Mill's Utilitarianism and Marx's Dialectical Materialism.

So far as I can figure out, all other isms are importations, including Protestantism, Catholicism, Judaism, Skepticism, Agnosticism, and so on. When we ask ourselves to reject foreign isms we mean, of course, the ideologies we don't like, or those which we feel are incompatible with our traditional Americanism that's based on the 150-year-old humanitarianism, tolerance, democracy, idealism and liberalism of our Constitution and its Bill of Rights, though it's a fact that all these isms were importations. Our theory of legal equality stems from the English and French political philosophers who preached the French Revolution. Our idea of tolerance comes from the same sources, including Rousseau's Social Contract, Voltaire's famous pamphlet entitled "Toleration," and the great writers of the French Encyclopedia, including its editor, Diderot. Democracy—our most important ism—had its birth in the ancient pagan world, with limited awakenings in the city republics that followed in the wake of the Renais-

sance. Our own democratic ideas were absorbed by the Founding Fathers—especially Franklin, Jefferson and Paine—who followed the writings of the great pamphleteers who prepared the ground for the French Revolution, that tremendous upheaval which attempted to uproot economic Feudalism, the divine rights of monarchs, and the theory that the Church should be a pillar of the State, sometimes of the State and sometimes above the State.

We have to pick the “izzums” we want to keep from taking root in American soil. Here there are many different opinions, but those of us who believe in democracy never hesitate about rejecting the ideologies of the dictators, the totalitarians, the Nazis, the Fascists.

We don't want these isms because we know they'll mean the end of democracy should their leaders triumph. How are we to get rid of them? By force? No. By suppression? No. The best way to preserve democracy is to make it work better. Democracy isn't perfect—it'll never be perfect—but the remedy for its faults isn't dictatorship but more democracy. It works fairly well in the political arena, but here there's much room for improvement. The Tammany and Pendergast machines make a mockery of our democracy, but here we have the power to correct the problems that afflict democracy. Democracy must defend itself against such undemocratic elements. But democracy must mean more than politics. It must permeate every phase of social life—especially industry, where an oligarchy of wealth rules millions of men and women with all the tyranny of a dictator.

Yes, the answer to the faults of democracy is always more democracy. And if we make democracy work—if we open the avenues of opportunity to our young and the right to a decent living to all our willing workers—there's no danger from any imported ism, even if it's Fascism disguised under the name of Coughlinism.

Is it true that Justice McReynolds, of the U.S. Supreme Court, is given to exhibitions of bad manners?

Yes, the old sour-puss is incurable.

When Benjamin Cardozo took his oath of office McReynolds buried his head in a newspaper. When Justice Brandeis retired he refused to join in an expression of respect for the man's long and useful services to his country. When Professor Felix Frankfurter became a member of the court McReynolds refused to join the others in congratulating him. The old buzzard's a disgrace to the court. However, he's about 78 years old, so the country won't be cursed with his presence much longer.

Is it a fact as Mr. Bertrand Russell has said: “Supposing that in this world that we live in today an inexperienced girl is married to a syphilitic man, in that case the Catholic Church says: ‘This is an indissoluble sacrament. You must stay together for life.’”

Bertrand Russell's statement has never been challenged by the Catholic Church because his words are strictly accurate. He has given the Church's moral (?) position in words that bite like acid. The Church can't deny Russell's criticism; it can attempt only to explain it away. The only “answer” I ever heard came from a priest, who said: “After all, the percentage of such marriages must be almost insignificant. We must look at the larger aspects of the question.” This apology is almost as crass as the dogma is brutally stupid. If there were only one such marriage in a decade the moral revulsion among humane, civilized people would be as strong as if there'd been a million such marriages.

Were Hitler and Captain Roehm lovers?

Yes, according to reports from certain informed people. I have discussed this affair several times, as can be seen by referring to my volumes of questions and answers. Roehm was an admitted “homo.” I have even printed some of his letters, in which he told frankly about his interest in men. Roehm knew too much for Hitler's comfort, which is the real reason he was murdered in June, 1934, during the great purge. Besides, at that time Hitler had a new lover, Ernst (Putzi) Hanfstaegl, who appealed to Hitler's passionate nature and at the same time soothed his soul with exquisite piano interpretations of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. Putzi was also slated for summary

execution when Hitler tired of his love, but he was warned in sufficient time and sneaked out of the country. Now he's in London, where he has filed suit against Selfridge and Co., Ltd., London department store. He claims the company sold an American magazine which contained an article "reflecting on his personal relations with Hitler." Putzi insists there isn't the slightest foundation for any suggestion of improper moral relations in his association with the Fuehrer. However, certain newspapermen insist that Hitler sent word to Putzi telling him that if he ever admits the truth about their beautiful love affair he (Hitler) will see to it that Putzi's numerous rich relations in Germany are stripped of their wealth and, in some cases, imprisoned or executed. So Putzi keeps quiet about the liveliest affair in his entire life, an affair that, in private conversation, he says was on a higher level than the rather sordid ones Oscar Wilde carried on with bellboys. Putzi's emotional experiences with Hitler, he says, were on a higher level, approximating the loftiest ideals of the ancient Greek poets who glorified homosexuality and pictured it as a thing of artistic and cultural beauty. Putzi points to their all-night sessions with Bach, Brahms and Beethoven to prove that their love was esthetic from beginning to end, a delicate, refined attempt to bring out the more idealistic aspects of the ancient standards of womanless love. It's all too precious for words. It irks him to be chided about so dear and near an experience, one that will be remembered ecstatically until his last day on earth.

* * *

I want to express my thanks for the way you have been presenting a stream of facts to show that our New Deal policies are steps in the right direction. However, there is one point I hear again and again in my visits among businessmen while trying to serve them as a salesman. I have to keep my mouth shut as I hear them squawk about the way Roosevelt is ruining business. They say business will never recover without a change in the direction of the Hoover idea of letting business alone as much as possible, except when it breaks our laws. So, please dig into your bottomless newsclip filing system and bring forth the truth in the case. Is the New Deal the sworn enemy of business? Are

businessmen worse off under F. D. R. than they were under Hoover? Give us the straight data.

I'm glad to oblige. The bellyachers of business who complain about Roosevelt are either ignorant of the truth or downright ungrateful falsifiers. The record shows that business is much better off in 1939, the sixth year of F. D. R., than it was in 1932, the third year of the Hoover administration. The data repeated below from official sources show, by comparison, what quarterly or weekly totals in 1932 were and what they were during a typical week or the first quarter of 1939. The table below proves that business is better off right down the line, without exception. I have shown, in other articles (which will be found in my volumes of questions and answers) that our great corporations are making greater profits in 1938 than in the days of Hoover. These figures, of course, are quoted from official, authoritative sources, and should serve to silence the Tory ingrates who, because they happen to be compelled to pay a little more money in taxes (still extremely low when compared to England or France, and positively heavenly when compared to Germany or Italy), prefer to overlook the obvious fact that they are, comparatively, well off, with better business right down the line. I say this, naturally, from the viewpoint of the businessman. My criticism is that too few of these benefits are being distributed among the masses of workers and consumers, in the form of better buys, a higher standard of living, and the like. The setup is right nice for business, despite the New Deal, while necessary social reforms are waiting to be translated into action and social adjustments made so that the masses will be enabled to enjoy happier times through the full use of our capacities to produce and distribute wealth. The figures for 1939, while good from the view of business, don't even give the average man a hint regarding what his economic situation would be if the great machine that goes by the name of American industry would get going full tilt and produce the goods millions of people need but can't buy because they lack sufficient purchasing power. This is a situation that could be remedied if we were to

tackle the problems of poverty and unemployment in a serious mood of achievement instead of fixing up Capitalism so that it gives most of its benefits to the small owning class—a class, by the way, which the table below shows up to be a pretty ungrateful outfit. Remember, as you study the figures below, that in the blessed days of Hoover we had no unemployment insurance, no wages and hour law, no vast public works program, no national labor relations act and the other measures that are supposed to have "stified" confidence and put business flat on its fanny. Business is paying for these reforms, albeit reluctantly, and still is doing better by itself than it did in the days of Hoover's golden era of rampant individualism. Here's the story, from the viewpoint of business:

one that will provide for the masses instead of piling up immense profits for the few. But these changes will require time. You can't remake a country in one or two administrations. It will take many decades. But we've made at least some progress, and not at the expense of business. Roosevelt has really saved Capitalism from revolution, for another few years of Hooverism would have resulted in a violent uprising. Roosevelt not only saved Capitalism but he helped make it possible for the capitalists to make more profits. In doing this Roosevelt gave certain concessions to labor, and we praise him for them. He gave certain forms of protection to the public. He helped take a little of the curse off unemployment, though there's much to be done

Commodity	Under Hoover—1932	Under Roosevelt—1939
Stock prices (av.)	\$81.20	\$100.61
Bond prices (av.)	\$74.29	\$85.78
Brokers loans	\$379,016,662.00	\$547,443,175.00
Bank clearings (22 cities)	\$90,853,453,000.00	\$96,263,786,000.00
U. S. Steel (tons shipped)	1,124,851	2,235,209
Steel Ingot output	4,329,830	9,506,594
Pig Iron output	3,757,196	8,315,927
Automobile production	376,665	1,055,576
Building permits	74,677,796	293,703,797
Petroleum output (bbls.)	36,936,900	57,175,850
Bituminous coal (tons)	102,455,000	111,650,000
Electric current (k.w.h.)	26,094,970,000	37,893,658,000
U. S. raw cotton consumed (bales)	1,374,010	1,803,521
U. S. wool consumption (lbs.)	57,600,000	97,400,000
Rayon yarn consumption (lbs.)	39,800,000	102,400,000
U. S. exports	\$461,000,000.00	\$699,821,000.00
U. S. imports	\$898,000,000.00	\$526,652,000.00
Gold imports	\$89,728,000.00	\$745,159,000.00
Car loadings	9,574,837	9,822,512
Sears-Roebuck sales	59,793,251	125,428,094
Moody's Commodity Index	86.5	141.8
Wheat (bushel)	\$0.68	\$0.95
Corn (bushel)	\$0.45	\$0.66
Oats (bushel)	\$0.34	\$0.46
Federal Reserve Board Indices (1923-25 equals 100)		
Industrial production	67	98
Manufacturers	65	96
Minerals	84	110
Construction	26	58
Factory employment	68	91
Factory payrolls	53	87
Carloadings	61	66
Department store sales	70	88

The country, needless to add, has great problems that are crying for solution. The job of reforming the social order has hardly begun. It has to be turned into a decent mechanism,

here before we can settle back and blow about our progress. We have more than 10,000,000 willing workers who can't get jobs. They want some-

thing more from life than charity or doles. They want opportunities to make a decent living under proper conditions. All these things—and many more—are waiting to be corrected. And we can correct our problems, for, whatever you may say, we do have democratic political powers and can use our citizenship—especially through the ballot—to bring the masses closer to permanent, secure prosperity. I praise Roosevelt for all he's done, but I say that either Roosevelt will go ahead and finish the job or he'll have to make room for a bigger man who's not afraid to meet the issue. Roosevelt has given us political, financial, industrial and social improvement. We thank him for his humanitarian services. We know he has shown a commendable spirit. But is Roosevelt big enough to travel the road to economic emancipation, in which labor power will be free to apply its brain and brawn to the available machinery of production and distribution—machinery easily capable of remedying all our economic ills by supplying our consumers with an endless flood of necessary goods? I don't pose as a prophet, but I feel somehow that Roosevelt has it in him to finish the job he has so well begun. If he isn't, we have the political power, under our democracy, to put him out and install a new leader who knows what the country needs and isn't afraid to bring it into existence.

* * *

Are many doctors vegetarians?

Dr. Logan Clendening, that explosive Savonarola of Kansas City who used an axe on a WPA rat-tat-tat-drill, says he polled a part of the medical profession in order to find out how many rejected meat, covering an average cross-section of the doctors of this country and Canada. His survey included professors of physiology, of pathology, surgeons, general practitioners, children's specialists, and others living in small towns and in big cities. "Exactly 100 percent of the doctors questioned said they ate meat," he writes.

* * *

Is H. G. Wells a Freethinker?

He is. I've shown before that Mr. Wells is a Rationalist, as may be seen by referring to my volumes of questions and answers. Recently I

happened to come on an article in the Australian journal, *The Rationalist*, which gave the text of an interview with the famous English author while he was visiting down there. The report, by W. Glanville Cook, contains the following two paragraphs which I consider worthy of reproduction here:

I thought the Herald report, in which it was declared that Mr. Wells would describe himself as a complete Atheist, was so important that confirmation of it was desirable. When I referred him to this definition of his attitude he said: "Yes, I am a complete Atheist, because the idea of God, if the word means anything at all, means a quasi-human person, capable of maintaining human relationships with human beings. I believe there is a system in the world which so far has transcended human intelligence, but I do not think it can be expressed in the form of an exaggerated human personality." He went on to say that his philosophic attitude was one of complete agnosticism.

Before he left me, with a final handshake, Mr. Wells dictated a message to Australian Rationalists. "The world," he said, "is still ignorant, and the only way out is through free speech and free discussion. The Rationalist Association is doing a work of primary importance in maintaining these principles in the face of prejudice, ignorance, and every form of dogma."

In his book, "World Brain," which contains some of Mr. Wells' best essays, the author discusses the Bible, thus:

"I was not impressed by the general magnificence of the prose, about which one still hears so much. There are some splendidly plain and vivid passages and interludes of great dignity and beauty, but the bulk of the English Bible sounds to me pedestrian translator's English, quite unworthy of the indiscriminate enthusiasm that has been poured out upon it."

In another essay in the same book, entitled "Palestine in Proportion," Mr. Wells says:

"I deprecated the exaggerated importance attached to the national history and to Bible history in Western countries. I maintained that the Biblical account of the Creation and the Fall gave a false conception of man's place in the universe. I expressed the opinion that the historical foundations for world citizenship would be better

laid if these partial histories were dealt with only in their proper relation to the general development of mankind. In particular I pointed out that Palestine and its people were a very insignificant part. It was a side show in the greater conflicts of Mesopotamia and Egypt."

In the interview Mr. Wells gave Mr. Cook he said he gave up his Christian beliefs quite early in life, "but it was the reading of Drummond's 'Natural Law in the Spiritual World,' supposedly a book of Christian apologetics, that confirmed him in his rejection of religious faith."

* * *

JEWS AND COMMUNISM

From the article "Some Facts About Jews" by Philip S. Bernstein, in *Harpers Magazine*, April, 1939.

In the United States, where the Jews enjoy the greatest freedom and opportunity, the percentage of Communists among them is insignificant. There are four and a half million Jews in this country. In the last presidential election the Communist candidate polled 80,159 votes out of a total popular vote of 45,646,817. In New York, where two million Jews live, the Communist party was ruled off the ballot because their candidate received only 31,987 votes. The leaders of the Communist party in the United States are Earl Browder, William Z. Foster, Clarence Hathaway, James Ford, Robert Minor, William Patterson, Harry Haywood, Ella Reeve Bloor, and Max Bedacht. Not one is a Jew. The magazine *Fortune*, after a careful investigation in 1936, stated that "of the twenty-seven thousand United States Communists, only 3,500 to 4,000 of the members of the party were Jews." Of course there may be many more Jews not members of the Communist party, who are sympathetic with its aims. But together they do not form more than one or two percent of the total Jewish population. "For every revolutionary Jew," as *Fortune* correctly states, "there are thousands of Jewish capitalists, shopkeepers, traders, and the like, who stand to lose everything in a revolution."

* * *

"I'm reading 'Mein Kampf' just now. It's a version said to be abridged only—and much abridged in that respect—by taking out the numerous tiresome repetitions. All the gosh-awful rest of it's there, along with numerous parenthetical remarks by the editor. It's certainly a queer document. I've heard that Freud, exiled in London, is writing a huge commentary on it. From his characteristic psycho-sexual viewpoint

that ought to make interesting reading when it's finished. Certainly, 'Mein Kampf' should provide him with enough material to enable him to write for the rest of his days!"—C. A. L., Mo.

Editor: Your remarks in the *News-Letter*, concerning tuberculosis, fresh air, and the American Indian were of interest. However, if my memory serves me well, medical science has for some time discounted the value of fresh air, alone, as a preventive or cure for this disease. The value of sunlight, on the other hand, seems more and more to be appreciated as it should be, considering the remarkable work, even many years ago, of Rollier and others. Even if fresh air is eventually found to be of much benefit, most likely it will be in much the same way as light, that is, to stimulate a normal functioning of the skin all over the body rather than by its more apparent use by the lungs. Now, for all practical purposes, the American Indian is hampered even more than are most of us—and we are hampered far too much—from benefitting by the health-giving properties of the two most abundant elements in his domain: fresh air and glorious sunlight. He is the most hidebound slave of the stupid body-taboo superstition anywhere to be found; he is veritably a gorgeous clothes-horse. It is amazing, while also highly significant, that this should be so, for, if accounts be true, the white man did not find him like this some 400 years ago. That he has drifted so far from his one-time more healthful practices and outlooks. I think, can be blamed directly on the Puritanical, missionary type of education to which he was subjected for so many years, and it is deplorable that, even today, very little seems to be done about it.

When I was on a vacation jaunt through the Indian country four years ago I saw something of this among the Navajos, Hopis and Pueblos. Man and maid alike are invariably swathed to the neck and wrists in colorful but light- and air-excluding garments. The women wear, one over another, numerous, voluminous, thousand-pleated skirts which enable them to bestride a pony and vet fully drape their legs. In the trading post at Kayenta, Arizona, I examined one of these creations. It was made of chocolate-brown sateen with pleats hardly over a quarter of an inch in width and it contained 14 yards of cloth 36 inches in width. Consider that several of these at the same time are worn at all seasons. I would have bought this one as a museum piece had I been a little richer for it was ridiculously cheap at \$6, considering that it was meticulously made, by hand. And where and by whom, do you suppose?

By one of the patients in the nearby sanitarium for the tuberculous! Talk about slaves who forge their own chains! How much such sartorial habits contribute to bodily cleanliness, too, I leave to anyone's imagination, especially when is taken into consideration the primitive habitations, wholly devoid of modern sanitary conveniences, still used by most of these people and, in addition to that, the shortage of water which is very general throughout most of this country.

Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG

"Your answers to unasked questions are a real source of inspiration and amusement."—Reader.

"The words of Thoreau concerning the tree of evil are to be found in 'Walden.' I haven't a copy at hand but as I remember it, it went something like this: 'For every one who strikes at the root of the tree of evil a thousand will be found hacking at its branches.'—Reader.

"Regarding your question in the August, 1939, Freeman, 'I wonder if anyone reads these thoughts [Answers to Unasked Questions] of mine.' Don't quit writing them. They're too invigorating."—Tom Dowling, R.I.

"I talked to one of your new subscribers and he said: 'That guy's crazy. If he likes something, it's fine, and if he doesn't it's all the bunk.'—Ruth Leonard, Mo.

Editor: I would like to join the discussion about God bestowing His rich blessings upon the bulldog to the exclusion of the bull with the following gem from one of Nietzsche's books:

"Father:—Behold, my son, how wisely Providence has arranged everything! The bird lays eggs in its nest and the young will be hatched just about the time when there will be worms and flies with which to feed them. Then they will sing a song of praise in honor of the Creator who overwhelms His creatures with blessings.

"Son:—Will the worms join in the song, Dad?"

Azle, Texas A. M. PASCHALL

Editor: The reception given to England's king in Canada is, like the British coronation, gorgeous and sickly—something similar to what the Czar of Russia was in the habit of "pulling off" before the Great War. It is O.K. for the High Priests and acolytes of British Imperialism to try to strengthen loyalty and deepen obedience to its sacrosanct monarchy, but—sycophantic adulation of a king (the Czar discover-

ed too late) dissolves the power of self-restraint which is the necessary defense of the mind.

Why squander wealth like water in Canada in support of English royalty and its pomp and show while 1,400,000 Canadian citizens are on relief and 4,000,000 on the threshold of relief? (there are 300,000 ex-soldiers of the Great War, including myself, living in poverty in Canada—the granary of the British Empire).

Britain has millions of dollars to spend wastefully in promoting the selfish purposes of the political and financial rulers of the British Empire, but she has not a dollar to pay her Great War debt to the U.S.A.; she has not a dollar to help her thousands of victims (ex-soldiers of the Great War) now living within a flea's hop of starvation in this country.

Britain seems to be afraid of Hitler. Who rearmed and financed Germany? British Imperialism. Will the Nazi monster become a Frankenstein and devour his creator?

Who betrayed Loyalist Spain, Austria, Ethiopia, Czechoslovakia, Albania, and China? Imperialism. Who betrayed the Arabs to please the Jews and betrayed the Jews to please the Arabs? Britain.

Who made the victors of the 1914-18 war the vanquished, and the vanquished the victors? Chamberlain and Co. Who is dynamiting the dikes of peace in Europe? The National Government of Britain—a pro-Nazi government. As before 1914, so now: The power opening the gates of the world to war is British Imperialism. To make a long story short: The history of the British Empire can be described in four words: Cruelty unspeakable! Outrage infinite!

John Bull is still faithful to his invariable role of bullying the weak and cringing to the strong, of kicking the beaten enemy and fawning on the tyrant, of breaking treaties and double-crossing his friends. John "takes up no fallen cause, fights no uphill battle, advocates no great principle, holds out a helping hand to no obscure or oppressed individual, but is ever strong upon the stronger side."

There are men and women in the U.S.A. who will see in England's king and queen the image of their own ideal. But—the king and queen were never born who will reduce the democratic people of the U.S.A. to sycophantic imbecility.

Toronto, Canada PAT SULLIVAN

"Hitler has put the world into a terrible mess. I doubt if anyone in past history, even Napoleon, has wrought as much damage as this insane German,

and the end is not yet."—Ira D. Cardiff, Yakima, Wash.

* * *
Editor: The paragraph in the News-Letter in which you cited medical authority to show that stomach ulcers are much more prevalent than ordinarily supposed was a sort of verification of a feeling I had long entertained. In my own case, nature was not in its usual gracious curative mood; had not been, in fact, for perhaps 10 years. That's why I still watch my diet rather closely although it's now over two years since I began "the cure." There were times, even until quite recently, when I had doubts that a complete cure in cases of such long standing was at all possible but I incline to the belief, now, that it is—if one will just stay on the diet long enough and not worry, fret and over work too much. Anyway, my own improvement, while very gradual, has been fairly steady. It was because I wanted to have something definite to report that I have refrained until now from commenting on the results of my supplementary experience with heliotherapy in this disease. (As you'll remember, I informed you about how I embarked upon that some two years ago.)

At this time I can say, then, that in my case at least it has undoubtedly been of considerable service. During both of the two past winters—especially toward their close—when all-over exposure to the sun had been impossible except at infrequent intervals, a recurrence of symptoms began to be manifest even in spite of a reasonably close adherence to dietary rules. Food refused to digest comfortably and the narrowness of the diet became more than usually irksome. Appetite diminished, too. With resumption of full exposure to the sun, however, these apparent tendencies to setback rapidly disappeared. This is now the beginning of the third summer of such improvement and, quite definitely, each year has seen improvement over the one before.

I realize, of course, that without the corroboration of a thousand or so of similar cases, similarly handled, along with a check against a sizable group in which the sun treatment is absent, my experience may have little of scientific value. An experiment along these lines would have its special difficulties, too. On what basis, for instance, could similar cases be selected? There is as much individuality, apparently, in cases as there are individual sufferers. Then, too, very few could have even that limited access to the sun which I have managed to secure. Nevertheless, I feel that my own experience somehow merits

investigation on a larger scale of the possibilities for further perfection of methods now in use for relief from this rather widely-prevalent malady.
Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG

* * *
Editor: Taxing the incomes of Federal employes, as I understand, is now before that august body known as the Supreme Court, and will soon be subjected to their learned ponderings.

In my opinion, it is no more than right that the incomes of Federal employes should be taxed to help defray the costs of the government which they serve. Their salaries, by and large, are much more than the salaries of those of the average workingman in private industry.

If the gentlemen of the Court finally come to the decision that it is "constitutional" for the government to tax its own employes, I hope they will go a step further and decide it is constitutional for the salary of the Vice President to be taxed 100 percent—as long as his name is John Nance Garner. This political leech has been living off the taxpayers, in one way and another, for hell knows how long. The Sphinx has his nest well feathered by now and should be willing to retire to said nest. (The reason The Sphinx never speaks, I think, must be because he has read what Lincoln once said: "It is better for a man to keep silent and let people think him a fool than to speak and remove all doubt." Yet, one might say in Garner's favor that it takes a wise man to consistently convince the taxpayers he should keep on living off them, and, at the same time, feather his own nest by juggling his own private enterprises.)

But as to the matter of taxing all Federal employes, let's see if the boys who have been dishing it out can take it!

In conclusion. I was glad to see in the last issue of The Freeman a good many items on Freethought. I wrote you some four weeks ago and asked if we might not have more of your incomparable comments on things religious. My request was answered, though, I suspect, my letter reached you after the last issue of the Freeman had left the presses.

Azle, Texas. A. M. PASCHALL

* * *
INTELLECTUAL SLAVERY

Editor: Censorship always protects and perpetuates every horror of the prevailing forms of oppression. With us, its subtle disguises increase its evils by creating delusions of safety, liberty and democracy. It precludes that intelligence, which is necessary to hasten a wholesome and natural social evolu-

tion. By that same ignorance it makes revolutions by violence more certain, more bloody, and less useful. Censorship is the strongest chain for every slavery; the surest way to prolong legalized injustice, glorified neophobia, with sanctified patriotic sadism and war. In the name of a delusional peace, censorship always retards the natural process of democratizing education and welfare. It is the slimy ooze in which thrives the prudery of our puritan morals, with moralists for revenue who easily degenerate into spy provocateurs and professional prejurors. Tyrant wrongs and rebel vengeance will continue their vicious rounds, until our minds are freed from their emotional adherence to conventions, traditions, superstitions, pious slogans, mob delusions, high toned demagogues, and the psycho-neurotic leaders of our moron civilization. Liberty and peace grow with a mutuality of understanding, and by a dispassionate consideration of all that untrammelled minds will offer, when encouraged to express all they believe and feel. Only tyrants and slaves live where any sane adult can be prevented from receiving even the most odious opinion, about the most obnoxious subject expressed in the most offensive language, by the most despised persons. Coscob, Conn. Theodore Schroeder

* * *

Boake Carter, in one of his syndicated columns, writes: "We took the Louisiana Purchase from the Indians." Please comment on this and other statements in the enclosed clipping.

As my readers know, I'm given to being polite when engaged in controversies, but when I have to deal with an intellectual pimp my impulse to be polite escapes me and I have to fall back on plain, blunt speech. This cultural cockroach always enrages me, because, to change the species, he's one of the rottenest of our political pole-cats. One can't be expected to conduct himself with Chesterfieldian courtesy when compelled to mess his fingers with an academic sewer-rat like Boake Carter, an ex-Britisher who became an American citizen only a few months ago and who is already engaged in open propaganda to head our government in the direction of Fascism. I've heard this totalitarian toady deliver many radio speeches and read quite a few of his newspaper articles, but I'm still to see a word of criticism against dictatorships from this dictators' demagogue.

Imagine the stupidity of a public

speaker and writer who, pretending to know something about history, says the U.S. got the Louisiana Purchase from the Indians. Gawd, even a kid in grade school knows that when France needed money Napoleon Bonaparte sold the Louisiana Purchase to us, at what he thought was a thumping good price, though it turned out to be a right snappy bargain for the U.S. The Indians had nothing to do with it. How can a man who poses as an educated man fall into such idiotic errors?

In the same clipping this anti-democratic lickspittle throws quite a fit over the "terrible way" we've treated the Indians—as though he knows the first thing about our history. His point is, of course, that we have no right to criticize Mussolini for the way he treated the Ethiopians. Imagine the crassness of a speaker who would actually stoop so low as to compare Uncle Sam's treatment of the Indian to Mussolini's deliberate murder of 250,000 Ethiopian men, women and children! First of all, Boake Carter doesn't even know that we paid the Indians what was a decent price for their lands—and this, mark you, at a time when millions of square miles of American soil had hardly been explored. The main fighting wasn't of the kind that Mussolini carried on in Ethiopia but was properly to be blamed on the guerrilla attacks of individual whites, who fought among themselves as often as they fought the red men. These vendettas took place years after the American people had paid the Indians for their land.

I'm sure Boake Carter—America's most Hitleristic ham—doesn't know that our official records show that we paid the Indians \$85,000,000 for their land. This, mark you, was only up to 1840, and was about 500 percent more than Thomas Jefferson paid Napoleon for the Louisiana Purchase. In fact, the millions of dollars we paid the Indians was about 300 percent more than the combined sums paid for the Louisiana Purchase, Florida, and California. How much money did Mussolini pay the Ethiopian people?

Boake Carter actually has the gall—or the ignorance—to bring up the Philippines as a "conquest" and

therefore justification for acts of aggression by Japan in China, Hitler in Czechoslovakia, and Mussolini in Ethiopia. When you consider the obvious fact that Uncle Sam has decided to give the islands back to the Philippines, after decades in which we spent hundreds of millions of dollars on them and helped the Philippine people achieve the highest standard of living in the Far East, one wonders if there's any bottom to the lies a Boake Carter is capable of uttering.

In another place Boake Carter describes America as a country that has been "swiping more square miles of territory by sheer military conquest," save Great Britain. The statement is a bald and crude falsehood, as is his other remark—that "we kicked the British in the pants and took the entire Atlantic seaboard" on the same grounds that Hitler took the Sudetenland, that is to say "self-determination." What an astonishing talent for twisting words into the meaning he would like to give them. Consider for a moment the amazing ineptness of a public speaker who actually can stand before an audience and say that the American Revolution—for representation commensurate with our taxation, later becoming a struggle for independence is on a par with Hitler's behavior in Central Europe.

We now come to the one incident in U.S. history which seems to be a black mark on our record—I refer, of course, to the Mexican war. Here again Boake Carter exposes his ignorance, for it's plain he doesn't know that the Mexican war was promoted by the slave-holding interests of the South, who wanted to expand slave territory in order to counter the anti-slavery powers of the North. Real Americans like Abraham Lincoln, U. S. Grant, Henry David Thoreau, and many others, protested against the Mexican war—protests which were ignored by the slave-holding interests of the South—interests we had to fight in little more than a decade later. But even here there are many facts that ought to be recorded. First, the land taken was tied to Mexico with so weak a thread as to throw open the question as to the quantity of land Mexico really owned at the time of the Mexican war. Another point to bear in mind is that most of

this land wasn't even populated. And, finally, we turned around afterwards and paid Mexico money that was just about the same rate we paid France for the Louisiana Purchase. It takes a Boake Carter to ignore such facts in order to give moral support to the acts of aggression of Hitler, Mussolini and the Mikado.

* * *

Is it a fact that our country is being flooded with Jewish refugees from Germany?

There is no factual support for the assertion that refugees are pouring into this country. During the past five or six years I've quoted many authoritative sources to show that more people are leaving this country than are entering, thus contradicting rumor-mongers who hope to arouse racial prejudices through the use of scare propaganda. My volumes of questions and answers contain much data on this important and interesting point. Recently the American Friends Service Committee, of Philadelphia, released some facts on this subject, all of the data coming from official sources. This committee, let me add, has done much good relief work in stricken lands, and during months has been giving special attention to the problem of caring for the world's new crop of refugees. According to this Quaker report (released early in June, 1939) 4,487 more aliens left the U.S. than entered it during the six years since Hitler took power in Germany. The report continues:

"In that period [since 1933] the total immigration quota for all countries was 922,644, while the number of immigrants who came in for permanent residence was only 241,962—or less than a third of the legal limit."

The report, which is quoted approvingly on the editorial page of *The Kansas City Star*, adds:

In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938, which was the year of heaviest refugee immigration, the net increase of our population from this source was 42,685. In 1929 it had been 210,475; in 1924, 630,107. In other words, the annual immigration is down to a fifth of what it was 10 years ago, when it was considered no problem whatever, and to a 15th of what it was in 1924. The absurdity of talking about a "flood" of

refugees is manifest, in the face of these statistics.

The *Star* editorial takes up the discussion, as follows:

The committee notes the general fear that the new immigrants will take jobs away from American citizens. It points out that British experience does not bear out this assumption. The British home office has just published a study, showing that the 11,000 German refugees recently admitted to Great Britain actually created 15,000 new jobs, through the transfer of whole industries from Germany.

* * *

The other day I saw a group of Nazi hoodlums selling Father Coughlin's magazine, "Social Justice," on 14th Street, in N.Y.C. They provoked a fight with a Jewish high-school teacher and stabbed him in the abdomen. I notice that some of these Fascists give all their time to this despicable campaign. Do they get extra big commissions from Father Coughlin?

These hawkers keep every penny they receive from the sale of the radio priest's hate-breeding publication. As I explained before (supported by no less an authority than Dr. L. M. Birkhead, director of the Friends of Democracy, Kansas City, Mo.), the money for Coughlin's projects comes from HENRY FORD. It's the motor car magnate's millions that enable Coughlin to promote his vile war on a helpless minority.

* * *

I notice that you write frequently about your Kansas City friend, L. M. Birkhead, who is head of the Friends of Democracy. Can you give me the platform of this organization?

L. M. Birkhead, in 1937, launched the Friends of Democracy, setting forth the organization's principles as follows:

(1) To arouse devotion to the true spirit of the Constitution of the United States as the bulwark of democracy.

(2) To uphold democracy against subversive movements.

(3) To develop loyalty to democracy by safeguarding freedom of speech, press and assembly.

(4) To shake off fear, inertia, laziness and selfishness.

Dr. Birkhead, who is well known to readers of my Little Blue Books, is doing a fine job exposing Fascists and anti-semites like Father Coughlin, General George Van Horn Mos-

ley, the Rev. Gerald B. Winrod, and many others. The slogan of his growing, useful, effective group is "Preserve democracy in America by preserving it in your community."

* * *

What is the purpose of education, from the viewpoint of a democratic social order?

Here I bow to Dr. Harry Elmer Barnes, the distinguished historian and writer on problems of government. Dr. Barnes, who has written many books for my list, says:

"The outstanding responsibility of education to society right now is the preparation of a blueprint of a better social system, and a realistic indication of how we may bring it into existence in a gradual, peaceful, and intelligent manner."

* * *

Have you ever answered Father Coughlin's charge that Bolshevism is Jewish?

For goodness sake, man, I've written reams on this subject. Where've you been all this time? All you need do is to refer to my volumes of questions and answers for factual discussions of Father Coughlin's unfounded, dishonest position. It happens, however, that one clipping has been buried in my newsclip filing system, and I'm glad of this chance to bring it out. I should have done this long ago, but somehow the piece escaped my attention. It has to do with a message from the Rev. Dr. Jacob H. Hertz, Chief Rabbi of Great Britain, as follows:

A campaign of fanatical defamation has been launched against the whole of Jewry throughout the world. The charge that 90 percent of the heads of the Soviet and Peasant Republics are Jews is entirely false. Of the Presidents of the separate Soviet Republics and the People's Commissars there are, in a total of 19, only two men of Jewish birth. Be it remembered that the rise of Bolshevism to power in 1917 was made possible by Herr Hitler's former colleague, General Ludendorf, who arranged Lenin's passage through Germany, with the declared purpose of inculcating the Russian masses with the Communist idea. For this result of German political sagacity, Herr Hitler now blames the Jews.

The point made in the last paragraph above is well taken. Dr. Hertz is absolutely correct when he says

Ludendorf (with the permission of the kaiser) arranged for Lenin's passage from neutral Switzerland to Russia in order to enable him to participate in a movement to overthrow the Kerensky government. So, history shows that it was Hitler's pal who helped establish bolshevism, not the Jews.

* * *

I'd like a few words of comment on the enclosed picture of a tremendous airplane now being built for Hitler.

It's a great idea, and here's hoping that what I'm hoping for will happen.

* * *

Your statement that George Washington denied the U.S. government rests on the religion of Christ surprises me. Can you tell me where he made this assertion?

This is a question I'm asked often, as may be checked by referring to the indexes in my volumes of questions and answers. Washington, when President, made the statement in the Treaty of Peace and Friendship with Tripoli in 1797, as follows: "As the Government of the United States is not in any sense founded on the Christian religion. . . ." (See American State Papers, Class 1, Foreign Relations, Vol. 11, page 18.) Washington's point, needless to say, was that our government is strictly secular and that the Church is in no way given official recognition. However, the Church hasn't been idle all these years, with the result that the government which is supposed to maintain strict separation of Church and State is compelled to accept religious practices, among others the religious oath, opening legislative bodies with prayer, laws compelling blue Sundays, paid chaplains in the army and navy, and so on. Throughout our history numerous attempts have been made by non-religious bodies to secularize the government, or, in other words, to bring about "the disestablishment of religion." Important work in this field was done by the National Liberal League, which was organized about 70 years ago by Francis E. Abbott. Its platform called for:

1. Taxation of church property.
2. An end to the custom of employing chaplains in the army, navy, and public institutions.
3. The refusal of the National, State and local governments to appropriate pub-

lic money for sectarian education and charitable institutions. 4. No use of the Bible in the public schools. 5. Public officials are not to designate religious festivals and fasts. 6. The abolishment of religious oaths in courts, etc. 7. The repeal of laws compelling persons to observe the Sabbath.

The National Liberal League was fought by the National Association to Secure Certain Religious Amendments to the Constitution. Led by Justice William Strong of the Supreme Court, this body proposed that "the preamble of the Constitution be changed to read:"

"We, the people of the United States, humbly acknowledging Almighty God as the source of all authority and power in civil government, the Lord Jesus Christ as the Ruler of all nations, and his revealed will as the supreme law of the land, in order to constitute a Christian government, and in order to form a more perfect union . . ."

Had such a movement succeeded in achieving its ends we would be living today under some form of theocratic dictatorship, or, at the very least, non-believers would be deprived of some of their civil rights. As the American Civil Liberties Union put it, "Atheists and Freethinkers have constantly had to battle the contention that the United States is a Christian country." Many of the liberties we accept as commonplaces today would have been lost decades ago had the Freethinkers failed to protest and demand the continuation of our secularized government. They have been true to the principle that religious freedom includes the right not to worship as well as to worship where one will and the right to follow any religion or none at all. As the American Civil Liberties Union puts it, "Freedom to affirm religious beliefs carries with it freedom to deny religious belief." But this principle, as I've written many times in the past, has been flouted in more ways than one. It may interest my readers to know that some of our States still have anti-blasphemy laws on their statute books, though the liberalism of the times won't permit the bigots to enforce them. However, in times of great social and political reaction it would be an easy matter to dust off these laws and foist them

on a people brought up in the belief that our government is supposed to be independent of theocratic totalitarianism. According to my newspaper clipping system, the American Civil Liberties Union says:

Blasphemy laws are still on the statute books of 14 States—Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Vermont. Delaware and Rhode Island make blasphemy a crime, but do not define it. In most of the others it is defined as an open denial of a God. Vermont uses the term "Supreme Being," and in Massachusetts it is a crime as well to "contumeliously reproach" Jesus Christ or the Holy Ghost or the "holy word of God contained in the holy Scriptures." Maryland's statute punishes the writing or utterance of "any profane words of and concerning" any member of the Holy Family.

Scattering prosecutions have taken place even in recent years. In 1921, a citizen of Maine was held by the Supreme Judicial Court for having made blasphemous utterances when he said "How can the Holy Ghost be God when she is afraid a cat will kill her?" a reference doubtless to a Biblical assertion that on one occasion the Holy Ghost had assumed the form of a dove.

Anthony Bimba was prosecuted for blasphemy in Brockton, Mass., in 1926, for remarks made in the Lithuanian language to workers, but was acquitted. A warrant for the arrest of Prof. Horace M. Kallen of New York was issued in Massachusetts for saying in a public address on the Sacco and Vanzetti case, "If Sacco and Vanzetti were anarchists, so also were Socrates and Jesus Christ." The warrant was withdrawn before service. In Massachusetts, one man was convicted for publication of a book entitled "The Secrets of Freemasonry," but the case was dropped on appeal. In Arkansas, Charles Smith of New York, President of the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism, was prosecuted in 1928 for "ridiculing the Christian religion." He had gone to Arkansas to oppose the pending referendum on the anti-evolution law and was distributing in Little Rock, atheistic folders on the Bible and evolution. He was not permitted to testify in his own defense, and was sentenced to three months in prison and a \$100 fine.

The case was dismissed when he appealed.

The record shows that every forward step taken in order to reach religious freedom in the same defined above has been fought bitterly by the religious-minded bigots who would bring back the conditions that prevailed when Church and State were one. The theocrats surrendered the policeman's club only when compelled to do so. Even today they hold on hungrily to their remaining privileges and strive for the return of their palmy, State-supported regime of intolerance, superstition, ignorance, and torture. The religious fanatic always hopes for the day when he'll be able to put skeptics and infidels to the stake or the rack. For that reason, Freethinkers and libertarians in general must always be on guard lest their precious liberties be stolen from them by the supernaturalists.

* * *

Frank Gannett, the publisher of 19 daily newspapers, made a speech in Coffeyville, Kans., recently, according to the enclosed clipping. In it he said business, after six years of FDR, is worse off than ever before. Please comment.

Mr. Gannett's statement is wildly inaccurate. If he had offered this criticism as an isolated personal opinion it could be ignored, but since it's one of the main arguments of the reactionaries it's necessary to notice it. In my writings (which will be found by referring to the index in the back of each of my volumes of questions and answers) I have given readers considerable material to prove that conditions—business, social, political, economic, etc.—have improved greatly since March, 1933, though I'd be among the first to insist that our program of social reform has only made its beginnings in the direction of sound, sure recovery. Below I want to cover only a single phase of this question—the sales record of the chain stores over the past five years. The figures, needless to say, are official and prove (along with my other data) that business, compared with five years ago, is better off right down the line, despite the lying propaganda of the reactionaries. Even some of the big chains listed below have lent their influence against the New Deal in an attempt

to hinder necessary social reform, but their own figures prove them to be guilty of the grossest ingratitude. The report:

steal Ethiopia, though after he got that large country he didn't attempt to send more than a few thousand

	Yearly Sales Volume				
	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
W. T. Grant ..	\$ 97,313,547	\$ 99,359,519	\$ 97,891,288	\$ 91,979,113	\$ 84,760,699
S. S. Kresge Co.	147,975,974	154,234,470	148,710,181	137,885,426	137,425,906
S. H. Kress Co.	82,187,173	87,871,478	86,767,531	78,479,130	75,662,276
Murphy Co. ...	42,189,148	42,522,240	37,955,356	31,597,890	27,995,481
Neisner Bros.	21,158,649	23,237,672	21,741,359	19,396,395	17,433,281
Newberry Co. .	49,031,416	50,308,533	48,372,884	43,385,398	41,057,802
Penny Co.	257,961,665	273,378,771	258,325,311	225,937,155	212,031,287
Peoples Drug .	21,780,021	22,428,658	21,153,239	19,235,757	16,902,713
Walgreen Drug	68,019,858	68,666,615	63,919,525	58,519,610	54,783,886
Woolworth Co.	304,294,565	304,775,189	299,378,401	268,745,500	270,679,683
Mont'g Ward	408,044,956	410,699,553	354,366,602	305,011,508	261,412,543
Sears, Roebuck	503,244,563	543,239,325	495,715,293	391,435,649	336,901,000
Kroger Grocery	231,237,796	229,547,309	242,281,638	227,739,064	220,375,971
Safeway Stores	368,007,824	380,320,284	340,024,344	293,584,404	241,837,753

I hate to show my ignorance, but I don't know what the Washington correspondents mean when they tell about a filibuster. Please explain.

As I write this, Washington dispatches carry the news that a large group of isolationist Senators intend to conduct a filibuster if any attempt is made by the administration to kill the so-called neutrality law and substitute a law providing for the sale of war supplies on a cash and carry basis, that is to say, any belligerent will be able to buy our munitions if he can put the money on the barrel head and can send his own ships to pick up the freight at one of our ports. When Senator Johnson and his isolationists threaten a filibuster they have in mind political filibustering instead of military, the latter meaning an irregular military adventure. In its political sense, a filibuster means, in the words of Webster's New International, "A member of a legislative or deliberative body who obstructs or prevents action by the extreme use of dilatory tactics, such as speaking merely to consume time." It's an easy matter for a filibuster to be conducted in the U.S. Senate because that body has a rule which permits its members unlimited time in debates. It's only when the Senate, by a two-thirds vote, decides on closure that it's possible to put a time-limit on any member's speaking time.

Italians to colonize the territory. Instead, he continued to cry about the need for "room to live" and turned to France for more land—in North Africa and parts of continental France. Like Mussolini, Hitler demands Lebensraum, at the same time outlawing birth control, a contradiction which the dictators never care to explain. The facts show, of course, that Germany and Italy have fewer inhabitants per square mile of arable land than countries like Great Britain, Belgium, The Netherlands, etc. Here are the figures, which I've used before, as may be seen by referring to my volumes of questions and answers. They give the population of eight countries, per square mile of arable land:

Japan proper, 2,418; The Netherlands, 2,233; Belgium, 1,793; Great Britain, 596; Germany 578; Italy, 477; France, 294; U.S., 100.

Facts are stubborn things. They often betray the cleverest propaganda.

A Nazi newspaper ridicules the U.S., charging us with having more motor cars than bathtubs. Please comment.

While it's true we have more motor cars than bathtubs, that editor should add the equally interesting fact that the U.S. has 95 percent of all the bathtubs in the world.

Is there any validity to Hitler's claim for "Lebensraum?"

Lebensraum means "room to live." It's a favorite device of dictators. Mussolini used it when he decided to

Is it true that the Negro population is growing at a faster rate than the white?

Many people seem to hold the opinion that our Negro population is out-

growing the white, but there's nothing tangible to support such a view. The facts all point in the opposite direction. An excellent authority, Dr. Bernard D. Karpinos, of the U.S. Public Health Service, reports that "Negroes actually had a lower net reproduction rate in 1930 than did the white population in that year. In that year the comparative rates were 1.08 for the whites as against 1.02 for Negroes." The same student of population trends pointed out that Negroes "have a higher crude birth rate, but this does not mean that their population is increasing more rapidly. Among other factors operating to offset this higher rate is a higher death rate." He explained, further, that "both factors combine to produce a population whose average age is younger." Dr. Karpinos calls attention to the fact that some people base their claim that the Negro population is increasing on the alleged jump in their numbers in the 1920 to 1930 census figures, "but," he adds, "the 1920 figures err seriously in having missed many of the Negro population." The present ratio of Negroes to white is likely to continue, Negroes at present numbering 9.7 percent of the population. There is "an outside possibility of the percentage rising as high as 11.6 percent, but no higher," says Dr. Karpinos. In this same statement, which was delivered as an address before a group of statisticians in Detroit recently, Dr. Karpinos showed another basis for the erroneous belief, which rests on the apparent birth rate increase among Negroes during the years from 1920 to 1930. The explanation, he claimed, "lies not in increased fertility but in the fact that the ratio between Negro men and women in the different cities was sadly out of balance around 1920 and only approached normality later. The explanation of this latter fact lies in the mass migrations of southern Negroes to the North during the World War to fill a hungry labor market." Thus is another fairly common notion debunked.

* * *

My letterhead and business card will give you a general idea of our business—industrial, municipal, mining and contractors' equipment and supplies. How

would you plan a campaign to increase our sales volume during the next year? Please send me a personal answer.

You're asking me for something I can't supply. You want a program, when I offered only to supply information. Besides, how can a poor fellow who's worrying himself bald-headed trying to increase the volume of orders in a business he's been heading for almost a quarter of a century, step into another field and tell experts what they're to do about a situation that has leaders in the industry stumped? So, I won't even try to tell you how to sell more equipment to road builders, tractors to distributors of agricultural machinery, pipe to oil companies, street flushers and sweepers to city officials, and so on. Instead, let me suggest that you try to increase your goodwill during the next year, a program that may bring more business, and then again it mightn't. But it won't do any harm. I'm a great believer in the tremendous power of letters—just plain, typed letters that go out under first-class postage. Why not build up a mailing list of all your customers and prospects with a view to sending them at least two personal letters each month? Think it over. Personally I've always found letters to be valuable business-pullers, though by this I don't want to give the impression that they can supplant personal representatives in your kind of an establishment.

* * *

Have you worked out a simple way to find an overhead drop cord in the dark?

Don't fan the air with one hand. That takes lots of time and effort. The best way I know of is to place the thumbs together, then spreading the fingers as far as you can make them go. That gives you about five times as much contact area, thus making it easier to touch the drop cord.

* * *

Would you be good enough to tell me, by personal mail, where to find a reliable literary agency? In Europe, where I used to live, writing was a hobby of mine, but now I should like to make it a profession.

I advise writers to avoid agents who demand a reading fee. Such persons usually are more interested in the fee than in selling the manu-

script. I've known such parties to glance at the first and last page of a manuscript, pocket as much as \$100, and then say the stuff shows "promise," that it needs editorial revision (more money), and so on. Many such fellows never even bother to submit the Ms. The thing simmers down to a perfectly legal racket. All reputable literary agents do their work without reading fees, but here let me add the important fact that such agents are too busy to bother with beginners who aren't promising. They make their profits by selling rights to publishers, moving picture companies, radio stations, and the like, for the usual 10 percent commission. In 999 times out of a thousand, they prefer to deal with writers of great reputation, authors who have arrived. As so many of my correspondents are beginning authors, I always advise them to forget about agents and submit their manuscripts to editors in the usual way—mail it to some publication you think your work will fit into. After you get many acceptances (assuming you do) you will be able to take your pick of the best agents. Until then, don't even expect their services. The average editor examines all manuscripts regardless of whether they come from a big-time agent or an unknown beginning writer.

* * *

How many Christian hymns are there?

Almost 500,000.

* * *

I've heard it said many times that no one can look at the star-studded sky and fail to believe in God. What about it?

If I were to say that I can look at the "star-studded sky" and get no pious urgings it might be thought I was trying deliberately to be disputatious, so I'll go, instead, to a celebrated naturalist, John Burroughs, who often looked at works of nature, including the starry heavens. And, as I'll show from his words, he wasn't thrown into spasms of supernaturalism or religious superstition. Burroughs could look at the starry heavens without losing his reason, a practice I'm glad to recommend to others. You'll find his words on page 164, in "The Light of Day":

"When I look up at the starry

heavens at night and reflect upon what it is that I really see there. I am constrained to say, 'There is no God.' . . . It is not the works of some God that I see there. . . . I see no lineaments of personality, no human traits, but an energy upon whose currents solar systems are but bubbles."

Believe it or not, I "tabbed" that quotation something like 20 years ago, and now I'm using it for the first time. That I insist, is another proof of the efficiency of my system of tabbing quotations in the many books I read so I can get them again when wanted. It's the school-teacher in me that impels me to want to show other book readers how they can find what they want years after they've tabbed a volume. Yes, I'm guilty of possessing a Messianic urge. I can't escape it. And, for that matter, I don't intend to try. If I work out a system of "tabbing" books I fail to see anything wrong about my wanting to share my knowledge with others, especially my reader-friends.

* * *

Can you give me George Robey's definition of laughter?

I find George Robey, the popular English comedian, listed in my news-clip filing system, which I suggest is quite a compliment to my method of putting away clippings from newspapers and magazines, and finding them when needed. Here's how he defined laughter:

"Laughter is the synchronized coordination of neuropsychological reflexes, with a semi-automatic impulse of mass-inherited suggestivism."

* * *

Editor: Although you continually admit the effectiveness of the propaganda of Hitler, Townsend, Coughlin and the like, you seem to think that we should stick by the orthodox textbook methods of presenting our material. Why? Don't you think we anti-Fascist supporters of political, social and industrial democracy should use the same principles based on emotional appeal to present our program and rewards? Using one of your quotations from Thomas Paine: "Some people can be reasoned into sense, and others must be shocked into it." I believe it's about time we used the shock method.

Tacoma, Wash. BOB RUSSELL
[Editor's note: There's nothing wrong about an appeal to the emotions if it's predicated on Rationalism. But

when we're told to imitate the propaganda methods of a Hitler, a Mussolini or a Father Coughlin, we're being told, in so many words, to resort to lies, half-truths, distortions, appeals to prejudices, and the like. When we imitate the Hitlers we'll just about reach our end, for contact with that poison won't leave anything worth while in our program of scientific progress. I feel confident we can counteract the propaganda of the Fascists through appeals to reason. But such work can't make real headway without the support of all anti-Fascist elements. Such men and women must be willing to make moral and financial sacrifices in order to build up engines of publicity, especially through the medium of a free press. Will independent, progressive, liberal editors get the support they deserve? I'm optimistic enough to believe the answer is Yes. Show me I'm right by doing something definite and concrete today.]

* * *

Does a fish have a sense of color?

Science Service reports from Chicago that not only do fish recognize colors but they "have a yen" for red. Green is their second favorite. These facts were reported to Science Service by Dr. Frank A. Brown, Jr., assistant professor of Zoology, Northwestern University. The service's report of his patient experimenting continues:

Dr. Brown put bass into large white enameled basins which were electrically wired. He fed them, using medicine droppers covered with adhesive tape tinted in various colors. Each fish had a certain color dropper, but if a dropper of another color was approached, the fish received an electric shock. Gradually each fish learned its particular training color.

"My experiments show that red is the most distinct color a bass sees, and green is second in this respect," he said. "Yellow is somewhat less distinct and blue appears almost identical with black."

* * *

I've heard the remark that it takes four persons to make a good salad. What does this mean?

That comes from the old Spanish proverb, which held that a good salad needs these four: a spendthrift for oil, a miser for vinegar, a counselor for salt, and a madman to stir all up. You'll find this quoted in Abraham Hayward's "The Art of Dining."

* * *

A friend of mine has been sentenced in

Federal court to a year and a day for a felony. Does he lose his citizenship when released?

A prisoner convicted of a felony loses merely his rights of citizenship, not his citizenship. For example, while remaining a citizen he can't vote or serve on a jury, etc. However, the Federal government doesn't always deprive its prisoners of their rights of citizenship. This depends on State laws. If he loses his rights the government usually insists on the rule that a Federal prisoner convicted of a felony shall wait four years before applying for an executive pardon that restores his rights. It's always better to refer this problem to a lawyer experienced in this line of work.

* * *

Is it possible to change human nature?

No, of course not. But all this means little. Too often we mistake human behavior for human nature. Human behavior can be changed.

* * *

How many sounds do we combine in order to make speech?

Bell laboratory scientists, at a meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, in N.Y.C., May 16, 1939, showed by demonstrations that all there's to human speech is a buzz and a hiss. And that goes for all vocal sounds that range from the bellowing of a hog-caller to the sweet, smooth, velvety tones of society doctor. A buzz and a hiss, said these scientists, "combine to give every inflection in the whole gamut of human speech. The buzz-hiss sounds mix and mingle in the throat and mouth and turn into intelligible speech."

* * *

I see you like Wagner's music. I listened to it once—one of his greatest operas—and I couldn't make head nor tail of it. Is it my fault entirely?

Wagner's music has always created difficulties, even for experts, when heard for the first time. This is because Wagner's idioms are so unconventional, so far from the moods of more established forms of popular music. I didn't understand Wagner the first time I heard him, but in time I came to understand and appreciate his greatness, especially as an orchestrationist. This reminds me of a passage in J. C. Squire's book, "The Honeysuckle and the Bee," in which he tells of how Rossini reacted to

Wagnerian music. One of his disciples asked: "What did you think of it, master?" Rossini, trying to be reasonable, replied: "I don't think it would be fair to exxpress an opinion without hearing it a second time." And on being asked when he was going to hear it a second time, Rossini answered, emphatically: "Never!"

Why does the U.S. make the worst showing in the matter of deaths in motor car accidents?

The answer is that the U.S. doesn't make the worst showing at all. We have the most fatal accidents because we have so many more cars. The proper way to figure the element of accidents is to learn how many deaths we have per 10,000 motor vehicles. When this is taken into consideration we find that the U.S.'s showing could be much worse. The table below was prepared by the National Safety Council:

Countries	Automobile Deaths per 10,000 Motor Vehicles
New Zealand	7.5
Canada	10.5
Union of South Africa	11.2
Denmark	12.5
Norway	12.8
United States	13.0
Australia	16.8
Sweden	23.1
England and Wales	24.6
Irish Free State	26.0
Chile	31.4
Scotland	34.8
Germany	43.4
Belgium	43.6
Switzerland	49.1
Netherlands	51.1
Ceylon	55.5
Italy	61.4

Suppose a candidate for President of the U.S. gets elected but dies before the date of inauguration. Does the Vice-President-elect become President?

No. The National Committee of his party is given the right to select another name for election by the electoral college.

What's the diameter of the moon?

About 2,000 miles.

Which are the chemical senses?

Taste and smell.

Can any ship afloat get through the Panama Canal?

No. The Queen Mary and the Nor-

mandie are too wide to get through the locks.

Where is the highest navigable body of water? Lake Titicaca, Bolivia, is 12,500 feet above sea level.

What are homonyms?

They're words that are pronounced the same but have different spelling and meaning, such as "wood" and "would."

What satisfaction do women get out of knitting?

One wisecracker put it this way: "Knitting gives women something to think about while they're talking."

Who's putting up the money to pay for Father Coughlin's radio and printed propaganda?

HENRY FORD.

Do you consider Senator Vest's eulogy to a dog the best of its kind?

Literature contains many such eulogies. Just which is the best I don't know. I never thought a whole lot of Vest's verbiage, though it's the most popular. Albert Payson Terhune once called attention to Jerome K. Jerome's words at the close of his chapter on "Dog" in his popular book, "Idle Thoughts of an Idle Fellow." Terhune said he liked Jerome's passage better than Senator Vest's flowery sentences. Judge for yourself:

"Ah, staunch old friend, with your deep clear eyes and bright quick glances which take in all one has to say before one has time to speak it:—Do you know you are only an animal and have no mind? Do you know that that dull-eyed gin-sodden lout leaning against the post out there is immeasurably your intellectual superior?"

"Do you know that every little-minded selfish scoundrel, who never did a gentle deed or said a kind word, who never had a thought that was not mean and low or a desire that was not mean and base, whose every action is a fraud and whose every utterance is a lie—do you know that these crawling human skunks are as much superior to you, as is the sun to a rushlight; you honorable brave-hearted unselfish beast?"

"They are men, you know. And men are the greatest and wisest and noblest and best creatures in the

universe. Any man will tell you that!"

* * *

What were the seven wonders of the Middle Ages?

The Coliseum of Rome, the Catacombs of Alexandria, the Great Wall of China, Stonehenge, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Porcelain Tower of Nanking, and the Mosque of Santa Sophia at Constantinople.

* * *

How much do we spend on sports?

Washington statisticians claim the people of this country spend about \$3,000,000,000 per year on all branches of sports.

* * *

Do a baseball player's eyes function faster than those of the average person?

If he's a good player the answer is Yes. It's said that Babe Ruth, in his best days, submitted to tests that showed his eyesight was better than normal by 12 percent.

* * *

Which is harder to make—a long putt or a short one?

Bobby Jones, who certainly qualifies as an expert, says long putts are easier than short ones. He says the reason for this is "because the player really tries to make the long putts, but when he is faced with a short one his only thought is to avoid missing."

* * *

What do the major league ball clubs spend for baseballs?

The major league clubs spend \$125,000 annually on baseballs.

* * *

What's the longest game ever played among major league baseball teams?

The record long game was played on May 1, 1920, between the Boston Braves and the Brooklyn Dodgers, when they went to 26 innings. The game was called off, with the score a tie at 1-1.

* * *

Please tell me what it means when Congress adjourns sine die.

It means no definite assembling date is being set.

* * *

God doesn't speak to man through the brain. He speaks through the heart. The heart knows many things the brain knoweth not.

My religious-minded reader believes God made his brain as He made his heart. We are asked to assume that God intended my friend to do his thinking with his brain, not his heart, the latter a perfectly good instrument

for the end in view, which, needless to say, is pumping blood. Now, if God's gift to man—a thinking machine—is worth using at all, doesn't it seem rather silly for God to say He intends to ignore the brain He created and directed His messages to the heart?

* * *

What kind of noise annoys an oyster?

Any noisy noise annoys an oyster. (Pardon me, sober, pious readers, but this is a hot day, which accounts for my slight attack of premature senility.)

* * *

At what rate of speed does the water that goes over Niagara Falls travel?

70 miles an hour.

* * *

Who was the richest President of the U.S.? I've been told F. D. R. is the richest man ever to occupy the White House.

Judged by present standards, George Washington was the wealthiest President. In terms of present values, Washington's estate was worth about \$5,000,000. Among other property, he owned 70,000 acres of Virginia land and 40,000 acres elsewhere.

* * *

What was Abraham Lincoln worth when he died?

About \$100,000.

* * *

What's your opinion of the Cronin blast against Agnosticism, in the enclosed clipping from a British journal?

Dr. A. J. Cronin, British novelist, gets off this "deathbed recantation" of the world's "greatest agnostic," as follows:

I happened about this time to read the life of one of the greatest agnostics the world has ever known, and what struck me forcibly was the way in which the man had excluded all sensory stimuli from the range of his perceptions. He would never listen to music. He had never enjoyed the perfume of a flower, nor read a poem, nor viewed the sunlight through a strained-glass window. In short, he so feared for his emotions, and whither they might lead him, that he shut himself up in a cold cell of reason. He was so determined to be rational that he made his whole life a monument of irrationalism. He forced himself to hate God. And with his dying breath he muttered: "Galilean, Thou hast conquered." I started the book in admiration; I ended it in disgust.

Dr. Cronin, if he's honest, should

give the great Agnostic's name. Why withhold such valuable information from the world? We skeptics have a right to know the title of the biography he quotes so bumptiously. I'm afraid Dr. Cronin will ignore this demand for information, because there isn't any. The piece is pure fiction. Honesty should impel Dr. Cronin to put fiction into his novels, not into his essays defending orthodox religion. Just why an Agnostic should want to go through life (assuming he's sane) hating the aroma of flowers, rejecting the beauty of poetry, and despising the glorious artistry of nature is beyond my powers to comprehend. I recall vividly spending some days with Joseph McCabe (one of the world's greatest Agnostics) and we attended several Wagnerian operas. That's a big load for a couple of Materialists, and we took the masterpieces in our stride. It was a grand adventure, and the fact we're both Rationalists didn't keep us from appreciating the productions of one of music's greatest geniuses. According to Dr. Cronin we should have spent these hours worshipping ugly things. But we didn't. And the man whose life Dr. Cronin speaks about—"one of the greatest agnostics the world has ever known"—doesn't sound like anyone I've ever read about, and I claim a little knowledge about every great thinker and Rationalist in the entire history of thought, for this subject has been one of my specialties since I first exposed myself to literature that's intended to free the human mind from the shackles of the supernatural. Dr. Cronin, it's plain, thinks he can serve the Lord better by doing some plain and fancy lying about Freethinkers. If he's an honest writer—and I doubt he is—the man will give the world the name of the book he claims to be quoting from. It stands to reason our religionists would make no end of use of such a devastating work—if it existed, which I'm sure isn't so. But, it's always been permissible to tell glorious whoppers in the service of righteousness. The pious usually resort to any means in order to shake the doubts of the world's skeptics.

* * *

In your volumes of Questions and Answers I find the statement that Thomas Jefferson tried to put a protest against chattel slavery into the Declaration of

Independence. What evidence have you to support such an assertion?

The Library of Congress owns the manuscript, written by Thomas Jefferson, that denounced the British slave trade. It was intended to be a part of the Declaration of Independence, but was deleted against Jefferson's wishes. Here's what Jefferson wrote:

"He [the British King] has waged cruel war against human nature itself, violating its most sacred rights of life and liberty in the persons of a distant people who never offended him, captivating and carrying them into slavery in another hemisphere or to incur miserable death in their transportation thither. This piratical warfare, the opprobrium of infidel powers, is the warfare of the Christian king of Great Britain. Determined to keep open a market where men should be bought and sold, he has prostituted his negative for suppressing every legislative attempt to prohibit or to restrain this execrable commerce; and that this assemblage of horrors might WANT NO FACT OF DISTINGUISHED DIE, he is now exciting those very people to rise in arms among us, and to purchase that liberty of which HE has deprived them, by murdering the people upon whom he also obtruded them, thus paying off former crimes committed against the liberties of one people, with crimes which he urges them to commit against the lives of another."

* * *

Does the government know how many pennies we lose? Are pennies made at a profit?

U.S. mint officials estimate we have lost 5,000,000,000 pennies since Uncle Sam started turning them out. The business of making pennies is highly profitable to the government. Every time the mint spends a penny on copper a gross profit of 9c is made. The mint turns out 2,871 pennies per minute each working day.

* * *

Is it a fact that Negro soldiers helped Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans?

Two battalions of Negro soldiers showed such outstanding bravery at the Battle of New Orleans that General Andrew Jackson saw fit to write this letter:

"To the men of Color—Soldiers!
"From the shores of Mobile, I collected you to arms—I invited you to share in the perils and to divide

the glory of your white countrymen. I expected much from you, for I was not informed of those qualities which must render you so formidable to an invading force. I knew that you could endure hunger and thirst and all the hardships of war. I knew that you loved the land of your nativity, and that, like ourselves, you had to defend all that is most dear to man. But you surpassed my hopes. I have found in you, united to these qualities, that noble enthusiasm which impels to great deeds.

"Soldiers! The President of the United States shall be informed of your conduct on the present occasion; and the voice of the representatives of the American nation shall applaud your valor, as your General now praises your ardor..."

* * *

What was the death rate in the U.S. in 1938?

In 1938, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 1,380,986 deaths, which was an average of 10.6 per 1,000 population, thereby shading the 10.7 record of 1933. The bureau says, "One reason for the lower rate was a better record of saving babies. The mortality rate of infants under one year of age was reduced to an all time low of 50.9 per 1,000 live births."

* * *

How many gallons of gasoline did we motorists use in 1938?

The U.S. Bureau of Public Roads reports we used, during 1938, 21,406,636,000 gallons of gasoline, on which operators paid an average tax of 4c per gallon, bringing \$771,764,000 to the States. The same authority reports:

Motorists paid \$388,825,000 in registration and inspection fees, and \$2,724,000 in fines and penalties. The bureau tallied 29,485,680 cars in operation last year, to which should be added 1,085,422 trailers and 108,541 motorcycles. More than enough motor cars were operated to carry the entire population of 130,000,000 at one time.

* * *

How much money did the U.S. government save by giving up the big bills and printing its money in their present neat, handy, smaller size?

The change to small bills has saved the U.S. \$18,000,000 in the 10 years since we got away from the big paper bills. Only the other day I paid a

restaurant for a nice meal that consisted of a squab stuffed with rice. When I handed the waiter one of those big bills his eyes bulged and he announced he would keep it as a souvenir. Now, after a decade, they look incredibly large and corny. By June, 1939, according to U.S. Treasury officials, 9,339,917,777 of the little bills—which come from \$1 to \$100,000 had been issued. As the saving amounts to \$2 per 1,000 the total economy amounts to \$18,000,000, when one takes into consideration reduced expenses for paper, ink, labor, storage space, and the like.

* * *

What did the white man mean when he described the early West as "wild"?

The "Wild West" was the white man's creation, not the Indian's. On this point it would be in order to get the Red Man's view. Chief Standing Bear, last great leader of the Sioux, gives the Indian's version in his biography, as follows:

"We did not think of the great open plains, the beautiful, rolling hills, the winding streams with tangled growth as 'wild.' Only to the white man was nature a 'wilderness'; only to him was the land 'infested' with 'wild' animals and 'savage' people. To us it was tame. Earth was bountiful and we were surrounded with the blessings of the Great Mystery.

"Not until the hairy man from the East came and, with brutal frenzy, heaped injustices upon us and the families we loved, was it 'wild' to us. When the very animals of the forest began fleeing from his approach, then it was that, for us, the 'wild West' began."

* * *

What is the Oxford Group Movement?

Some years ago an American preacher, Dr. Frank Buchman, got a few Oxford University students together and gave them some talks on what he called the "Vital Christian Movement." The university had no connections with Buchman's activities, directly or indirectly. Buchman soon realized that his original name, "Vital Christian Movement," had no power to pull blessed front-page publicity from the newspapers, so he got to calling his outfit the Oxford Group Movement, with splendid results. The university objects to being associated with Buchmanism, but it can't do anything to stop the bump-

tious evangelist. No aristocrat—this preacher reaches out only for the moneyed and the socially important—would care to be called a Buchmanite, but there's something swanky about being labeled a member of the Oxford Group. So, while officials of the university boil with anger, Dr. Buchman goes ahead selling his Oxford Group to the people who can do his movement a lot of good—financially, in the main. The groups meet in swell country estates, palaces, hotels, and the like, where the main article of religious fare is called "sharing." This means the true Buchmanite gets up and tells all about his or her sins—mainly sexual, of course. It's so delightful to be able to mull over these past lapses, especially in the presence of fashionable ladies and gentlemen who are impatient for their turn at "sharing." Dr. Buchman teaches his converts not to "share" just once. If there was an illicit affair (wicked expression, but, oh, so thrilling) why let it rest? Bring it out, again and again, with all the details. It's a form of mental masturbation. Often, however, it helps one achieve a new partner in sin, which is morally wrong, but that can be attended to later by indulging in new orgies of "sharing," both in bedrooms and salons. So many people get a kick out of sinning and telling. It's always been considered bad form with some and downright dullness with others, but now that the practice is on a religious basis it ought to have a great future. There always was lots of fun, excitement and hard cash in sex. The Buchmanites get all three objectives—and in the name of a great university.

* * *

Have you any opinion to express on Cardinal Newman's statement that "to be deep in history is to cease to be a Protestant"?

Huxley, in his essay, "Agnosticism and Christianity," answered Newman with the assertion that "to be deeper in history is to cease to be a Romanist."

* * *

What, in your opinion, is Rationalism's most uncompromising opponent?

The Roman Catholic Church.

* * *

Recently I visited a court in session here in London, England, and was surprised to see how each witness had to

take a religious oath before being permitted to testify. How long is it going to take Rationalism to remove some of the intellectual shams connected with the law?

You Englishmen have the remedy at hand, if you'll use it. You have the right to affirm in any court in England. The trouble is that most people don't know about it, while those who do don't seem to care either way. The Oaths Act of 1888, giving you the right of affirmation, provides that "every person upon objecting to being sworn, and stating, as the ground of such objection, either that he has no religious belief or that the taking of an oath is contrary to his religious belief, shall be permitted to make his solemn affirmation instead of taking an oath." The form of affirmation prescribed by the Oaths Act is as follows: "I, A. B., do solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm that the evidence I give shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth."

* * *

I want you to help me. My mother died when I was six. I had a father who was no good. I was brought up in a very bad way. Now that I have reached womanhood I find that I am not normal. Is there any treatment I can take to make myself normal?

Just what form your abnormality takes I don't know, for you failed to be specific. However, I take it you mean you are sexually abnormal. If you are afflicted with that condition it's best to look on the situation as a form of physical or mental sickness and not as a sinful condition. A homosexual who's really born that way—one who's been played a dirty trick by the nature that forms one's glands—isn't to be blamed any more than one has the right to criticize one for being born with a tendency to tuberculosis, or baldness, or insanity. This situation is complicated and requires the attention of an expert in this difficult field. For that reason I suggest that you see a good psychiatrist. There are several specialists in your city of Cleveland, so look around for one who can study your case at first hand and see if there's anything modern science can do for you. If you will make inquiries at the office of the secretary of the Cleveland Medical Association I'm sure he'll be able to give you the

names of several expert psychiatrists.

* * *
I want you to let me know which is the better magazine—*Time* or *News-Week*?

I don't think there's much difference between *News-Week* and *Time*. *Time*, of course, is fatter, but that's because it's more prosperous. As for editorial policy, both are pretty reactionary, though now and then they give space to factual material of considerable value. Personally I have little use for these digests of the news. Why depend on such sketchy sources when one can, by reading three or four good newspapers, get lots more news and get it earlier? These news magazines are for people who are too lazy to dig the facts out of well-edited newspapers.

* * *
Do you think you'll survive the attack made on you in the July 8 issue of Heywood Broun's *Nutmeg*?

I've survived worse than that. The article is signed by Edward O'Neill, whoever he may be, and it's called "Culture—10c a Pound." That's supposed to be clever, funny, and all that sort of thing, but I fail to be disturbed, for I can see no offense in offering the public culture at 10c a pound. I suppose I'd be respectable if I changed my tactics and sold culture at \$10 an ounce. Mr. O'Neill's bland and sophisticated spoofing follows:

The mailman who comes to our office carries strange and heavy burdens. Somehow or another I have been discovered by a sucker list scout and now find myself receiving mail enough to keep the postmaster at East Greenville (Pa.) on a full-day schedule. Mine, however, is no ordinary sucker list for, to read my mail, I am one of the few chosen for their appreciation of literary merit. Periodically prospectuses from the *Breathless State Quarterly Review*, the *Quixotic Press* and others flood my desk and fill my waste basket, so far without turning me into a paying patron of the arts. A long yellow envelope that landed on my desk the other day, however, may well change the course of my literary life.

I found that I had been singled out by Haldeman-Julius Publications, Girard, Kansas, U.S.A., to drink deep of their Pierian spring of conglomerate knowledge. For as little as five cents I could choose

from among 1,757 titles, "varying in number of pages from 32 to 128." Should I desire to risk a dollar I could have 20 books, some of which sell for 10 and 15 cents.

The length and variety of the list was frightening. Starting with Number One, "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," the catalogue ran a couple of gamuts to arrive slightly breathless at Number 1757, "What You Should Know About Alaska." Close examination of the list showed sex, religion and the "truth about religion," running a blanket finish for first place among the listings. Several also-rans showed promise particularly exposes (How N. Y. Working Girls Live, Debunking the Myth of Calvin Coolidge), tracts on cooking, homemaking, and the use of the dictionary.

It is not my intention to discount Mr. Haldeman-Julius' importance in the contemporary literary scene, but he does better as an unintentional gag writer. In startling juxtaposition I found titles 1344, 1345 and 1346: "How to Psychoanalyze Your Neighbors," "Sandwiches and Box-Lunches," and "Religion's Blight on American Divorce Law."

Take titles 1032 to 1037: "Masterpieces of Russian Humor," "Masterpieces of Spanish Humor," "Masterpieces of Italian Humor," "Masterpieces of German Humor" and then "Get Ready the Wreaths."

Another folder offered me more bargains if I cared to spend a little more money. "I could take advantage of a 'Big Sale!' and help Haldeman-Julius clear his sunbaked warehouse shelves of their plethora of low-priced literature. As an "Extra-Last Minute Added Bargain" H-J invited me to "go through the sale announcement and pick out all the books you want. Figure out the amount of your bill—then just cut the amount in half!" Titles were not so varied on this list although I could learn of the "Frameup of Billings and Mooney" (was \$1, now 45c), see "President Hoover Exposed" (now 34c), or soak up a few "Spurts from an Interrupted Pen," by Marcet Haldeman-Julius (was 75c, now 45c).

Tiring a little of Mr. Haldeman-Julius' generosity, I started to tear up the long envelope and its contents when a pale yellow slip fell to the floor. In big type across the top of the sheet was emblazoned "Old-Fashioned Grab-Bag! Brody Took a Chance, Will You?" Never one to leave a challenge lay, I pick-

up the paper and read: "Would you care to take a chance for \$1. Send me only \$1 and I will ship you 10 pounds of the best literature you ever saw. Ten pounds of varied items—fine literature worth many times the \$1 you invest. You gamble about the titles, but you don't gamble about the quality—10 pounds of reading matter guaranteed. You can't lose. You are bound to win."

Mr. Haldeman-Julius went on to say that the only reason this sensational offer was being made, was that he had many items on his shelves in too small quantities to list them in the catalogue and is using this method to get rid of them. He's surprisingly frank about it too, for he says: "Shoot us a dollar today—and you will get the surprise of your life!"

I'm sending my dollar today. If I am too surprised by my "Grab-Bag," I'll have my revenge on Mr. Haldeman-Julius and his already overstocked shelves. With the dollar I'm sending five cents for title 1366, "How to Write Little Blue Books." Do right by me, Mr. H-J.

I'm afraid Mr. Broun's "subtle" contributor is wasting 5c on my volume on how to write Little Blue Books. If any manuscript he submits is as feeble as the above, I can warn him in advance he'll get his verbiage back with one of my exquisite rejection slips. I wonder if Mr. Broun is paying U.S. cash for crap like Dr. O'Neill's.

Is there any particular reason for driving bats away from one's cellar?

No. I'd leave them there. They are useful in saving rafters and other woodwork by eating beetles and grubs.

I was interested in your piece on snow (in one of your volumes of questions and answers) in which you stated that it takes 10 inches of snow to make an inch of water. This, of course, is for ordinary snow. Have you any records showing how fluffy it's possible for snow to be?

Again does my newsclip filing system score a hit. I find, under "Snow and Rain," a piece which quotes Professor C. F. Brooks, of Harvard, on what he considered to be the fluffiest snow on scientific record. The snow, which fell at Milton, Mass., (where the Blue Hill Observatory that belongs to Harvard is located) was only a half inch deep after falling for three hours. Impressed by

the way the flakes were falling so slowly, Professor Brooks "blocked out a square yard of it, as it lay on the hard crust of an earlier snow. He packed it into snowballs, weighed it and found that the water equivalent was only 1/63—that is, it would have required 63 inches of this snow to make one inch of water. Ordinary snow has a water equivalent averaging 1/10."

What do you think of the accident insurance policies sold by slot machines?

The \$7,500 policy costs 25c per day, which makes a year's accident insurance cost \$91.25, which is just about the most expensive insurance I know of. Stay away from those gyp vending machines.

What is a trencherman?

A heavy eater.

Is puffed rice any better than ordinary rice?

Not in the slightest. But it's better for the seller. A pound of rice which costs about 8c brings in about 65c per pound when puffed. That's another illustration of how consumers get gypped by advertisers.

Is it Welsh rabbit or Welsh rarebit? Welsh rabbit.

Did Lord Macaulay write he believed the Catholic Church would last forever?

Yes, but there was a stinger to this seeming compliment. He held that if a great man like Sir Thomas More could believe in the Church's idiotic dogma of transubstantiation there'd always be people ignorant enough to have faith in the lies of the priests. These aren't his words, but they're what he meant.

What's the biggest bet ever put on a horse?

The Marquis of Hastings, in 1867, at Epsom Downs, England, bet \$515,000 on a single race. That's top money. His horse came in third.

How does one figure the circumference of a circle?

You multiply its diameter by 3.1416.

Why is the Great Salt Lake so salty?

It contains so much salt because the body has no outlet, which means it can lose water only through evapora-

tion, in which case the salt is left behind.

* * *

What are mountain oysters?

Aw, nuts.

* * *

How many dimes did the late John D. Rockefeller hand out during his lifetime?

About \$3,000 worth.

* * *

What is meant by "midshipman's butter"?

It's a nickname for the avocado, which is also called "alligator pear."

* * *

What is the standard gauge of U.S. railroads?

Four feet 8½ inches.

* * *

ANSWERS TO UNASKED QUESTIONS

Stuart Chase, the widely known economist, put into a few words a lesson I've been preaching for years: "People do not eat liberty and freedom; these words make no jobs. . . . If we value our liberties of speech, press and ballot, we shall have to make the economic machine work better than it has worked."

Truth seems to have a tendency to prevail.

"Let's meet such quacks of religion and charlatans of science with silent contempt," advises the Freethinker who prefers to keep his Rationalism a closely guarded secret. Nothing pleases the quacks more than to be treated that way.

"You can't meet the truth with a sneer, writes a candid, direct philosopher who prefers always to meet his facts head-on. And yet, the simple fact remains that many a sneer has hidden the truth.

There never was a false religion in the minds of some; there never was a true religion in the minds of all.

While sprawled out in bed writing bits of philosophy the sudden click of a mousetrap interrupts me. The noise comes from the dark room beyond my bedroom door. It makes me forget the sentence I was pondering. My mind travels to the thought that man is so great a genius that he's able to pen thoughts of philosophy in one room while one of his gadgets kills a mouse in another.

When a theologian sees one of his beliefs demolished, he feels sad; when a man of science sees one of his beliefs destroyed, he feels glad.

Often, when seeing a successful preacher in full action, I recall Charles II's words about an earlier minister

who moved great congregations—"his nonsense suited their nonsense."

I'm always puzzled by the ease with which certain men, who can't understand the natural, say they comprehend the supernatural.

I, too, am a man of faith. I believe, without resorting to logic, that the hour which produced Hitler will produce another man who'll blot out Hitler. It's comforting.

It's true that just because we understand the laws of sound it doesn't follow we'll have music, but it's a good start.

Theology is orderly, organized, systematized ignorance.

Mark Twain once got off this line: "Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it."

A reader sends me an advertisement of a mortician (undertaker, if you're not up to the lingo of the streamlined funeral business) who tells the consumers that he will "arrange all but the date in advance."

An epigram has it that "questioning is the half of wisdom."

Elijah (Gaon) of Wilma, famous 18th Century rabbi, tells us that life is like a draught of salt water; its pleasures seem to quench, but they really inflame thirst.

I think Prof. Einstein is a great man, but I'm convinced it wouldn't hurt him any to get a haircut.

A subtle cynic (I don't know his name) once paid the Catholic Church this left-handed compliment: "We must regard the Roman Catholic Church as a divine institution, since it could not have survived its iniquities without supernatural aid."

Readers ask me now and then if Thomas Hardy was a Rationalist. As I've said before, in my volumes of questions and answers, Hardy certainly belonged on the side of Rationalism and Freethought. Here I want to add a sentence from one of Hardy's greatest novels, in which he comments on the rape of Tess by Alec Durberville: "Doubtless some of Tess's mailed ancestors had dealt out the same measure to peasant girls of their time, but, though to visit the sins of the fathers upon the children may be a morality good enough for divinities, it is scorned by average human nature." The obscurantists of a half century ago didn't like such thoughts.

I get letters from time to time asking me if I believe Jesus ever lived. I have studied this question for years and have come to the conclusion there isn't a shred of evidence to show that

such a man ever lived. I no more believe in the historicity of Jesus than I believe the myth that Eve came from Adam's rib. Theologians have ventured to offer a few scraps of "evidence" regarding Jesus, but historical authorities have rejected them as forgeries.

Franklin P. Adams, who conducts a column of humor in The New York Post, does quite well in the following sentence aimed at those Americans who are always yelling for economy: "If a town has a schoolhouse that was big enough for 80 children in 1929, and there are now 180 children in attendance, and the WPA helps the town, that is spending; if 40 more cruisers are built, that is investment."

Whenever I print a piece advocating freedom of speech I'm almost sure to get a couple of letters from readers who want to know if this means that anyone's to have the right to advocate murder or some equally reprehensible crime. The great English Rationalist, Leslie Stephen, offers a sensible contribution to the principle of freedom of discussion, which I want to pass on to my readers since it's the right answer to the people who say they believe in freedom of speech but insist there should be certain limitations. His statement: "I, for one, am fully prepared to listen to any argument for the propriety of theft or murder, or, if it be possible, of immortality in the abstract. No doctrine, however well established, should be protected from discussion. If any appreciable number of persons are inclined to advocate murder, I should wish them to state their opinions openly, because I should think that the shortest way of exploding the principle."

"The Jewish Examiner," an American weekly, conducts a questions and answers column for the enlightenment of its orthodox readers. One question asked was: "According to the Orthodox Law, is a religious man permitted to pick up money lying on the street if he sees it on the Sabbath?" The answer: "Strictly speaking, No. The procedure would be to cover it and return after the Sabbath to pick it up, or to ask a non-Jew to pick it up for you."

I never realized how important a priest's index finger is until I read, in the Catholic magazine, "The Brooklyn Tablet": "If a priest loses his index finger, can he continue to say Mass, and perform his other duties?" The reassuring answer: "Yes. But in order to do so a dispensation must be obtained from the Holy See."

Taking a hint from Buddha, who sat and contemplated his navel, Robert Meltzer sings: "Nowadays when Hitler

plans some move not on the level, he never has to fight; just sits and contemplates his Neville."

* * *

What is there to the argument that says the churches keep us from turning bad?

Dr. Edward L. Thorndike, educational psychologist, Teachers College, N.Y.C., in his book, "Your City," published in April, 1939, shows that cities with the highest church membership are generally below average in "general goodness of life." Dr. Thorndike's book is the result of a three-year survey of conditions in our cities and shows that "the general goodness of life for good people is highest in those cities which have an abundance of artists, engineers, musicians, nurses and teachers, but have fewer clergymen. . . ." He puts the case this way: "Cities with the highest percentage of church members are below standard in good reading, home ownership and continuance in school, and have a higher percentage of illiterates and child labor." However, there's no difference in murders, deaths from venereal disease and illegitimate births. Dr. Thorndike adds: "We must suspect that the churches are clubs of estimable people and maintainers of traditional rites and ceremonies rather than powerful forces for human betterment." In studying conditions the author took into consideration many factors, including crime statistics, circulation of library books, ownership of motor cars and radios, salaries of teachers, value of schools and parks, and so on. He also shows that cities which attract the abler foreign-born immigrants may benefit markedly.

* * *

What's the easiest and simplest way to avoid bumping into an open door in the dark?

Don't approach the door with outstretched arms. Cross your arms in front and you're safe from a bump.

* * *

What percent of movies are produced in California, and what percent in New York?

California, 90 percent; New York, 10 percent.

* * *

What's your notion about Lincoln's remark that God must love the poor or he wouldn't have made so many of them?

Even the great Lincoln could get

off some fine specimens of bunkettes. By the same logic, as H. L. Mencken pointed out, God "must love the rich, or he wouldn't divide so much *mazuma* among so few of them."

* * *

I run a dozen tourist cabins, all of them supplied with baths. What's the best way to disinfect the tubs and wash stands?

There's nothing better than plain soap and water. Don't waste time and money on chemicals, especially those sold under trade names.

* * *

Since you write a great deal about the Jewish "problem," let me suggest that you tell us what you know about a type of Jew one meets now and then, the kind who marries a girl from some Christian sect, and then goes through life trying to give the world (which knows better) the impression that he's non-Jewish.

I'm reminded of a piece I wrote some 30 years ago for a New York newspaper, in which I gave an inattentive world my litany, listing the evils from which I hoped the Lord would save me. Among them I told about "anti-Semitic Semites." There's always been that type around, and probably always will be.

* * *

Do you accept the popular notion that there are emotional differences between blondes and brunettes?

No. There's no evidence to support this claim.

* * *

I'm constantly worried by the fear that I am losing my sanity. Please advise.

Try to forget your worry, for it's probably without foundation. A psychiatrist writes: "The very fact that you fear you are losing your mind is the best possible proof that you are not." Try to stop thinking about your "impending" insanity. If you're worried about something, remember that most of the things we worry about never happen.

* * *

Is it true that at birth a colt's legs are as long as they will ever be?

This common belief isn't true. It has been shown, by *Science News Letter*, that "the average draft colt will add seven inches from elbow to ground by the time it is grown."

* * *

How old is the art of ventriloquism?

It's more than 2,000 years old. The trick was first used by priests and

oracles who, up to their usual stunts, amazed their dupes by pretending their messages came from the lips of nearby images. When the people gradually got wise to that deception the art was continued as entertainment, reaching its climax in Edgar Bergen, who compares with the best. However, Bergen's greatness isn't in his mastery of the tricks of ventriloquism—many others have used stunts that Bergen wouldn't even attempt—but in his ability to give real character to his dummies, particularly the pert, impudent, skeptical Charlie McCarthy.

* * *

Which vegetable growth reaches the highest point?

So far as I know it's the nereocystis, a seaweed with stalks that grow something like 600 feet above the bed of the sea.

* * *

A commentator, who manages to slip in some good words for Fascism, never fails to take a shot at democracy. The other day, apropos of nothing, he said important decisions in democracies were frequently made by mere whim. Please comment.

I'd rather be governed by democratic whim than fascistic whim.

* * *

How many vessels use the Panama Canal yearly?

About 6,000.

* * *

Can a human being be cured of hydrophobia?

I don't know of any cure.

* * *

The other day I heard a radio announcer speak of the importance of counting one's vitamins. What did he mean?

Search me. I've heard of people counting their calories, but never their vitamins. Only recently I read of how a scientist had succeeded in producing Vitamin D in crystalline form. The stuff is so powerful that less than an ounce, according to his statement, could cure 10,000 cases of the rickets.

* * *

What's the largest organ in the body?

The skin.

* * *

If a man carrying 12 lamps drops one, what does he become?

Another old one. He becomes a "lamp lighter."

* * *

Much is said about hens that lay more

eggs than the average, but nothing is said about their appetites. Doesn't it work out the same in the end—the poor layer eats less and therefore does a bad job; the good layer eats more and therefore has more to deposit around the barnyard? You can't make something out of nothing.

Science News Letter, April 15, 1939, says: "A hen that produces 200 eggs a year requires only 10 percent more food than a hen producing 100 eggs."

* * *

When is the right time to eat?
Only when you're hungry.

* * *

Do any birds take off in the manner of an airplane?

The only one I know of is the albatross, a bird that has wings measuring 12 feet from tip to tip. It heads into the wind, like an airplane, and then runs for a distance before taking off.

* * *

How many industrial establishments did this country have just prior to the Civil War? How many workers did they employ? What was the value of the wealth they produced?

This is covered in Lecture-Outline No. 19, entitled "America's 'Sixty Families'—A study of Wealth Concentration," as follows:

"In 1859, there were [in the U.S.] 140,433 establishments employing 1,311,246 workers (in 1820, there were 349,000) and producing \$1,885,861,667 worth of products."

Even at that time the U.S. was laying the broad foundations of manufacturing. The same source just quoted says on this point that "textile machinery, sewing machines, agricultural machinery and machine tools made in Yankee factories were recognized in the 1850's as the best in the world. Europe was even buying a few locomotives. Great Britain sent a special commission to study machinery in the U.S."

* * *

As a mail order man do you believe in enclosing reply envelopes in your mailings? I notice you sometimes include a return envelope and sometimes don't.

I always include return envelopes, if they're available at the time of mailing. It happens now and then that our supply is exhausted, and instead of holding up the works I go ahead without them until the stock is replenished. The Direct Mail Advertising Association in a recent publication presented some interesting facts about

what happens to reply envelopes enclosed with statements, letters and advertising. Briefly, the results of this survey prove that reply envelopes are used and appreciated by customers and prospects. The response is speeded up if a means of reply is furnished by enclosing a reply envelope to make mailing of the check, inquiry or order desired as convenient and easy as possible. Two inquiries were made as follows: The first question, "if you pay bills by mail, do you use the addressed reply envelopes, which some firms send out with their statements, to mail your checks?" They replied as follows:

Always	58.3%
Sometimes	21.9%
Never	16.6%
Don't pay bills by mail .	3.2%

Note, 80.2 percent of those replying answer that they use the reply envelopes, when furnished, either all of the time or part of the time.

The second question, "Do you prefer that business firms send you a reply envelope with statements and letters requiring an answer?" They replied as follows:

Yes	76.0%
No	7.3%
Don't Care	15.6%
No Answer	1.1%

Some comments volunteered by those replying give an unbiased opinion as to the merits of reply envelopes.

"It saves trouble and often mistakes in name and address."

"Saves time and is much more convenient."

"Makes me mad if they don't include them."

"Wish everyone would use them."

The answer is clearly pointed out. If you want to bring back checks, orders or inquiries promptly, you will find that return envelopes enclosed in every piece of mail that requires an answer is good business.

* * *

I would like to know whether or not it is at all feasible to attempt to work my way through college under my present circumstances. I am 22 years old and married—my wife is 20. For the past two years I have been head of the accounting work for a large corporation, but the work is very disagreeable to me, and I find it requires a great amount of effort to keep enough interested in it to maintain my position. It has always been my ambition to do chemical or bio-

chemical research. I prepared my high-school course with that in mind. I graduated third in a high-school class of 250, and have always found scientific work easy to master and very absorbing. I am able to do stenographic work good enough to hold a job in it. My wife agrees with me and says she would be willing to work, part time anyway.

I don't see why this young man shouldn't be able to work his way through some good university, especially since his wife is willing to stand by him. He's lucky to have such a woman, one who's ready to make real sacrifices in order to make possible the education he is looking for. I don't see what should prevent him from going about the task of lining up a good university and income-producing work. He can go out during his vacation and look over the field. He should be careful to pick out a university that stands high in the fields he's interested in. He might drop in at the office of the dean of his own State university and ask his advice regarding likely establishments.

Does Great Britain have more merchant shipping now than in 1914? What was Germany's then and now?

In 1914, Great Britain had about 20,000,000 tons of merchant ships; in 1939, 17,500,000 tons. In 1914, Germany had 5,250,000 tons; in 1939, 4,200,000 tons.

In 1928, a young woman, single, came from Lithuania to Canada, and, after not finding any suitable employment, illegally crossed to the United States. She has lived here ever since, supported herself, not requesting any government aid, and has never been arrested or in any way at fault with the law. At the request of a person with ill will toward her, the government has started an investigation. She has admitted the fact of her illegal actions. Will she be deported? This person has established a small business and naturally does not wish to go back.

This alien's status constitutes a legal question. As I've stated before, I'm unable to give my readers legal or medical advice. She should see a good lawyer, preferably one who has had experience in handling cases that come under our deportation laws.

How do you define Materialism?

I rather like Prof. J. B. S. Hal-

dane's definition of Materialism "as the belief that all happenings can be explained in terms of material happenings." With Lenin, Haldane regarded thought "as the mere reflection of matter." Haldane also wrote: "Whatever metaphor he may use, a materialist thinks that matter determines mind, and not the converse." At this point I want to add that I'm at work on a big literary project, to be called "The International Free-thought Annual," in which essays by the world's greatest Freethinkers, Materialists, Agnostics, Atheists, Rationalists, etc., will appear, including Dr. Haldane's "In Defense of Materialism."

Please inform me which chapters in the Bible contain passages that are generally considered obscene.

The only book I know of which answers the above question thoroughly and candidly is Joseph Lewis' famous work, "The Bible Unmasked." I wrote a favorable review of this title in the April 15, 1939, issue of my News-Letter. A copy of the book may be obtained from the Freethought Press Association, 317 E. 34th St., N.Y.C., for only 98c. I'm not getting paid for this boost.

Does the ostrich stick its head in the sand?

No. What it does, according to *Science News Letter*, is to lie down and stretch out its neck, keeping its eyes open.

You have referred several times to "democracy in business." Please explain what this means?

In an address as secretary of the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Murray D. Lincoln offered this definition of democracy in business:

My understanding of economic democracy is the ownership and control of economic institutions by the people who use their services. "Users' ownership" is a good phrase. It is all-inclusive. It covers individual ownership of farms and homes. It covers ownership by cooperatively organized consumers and producers of the businesses and banks which they "use." It covers ownership by the people of the utilities which they "use." A "users-owned" world is what cooperators intend to organize.

Mr. Lincoln is speaking mainly of consumers' cooperation, a form of eco-

conomic activity I favor. Of course, economic democracy goes far deeper than that. Under a Socialist economy we would have socialization of all our large-scale industries, utilities, mines, power sites, systems of communication and transportation, and the like. Democratic-minded Socialists insist that such social ownership must be accompanied by industrial democracy, for it's a vital part of their program to oppose any form of political, social, economic or financial dictatorship. In short, the consumers and workers (of brain and brawn) are to own the large-scale facilities for the production, distribution and exchange of goods, instead of being owned by a dictatorship that happens, in the name of the State, to be in control of such media. Such State control that denies democratic rights to the workers and consumers would be nothing more than straight Fascism, something we progressive, liberal, democratic people want to avoid, by all means.

* * *

What is the policy of the Republicans with regard to Roosevelt's spending?

Talk against it and vote for it.

* * *

On which subject is the average American best informed?

Sports.

* * *

How much gold is there in the world today?

All the known gold in the world today wouldn't weigh more than 25,000 tons, forming a cube of less than 34 feet.

* * *

How many words does the English language contain?

About 700,000.

* * *

How far, on the average, can a railroad haul a ton of freight for an outlay of \$1?

98 miles. This is an increase of 20 miles over 1921.

* * *

I live near Cairo, Ill., on the Eastern bank of the glorious Mississippi River. A few minutes ago I saw a tow of barges pass by hauling coal. Off in the distance I see another tow of barges that seem to be loaded with a mixed cargo. What I want to know is this: Does the average tow of barges carry more freight than the average train-load?

It's quite common for a single tow of six barges or more to be found on

the Mississippi or Ohio Rivers, carrying 12,000 tons of mixed cargo. It would take 248 average freight cars loaded to capacity to take care of such tonnage, or 16 average freight train loads. (Class 1 railroads, according to the 1935 report, had an average capacity of 48.3 tons for all freight cars and 731 tons of freight for the average freight train.) The tow of six barges just mentioned carries freight that's equal to 24 average packet steamboats in the days when the steamboat was at its zenith. It's also quite common for a single tow of barges on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to move 26,000 tons of coal, drawing an average of only 7 feet. The modern steel barges, open and covered, which use the Mississippi River and its tributaries, have a cargo capacity that ranges from 100 to 3,000 tons. The big twin propeller all-steel units cost as much as \$500,000 to build. My authority for the figures in this piece is the U.S. District Engineer, St. Louis, Mo.)

* * *

I want to know how many new major industries have been developed in this country since about 1870, what articles they produce, and how many persons receive direct employment from them.

Fifteen major industries have been developed in the U.S. since 1870, as follows:

	Est. July 1937 Employment.
Automobiles and parts	513,800
Electric machinery and supplies	333,700
Rayon products and manufacturing	153,000
Gasoline and oils	100,500
Rubber tires and inner tubes ..	75,600
Radio and phonographs	58,700
Refrigerators and refrigerating	50,600
Tin cans and tin ware	39,000
Aircraft and parts	32,100
Ice cream	32,100
Electric railroad cars	25,200
Cash registers and computing machines	31,000
Aluminum products	30,300
Typewriters and materials ...	26,900
Lighting equipment	26,600

Total direct employment .. 1,529,100

* * *

Can you give me Lincoln Steffens' fable entitled "Success"?

Lincoln Steffens wrote his fable on "Success" many years before his recent death. I found a copy in my

newscip filing system, which I re-print below:

Two bugs were carried by the wind from their birthplace. They were also separated. One of them landed on a manure pile and the other on a hard pavement. The former soon grew fat and comfortable, and like many fat and comfortable people he developed a desire to travel. So one day he left the manure pile and wandered afield. After a while he came to the hard pavement and there met his long-lost brother, who was very thin and gaunt.

"How are you getting on?" inquired the fat one. "Very poorly," replied the thin one. "I work from early morning until late at night and can scarcely keep body and soul together. But," he continued, "you look prosperous."

"Oh, yes indeed," replied the other, "I am doing very well."

"To what do you attribute your success?" inquired the thin one. And the fat one swelled up importantly and said, "Brains."

* * *

Is the "taste" for alcohol inherited?

No.

* * *

Did all U.S. Presidents live in the White House?

Yes, except George Washington, who died six months before it was finished.

* * *

How many U.S. Presidents took the oath in the White House?

Only one, Hayes.

* * *

Did any U.S. President ever get married in the White House?

One, Cleveland.

* * *

I expect to visit Washington, D.C., and want to see the inside of the White House. How do I get admitted?

Visitors are admitted to the lower floor of the White House any day between 10:30 and 12 in the morning. About 1,000,000 persons make the interesting tour yearly. Sightseers, in order to be admitted, must present a pass or letter signed by a Congressman. Members of Congress are always glad to accommodate all who ask. You won't be permitted to go beyond the lower floor because the upper floors are the private residence of the President and his family.

* * *

From an editorial in the Iola (Kans.) Register: "Two hundred million copies

of the famous Little Blue Books, manufactured by E. Haldeman-Julius, have been shipped from Girard to every civilized nation in the world."

* * *

What do you think of radio comedians who try to get humor out of stuttering?

It's awful. Nothing's lower than to try to get a laugh out of some physical infirmity. Stutterers are unfortunate, like the blind and the deaf, and should never be ridiculed or used as butts for cheap, brutal jokes. Some years ago I used to be tortured by a movie comedian, so-called, who fished for laughs by going into spasms of stuttering. I'm glad he's off—for all time, I hope. Only a few decades ago people used to visit insane asylums in order to be amused by the inmates. One doesn't hear of that kind of "fun" any more. I hope other ways of getting laughs from sick or maladjusted people will also pass away. A few hundred years ago court-jesters usually were dwarfs or hunch-backs, because such misformed people were supposed to be funny. We don't think that now. Yes, the people do progress in some ways, even though the journey seems too slow and halting.

* * *

I wish you would comment on the Gallup poll of the book tastes of ordinary Americans. The vote shows the Bible in the lead.

"Well, the good, old Bible is still the world's best-seller," is an expression I hear or read at least once a week, and I can say in all sincerity that I'm never much impressed, for as something of a student of publishing trends I can say definitely that the Bible's position isn't anywhere near the best-seller it was only a few generations ago. Even then the word "best-seller" never sounded quite right, for the book happens to be the most subsidized and promoted volume in publishing history. At times I feel it's more accurate to call it the world's greatest "give-away," for anyone who wants a free Bible can get one, if only he knows where to ask for it, because there are societies galore, with millions of dollars behind them, ready to give any lost soul the spiritual pap which is guaranteed to hoist him out of evil and land him in the lap of virtue and righteousness. However, even if we grant the

book's position as a best-seller, we still find several interesting facts that need to be discussed. First, the Gallup poll, conducted by the American Institute of Public Opinion (a fact-source which I am given to quoting frequently for I find its material valuable to me, and, in the main, accurate) shows that only one in five ordinary Americans expressed first preference for the Bible. A similar poll a few decades ago would have shown a higher proportion, I'm sure, which is another indication of how the American public is gradually, and quietly, being drawn away from religious ideology and turning to more secular pursuits and interests. Dr. Gallup, after telling us he found that 20 percent of the persons pulled chose the Bible as their favorite book, breaks down his figures, with the result that we find that "interest in the Bible declines with younger readers." Here's the table:

Age	Naming Bible Percent
Fifty and over	37
Forty-nine to thirty	17
Under thirty	6

The above tells a valuable story. It shows that the Bible is the favorite book of a disappearing generation. The old people—37 percent of the 20 percent who voted—still stick to the Bible. From 30 to 49 years we find the percentage drops to 17, while under 30 we find that only a mere 6 percent stood pat for the much-promoted book. The facts show, therefore, that the growing generation is hardly interested in religious literature. This doesn't mean, naturally, that they are devotees of excellent reading, for an examination of their other preferences indicates a capacity for absorbing the trite and commonplace. Believe it or not (if I may be permitted to coin an original expression) the book next to the Bible is none other than that third-rate novel, "Gone With the Wind." In fifth place is that masterpiece of tripe, Dale Carnegie's "How to Win Friends and Influence People." But the record isn't entirely bad. Among the first 20 choices are novels by Victor Hugo, Charles Dickens, Mark Twain, Sir Walter Scott, Alexandre Dumas, Robert Louis Stevenson, and Jack London, the last-named being repre-

ented by his fine dog story, "The Call of the Wild." A similar survey, if it had been made 25 or 30 years ago, would have made a much worse showing, for this 1938 study, as I've said before, was devoted to the reading tastes of ordinary Americans, not the small group of regular book-buyers who show taste, knowledge and discrimination. Religious editors and persons will make much of this Gallup report, but I'm sure most of them will prefer to ignore the important fact that the book they have ballyhooed, as no book in history has ever been advertised, is the literary relic of a generation that's on its way out, taking their record of supernaturalism with them. We'll always read the book for some of its better passages of literary prose (and there are many to be found in it), and we'll always want to study this book because of the amazing influence it had over so many groping, backward, intellectually immature generations, but our studies will be conducted in the spirit and mood of a scientist. As a living document it'll be out—and, for the good of the world, let's hope it'll be out for all time. A book that takes a man's eyes from his earthly problems and moves them to visions beyond the clouds can do nothing but harm, especially since our world is crowded with social, economic, political and cultural problems crying for solution.

* * *

1. How long do copyrights hold in this country? 2. I have an O. Henry volume of stories, "Cabbages and Kings," copyrighted, including translation, by Scribner's, in 1904. Does this mean that this particular story cannot be translated without incurring legal consequences? 3. Funk and Wagnalls have issued, among others, a set of short stories by various foreign authors and have a copyright on these as of 1927. Among others, I find stories by De Maupassant, Zola, Balzac, Dumas, and many others. Suppose one of these stories were translated into some other language, or even reprinted in English, would it violate the copyright?

1. A copyright holds for 28 years, subject to renewal for another 28 years. 2. The O. Henry stories are fully copyrighted in this country, even covering translations, and can't be reprinted without written permis-

sion. 3. The edition of short stories by foreign authors is copyrighted only to cover the publisher's translation. As these particular authors aren't covered by copyright law anyone has the right to translate them into English or any other language, and then copyright his translation.

Who originated the terms "positive" and "negative," as used in electricity?
Benjamin Franklin.

If an electric storage battery were to use its own power to lift itself, how far up could it go?

About six miles.

Is there any element of chance about chess?

No.

If two chess players played a perfect game how would it end?

In a draw.

Which is the fastest-growing tree?

The balsa, which is known to reach a diameter of 25 inches and a height of 70 feet in five years.

Is it true that humorists have a hard time getting lecture engagements in Utah?

Yes, Utah has been suspicious of humorists ever since Artemus Ward showed up in Salt Lake City with tickets that read:

"Good for Bearer and ONE wife."

Who was the first President of the 48 States?

Taft. Arizona, the 48th State, wasn't admitted into the Union until Taft's administration.

Is it a good idea to keep one's spare tire unused?

No. Better alternate it with the other four tires.

How can one tell real jade from imitation?

Put it against your tongue. If it's cool it's the real thing.

How many children were born to the marriages of all U.S. Presidents? How many of them were boys and how many were girls?

116. Sons, 70; daughters, 46.

How many former presidential wives are still living?

Mrs. Hoover, Mrs. Calvin Coolidge,

Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, Mrs. William Howard Taft, Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Mrs. Grover Cleveland and Mrs. Benjamin Harrison.

How many U.S. Presidents were unmarried?

Only one, James Buchanan.

Which U.S. President had the largest family?

William Henry Harrison, who had 10 children—six sons and four daughters.

How many ex-Presidents of the U.S. are still living?

One, Herbert Hoover.

Which U.S. President served the shortest term?

Gen. William Henry Harrison, who lived only a month after his inauguration.

Which U.S. Vice-President was the first to succeed to the presidency?

John Tyler.

ANSWERS TO UNASKED QUESTIONS

Clarence Darrow wrote many books and pamphlets, but never made any money from them. He gave me the manuscripts of dozens of Little Blue Books—all of them readable, interesting and informative—and refused to accept a penny for them. I don't know how his clothbound books were handled, but I'll never forget this remark Darrow once made about them: "Some day I hope to write a book where the royalties will pay for the copies I give away."

Hitler was fishing on the right bank of the Rhine. No fish took his bait. On the left bank sat a Frenchman and caught plenty. "How is it," shouted Hitler angrily across the stream, "that you are doing so well while I get nothing?" "You ought to know," the Frenchman shouted back, "that in Germany the poor fish dare not open their mouths!"

Heywood Broun is somewhat miffed over the facetious letters he's getting from the unsaved who chide him over his comical conversion to Catholicism. In an editorial, Father Broun (soon to be Cardinal and later to be elevated to the Holy See) says he always thought this was a free country and that a man's got a constitutional right to worship any damned religion he has a notion to embrace. Skeptics are really showing themselves to be bigoted medievalists when they spoof Broun over his recent salvation. It's a private matter, by golly. True, no Freethinker

would move a finger to deprive any man of the religion of his choice. That's his business. But when a man like Broun—who's supposed to represent something in the intellectual world—goes over to Adam and Eve, Jonah and the whale, the blessed saints and the Heavenly Choir, and when his conversion is exploited as big-time spot news in the Catholic press, he shouldn't squawk if intelligent people who can't stomach Catholic supernaturalism stop long enough to hurl a Bronx cheer in his direction.

Heywood Broun's new love—the Catholic Church—teaches that the meek shall inherit the earth. This sounds strange, coming as it does from the world's most arrogant religious organization. I'm still to meet a priest who lacks arrogance.

Renan, in his *Life of Jesus*, says: "For ages bishops have been princes and the Pope a king; the so-called empire of souls has at various times shown itself a terrible tyranny, employing rack and stake to maintain itself." The Church has always taught meekness to its dupes and at the same time presented to the world a hard countenance set on ruling because of its power to assert its dogmas.

Cardinal Newman pulled aside the veil and gave the world a look into the Catholic mentality when he wrote that England would gain "if it were vastly more superstitious, more bigoted, more fierce in its religion." Luckily, the world remembers what happens in lands blessed with the virtues Cardinal Newman praises so piously.

A little grain of wheat woke up one day and everything around him was white. He studied the situation a while, realized he was in a loaf of bread, and exclaimed: "My God, I've been reaped."

Lord Macaulay knew a lot about history and so was able to point to what happens when religious bigots achieve positions of power. In one of his essays he said that after you remove the dignified rhetoric from the doctrine of all theocrats you find the bigots saying: "I am in the right and you are in the wrong. When you are stronger you ought to tolerate truth; but when I am the stronger I shall persecute you, for it is my duty to persecute error." We Freethinkers have often called attention to this simple fact. That explains why the Catholic Church, in the U.S., where it is a minority, demands freedom. It wants to protect its own rights. But once let the Church represent a majority and it shows its real position—intolerance. In Fascist Spain, immediately after General Franco took over Barcelona, the priests compelled

the authorities to close all Protestant churches—establishments, by the way, which the godless Republicans had tolerated and had permitted to be used for religious worship.

Heywood Broun's recent conversion to the Catholic Church is getting louder and funnier. Knowing Broun's liberalism, he can always be expected to use his occasionally effective pen to swat anti-Semites and other bigots, but here our enemy of intolerance runs straight into a dilemma, for there's the great radio priest, Father Coughlin, spreading the vilest anti-Semitism from his Church in Royal Oak, Mich. Broun turned the logician in him loose and came forth with a brilliant and annihilating solution. He has given orders to his editorial associates on *The Nutmeg* that they must never call Coughlin anything but Mr. Charles E. Coughlin. Nutmeg readers aren't to be grated with anything so repulsive as FATHER Coughlin. So there's another immense social and intellectual problem solved for all time. Sons of the devil will hint darkly that calling Coughlin plain "Mister" isn't going to alter the obvious fact that the man is a priest, but such cultural riff-raff aren't worthy of the serious attention of the saintly Broun, the writer who's just had his soul freshly laundered and is now pure enough to pal around with the angels.

My ancient friend, Rob Wagner, passes on this little joke: Will and Fred were walking along the beach. A much tanned girl was lying on her back sunning herself. "Isn't that Hortense?" asked Will. "She looks relaxed to me," answered Fred.

George Britt, in Broun's *Nutmeg*, writes: "Father Coughlin has made over his magazine, *Social Justice*, giving it a more expensive format, lavishly illustrated and with covers in color. Without advertising and at \$3 a year it can hardly escape a deficit." Of course there has to be a deficit, but why ignore the explanation offered by America's greatest authority on our Fascist and anti-Semitic movements, L. M. Birkhead, director of Friends of Democracy, Kansas City, Mo.? He knows Father Coughlin from every angle and charges Coughlin gets most of his money from HENRY FORD. Father Coughlin doesn't keep going from the dimes and quarters that pile up after opening his mail on Monday and Tuesday. The real coin comes from the fellow who's able to give thousands where ordinary people can afford only nickels—the great industrialist who showed, years ago, that he was capable of disseminating any sort of lie against the Jews.

"The Rationalist," published in Syd-

ney, Australia, found an amusing paragraph in "The Australian Messenger," a Catholic publication, which I want to pass on to my pious readers. One of the readers was troubled about the propriety of putting a little bacon in the pea-soup on Friday. Here's the editor's answer: "In making pea-soup on a Friday, it is allowed to put in a little bacon as a flavouring. Used in a small quantity for the purpose indicated, it is not regarded as an ingredient of the soup, but only as a condiment."

* * *

"Yours and Mr. John T. Flynn's remarks on the gambling racket were interesting but for me, as you said I 'really don't need the advice.' I figured it all out years ago. Said I, 'If the joint-keeper is going to stay in business for even a month, he simply has to rig things—in any of hundreds of possible ways—so that, in addition to his high operating expenses—payment of corruption-money to everybody from the corner policeman to the mayor, etc.—his "games" will pay him a profit. It stands to reason, then, that in the long run I, the player from whom all costs are drawn, can do nothing but lose. Therefore, lay off; nix on it.' But I know many who are just as capable as I of seeing through so elementary a thing who, nevertheless, will not let their intellects rule. One of these has even fallen to the level of putting his hard-earned cash into a Chinese swindle where he is given tickets written in character that he can't even read! Of course they bait him occasionally with a paltry winning and that suffices to keep the 'big prize' dangling always alluringly near."—C. A. Lang, Mo.

* * *

Editor: The conflict that is daily assuming wider and more violent proportions everywhere is a conflict of values—wealth (money) values vs. human values. The inherently selfish, greedy nature of the former makes it unavoidable for them to seek to crush every attempt by the latter to break down all barriers, physical and mental, hindering their natural impulses for greater progress in the midst of freedom of thought and action.

In every country where the capitalistic system still holds sway over the destiny of human beings, wealth values, with all their self-seeking ethics of rapacity, cause the characteristic line of action of the State to be that of imposing restrictions in the way of the aspirations of the mass of the people for a better life. Economically they are being driven to drastic measures of curtailments in public expenditures for vital services—such as education, housing, old-age and unemployment insur-

ance. Meanwhile, expenditures for armaments mount and the danger of war is not lessened.

The key to the modern conflict lies in the system, the capitalistic system, the money system. The period of its development along tolerable lines of useful creation of industrial equipment and technical advancement came to a bloody end at the time of the outbreak of the World War, and ever since it has steadily grown inimical to all progress, security and peace. In its newly acquired character—Fascism—it is engaged in nothing but wanton destruction of every human value which mankind cherishes.

In September, 1938, at Munich, the heads of the governments of four nations made a pact supposedly for keeping the peace but which in reality was for assuring among themselves the greatest possible safety and speed for burying democracy and the establishment of the tyranny of Fascism over larger sections of the population of the world. After Munich, England and France increased the tempo of their rearmament programs, not for stopping Fascism but for the purpose of better harnessing their respective peoples to the chariot of war preparations.

N.Y.C.

A. GARCIA DIAZ

* * *

"Your comments on 'Only Angels Have Wings' in which you yearn for a picture to be entitled 'The Air Mail Can Wait' moves me to say that the air mail sometimes does wait—or goes by train. That, of course, isn't supposed to be advertised, especially not by one who, like myself, handles lots of it and who frequently checks mailing against delivery dates. It's not serious, of course; by far the greater part of it goes with truly amazing dispatch and punctuality."—Mailman.

* * *

Editor: A few evenings ago I took your advice and saw "The Confessions of a Nazi Spy." It was, as you have said, almost an exact portrayal of the happenings of a year or more ago. As a matter of fact, that is the picture's main shortcoming: the events are already too long past. Present activities of these reptiles are more subtle and consequently more difficult to root out. The happy way in which the picture ended, too, ("Thank God, our people have more sense than to fall for such craziness, etc.") didn't set too well with me either. If anybody was to be thanked for the fact that matters turned out as well as they did, it was that hard-boiled little thinking machine, Mr. Renard, of the FBI whose part was so admirably played by Edward G. Robin-

son. (And by the way, in this role, even more than in any in which I've ever seen him, he reminded me of you. His way of reasoning toward definite conclusions from bits of significant evidence, his readiness, his decisiveness, his seriousness, his manner of walking about and talking, even the way he smoked his pipe—all these were uncannily like you.)

But I don't want to appear to complain about this picture—certainly not because of actor Robinson's resemblance to you—for Hollywood is indeed showing signs of growing up and while, to be sure, there are still plenty of reminders of the recency of its adolescence, there seems to be a good chance that in due course the true character of the present activities of the Coughlins, Winrods, Moseleys, Pelleys and Smiths will also receive pictorial attention. The fact should be widely publicized that the crude method of several years ago of importing huge quantities of already-printed propaganda from abroad has been abandoned for the safer and more efficient procedure of hiring the services of native barkers and their printing presses. The other day I saw a fellow who had all of "Dr. Kassell's" appearance of fanatical humorlessness peddling Coughlin's "Social Justice" on a downtown street corner. The movies are an especially effective medium for counteracting the results of such activities and if they are skillfully and artistically planned I see no reason why a counter-propaganda of this sort should not pay expenses and a reasonable profit to the producers as well. I suppose, of course, that it will be necessary first legally to convict these fawning aspirants for Hitler's favors so the sooner an effort is made in that direction the better. But I think it will be futile to look for humanitarian work of that sort from a body like the Dies Committee; if it has verged close to some real investigation of subserviveness it has been because it drifted in that direction in spite of itself; its real purpose, it must be apparent, was to smear Roosevelt and all that he has done.

Maplewood, Mo. C. A. LANG

* * *
Editor: Your decisive, although belated repudiation of Henry Ford and his entire bag of tricks was certainly amusing and gratifying. Perhaps I don't know enough about the intimate workings of the organizations of other car-builders and of their relationships with their employes to be in a position to make a really intelligent criticism of your choice of Chevrolet. My own eight-year-old Nash still serves rather well and besides I'm in no position,

financially, to make a change even if I wanted to, so I haven't taken time to study the question as I would if I were looking for a new car. Eight years ago Nash had a rather good name as regards attitudes toward labor—today I don't know—but the fact that their recent profits were very high compared with others doesn't look so good now. However, I can remember a few years ago, when Homer Martin was still unspoiled and raising hell in the St. Louis assembling plants, the attitude toward labor of the Chevrolet officials, here, were every bit as odious as old Henry himself; in fact I suspect that he learned a few things from them at that time. Therefore, while I applaud you for changing, I still don't know whether or not to praise your new choice. Perhaps, as things are now, there's little from among which one may choose; the important decision will come after we've begun to manufacture automobiles cooperatively.

READER

* * *
Editor: Am glad to read in your September, 1939, American Freeman your promise that you "hope, in the not distant future, to get around to publishing this astonishing document (The Syllabus of Errors)." This is important for the same reason that American citizens should insist on full publicity of all important questions, such as those affecting our fundamental laws, which include the Bill of Rights.

What is the difference regarding any totalitarian movement, be it social, economic, industrial, political or spiritual? Except that, the spiritual totalitarian State is much more powerful than any one of the others, for the reason that a spiritual totalitarian State would govern not only here, but hereafter, and would here include every other form of Totalitarianism! What power could beat that?

St. Louis, Mo. OTTO VIERLING, M.D.

* * *
"During the past month I've read John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*.' It is one of the most crushing indictments of the goofy contradictions of our existing social-economic structure that I've yet seen. This author knows how to write, too; he presents his material in an altogether new and refreshing way and he seems to be assuming an increasingly important role in the production of literature that will move the world forward. In addition to the implications for social improvement contained in all of his work that I have read, I find that much of it is sublimely beautiful prose poetry, of a very robust sort. But it is so unobtrusive that it may yet be the means

of accomplishing another worthwhile end: that great American public, which assiduously wrong teaching methods has so effectively been conditioned to an aversion for poetry, may yet almost unconsciously—as is proper—be brought by Steinbeck to a fuller appreciation for that art.”—Reader.

* * *
My hobby is model railroading. Can you recommend literature related to this subject?

You ought to be interested in the monthly magazine, *The Model Railroader*, 7611 W. State Street, Wauwatosa, Wisc.

* * *
Being a model railroader, I'd like to get acquainted with other railroaders in order to swap ideas, experiences and equipment. Please advise.

You should join the National Model Railroad Association, Secretary W. L. Tomlinson, 15474 Ashton Road, Detroit, Mich., who will be glad to show you how to get in touch with other persons who follow your hobby. Model railroaders hold a convention each year, which is attended by many hundreds of model railroaders.

* * *
I aim to go into the mail order business in the near future, but before taking the first dive I intend to study this complicated form of business. I wish you would discuss various aspects of this commercial activity, for I know you are considered an expert mail order man. People in the business consider you one of the leaders. I've read your articles in *The Mail Order Journal*, with great profit. My thanks for your occasional comments.

I hope, some day, to find time to write a book on the mail order business, for my newsclip file contains numerous clippings and memoranda on this fascinating and amusing method of salesmanship. For example, in my file devoted to the general heading of "Mail Order" I have a small folder marked "envelopes." And under that heading I have several ideas that may be of help to persons attracted by the problems of direct mail. I don't mean to infer that the envelope is all-important, for it isn't, and yet there are some things one should always do and other things one should always avoid. However, this doesn't mean I'm hipped on envelopes, for I frequently dispense with them entirely, preferring to use a simple, plain, inexpen-

sive wrapper. There are times for everything—times to use envelopes, other times to reject them. When they're used, perhaps a few hints I have in mind might be useful. The envelope costs the least—less than the stamp, art work, paper, printing, labor, etc.—and yet that single item can cost a mail order advertiser hundreds of dollars, or even tens of thousands of dollars yearly, depending on the volume of his activity. Besides, the envelope (or wrapper) makes the first impression on the person receiving direct mail advertising, but here I'm eclectic and say it isn't wise to stick to one dictum, for there are times when the envelope or wrapper should say something and other times when it's better it should say nothing outside of the return and the name and address of the person who's to get it. Then there's the question of color. I know mailers who prefer blue, or white, or manila, or dark brown, or pink. Certain authorities insist tests show pink is the best color for the envelope. That may be true with certain offers, but my experience has taught me to refrain from sticking to any particular color. Color isn't a cure-all, by any means. In fact, I know from actual tests that colors offend lots of people in different ways. For example, I used a white gummed paper for years in printing the stickers so many of my customers like to use. If you don't know about them, let me say they're small, with the customer's name and address printed on them. Pink gummed stock attracted my eye one day, and, even though the price was somewhat higher than white, I put in a supply and sent out several batches of orders to customers. Several women sent them back, accompanied by indignant letters. Some men threatened to put me on the blacklist or even horsewhip me. About 90 percent of the customers didn't care either way. Some may have preferred the attractive, pink color. But there were the kickers, one or two each day, while in the years I'd been using white I hadn't seen so much as a single complaint. I'm reminded here of the attempt of a big mail order house, some 20 or 25 years ago, to issue a new edition of the Bible and

having it bound in a bright, attractive color. The public squawked. It wanted its Bible in black. Nothing else would do. So the mail order house switched to black at the first opportunity. Yes, this matter of color is a complicated, uneven, unpredictable thing, except in certain cases when it's possible to predict no end of headaches if one happens to do the wrong thing. Sometimes I'm asked how a job should be printed. Should the mail order man's advertising be done on the very finest paper, the most expensive envelopes, plenty of color, lots of engravings, and so forth? I always say it depends on the proposition. The other day I got a \$13 refund from a railroad company which had overcharged me on a shipment. The check came in a cheap, flimsy envelope that must have cost 75c per 1,000. That sleazy envelope looked like pure rag paper to me, because of its glorious contents. If the company had used an expensive envelope to carry a message to the effect that I had been undercharged \$13 and to make payment for the difference at once, the expensive exterior wouldn't have cheered me up the least bit. My point is that, in the long run, it doesn't make much difference what kind of an envelope you use, so long as it contains something that's wanted by the person addressed and is offered at a price that looks like a good buy. And that goes for the printed matter inside. I've often said that you can make an offer on expensive paper to sell one thing and another offer on toilet paper that's printed on a cheap, worn-out mimeograph machine, and the thing on toilet paper will get across fine while the other offer on fine paper doesn't pay the cost of the mailing. It all depends. One shouldn't be dogmatic. Of course, I don't want to suggest that you should use toilet paper for your future mailings. Toilet paper has its proper uses in the right place and should be kept to such ends. I've merely gone to extremes in order to make a simple, obvious point. Business acquaintances sometimes ask me which class of postage pays out best in mail order advertising. I've used all classes in my time—hundreds of

thousands of first-class letters, bulk mail rate at 1c each, and third class at 1½c per piece. And I can say there are times when a first-class letter, even though the stamp costs 3c, will outpull a less expensive mailing which goes out under 1c postage. By and large, I'd say that a job of circulars under 1c stamps will prove the best in the end. Then again I'm asked if one should always print something on the outside of the envelope—a picture of the plant or product, a picture of a pretty bathing girl, the word "FREE," or a tie-up with what's inside the envelope. Here I always say it depends on circumstances. Sometimes I print absolutely nothing, especially if it's to go out sealed under first-class postage. A first-class letter will be opened and read, regardless of the addressed person's importance. So I merely put my name and address, in small type, on the flap. The other month, when first announcing my News-Letter, I used 1c postage and printed about 10 words on the front of the envelope, in which I told about the envelope's contents. That proved to be the right thing. But there's no set rule. Advertising copy on the outside of a letter can cause one to ignore the contents, or it can arouse interest. Another question sometimes asked goes like this: What's the best way to test out a piece of mail order advertising? Some men show the circulars to their wives, the neighbors, or the stenographer. Others pay an expert a fat fee for passing on it. Others get together a group and ask for a vote. I don't care for any of these. Whenever I get a notion about a new circular or other piece of printed salesmanship, I always send it out to a few thousand names and then wait to see what happens. That's a test that tells the story beyond debate. No matter what the neighbors, or the expert, or the wife, or the stenographer say, the final word will have to be uttered by a representative mailing list, so why not go to that body of judges in the first place? Some mailers insist on putting the sale illustration or slogan or clever headline on all the envelopes to be used in a series of follow-ups. I advise against this because I've

observed that many persons who see the same thing time after time conclude they've read the offer before and throw it away. That's why variety is a good idea. Another question asked of me has to do with which address to use—the home address or the office. I suggest the office address because the prospect's wife may want to talk her husband into a new dress and feel your circular may use up the old man's spare cash, so your mailing goes into the stove. Your circular might offer a bargain in cigars that would be grabbed by the prospect at his office, but never gets to him at his home because the missus doesn't like to see him smoke cigars, the main complaint being he stinks up the house and gets ashes on the new rug. The postmen deliver millions of pieces of direct mail advertising daily, and much of it is wasted, but the way the industry persists it must be clear to the most hard-boiled skeptic that there's a lot to this mysterious, puzzling way of doing business. Think of doing business with millions of customers and rarely seeing one personally. That sounds screwy, but it happens all the time, and in increasing volume. It's a wonderful system, if used properly.

Please list the restrictions on patents in the U.S.?

The U.S. Patent Office refuses to issue patents on the following: useless devices, printed matter, methods of doing business, improvements in devices which are the result of mere mechanical skill, and machines that won't work.

I was surprised to learn from one of your articles in your volumes of questions and answers that Eskimos have a written language and have been issuing a magazine in Greenland for almost a century. I don't know where I got the idea they are without a written language. Can you tell me what kind of characters they use?

Eskimos, in their correspondence, rely mainly on what's known as the syllabarium, which uses about 60 phonetic characters. This was found easier than the English alphabet because the use of our letters makes their words too long and cumbersome. I've long advised my readers to get

over the notion that Eskimos are uncivilized people.

Are you able to tell me when "Coney Island" was first used as an adjective?

The new American English Dictionary, which is now being edited by scholars connected with the University of Chicago, says "Coney Island" was first used as an adjective in 1895, in the following form: "Coney Island clam chowder." Then followed "Coney Island Maze." Since then it's been used thousands of ways, including hot dogs.

Can you trace "cooler" as a slang term for jail?

Scholars at the University of Chicago, who are editing a new dictionary of American expressions, say they have traced "cooler" back to 1884, when it first appeared in a newspaper in the Middle West. It was used this way: "Two Milnor boys were arrested on the charge of drunkenness, lodged in the cooler over night and then fined \$5 in the morning."

How many people speak the English language?

A little less than 225,000,000 persons speak English, of whom more than half are Americans.

How did the word "clam" come to be used to describe a close-mouthed person?

Scholars at the University of Chicago, who are editing a dictionary of Americanisms, credit Mark Twain with having first used the word "clam" to mean an untalkative person, in "Screamers," in 1866. He used it this way: "That lets you out, you know, you chowder-headed old clam."

Did any U.S. President ever stage a comeback after being defeated?

Only one, Grover Cleveland.

Which U.S. President was the youngest in years?

Theodore Roosevelt, who entered the White House at 42.

I want to tell you how much I appreciate your articles exposing the historical inaccuracies (and lies) of Boake Carter. As you know, this radio commentator and syndicated columnist voices an isolationist theory that is endorsed by the Coughlinites, the Mosleys,

the Pelleys and the other Fascists and near-Fascists who say the Roosevelt administration has no business making protests to the Nazi and Fascist dictators regarding incidents within their borders. As Boake Carter puts it: "We should tend to our own knitting." The point these people agree on is that we only make enemies—and bring the country closer to war—when we make official protests against acts that the civilized world looks on as brutal and inhuman. Please comment.

These men either don't know American history or they prefer to misrepresent it. I have written many articles to show how the American conscience has voiced protest after protest against outrages committed in autocratic lands. Readers who have access to my volumes of questions and answers will find facts and arguments with little effort. My newsclip filing system contains a folder crammed with material that I haven't used thus far and which I'm glad to draw on, because the data clearly show that the American people and their government have never failed to protest against brutal acts of foreign rulers, especially those aimed at religious or racial minorities. The first item that comes to hand is a passage from President Benjamin Harrison's annual message to Congress, December 9, 1891:

"This Government has found occasion to express, in a friendly spirit but with much earnestness, to the Government of the Tsar its serious concern because of the harsh measures now being enforced against the Hebrews in Russia. By the revival of anti-Semitic laws, long in abeyance, great numbers of those unfortunate people have been constrained to abandon their homes and leave the empire by reason of the impossibility of finding subsistence within the pale to which it is sought to confine them. The emigration of these to the United States—many other countries being closed to them—is largely increasing and is likely to assume proportions which may make it difficult to find homes and employment for them here and to seriously affect the labor market. It is estimated that over 1,000,000 will be forced from Russia within a few years. The Hebrew is never a beggar; he has always kept the law—life by toil—often under severe and oppressive civil restrictions. It is also true that no race, sect, or class has more

fully cared for its own than the Hebrew race. But the sudden transfer of such a multitude, under conditions that tend to strip them of their small accumulations and to depress their energies and courage, is neither good for them nor for us. The banishment, whether by direct decree or by not less certain indirect methods, of so large a number of men and women is not a local question. A decree to leave one country is, in the nature of things, an order to enter another—some other. This consideration, as well as the suggestions of humanity, furnishes ample ground for the remonstrances which we have presented to Russia, while our historic friendship for that Government cannot fail to give assurance that our representations are those of a sincere well-wisher."

The above sounds a lot like the utterances made by our humanitarian President when he condemned the Nazi anti-Jewish outrages of last November. Americans who know their history don't have to be told that Roosevelt isn't breaking precedents when he expresses his opinions, and proposes remedial acts, regarding events in Fascist countries that shock all civilized people. These dictators are doing what previous tyrants did before them. But the record shows that the American people didn't shut their eyes to those awful acts of cruelty and there's no reason why this great Republic should decide, at this late date, to say that what happens beyond our shores can't possibly concern us, that, as Boake Carter says, "We should tend to our own knitting." Secretary of State Hay, in 1902, put aside his knitting long enough to tell the rulers of Rumania that this country was appalled by their unjust treatment of the Jews. Hay made clear that the United States demanded justice for the oppressed Jews "in conformity with the principles of international law and the dictates of humanity," according to Stowell. This protest was made, according to Secretary Hay's message of August 11, 1902, "not alone because it (the U.S.) has unimpeachable grounds to remonstrate against the resulting injury to itself, but in the name of humanity." Men like Carter and Coughlin don't care to quote from such documents.

Millions of Americans still remem-

ber how this country was shocked by the Kishineff massacre in Russia, in 1903. Numerous protest meetings were held. The great Carl Schurz spoke at one meeting, held in Carnegie Hall, N.Y.C., May 27, 1903, saying, among other things:

"The persecution and maltreatment of human beings on account of their race or their religious belief is always an offense not only unjust to the victim, but also degrading to the offender. But the persecution and maltreatment of the Jews, as mankind has witnessed it, and is now witnessing it in several countries, has been not only especially barbarous in the ferocity of its excesses, but in a singular degree self-debasing and cowardly in the invention of the reasons adduced for its justification. These horrors are only one more revelation of the ulterior tendency of a movement which here and there even assumes the mask of superior respectability. Here is the whole question again brought before the tribunal of the conscience of Mankind. May this event serve to put in clearer light the fact that the history of the world exhibits no more monumental record of monstrous injustice than the persecutions inflicted upon the Jews during so many centuries. We may then also hope to see the other fact universally recognized that wherever the Jewish race, with its wonderful vitality and its remarkable productiveness of talent and energy, enjoys the equal protection of just laws and a due appreciation of its self-respect, it will, far from remaining a race of aliens, furnish its full contingent of law-abiding, peaceable, industrious, public-spirited, and patriotic citizenship, vying with the best."

The above sounds like some of the expressions made in 1939 by the President and other high officials in the government. Another speaker at the above meeting, ex-President Grover Cleveland, offered these words:

"This demonstration furnishes cheering and reassuring evidence that our American sympathy for the oppressed and abused, wherever they may be, our American love of humanity, and our attachment to justice and right, are still active and unimpaired. . . . Our people, when their sympathies are touched, when their humane instincts are challenged, and when their hatred of oppression is aroused, are not

afraid to speak, and in such circumstances it is not their habit to smother or cautiously soften their words.

"Every American humane sentiment has been shocked by a late attack on the Jews in Russia—an attack murderous, atrocious, and in every way revolting. As members of the family of mankind, and as citizens of a free nation, we are here to give voice to the feeling that should stir every true man, and every American worthy of the name. There is something intensely horrible in the wholesale murder of unoffending, defenseless men, women, and children who have been tacitly, if not expressly, assured of safety under the protection of a professedly civilized government. Such things give rise to a distressing fear that even the enlightenment of the 20th Century has neither destroyed nor subdued the barbarity of human nature, nor wholly redeemed the civilized world from 'man's inhumanity to man. . . .'

"Let the people of the United States, gathered together in such assemblages as this, in every part of the land, fearlessly speak to the civilized world, protesting against every pretense of civilization that permits medieval persecution, against every bigoted creed that forbids religious toleration and false enlightenment that excuses hatred and cruelty toward any race of men, and against all spurious freedom of conscience, against all forms of government protection that withhold from any human being the right to live in safety and toil in peace."

On May 18, 1903, John Hay, Secretary of State under Theodore Roosevelt, said, at a Chicago meeting:

"No person of ordinary humanity can have heard without deep emotion the story of the cruel outrages inflicted upon the Jews of Kishineff. These lamentable events have caused the profoundest impression throughout the world, but most especially in this country where there are so many of your coreligionists who form such a desirable element of our population in industry, thrift, public spirit, and commercial morality. Nobody can ever make the Americans think ill of the Jews as a class or as a race. . . . We know them too well. In the painful crises through which we are now passing the Jews of the United States have given evidence of the best qualities—generosity, love of

justice, and power of self-restraint."

All this time President Theodore Roosevelt was taking a splendid stand in the situation, and, true to his forthright character, delivered a strong protest to the Czar's government. Thayer's "Life of Roosevelt" contains an interesting and informative passage on this incident, which I want to quote:

"Russian mobs ran amuck and massacred many Jews in the city of Kishineff. The news of this atrocity reached the outside world slowly; when it came the Jews of western Europe, and especially those of the United States, cried out in horror, held meetings, drew up protests, and framed petitions asking the Tsar to punish the criminals. Leading American Jews besought Roosevelt to plead their cause before the Tsar. As it was well known that the Tsar would refuse to receive such petitions and would regard himself as insulted by whatever nation should lay them before him by official diplomatic means, the world wondered what Roosevelt would do. He took one of his short cuts. He sent the petitions to our Ambassador at Petrograd, accompanying them with a letter which recited the atrocities and grievances. In this letter, which was handed to the Russian Secretary of State, our Government asked whether His Majesty the Tsar, would condescend to receive the petitions. Of course, the reply was 'No,' but the letter was published in all countries, so that the Tsar also knew of the petitions and of the horrors which called them out. In this fashion the former ranchman outwitted, by what I may call his straightforward guile, the crafty diplomats of the Romanoffs."

Stowell discusses the issue as follows:

"Finally, public opinion in America became thoroughly aroused, and . . . the American Ambassador officially notified the Russian Government of the termination of the treaty of 1832."

Now let's go back to an earlier period in American history, at the time Daniel Webster was in the United States Senate. I have in mind, of course, the famous Kossuth incident. Kossuth, the great Hungarian patriot and the idol of all liberty-loving people, had been defeated by Russia and Austria. These tyrannical gov-

ernments demanded Kossuth's surrender after he had taken refuge in Turkey, their intention, of course, being to murder this magnificent and noble fighter for freedom and independence. There were Americans in those days who felt that Kossuth's fate didn't concern the United States, that if Russia and Austria chose to kill Kossuth that was their own affair. But Daniel Webster took a different view. Speaking in Boston, Senator Webster said:

"We have all had our sympathies enlisted in the Hungarian effort for liberty. We have all wept at its failure. Despotic power from abroad intervened to suppress the hope of free government in Hungary. Gentlemen, there is something on earth greater than arbitrary or despotic power, and that is the aroused indignation of the civilized world."

Later, becoming Secretary of State, Webster gave the government's position in these words:

"While performing with strict and exact fidelity all their neutral duties, nothing shall deter either the Government or the people of the United States from exercising at their own discretion, the rights belonging to them as an independent nation, and of forming and expressing their own opinions, freely and at all times, upon the great political events which may transpire among civilized nations of the earth."

Kossuth's life was saved. An American vessel went to Europe and brought him to our shores, in accordance with a resolution passed by Congress. He called at the White House, met the House and Senate, and received many expressions of friendship and sympathy from the American people.

Readers who care to check the quotations in this article may do so by referring to the issue of *The Congressional Record* which reported the speech of Senator William H. King, in the U.S. Senate, May 11, 1939. Space permits me to use only a portion of the excellent material used in that address. They agree that America's public conscience has a right to protest against the behavior of dictators. It has always been our tradition to listen to the anguished cries of the world's oppressed. Persecution and oppression have always commended our humanitarian responses. We

mustn't let such a precious tradition die. We strengthen our own democratic liberties when we offer helping hands to all objects of official savagery. Candid students of American history know that Franklin D. Roosevelt is voicing the aspirations and ideals of Americanism, not the Carters and the Coughlins.

* * *

Please let me tell you I appreciate the various articles you have written about Heywood Broun's strange conversion to the Roman Catholic Church. In addition to being informative I find them good-tempered and quietly humorous. While on this point let me add that I am yet to read a single paragraph of editorial comment on Broun's switch to Catholicism. This, as you say, is only additional proof of how our editors are afraid to express themselves on one of the most pressing questions in today's public life—the papal problem. I have studied the writings of leftist, liberal and conservative editors—but without finding any comment. Only a few limited themselves to a mere factual report of his conversion. Your comments on Broun's claim that his religion is a private matter is to the point. However, don't you believe that even here Broun is already guilty of expressing heresy?

My reader has tripped me up on a delicate point, and I want to thank him for bringing my attention to this interesting aspect of a most peculiar development in America's intellectual life—the spectacle of a leader of liberalism surrendering to that intellectual cesspool—Catholicism. When Broun, in his magazine, *Broun's Nutmeg*, (which, by the way, is an amazingly inept and dull little publication) wrote that under our Constitution he had a right to embrace any religion that fit his notions, I said he was within his rights here and that no Freethinker would offer a plugged nickel to have him abandon any of his dogmas or have him embrace any set of notions that any of us might offer as substitutes for his exhibition of medievalism. I pointed out that the Catholic press didn't look on his conversion as a private matter, preferring instead to publicize the fact that the great Broun had been won over to the One and Only Church. This, I insisted, gave anyone the right to express an opinion on Broun's behavior. However, there's another point that should have been emphasized, and that's the obvious one that

the Catholic Church itself doesn't look on religion as a private matter. Let me quote no less an authority than the Rev. James M. Gillis, editor of *The Catholic World*, one of the most important Catholic magazines in the country. In a speech (reported in the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, June 20, 1939, Father Gillis said:

“Religion is not a purely personal matter: it is the basis of all politics!”

As a good Catholic, Heywood Broun will have to give solemn thought to this expression, and as a communicant he'll have to put the priest's dictum above his own, if he's to continue in the good graces of the holy fathers.

In another piece—this time in *The New Republic*—Broun manages to say, in passing to more important subjects, that he had received numerous letters from liberal Freethinkers—his former colleagues, I presume—who express amazement over his strange intellectual suicide. They ask him, in polite terms, to explain himself in print. This, says Broun, won't happen, because he decided to join the Catholic Church after long and hard thinking and doesn't intend to explain that move through the medium of swift and thoughtless writing. Now, Broun, that's getting infantile. Broun is a literate person who, for some decades, has been given to expressing himself on every aspect of his political, cultural, social, personal and emotional experiences, so it's difficult to believe that the two fingers that operate his typewriter become paralyzed when he wants to turn his mind to an explanation of why he took on the idiotic tenets of Catholicism. The truth is, of course, that Broun is really intelligent enough to know that anything he might write about his conversion would look silly in print, so he has sense enough to let that subject alone while he turns to other topics for his prolific pen. This is the first time Broun has ever found his tongue stalled after one of his numerous conversions. When he became a convert to Socialism he wrote a Little Blue Book for me—it came back almost by return mail—in which he took something like 8,000 words to explain why he had decided to become a member of the Socialist

party. Later he switched over to the group that calls itself the fellow-travelers of the Communist party, but here he preferred to keep his support for Moscow *sub rosa*—truly a personal matter! He then jumped from Communism to Catholicism, and carries with him the claim that his decision was personal and shouldn't be questioned. The whole affair looks like a chapter out of a book written by a literate nut in a swanky psychiatric hospital. I still insist that Broun's conversion presents numerous questions that demand public discussion. For example, Broun, for about 20 years, has been a vigorous, intelligent, forceful, forthright supporter of the great and humanitarian movement led by that wonderful woman, Mrs. Margaret Sanger. I refer, needless to say, to the social philosophy of birth control. Like a true liberal, Broun stood by the birth controllers, writing reams of copy in support of this sane, useful, sensible, constructive program. But, it seems to me, the great Broun surely can't believe a word of the thousands of pro-birth control words he wrote during all these years. I'm assuming he's a good Catholic now, which means he's an uncompromising enemy of all efforts to disseminate contraceptive information. I wonder if Mr. Broun would mind writing a few sentences on this interesting subject. Or is that a personal, all too personal, question? At the best, if he's a good Catholic, he can write only in support of the rhythm method of birth control, a "system" that's attacked by experts in this field, who insist that the rhythm method is shot through with unsound, unscientific notions. Mr. Broun, as a pious churchman, surely doesn't believe in chemical or mechanical means for inducing birth control.

Another problem comes to mind. I pass it on to Mr. Broun in the hope he will deign to touch on it in some expansive moment when he comes around to the position that there's nothing unreasonable about the request of thousands of intelligent liberals for information regarding his decision to commit cultural suicide by becoming a supporter of that most murderous of religious organizations—the Roman Catholic Church. This is the organization that has caused

the deaths of hundreds of millions of helpless, innocent men, women and children during its centuries of cruel rule over the minds and bodies of the people, especially those of Europe, where even today the Church continues its policies that result in intellectual and physical slavery. But this particular problem that comes into my mind won't require any great scholarly research for our new convert to the saints and angels. He can answer me offhand, if it's in him to have truck with a blatant Atheist who has, in his day, played poker with Heywood Broun and noticed that, in addition to being a poor poker player, he was given to beefing when he lost. In those distant times I took him to be not only a liberal but an Agnostic as well. But let's return to the little problem I'm putting up to him. Has he, since joining the Church, decided to sign the pledge of the Legion of Decency? That should come next, if Broun became a Catholic without intellectual reservations, because censorship of the movies—and everything else—is a cardinal policy of the Catholic Church. Broun, if I remember his writings, wrote several hot pieces attacking the Legion of Decency when it appeared on the American scene some years ago and decided to make Hollywood obey the dictates of the representatives of the Vatican. He thought it was a dangerous device then, but now that's water over the dam: Broun must sit with those who believe that movies should be acceptable to the bigoted enemies of free culture.

I recall numerous articles by Broun in which he supported the Child Labor Amendment to the Constitution. That, of course, must be repudiated now because the Catholic Church has been against that humanitarian, worthwhile measure and has done its utmost to keep it out of our fundamental law. Here Brother Broun must stand with Father Coughlin. A nice pair, in all conscience.

Broun, during the past 25 years, has written at least 10,000 words supporting easy divorce, even going so far as to praise the Russians for the way they made divorce available to both husband and wife for the asking. That's all wrong now. Broun must

be opposed to divorce. It's the work of the devil. Divorce is a sin now, isn't it, Mr. Broun?

Here's another personal question, Mr. Broun. You've always had liberal ideas on marriage. Your first wife—I knew her somewhat, and found her intellectually superior—wasn't a Roman Catholic, as is your second wife. Do you believe you were living in adultery during those years you were her husband and she gave birth to your son? If you're a good Catholic you must brand that setup as a "state of concubinage." Better ask your priest about this the next time you slip into the place where your spiritual adviser takes your confessions.

And, by the way, Mr. Broun, are you sticking to fish every Friday, even when you have a craving for a 14-ounce Kansas City sirloin? This is personal, in a sense, so pass it up if you don't care to answer, though there's an aspect of this question that makes it a legitimate subject for public discussion. But I won't press the point.

My able and informed contributor, Dr. Leo H. Lehman, who was a Catholic priest for many years, must think I'm wrong when I say Broun will want to be a cardinal in about two years or he'll quit the outfit and join up elsewhere. Dr. Lehman says he ought to be made a Papal Knight and assures the great Broun his spiritual superiors will "give you one of those funny capes and swords that Al Smith wears when he pontificates at St. Patrick's Cathedral." By the way, wouldn't that be a sight for sore eyes—Al Smith and Heywood Broun coming down the same aisle at the same time, both dressed as Papal Knights! Gawd, I'd pay a sawbuck if I could see the show with my own eyes. But let's quit this day dreaming and get down to cases.

Dr. Lehman, who knows a lot more about the Catholic Church than does our recent convert, asks Mr. Broun if he wants to be as good a Catholic as he heretofore has been a good Socialist. Dr. Lehman adds: "The late Fascist Pope Pius XI clearly decreed that you cannot be both at the same time." He then heaps burning coals on Mr. Broun's perspiring head. He asks him to give the correct answers the next time Msgr. Sheen (the

man who showed Brother Broun how to walk the path to Catholicism) asks him the following questions from the catechism:

Ques. 120: "Has the State the right and the duty to proscribe schism and heresy?"

"Yes, it has the right and the duty to do so both for the good of the nation, and for that of the faithful themselves, for religious unity is the principal foundation of social unity" [which is good Fascist doctrine].

Q. 122: "May the State separate itself from the Church?"

A. "No, because it may not withdraw from the supreme rule of Christ" [What about the Jews?]

Q. 123: "What is the name given to the doctrine that the State has neither the right nor the duty to be united to the [Roman] Church to protect it?"

A. "This doctrine is called Liberalism. It is founded principally on the fact that modern society rests on liberty of conscience and of worship, on liberty of speech and of the press."

Q. "Why is Liberalism to be condemned?"

A. "(1) Because it denies all subordination of the State to the [Roman] Church; (2) Because it confounds liberty with right; (3) Because it despises the social dominion of Christ, and rejects the benefits derived therefrom."

Dr. Lehman then asks Mr. Broun a few questions about the *Syllabus of Errors*, an almost unbelievable document which I discussed in my previous writings, as may be seen by referring to my volumes of questions and answers. I have, in the past, promised to reprint this sensational document in pamphlet form, and I take this opportunity to inform the faithful that I still have the project in mind. But, let's return to Dr. Lehman's annihilating paragraph:

You will, of course, fully accept Pope Pius IX's *Syllabus of Errors*, that it is wrong to hold that: "every man is free to embrace that religion which, guided by the light of reason, he shall consider true"; that "it is no longer expedient that the Catholic religion should be held as the only religion of the State, to the exclusion of all other forms of worship"; that "the Roman Pontiff can, and ought, to reconcile himself, and come to terms with progress, liberalism and modern civilization,"

etc., etc. Nor do I take it that you will have difficulty in endorsing Leo XIII's "Christian Constitution of States" (No Jews allowed by right, but only by favor, as in the "positive Christian" States of Hitler, Mussolini and Franco). You will also be active now in the Crusade for the Catholic "Reconstruction of the Social Order" on Fascist Corporative lines as commanded by the late Pope Pius XI. Here you will be in the company of Father Coughlin, Father Curran and Pat Scanlon. You may repudiate the person of the flannel-mouthed radio priest of Detroit, but you dare not dispute his preaching of Catholic Social Justice. For he talks sound Catholic doctrine on this point.

Maybe we're pressing Mr. Brown too hard. Maybe it'd be better strategy to let him stew in his own juices. Maybe he'll decide, in time, to write about his conversion—write in an honest, simple manner—and end up by confessing to the world that he'd made a damn fool of himself and hopes to do better from now on.

* * *

What did the U.S. government pay for all its land outside the original colonies?

Not including the 13 original colonies, the U.S. paid \$108,167,622 for all its territory. This shows that Uncle Sam always was an excellent real estate man.

* * *

ANSWERS TO UNASKED QUESTIONS

There's some truth in the schoolboy's boner, "Tedium is a psalm sung in church."

The companies that use advertising in order to deceive consumers always stand in dread of one thing—counter-advertising that throws the fierce light of publicity on their methods.

I've met lots of married couples who were faithful to each other out of pure laziness.

Abraham Lincoln found consolation when he observed that the worst scoundrels are often the biggest fools.

Because I praise a woman's cooking it doesn't follow I expect her to tell me how she did it.

Whenever I see a picture of a child wearing a gas mask I wonder how anyone can talk about the glory of war.

History says men once fought a 10-year war on account of a woman, but that couldn't happen now, because today's wars are fought to make millions of women (and men, of course) buy what

the war-makers want to sell them. The purse comes before the public area.

I'm puzzled when poets sing about "mysterious woman." When I was only 17 years old I decided I knew everything there's to know about women, and nothing has happened since to change my mind.

Buying a "good time" is like buying insurance—the older you get the more it costs.

Profound comment by an American, over his third beer: "You know, I never realized how big a man Pope Pius was until I read that they had to give him nine funeral services before he could be buried."

The leader of the surrealistic artists, Salvador Dali, showed some of his paintings in New York recently and added the comment that he himself doesn't understand his own work. What I can't understand is why anyone should want to write, compose or paint something that isn't clear to the person who did the creating.

I've met pious souls who treated their religion like a spare tire, to be used only when needed. Then, when they had a flat, they found the spare down, too.

Writers in movies always smoke cigarettes while tapping out their pieces. Reporters always wear their hats while pecking away at their typewriters. Managing editors (and city editors, of course) are always just two steps from a nervous breakdown. No police reporter ever writes his own story. Girl reporters are always hardboiled, flip and successful. Star reporters always tell the boss exactly what they think about him, and continue to hold their jobs. All reporters during off hours do nothing but drink straight whisky and sleep in their clothes.

Upton Sinclair, in his foreword to his drama, "Marie Antoinette," got to the core of the trouble with these super-colossal million-dollar "historical" movies. They are, he said, "correct in details and false in essentials."

I admire people who get the point quickly. Nothing exasperates me more than to have dealings with slow, dense clucks who need charts and maps every step of the way because they lack quick intelligence. Quickness of the commendable kind was shown by a fellow who, calling his darling, asked: "How are you this evening, honey?" "I'm all right, but lonely." "Good and lonely?" "No, just lonely!" "Be right over—!"

Not given to punning, I was surprised at myself, when hearing of a marriage

between an acquaintance of 72 and a gal of 67, and that they were leaving for a wedding trip to Egypt, I muttered: "A See-Nile Honeymoon." Keen embarrassment followed.

If all the people who are trying to write poetry would spend the same energy trying to put some poetry into their lives, this old world would be come—well, you finish the thought.

Man should work for his bread, never struggle for it.

We'll never have lasting peace until we establish the United States of the World. Narrow, belligerent nationalism looks on another nation's trade as a menace to itself, so it goes to war in order to drag another people down to its own level or keep it from rising to its level. Trade barriers are erected while the nationalists get ready to make war in order to keep neighboring nations from participating in business, commerce, production, and the like. Benjamin Franklin expressed the thought I have in mind, thus: "It were to be wished that commerce be as free between all nations of the world as it is between the several counties of England; so would all by mutual communication obtain more enjoyment. These counties do not ruin one another by trade: neither would the nations." That's the thought Franklin intended—a United States of the World.

Learn to look on good books as good friends. They'll never betray you. A man who has a library of good books has many friends at hand whenever he wants great and noble company.

Heard in a bar: "I can always get more with my thighs than with my sighs."

When we realize what a serious matter marriage is, it's amazing how many people go into it with their eyes wide open.

When a writer finds himself misunderstood he has no one to blame but himself. A good writer can always make himself understood, because he knows which words to use and how to string them together. Of course, such a writer has to have a good, clear brain to draw on for the things he would say. A bad writer can give a muddled impression of a good mind. A bad writer and a bad mind explain most of the writing now being done. But that doesn't prove there's no good writing being done today. There's lots of it. As Moliere said it, "If we are understood, it is proof that we speak well, and all your learned gabble is mere nonsense."

Believe my superstitions, say the religionists, in order to avoid immorality. That's my idea of a perfect piece of bunk. The educated world has learned

that scientific morality and religion aren't related. The priests, preachers and rabbis tie them together in order to advance their own position in the community. It helps give them more power. No priest has ever shied from more power. The distinguished British Rationalist, W. K. Clifford, wrote a passage which fits into my argument here, so I'll quote it: "I cannot believe that any falsehood whatever is necessary to morality. It cannot be true of my race and yours that to keep ourselves from becoming scoundrels we must needs believe a lie. The sense of right grew up among healthy men, and was fixed by the practice of comradeship. It has never had help from phantoms and falsehoods, and it never can want any. By faith in man and piety towards men we have taught each other the right hitherto; with faith in man and piety towards men, we shall nevermore depart from it."

* * *

Please comment on the Japanese charge that Soviet airmen dropped disease germs on the Mongolian-Manchukuoan border.

It's silly. Consider, first, the statement that the Soviet airmen dropped the "germ-laden bombs" into a well. Even if a bomber were to come within 20 feet of the ground it would still be almost impossible to place the shot as described. Consider, also, the simple fact that dysentery germs (which were supposed to be carried in the bombs) couldn't withstand the terrific heat of the explosion. I don't doubt that many Japanese soldiers are down with dysentery, but the germs of that disease are already in the country and don't have to be deposited there by airmen. Japanese military statements are notoriously inaccurate. Whenever the official bureau reports any kind of an action we're usually told, without a smile, that one or two Japanese heroes disposed of 55 of 75 Soviet bombers. Whenever the Japanese kill off about 2,000 Russians we're told that only 15 or 20 Japanese got bumped off. Such bulletins deceive no informed observers.

* * *

Is American Patriots, Inc., a Fascist outfit?

Yes, right up to the ears. Its leader, Allen Zoll, at this writing, is under indictment for trying to blackmail WMCA, a New York radio station, out of \$7,500. As a leading Coughlinites, Zoll had been directing,

for months, the picketing of the radio station's office because its managers had refused to broadcast Father Coughlin's anti-Semitic, pro-Fascist speeches. After causing WMCA a lot of trouble and expense, Zoll, it is alleged, offered to call off the demonstrations for a mere \$7,500. With two detectives hidden nearby, the WMCA's manager handed Zoll \$200 in marked bills as first payment. Zoll was immediately arrested and is now facing trial. The leader of American Patriots, Inc., according to the July 15, 1939, *Nation*, has something else to explain. *The Nation* says:

The Institute for Propaganda Analysis has obtained a copy of a letter Zoll wrote to the Japanese Institute, official Japanese propaganda agency, several months ago, in which he offered the services of his organization to help "cultivate goodwill" for Japan's cause in America. He boasted that A. Claude G'ill, formerly an expert on "communism" for the Hearst papers and an official of numerous patriotic societies, is one of his aides. Zoll said that he would help the Japanese fight "communism" for \$5,000 a month.

I've said many times (see my volumes of questions and answers) that most of this country's 800 Fascist organizations are racketeering gangsters. Proofs appear with convincing regularity.

* * *

Where does Germany stand in chemistry?

Before Hitler took power, the chemical industry in Germany was in first place, but things have been happening fast during the past few years, with the result that the United States has captured first place, followed by Great Britain. Germany is in third place. Russia comes fourth, France fifth, Japan sixth, and Italy seventh. The facts all support the claim that the U.S. has achieved world leadership in this important field. Professor E. J. Crane, of Ohio State University, editor of *Chemical Abstracts*, has made a study of data assembled by the American Chemical Society, showing that the U.S. "has gained in the number of chemical patents issued during the past five years." English is now the predominating language of the science of chemistry. This country and England print 40 percent of

all periodicals devoted to chemistry. American chemists produce the greatest volume of published research, with Great Britain second. Germany was the leader before Hitler. There are, of course, numerous reasons for this decline in Germany, but one that must be considered as perhaps the leading element is the havoc played with Germany's chemical industry by the way Hitler drove Jewish chemists into exile, compelling them to apply their scientific talents to research in foreign countries, particularly the U.S. and England. In addition, many chemists in the universities and industries were removed because of "political unreliability," which means they had refused to abandon their democratic principles. Says Dr. Crane:

"The center of greatest activity in chemistry both in laboratory and plant was at one time in Germany. There is increasingly convincing evidence that this center has moved to the United States.

"The publication of papers reporting the results of chemical investigations and the issuing of patents on chemical inventions may be regarded as a significant indication, if not as an exact measure, of chemical activity. Statistics based on *Chemical Abstracts* provide such an index.

"*Chemical Abstracts* undertakes to publish brief reviews of all scientific papers of chemical interest published throughout the world and also to abstract all chemical patents issued in the more important countries from an industrial standpoint. This requires almost 500 large pages of fine print monthly devoted to over 5,000 abstracts. During the past year over 65,000 such abstracts have been published, of which approximately 20,000 were abstracts of chemical patents.

"The issuing of patents on chemical subjects in a country is perhaps not a direct measure of industrial chemical activity in that country, but significant trends are disclosed by patent statistics.

"During the last five years United States patents on chemical subjects have increased 15 percent in number over the preceding five years, whereas there has been a decrease of 12 percent for the same periods in British patents of chemical interest, a decrease of 23 percent for similar French patents and a decrease of 30 percent in German

chemical patents. Totals for these countries range from approximately 7,000 patents of chemical interest issued in the United States in 1938 to less than 3,000 chemical patents issued in Germany."

When one takes into consideration the fact that the chemical industry is of great and vital importance in times of war, Germany's decline must bring surprise to observers outside Germany and consternation inside the Third Reich. Here is an industry one would imagine the war-breeding Nazi machine would have nurtured with every facility at its command. Before the World War, in 1913, more than a third of the published results of chemical research came out of Germany. Today, the facts show, the situation has changed.

* * *

Please comment on Henry Ford's statement that "war is caused by idleness" and that his new Fordson tractor "will do a lot to outlaw war."

The statement is too silly to warrant serious comment. The idea that the world will outlaw war when it buys enough Fordson tractors (in order to keep busy) sounds like the mouthings of a moron. Ford has a genius for making a fool of himself whenever he opens his trap about some great social, economic, political or cultural subject. If he'd stick to his job and make motor cars and tractors, intelligent students of world affairs wouldn't have to write every-time his name is mentioned. To show how even Ford himself doesn't believe his nonsense let's consider the fact that Ford's London company, according to a dispatch to *The New York Times*, "has reached an agreement with the British government whereby it will lay in an extra supply of Fordson tractors as a part of a possible war-time reserve." Ford the businessman does things that fail to gibe with the words of Ford the social philosopher.

* * *

Why does the German dictator tolerate a Reichstag? Doesn't such a parliament contradict the idea of a totalitarian State?

The Reichstag isn't a parliament in the sense of any in the Western democracies. It's just a rubberstamp body that's supposed to listen to Hitler and endorse everything he proposes. No member of the Reichstag

has ever risen to even ask a question since Hitler stole power. It serves as an effective soundingboard when Hitler wants to outline his policies. Sagittarius, of the *Nation and New Statesman*, the famous British magazine, tells what the Reichstag's about in a neat piece entitled "Solo Turn," thus:

Germany's Reichstag meets once more.

"Ja!" says the Reichstag "Ja!"

To hear the speech it has heard before,

"Ja!" says the Reichstag "Ja!"

It has no vote and it has no views, It just comes in on the chorus cues With the only word it's allowed to use—

"Ja!" says the Reichstag "Ja!"

Deputies Heil and click their heels,

"Ja!" says the Reichstag "Ja!"

Quite as human as well-trained seals,

"Ja!" says the Reichstag "Ja!"

Hitler-herring without their roes, Hitler yes-men without their noes, Hitler's claque for his one-man shows, "Ja!" says the Reichstag "Ja!"

* * *

You speak, in one of your volumes of questions and answers, of "progressive science." Do you really believe that scientists are always progressive?

Of course not. I wasn't generalizing at all. It doesn't take a sharp eye to see scientists showing reactionary, destructive, unprogressive tendencies. If I may be permitted the luxury of a flight into the obvious, science can be destructive or constructive, depending on how men of science want to apply themselves to our problems of social and individual life. The scientist who might spend his life seeking a cure for a germ-ridden disease can be turned to the appalling task of seeking out new ways of spreading germs against war-time enemies. However, science, if properly used by social-minded men and women, can bring nothing but good to the world. This reminds me of a passage in Buckle's "History of Civilization," in which he shows how unprogressive a group of medical men could be, as follows:

"When, in the year of 1760, some bold men in the government proposed that the streets of Madrid

should be cleaned, so daring a suggestion excited general anger. . . . The medical profession, as guardians of the public health, were desired by the government to give their opinion. This, they had no difficulty in doing. They had no doubt that the dirt ought to remain. To remove it was a new experiment; and of new experiments it was impossible to foresee the issue. Their fathers having lived in the midst of it, why should not they do the same? . . . Even the smell, of which some persons complained, was most likely wholesome. The air being sharp and piercing, it was extremely probable that bad smells made the atmosphere heavy, and in that way deprived it of some of its injurious properties. The physicians of Madrid, therefore, were of opinion that matters had better remain as their ancestors had left them, and that no attempt should be made to purify the capital by removing the filth which lay scattered on every hand."

That was 179 years ago, when medical men were far from being scientists. True medical science is hardly more than a century old. It would be difficult to find 10 men in the entire civilized world who would talk such nonsense in these times, even though it's true we see numerous disheartening misuses of science for anti-social ends.

* * *

The other day I happened to visit the Lambert Municipal Airport and the Greyhound Terminal, both in St. Louis, Mo. In each place I saw Automatic Libraries and was thrilled by their beauty and efficiency. I heard numerous complimentary remarks about this new project. How did these two machines do in a business way?

Mr. R. Greenbaum, sales manager of Automatic Libraries, a division of O. D. Jennings and Company, 4309 W. Lake Street, Chicago Ill., made inquiries at the two places mentioned in my reader's question and received interesting and informative replies. The first is from Mr. J. T. Verlin, head of the company which controls concessions in the Lambert Municipal Airport, as follows:

"Answering your recent inquiry regarding the Automatic Library machine located at Lambert Field, I am fully convinced that your machine gives to the coin machine industry an entirely new and permanent repeat article, making thou-

sands of new locations available for operators and distributors. During the time the machine has been on location at the Airport, the sales have averaged better than \$2.50 per day, and I do not hesitate in recommending the Automatic Library machines as a profitable and paying business enterprise."

Mr. Wm. F. Zacharias, concessionaire, Greyhound Depot, Broadway and Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, Mo., writes:

"I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my opinion regarding your Automatic Library machine in the Greyhound Bus Terminal Dept. in St. Louis. The amount of money taken in daily by the machine proves that it should be a consistent money maker and from the wide national advertising given the Little Blue Books, it seems to me that the general public will patronize these machines instead of the lending library. The total sales for the week ending today amounted to \$14.40. I am looking forward to an increase in revenue during the coming weeks."

Thus far all reports have been extremely favorable. As I said before, this new project promises to make substantial profits for those enterprising individuals who get into this new business now, while the field is wide open. Persons who have some financial means should look into this opportunity to obtain contracts in a new merchandising venture that has already drawn praise from leading figures in the vending machine world. As I told my readers before, I have no connection with the sale of these Automatic Libraries. Readers who are interested should write to the company mentioned in the first sentence. I think we've got something here.

* * *

Is it a fact that St. Peter's toe is on exhibition in Rome?

The Great Toe, I'm glad to inform all pious readers (including Heywood Broun) may be seen at St. Peter's in Rome, which is my notion of an excellent job of preservation, though some pilgrims complain the sacred member has almost disappeared. Protonius, writing in *The Liberty Guide*, August, 1939, says: "Even the consolation of thinking that it has been worn away by the osculation of the faithful is denied him, since an observer reports

that most devotees, 'no doubt for hygienic reasons,' first brush the toe with their sleeve." From which Protonius derives the quite serious moral that faith has its limitations.

* * *

How would you describe a Skeptic?

I've said a lot on this subject, as may be seen by referring to my volumes of questions and answers and other books. At this time I want to give space to a paragraph which appeared in that sprightly British publication, *John o'London*:

"So lost is the true meaning of skepticism that it was possible almost within my own lifetime for a Victorian writer to declare that 'in listening to the arguments of the skeptic you are breathing a poisonous atmosphere.' These narrow and malicious definitions were forestalled by Sir Walter Raleigh: 'The Skeptic doth neither affirm nor deny any position, but doubteth of it, and opposeth his reasons against that which is affirmed or denied to justify his not consenting.' And this was no new utterance. Cicero had written 15 centuries earlier: *Dubitando ad veritatem pervenimus*—'By doubting we come at the truth.' Long before Cicero the original skeptics, taught by Pyrrho, had decided that final conclusions are impossible to man. But the grasping believer accepts as final the cross-section of truth that is before his eyes, forgetting that the tree will grow until the end of time. Knowledge and doubt grow together. Even the Victorians were relieved when Tennyson told them that 'there lives more faith in honest doubt, believe me, than in half the creeds.' That chimed with their period; it is still more in tune with ours."

* * *

I enclose a clipping which tells about a poll conducted by the National Association of Manufacturers. Please comment on it, because I consider this subject of great interest to supporters of labor unions.

The press report tells how the National Association of Manufacturers—a notorious enemy of free unions and an uncompromising foe of all New Deal measures—asked many people this question: "Should every worker be forced to join a union?" The replies, according to the N.A.M., were: No, 61 percent; yes, 20 percent; sometimes, 11 percent; don't know, 8 percent. This is supposed to be convincing and effective propagan-

da against free unionism, but it doesn't take much brain power to see through the N.A.M.'s trickery, for the question is dishonest and misleading. The question was loaded in order to give the impression that a majority of our people are anti-union. There was no desire here to learn the truth. Had there been such an aim the question would have been worded intelligently and fairly, along the following lines: "Should every worker have the right to join a labor union, and should every worker have such an opportunity established by law in order to protect members against the pressure of employed interference?" Such a question, if put to the American people, would find overwhelming support, except among the labor-baiting elements (including bitter anti-New Dealers) who would establish conditions in this country that would result in labor's loss of the right to free unions. Such elements are always ready to compel workers to join company unions, where force—direct and indirect—is used. True unions are free expressions of the workers' desire for economic justice, industrial decency, and social fairplay. They are built on humanitarianism, not force. They offer civilized opportunities for self-improvement and mass-progress. They point the way to better and higher standards of living. They open the doors to education for the children of the workers, for decent recreation, for healthful living, for idealistic citizenship. Unionism is a mainstay of our democratic civilization. Unionism is a power for freedom, not repression. Free unionism has nothing in common with the so-called unionism that prevails in Fascist countries, where labor is compelled, under threats of terror, to join controlled, enslaved unions that serve to keep labor chained to the totalitarian machine. Unionism is the free fellowship of a majority of the workers in any given industry or plant. Once the majority of workers have shown by free choice that they prefer a union it's no act of unfairness to expect the minority of workers in a stated factory to join up. This is plain, common sense. And what's more, this idea now has the support of Federal law. Not only that, it's a principle that prevails in hundreds of other forms of social behavior. The

majority of our citizens believe it's fair and just that motor car owners should take out licenses in order to use our public-supported roads. Just because a minority might take the position that such a fee shouldn't be collected it doesn't follow that the majority is taking unfair advantage of such a recalcitrant minority. The examples that suggest themselves are numerous and obvious.

* * *

What's there to Nazi propaganda which would have us believe that Hitler has made Germans strong, manly, clean, healthy, and all that sort of thing?

It's baloney. The facts show that Hitlerism is sapping the strength and health of the masses, mainly because of overwork, the speed-up system in the industries, poor food, overcrowding in camps, and a steep drop in the number of doctors, especially because of the elimination of thousands of Jewish medical experts. As a result of Hitler's rule Germany is rapidly becoming a nation of invalids. These extreme statements aren't based on the propaganda of anti-Nazis. They are made because they jibe with the official reports of the Nazis themselves. The Reich Department of Health (*Reichsgesundheitsamt*) has issued official figures showing Germany's condition in 1933 and in 1938, the differences being appalling. The table below is based on reports from Germany proper and not from the sections of Europe recently taken over by Hitler. Here are just a few of the facts:

	Cases in 1933	Cases in 1938
Diphtheria	77,340	149,429
Scarlet fever	79,830	114,243
Contagious cerebrospinal meningitis	617	1,826
Infantile paralysis ...	1,318	5,757
Contagious dysentery	2,865	5,265

The July 17, 1939, issue of *Time* says German health statistics make the amazing disclosure that "75 percent of the male population at one time or another had some form of venereal disease."

In the face of these facts how can one believe that Hitler has made Germany strong and healthy? The opposite is nearer the truth. Hitler has succeeded in enslaving the German masses, overworking them, drilling them to exhaustion, teaching them to

prepare to die for his "glory," eat rotten food lacking in vitamins and minerals and tolerate unsanitary overcrowding in labor camps. And as I've said before, he compelled thousands of able doctors to abandon their profession because they happen to be Jews. He confiscated most of the treasuries of the health societies that used to do so much to keep Germans healthy in the days of the Republic. He keeps the sick from having access to medical supplies, in order to provide Hitler with greater means to build new armaments. Hitlerism, no matter how you look at it, remains an endless curse.

* * *

What do you think of John L. Lewis' attack on Vice President Garner?

The great C.I.O. leader was on safe ground when he attacked Garner's reactionary attitude toward labor, but he shouldn't have said anything about the Texan's whisky drinking and poker parties. Those are personal matters, provided Garner pays for the round everytime it's his turn, doesn't get drunk and drive around town in a motor car or disturb anyone's peace. As for his games of poker, they also are private, provided he plays a square game, taboos marked cards, refuses to deal from the bottom of the deck, and doesn't forget to ante.

* * *

Are Gene Tunney and Jack Dempsey Fascists and anti-Semites?

Neither Tunney nor Dempsey are anti-Semites, so far as I can learn from a careful study of their expressions and writings. Nor is Dempsey Fascist. From various reports I've come to the conclusion that he's a strong supporter of our democratic institutions and idea's of freedom. Tunney, on the other hand, can be described as a Fascist. Let me quote Tunney's own words, written in a letter to Father Coughlin's magazine, *Social Justice*, August 14, 1939:

"... I have not become a partisan to Franco's cause since his victory but have worked and subscribed to his cause from the inception of the rebellion against the godless and inhuman government popularly known as the 'Loyalist government of the Spanish Republic.'"

Tunney, it's plain, has been getting his "information" about Loyalist

Spain from official Catholic sources, which, as all informed students know, is invariably pro-Fascist and anti-democratic. He has accepted without question the Vatican's propaganda about the "murder" of nuns and priests, when the record shows that those priests who were punished by imprisonment or executed were tried in open court and convicted of the charge of having used their churches as arsenals and of having joined in other ways in the conspiracy to destroy the Republic. My readers can get verified reports on this subject by referring to several volumes of my questions and answers, where I have quoted from Catholic as well as Republican sources. There's no doubt many Spanish Republicans were Free-thinkers—that's to their credit and proves their superior education—but there are Catholic and Protestant sources (many of them quoted in the volumes just mentioned) who showed that the Republic, even in the darkest days of the Fascist rebellion, permitted freedom of worship. Shortly after Franco's victory an interesting news item came out of Barcelona, in which it was said that Franco had ordered the closing of a number of Protestant churches in various parts of what was formerly Republican Spain. We thus see that a Catholic "statesman" closed churches which the godless Republicans had permitted to remain open. Franco's official action against the Protestant churches in Spain was in harmony with the old and familiar policy of the Catholic Church, which has it that no religion except Catholicism can be tolerated once the Catholic forces get control of a country. Because the Republicans didn't subscribe to that policy, Gene Tunney describes them as "godless." I wonder what the Protestants, who were kept out of their churches, think about Catholic godliness? Black reaction, clothed in the habilament of the Fascist and the priests, has won a tremendous victory in Spain—but at the cost of secular freedom, justice, humanitarianism, truth and progress. For months the Franco Fascists (blessed by the Pope) have been murdering thousands of Republicans. One report told how the Catholic-Fascists had executed 38 Republican editors.

Poor Spain is being drowned in its own blood. And responsibility for each drop of blood rests with the Fascists and the Catholic Church. Such a horrible orgy of mass-murder leaves the civilized world aghast, and it's in order to silence criticism that the priests and their tools resort to campaigns of lies and slander against their helpless, caged victims.

* * *

I am making a study of America's economic royalists and find I must have a roster of American corporations that have assets of \$1,000,000,000 or more. Also, figures to show whether such corporations have been growing in the past 20 years. Please rob that newsclip filing system of yours, where everything seems to be deposited.

In August, 1939, the United Press released the results of its survey of American "big business," as of December 31, 1938, giving the names of 28 trusts with assets of more than \$1,000,000,000, as follows:

Bell Telephone System, \$5,119,062,915; Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., \$4,942,900,417; Prudential Life Insurance Co., \$3,800,786,614; New York Life Insurance Co., \$2,647,454,712; Chase National Bank, \$2,523,167,177; Pennsylvania Railroad, \$2,322,408,356; Equitable Life Assurance Co., \$2,260,913,149; Standard Oil Co. (New Jersey), \$2,044,635,257; National City Bank of New York, \$2,009,182,640; Guaranty Trust Co. (New York), \$1,941,765,661; Southern Pacific Railway, \$1,855,149,550; New York Central Railroad, \$1,822,030,466; U. S. Steel Corp., \$1,711,279,006; General Motors Corp., \$1,598,012,229; Bank of America N.T.S.A. (including Bank of America, California), \$1,574,721,670; Mutual Life Insurance Co. (N.Y.), \$1,399,427,496; Continental Illinois Bank & Trust, \$1,386,357,129; Consolidated Edison, \$1,358,558,488; Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway, \$1,297,744,922; Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. (Milwaukee), \$1,233,101,693; Commonwealth & Southern Corp., \$1,213,866,439; Union Pacific Railroad, \$1,210,357,821; Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, \$1,203,638,181; Cities Service Co., \$1,080,068,703; Bankers Trust Co., \$1,043,469,941; Associated Gas & Electric Co., \$1,041,938,985; Central Hanover Bank & Trust Co. of N.Y., \$1,042,703,017; First National Bank of Chicago, \$1,006,684,778. Total assets, \$53,691,387,412.

Big business has enjoyed unparalleled expansion in the past 20 years, according to this UP survey. The above list shows 28 companies in the

billionaire class, as against only six companies in 1919, with total assets of less than \$10,000,000,000. On December 31, 1929, there were 20 billion-dollar corporations, with combined assets of more than \$40,000,000,000. At the end of 1937 there were 25 corporations in this category, with total assets of \$47,228,527,082. The survey for 1938 shows that the Bell Telephone System heads the list, with total assets of \$5,119,062,915. In the face of these amazing figures one wonders how our economic royalists can have the gall to complain of the way the New Deal is "hampering" business. Their financial reports all agree that the Rooseveltian years have been productive and profitable for the financial and industrial giants. Their squawks are motivated by the desire to reduce social benefits to the workers and farmers in order to be free to pile up even greater profits and assets. Thoughtful students of social trends should examine the above figures carefully. There's no crime in being merely big. Bigness is socially desirable if it tends to establish greater efficiency. But capitalism's bigness is something different. It robs the producers of wealth and sees to it that the consumers pay as much as the traffic will bear. Such large-scale corporations lend themselves to an immediate program of socialization. The banks and insurance companies could be nationalized today and hardly cause a ripple of confusion. Then could follow great social services because these gigantic structures will be made to work for the masses instead of exploiting the people for the benefit of a small owning class. As I see the picture, the above figures serve as a powerful argument in favor of Socialism.

* * *

When soldiers are moved on railroads what does the government pay?

When the U.S. government transports its troops on railroads it buys tickets at half price. This rule was established when the government gave the railroads large land grants.

* * *

ANSWERS TO UNASKED QUESTIONS

The truth will make you free only if you do something about it.

There's good sense in Jonathan Swift's observation that "The stoical system of supplying our wants by lop-

ping off our desires, is like cutting off our feet when we want shoes."

Recently a writer on economics—a science that demands clear writing and exact words—said: "I have no objection to anyone believing in real fairies—if you know what I mean." Frankly, I don't. I'm reminded of the movie, "The Barretts of Wimpole Street," in which the poet, Robert Browning, was asked to explain a muddled passage in one of his obscure poems. Browning thought a moment and then admitted: "When I wrote that, only God and Robert Browning knew what it meant, but now only God knows." We can forgive a poet for wandering into occasional obscurities, but never a writer who specializes in science. I still don't know how to distinguish real and unreal fairies.

The following is lifted from a review by W. S., *Mathematical Gazette*, v. 20, 1936, p. 292: "Readers may be interested in a little calculation made by Sir John Herschel, that the number of human beings living at the end of the hundredth generation, commencing from a single pair, doubling at each generation (say in 30 years) and allowing for each man, woman, and child an average space of four feet in height and one foot square, would form a vertical column having for its base the whole surface of the earth spread out into a plane, and for its height 3674 times the sun's distance from the earth. The number of human strata thus piled one on the other would amount to 460,790,000,000."

This is an old story, but it's worth repeating. Patsy Bolivar drifted into the classroom, one sleepy morning, late. The professor demanded: "What makes you late, Patsy?" "Twas like this, professor; when I left the house, it was so slippery that if I took one step forward, I went two backward." The professor then demanded: "How on earth did you get here?" "Sure, I turned around the other way." That's a nice little lesson in elementary geometry.

Someone has said that a dictatorship is like a ship—it moves rapidly, but it's always liable to sink—while democracy is like a raft which moves slowly and in such a way that you may get your feet wet, but it doesn't sink.

Here's an amusing little story I found in the *Mathematical Gazette*, v. 20, 1936, p. 114: Kenneth, a bright young lad of 10, is being taught decimals and has been asked to divide 10 by 3. He proceeds: "Three into 10 three-decimal point—" "Right. Go on." "Carry one—3 into 10, 3—another 3, and another. Why, they are all threes!" "Yes, indeed." "Well, how long do they go on?" "As long as you like." "What, for a mil-

lion years?" "Yes, if you like." "No, not for a million years." "Why not?" "Well, you see, by that time they will know much more about mathematics than we do and they'll soon put a stop to that."

No man should ever feel lonely if he's within reach of good books.

Half the talk I hear comes from people who haven't anything to say; the other half comes from people who have something to conceal.

Patriotism, as Dr. Johnson said, is the last resort of a scoundrel. His first resort is anti-Semitism.

The sad thing about ugly and ignorant people is that they're pretty sure to breed other ugly and ignorant people.

It's usually safe to proceed on the assumption that people will always do their worst.

It's a cinch to identify your enemies. It's hard to find out who are your friends.

I've always noticed that people who resist temptation live to regret it.

Maybe I don't meet the right people, but it seems that the few saints I've met showed they felt complimented when they were taken for sinners.

The real test of a gentleman is the ability to be disagreeable at the right moment.

Heard at a bar: "He thought he fell into my arms but all along I knew he's fallen into my hands."

Charles Darwin was the kind of Agnostic who preferred to pick his words carefully, lest he offend. But he always managed to get over what he really thought. Once, when discussing the God-idea, he said: "I am aware that, if we admit a first cause, the mind still craves to know whence it came and how it arose. Nor can I overlook the difficulty from the immense amount of suffering through the world. I am, also, induced to defer to a certain extent to the judgment of the many able men who have fully believed in God; but here again I see how poor an argument this is. The safest conclusion seems to me that the whole subject is beyond the scope of man's intellect; but man can do his duty." That's putting it gently—and still getting it said.

Frequently I'm asked to admit there's moral purpose in Nature, but I always have to admit I can see none of it there. I agree with Professor T. H. Huxley when he said moral purpose is an article of exclusively human manufacture—and very much to the credit of the human race.

Ingersoll said something I accept in its entirety when he urged that "happi-

ness is the only good, reason the only torch, justice the only worship, humanity the only religion, and love the only priest."

Ferenc Molnar, Hungarian dramatist, says: "In this world today there are two kinds of Europeans—Aryans, and those who are learning English."

The Commentator (May, 1939) says a plough horse in England lived 68 years and that an American horse lived to be 52 years old. I can't disprove these statements. No evidence is given to prove the assertions. I simply refuse to believe them.

Prohibition jokes are still going the rounds. Here's one that crops up often: Reverend Toler was winding up on his best Prohibition sermon. . . . "If I had all the booze in the country, I'd pour it into the Missoula River! If I had all the booze in the State, I'd pour it into Missoula River!! If I had all the booze in the NATION, I'd pour it into the Missoula River!!!" As Dr. Toler sat down exhausted, Ben Sweeney, the choir-master, arose. "We will now sing hymn sixty-seven; hymn sixty-seven." And as the gods would have it, hymn sixty-seven was, "Shall We Gather at the River?"

Let me retell a story that may mean little to some of my readers but which amused me. The priest, who was feeling sick, called in his doctor, who examined him carefully and decided: "Well, old man, your lungs are in bad shape. I suggest six months in Switzerland." "But," cried the priest, "I can't spare the time." "Well," replied the M.D., "that's for you to decide. It's either Switzerland or Heaven." The priest thought things over for a long time, and then growled: "Oh, all right then—Switzerland."

* * *

What does it cost to run the Senate and House per year?

On the average, \$3,000,000 per year to run the Senate and \$7,500,000 to run the House of Representatives.

* * *

How much does it cost the government to send a man through four years of Annapolis?

An average of \$13,000.

* * *

Who first said "Nothing is certain but death and taxes"?

Benjamin Franklin.

* * *

Spell mousetrap with three letters.

C-a-t.

* * *

In one of your volumes of questions and answers you make the statement that Henry Ford, years ago, retracted his anti-Semitism. I suggest that you go

into this subject a little more thoroughly. I feel confident the full line of material is resting in your newspaper filing system, when, as a matter of fact, it would do the American public a great deal more good if it were taken out of its folder and given the publicity it deserves.

I'm glad to accede to this request for additional data on the Ford question, a topic I've touched on many times in the past, as my volumes of questions and answers show. As suggested, I've jumped into the Ford folder in my newspaper filing system, and as a result I'm able to pass on considerable facts about one of the most medieval-minded, reactionary, bigoted, prejudiced, hate-festering figures in American life. Henry Ford—with his immense wealth and his eccentric ideas—is a proper subject for objective study, for his influence (mostly bad) is a force to be reckoned with.

To answer my correspondent's question it's necessary to go into a little of the history of Ford's record as a magazine publisher and as the instigator of a movement that's intended to arouse impulses in the direction of persecution against a helpless, innocent minority. Many of my readers look on Father Coughlin as the father of American anti-Semitism, but here they show their ignorance of Ford's interesting and alarming history, for the great motor car magnate was fostering racial hatreds 15 years before the American public ever heard about the radio priest. Our story really begins in 1920, when Henry Ford bought an obscure newspaper, *The Dearborn Independent*, and proceeded to turn it into a weekly magazine, under the editorial direction of the Rev. William J. Cameron. Cameron, as my readers know, is Ford's public voice, especially during Ford's Sunday Hour, an occasion for regular exploitation of typical Ford propaganda, including shrewd attempts to influence the public mind to look on Ford's industrial policies as "humanitarianism" of the first order. Soon after becoming Ford's editor, almost 20 years ago, Cameron, who was a preacher before he turned his hand to journalism, broke loose with a series of anti-Semitic articles that attracted immense interest. Cameron's articles were gathered into

book form, under the title of "The International Jew," a volume which was withdrawn when Ford made his famous "retraction" years later, but which is still being circulated by the Nazis and other anti-Semitic organizations. The articles sound exactly like Father Coughlin's current speeches. They gave publicity to the exposed Protocols of the Elders of Zion, which Ford soon admitted were "crude forgeries," but which Father Coughlin, almost 20 years later, reprinted in his *Social Justice*, thus giving the impression that he was helping to circulate them because he felt they were true. Later Father Coughlin had to admit they were forgeries, but he stuck to his guns by using the snide trick that while the protocols may be forgeries their contents are factually correct—a cunning way of repeating exposed lies. Many other lies used by Father Coughlin today originated in Ford's magazine, especially the ones that are intended to give the public the idea that "Red Russia" is an all-Jewish outfit. A few of Cameron's headlines will give one the key to his policy—"The Jewish Aspect of the Movie Problem," "Are the Jews Victims or Persecutors?," "Jewish Jazz Becomes Our National Music," "How Jewish International Finance Functions," and so on. Though Henry Ford later admitted the protocols were forgeries, on February 17, 1921, shortly after his magazine had given nation-wide publicity to these crude inventions, he told a reporter for *The New York World*: "The only statement I can make about the 'Protocols' is that they fit in with what is going on. They are sixteen years old, and they have fitted the world situation up to this time. They fit it now." As I've said before, this is the same argument used by Father Coughlin in his attempts to justify his use of forged documents in order to advance prejudice against a racial group.

But the material appearing in *The Dearborn Independent* wasn't doing Ford any good, so far as his business was concerned. Millions of decent citizens—people who opposed racialism—not only protested against Ford's anti-Semitic campaign but actually translated their feelings into action, by which I mean they started

to boycott Ford's cars. This movement was conducted by both Jews and non-Jews. When Ford realized his anti-Semitic campaign was hurting his business (the public not being ready for that kind of propaganda), Ford issued the famous retraction which my correspondent asks about above. A careful reading of this retraction will convince any intelligent reader that the document is shot through with insincerity and falsehoods. Ford, despite the record, actually tries to give the impression that he knew nothing about the dirty work the Rev. Cameron was doing in his name. Here are the main statements in Ford's letter of retraction:

"For some time past I have given consideration to the series of articles concerning Jews which since 1920 have appeared in *The Dearborn Independent*. Some of them have been reprinted in pamphlet form under the title of 'The International Jew.' Although both publications are my property, it goes without saying that in the multitude of my activities it has been impossible for me to devote personal attention to their management or to keep informed as to their contents. It has therefore inevitably followed that the conduct and policies of these publications had to be delegated to men whom I placed in charge of them and upon whom I relied implicitly.

"To my great regret I have learned that Jews generally, and particularly those of this country, not only resent these publications as promoting anti-Semitism, but regard me as their enemy. . . .

"This has led me to direct my personal attention to this subject in order to ascertain the exact nature of these articles. As a result of this survey I confess that I am deeply mortified that this journal, which is intended to be constructive and not destructive, has been made the medium for resurrecting exploded fictions, for giving currency to the so-called 'Protocols of the Wise Men of Zion,' which have been demonstrated, as I learn, to be gross forgeries. . . ."

In short, Ford's position was that he didn't know how dirty his spokesman was. At the time, I called attention to the fact that Ford's recantation couldn't be accepted unqualifiedly because of the fact that Editor Cameron's assistant, E. G. Pipp, who

resigned as editor-in-chief because he couldn't stomach his superior's anti-Semitism, challenged Ford's letter of apology with this devastating statement:

"I am not saying that Ford knew as to the truth or falsity of every statement published in his ninety-one articles against the Jews. I am saying that the campaign was ordered by him and carried on with his knowledge."

Roy Tozier, investigator for Dr. L. M. Birkhead's organization, Friends of Democracy, calls attention to the interesting fact that when Kurt G. W. Luedecke, Hitler's first American representative, came to the U.S., he hastened to Ford's headquarters. Mr. Tozier dug into Luedecke's memoirs and found the following:

"During my hurried visit to America in 1921 I had found time for several talks with W. J. Cameron, the editor of Henry Ford's *Dearborn Independent*. That publication was now embarked on an anti-Jewish campaign, and Cameron was writing and publishing a series of explosive articles. Nothing so outspoken had previously appeared in print in the United States. . . . Cameron, the capable journalist who had so successfully phrased Ford's inarticulate racial uneasiness, had been very receptive when we went. He was naturally eager for outside assistance. . . .

Mr. Tozier adds this comment:

"Perhaps Ford really had a change of heart, but Cameron certainly did not. Shortly after the Ford apology, Cameron said to Luedecke: 'I don't know yet what I am going to do. But it is certain that I for my part will never make any retraction. What I have written will stand. Not one thing will I take back. You can be sure of that.'"

We know that Ford valued his spokesman's services, for Cameron was retained after the industrialist ordered the suspension of his hate-breeding publication. Cameron has been with him ever since. And this brings us to a new set of facts which indicate that the old Ford policies are still very much alive, though Ford himself prefers to keep in the background. I refer here to the Anglo-Saxon Federation of America, a propaganda organization which, since 1928, has functioned as a clear-

ing house for anti-Semitism, much of which was done through the columns of a magazine called *Destiny*. This magazine, published by an organization which was headed by Cameron, actually reprinted the discredited Protocols—years after Henry Ford had confessed publicly that they were “gross forgeries.” At that time the Cameron organization had headquarters at 610 Fox Building, Detroit, Mich., but as this was thought to be too close to Henry Ford the headquarters were moved to Haverhill, Mass., with Howard B. Rand in charge after Cameron had withdrawn his name as president. Cameron served as editor of the organization’s magazine until June, 1928, when he resigned as president, according to Mr. Tozier. Cameron, however, retained the title, Chairman of Publications Committee, which he dropped later. Mr. Tozier adds:

“In a recent conversation with Mr. Rand I asked if commuting to Detroit was not something of a chore. He explained his presence in Haverhill by saying he found it difficult to work in Detroit in the Summer. The climate and all that. . . .

“I also asked Mr. Rand why Mr. Cameron had ceased to be editor of the magazine and president of the federation. He replied that Mr. Ford was keeping Cameron so busy these days that he had no time for outside activities.”

Mr. Tozier has looked into back numbers of *Destiny* and reports:

“The official publication of the organization was an expensive monthly magazine called ‘Destiny,’ which at first devoted its pages to proving the thesis that the Anglo-Saxons, not the Jews, are the true sons of Israel.

“Invoking some history that would make Charles Beard scratch his head in bewilderment, writers for ‘Destiny’ managed to convince themselves, at least, that the 10 lost tribes of Israel really were not lost at all. They wandered to Europe and eventually settled the so-called Anglo-Saxon countries.

“Certainly there was little reason to become alarmed about such historical and religious drivel, but it was not long until the federation emerged in what was to be its real crusade—anti-Semitism. Although ‘Destiny’ became only mildly anti-Semitic, the organization began dis-

tributing some of the most obscene of Nazi propaganda. There are countless thousands of copies of the ‘Protocols’ in this country stamped by the Cameron organization, although in 1927 Ford dubbed them ‘gross forgeries.’

“Thus far the Anglo-Saxon Federation has limited its activities to the widespread dissemination of propaganda. There is no official ‘shirts’ group to terrify the anti-Fascist opposition, unless Harry Bennet’s Service Men, operating in the various Ford plants, fulfill this strong-arm function in an unofficial capacity.”

The most active of the Anglo-Saxon units, writes Mr. Tozier, “is a regional office located at 834 McCormick Building, Chicago,” from which quantities of anti-Semitic literature is distributed. This office is in charge of Mr. S. A. Ackley, who, according to Mr. Tozier, wrote the following to a mid-western correspondent a few months ago:

“Regret that we cannot supply you with the pamphlet, ‘The Jewish Question,’ by Sawyer. We do carry a booklet entitled ‘The Program of Confusion’ along the same lines, which sells for 20 cents. We can also get copies of the ‘Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion’ if you wish.”

The line-up is clear—Henry Ford, the Rev. Cameron, the Anglo-Saxon Federation of America, anti-Semitism. And this, let me add, is only a single phase of Henry Ford’s activities. Notice, please, that I haven’t even referred to the Henry Ford-Father Coughlin tie-up.

* * *

I am enclosing a clipping which says the Nazi government is counterfeiting its own money. This sounds screwy to me. Please comment.

Yes, it sounds screwballish, but that doesn’t alter the fact that the charge is true. The plot was discovered by the U.S. Secret Service. Here’s how it works:

There’s a “Black Bourse” in N.Y.C., where German marks that have been smuggled into this country are offered to prospective tourists at a heavy discount. Agents of the Gestapo (Hitler’s secret police) have been busy at this money center, offering German marks at an even more attractive discount. The tourists, when they offer the money in Germany, are told it’s counterfeit, prov-

ing this by calling attention to three tiny dots on the bills. The money is confiscated, compelling the Americans to shell out real American money if they hope to continue eating while in the Reich. After numerous complaints were received by U.S. authorities members of the Secret Service were put on the job, and as a result of their investigations it was discovered that the so-called phony marks are printed in the same engraving plant that prints the genuine article. This means the Nazis are counterfeiting their own money in order to achieve two ends: 1. to discourage refugees from smuggling marks out of Germany; 2. to obtain substantial sums in foreign exchange, all of which is clear profit.

And while on this subject of Nazi trickery and dishonesty, let me report what another department of the U.S. government discovered about the methods used by Nazis in order to harvest American dollars. The SEC (Securities Exchange Commission) has discovered evidence that proves Germany is playing the N.Y. Stock Exchange in order to milk American investors. The SEC, aided by experts connected with the U.S. Treasury Department, found that agents of the Nazi banks, after being informed that Hitler was about to precipitate a new crisis in Europe, sold short on our exchange. Then, after each war scare died out, the agents of the Reichbank left the short side and went long, thus making huge profits at the expense of Americans. This scheme has helped Hitler get his hands on quantities of foreign exchange, thus enabling him to build up part of his armament program at the expense of the U.S.

* * *

ANSWERS TO UNASKED QUESTIONS

While in Joplin, Mo., recently I ran head-on into a celebration—its yearly two-day Fiesta. The town was jammed, so I decided on a look-see. The first thing that impressed me was the way all Main Street saloons were crowded—at least three deep at the bar and every table occupied. It always worries me to see vast crowds drinking alcoholic beverages. Something in me always rises in protest against such a spectacle. What burns me up when I come on such a scene is the possibility that they may drink up all the likker and cause a serious shortage that may last hours on end. One has to be on guard against

the dangers involved in such excesses. After trampling my quota of woman and children and establishing my free-born American right to a drink or two, I decided to walk—to the next bar. When I reached the street a strange feeling came over me. I felt lonely. And yet I had only to take one look to see 10,000 people. Something was missing. Then it came to me. The police had roped off Main Street so that the public could enjoy its Fiesta without having to worry about taxis, motor cars, buses and trucks. It was wonderful to see a street given over to a public that was taking advantage of this two-day opportunity to mill around and go from one bar to another without the danger of being bumped in the behind and pushed into Kingdom Come. My nostrils noticed another strange phenomenon. The air was different. Then it came to me—no exhaust fumes. I thought this also was a splendid innovation, for when a person is carefully supplying his system with measured doses of alcohol he doesn't want to throw his experiments out of whack by inhaling unknown and unmeasurable quantities of carbon monoxide. Then the thought came to me what a wonderful thing it would be if every city were to rope off at least one popular street (well supplied with saloons) and never permit it to be invaded by the vehicles mentioned earlier. There's an idea here for a smart chamber of commerce, but I'm sure I'm throwing my pearls before the usual things from which one sometimes takes the ears in order to make a silk purse. But let me mention a discovery I made, one that has nothing to do with the observations just recorded. I now enter the difficult, technical field of psychology, a subject which always has attracted me—as a layman, of course. During my journeys I heard seven men assert, in different degrees of inebriation, that "My lil' wife is the bes' lil' all-roun' feller in the world." This struck me as a tender tribute worthy of praise, though in at least four instances I was able to learn that their cute blondes were just Fiesta companions. It was inspiring to know that these men could see splendid virtues in their wives even when they were having good times with girls who'll hardly remember them the next time they meet. So much for the husbands and their appreciation of their mates. I saw as many tight women, but not in a single instance did I hear one of them, even in her most alcoholically stimulated moments, refer to her old man as "the bes' lil' feller in the world." The women, away from their mates and drinking the stuff that loosens tongues, never got around to even mentioning their lil' ol' pals. There's the thing that fascinated me—

the psychology of it all. Oh, I forgot the single exception. One drunken good-timer kept repeating, right through the night, that her husband was doing two years in "Alka-Seltzer." The joke, let me explain, is that her love-bird is serving time in Alcatraz, the island prison Uncle Sam built for Al Capone. It sounded funny then, but as I look at it now it doesn't seem to carry just the right punch.

When father got around to a good-bye talk with his 18-year-old son who was leaving for the university, it seemed appropriate to impart a few of the facts of life. After all, he thought, youth should get a modern father's advice on the dangers of sex. So he hemmed and hawed, but getting over to the youngster what he was driving at "You're a big boy now," said the well-meaning father, "and being away from home you may fall into conditions you never met around here, so I believe it would be a good idea if you always had available those rubber devices that'll make pretty sure protection against catching a disease." The boy cut the session short with: "Now, dad, don't pull a Polonius on me. I've been using those things for two years."

Years ago one of my linotype machines went on the blink, after about 20 years of faithful service, during which it set millions of lines of what I'm proud to believe was mind-liberating material. During recent years the good machine next the obsolescent one would go haywire now and then, and in order to get it going again the operator would take workable parts from the dead one and put them on the live one. It was as though a living person was taking an eye today and a finger tomorrow from a corpse in order to keep functioning. The time came, at last, when all the good parts were gone, so what was left had to be junked. Now, junking a linotype is something of an emotional experience. It was saddening to see the junk man wield his sledgehammer and break the thing into pieces. The machine which had set the writings of Joseph McCabe, Bertrand Russell, Will Durant, H. G. Wells, Eugene V. Debs, and hundreds of others, was no more. Later I learned that this pile of junk went to a big junkman who handled lots of scrap for Japan, so I'm compelled to conclude that the mechanism that had set some of the world's best literature was soon to be turned into bullets to kill more Chinese. Business is business. A Minneapolis manufacturer of artificial limbs, according to a press report recently, gave Chinese officials quotations on 50,000 artificial arms and legs. His price was too high, so the officials hunted up another manufacturer who could supply them with the machinery

that makes artificial limbs. We're wonderfully practical, we Americans. We supply Japan with the scrap to make shells to kill and maim Chinese, and then we take money from the Chinese for machinery to make artificial limbs.

At last! I knew it would happen in time. For years I've felt that the day would come when the Nazis would show a spark of humanity. Now they've gone and done it. According to a press dispatch from Berlin, "Jews need not surrender gold dental work now in use under decrees calling for their valuables, it was announced."

When Hitler took power in Germany, an anti-Nazi who had once saved his life was brought before him. Hitler exiled the man. A few years later, Hitler arrived in Vienna to find the same anti-Nazi there. Der Fuehrer again had him deported. Coming to Prague a few months afterward, the Reichs-chancellor found the anti-Nazi again confronting him. Der Fuehrer raged. "Get out of the country," he shouted, "and if I find you in Trieste in 1940 I'll put you in a concentration camp."

Professor Laszki drives home a good point, thus: "While anyone can point out in 10 minutes abundant reasons why democratic government is a failure, no one can suggest a better form of control."

* * *

As you say, the great moneyed powers of this country are out to prevent Roosevelt's reelection, should he decide to run and get the nomination, which seems pretty certain to happen. The big industrialists, bankers and Tories in general hate Roosevelt's guts, mainly because he has compelled them to accept necessary social reforms, such as social insurance, old age pensions, and the like. Their favorite argument against a third term will be the old one of "Caesarism." You say you wish FDR would run again. How would you answer these big industrialists?

The cry of "Caesarism" will be raised again as it was in 1872 against Grant, but this is a question for the people to decide, and not the heads of our great corporations. As I showed in another article, 28 of these corporations are now in the million dollar class, with total assets of \$53,000,000,000. The Roosevelt years have been rich ones for these industrialists. But, they're too ungrateful to appreciate what the administration has done for them—saving their hides and putting them back on their feet in the face of the country's worst depression. However, because Roose-

vult made them disgorge a little of the billions they expropriated from the people, they are ready to resort to tactics in order to get Roosevelt out and put in a man who'll be more amenable to their selfish, profit-hungry ends. The air will be blue with the cries for rotation, but most of this clamor will reek with insincerity. Take the heads of the billion dollar corporations I've listed elsewhere. Those immense aggregations of wealth are controlled by men who set up only one criterion when electing their executives—ability. When an official delivers the goods—meaning, of course, heavy profits—they decide Mr. So-and-So has earned the right to another term, and so on, year after year. They choose their servants on the score of efficiency. Why can't the American people do the same? If Roosevelt has been a good President during eight years (and I think he has, by and large) what is there to prevent the American people from voting for the man to serve them another four years? This is a question for the American people to decide. They have the power to accept or reject Roosevelt, or anyone else. If Roosevelt's record suits them and they want him to have more time to carry out his humanitarian and progressive policies, there's not a thing in the world that can say them nay. This talk about "tradition" is all bunk. There's no genuine tradition against the American people deciding whether or not a man's to have more than eight years in the White House. The issue has never been decided one way or another because the American people haven't had a chance to settle this question at the polls—the only place that counts. As I've said before, the anti-New Dealers, in using Washington's name against a third term, are insincere and guilty of being inaccurate about their historical facts. The fact that Washington didn't run for a third term doesn't mean he was opposed to the idea. He just didn't want to run. He wanted to get back to private life. He wanted to spend his few remaining years in his beloved home—and, while we're noticing this fact, let's not forget that he died less than three years after retiring from office. In April, 1788, Washington wrote a letter to Lafayette

which makes his position clear beyond debate. He wasn't opposed to a third term for anyone but himself. He wasn't scared by the supporters of "rotation." Let's take a few sentences from this important letter:

... I confess I differ widely with Mr. Jefferson and you as to the necessity of rotation in that department. The matter was discussed in the Convention, and to my full conviction. There cannot, in my judgment, be the least danger that the President will, by any practical intrigue, even be able to continue himself one moment in office, much less perpetuate himself in it... When a people become incapable of governing themselves, and fit for a master, it is of little consequence from what quarter he comes. I can see no propriety in precluding ourselves from the service of any man who, in some great emergency, shall be deemed universally best capable of serving the public.

Later, in his "Farewell Address" (which I've quoted before, as may be seen by referring to my volumes of questions and answers) Washington showed he wanted to lay down the responsibilities of office but went out of his way to assure his fellow-citizens that he regretted being unable to serve them longer. Read his words carefully and see if you can get the idea out of them that Washington refused to run a third time because he had scruples against such a thing. Here's Washington's viewpoint, in plain, clear language:

... I rejoice that the state of your concern... no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety; and I am persuaded... that, in the present circumstances of our country, YOU WILL NOT DISAPPROVE MY DETERMINATION TO RETIRE... I have the consolation to believe that, while choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, PATRIOTISM DOES NOT FORBID IT.

When we come to Thomas Jefferson we find that he was strongly and sincerely in favor of rotation, but the country's history shows that his main reason lacked validity. Let Jefferson speak for himself in the following, which is taken from a statement he made in 1787:

Once in office, and possessing the military force of the Union without

aid or check of a council, HE WOULD not easily be dethroned, even if the people could be induced to withdraw their votes for him . . . Reason and experience tell us that the First Magistrate will always BE re-elected if he MAY be re-elected. He is then an officer for life . . . The power of removing, every fourth year, by a vote of the people, is a power they will not exercise, and if they were ever disposed to exercise it, they would not be permitted.

About 35 years later, in his autobiography, Jefferson still opposed continuity in the office of Chief Executive because of "the importance of the office," and because of "the fierce contention it might excite amongst ourselves if continuable for life and the dangers of interference either with money or arms by foreign nations to whom the choice of an American President might become interesting."

Jefferson claimed that "reason and experience tells us that the First Magistrate will always be elected if he may be re-elected." This means, of course, that the mere fact that a President runs for re-election automatically means he'll be re-elected. The facts don't support this assumption. Less than eight years ago Mr. Hoover tried to get elected to a second term, but the people said No. They also refused re-election to both the Adamases, Van Buren, Cleveland, Harrison and Taft. Polk, Pierce, Tyler, Johnson and Arthur couldn't even get the nomination for a second term. President Jackson also shared Jefferson's view in this matter, and how wrong both were we know from history. Jackson, in his first message to Congress (December, 1829) wrote:

I would therefore recommend such an amendment to the Constitution as may remove all intermediate agency in the election of President and Vice-President . . . In connection with such an amendment it would seem advisable to limit the service of the Chief Magistrate to a single term of either four or six years.

In Jackson's instance, at least, we must consider the position insincere, because we know now how, after making the above candid assertion against more than a single term, he reversed himself and went hunting for re-nomination. These men, it seems to me,

failed when put to the test of their democratic principles—they were afraid to leave a misuse like the one under discussion to the will and intelligence of the people. They, the people, should have a right to a say on this subject, and their say should be final. But thus far they have never yet declared themselves against a third term. Both these men were eternally right on many questions, but they were entirely wrong on this one. I make bold to say that had Washington been willing to run for a third term he most assuredly would have been elected. The same goes for Jefferson. And if Lincoln hadn't been assassinated, the chances are the American people would have been glad to keep him at his great work for a third term. As for Franklin D. Roosevelt—let the people decide. This is a democracy. The people are the ones who have the final say as to who'll be President. If they want four more years of Roosevelt they can say so with their ballots. And if their ballots say Yes, the country won't turn into a dictatorship, or be afflicted with "Caesarism."

* * *

I was deeply impressed in the picture you ran of one of the vending machines which are offering your little volumes. Have you any data showing what these devices do in regard to revenue?

On July 26, 1939, Mr. R. Greenbaum, who is the sales manager of the Automatic Libraries made by the O. D. Jennings Company, 4309 W. Lake St., Chicago, Ill., reported that one of these machines was installed in the subway station at 34th Street and 8th Avenue, N.Y.C., directly beneath the R. H. Macy Store, which is the largest department store in the world. In four days' time the machine sold a little over \$35 worth of books.

Two Automatic Libraries were put in the Erie Railroad Station, Jersey City, N.J., in mid-July. The machine in the inside waiting room sold 117 books in seven days, with a gross intake of \$11.70. The second machine was put in another location in the same station and sold 105 books in the same time, with a gross intake of \$10.50.

An Automatic Library in the Service Drug Store, 4800 N. Broadway,

N.Y.C., sold \$10.60 worth of books in eight days. The Hartman Drug Store, 1000 Belmont Ave., Chicago, Ill., sold \$5 worth of books in six days. A drug store near the North Shore train station, Chicago, disposed of \$10 worth of books in seven days. Another machine in the Hartman Drug Store, 2800 N. Clark St., Chicago, sold \$7.30 worth of books in eight days. In nine days a machine in the Illinois Central Railroad Station Drug Store, Chicago, sold \$7.70 worth of books.

These reports indicate that the vending machine idea has tremendous possibilities. I predict a great future for this new project. Readers who think they may want to go into this interesting and promising business are advised not to send their inquiries to me. I have nothing to do with the sale of these vending machines. Requests for information regarding business details should be sent direct to the Jennings Company at the address given in the opening sentence.

* * *

On July 9, 1939, I heard Father Coughlin make a rip-snorting radio speech, in which he charged that a great labor union (I didn't catch the name) was organizing an armed guard to fight Fascism. The way he put it, one got the impression the country was on the verge of going to the eternal bow-wows. Have you any dope about this incident?

In the radio speech referred to above, Father (of what?) Coughlin worked himself into a lather over a letter written by a Harry Milton. This frenzy was intended to cover up the charge that Coughlin himself is responsible for considerable violence against Jews and anti-Fascists in general. As I showed recently, Coughlinites ganged up on a Jewish teacher in a New York high-school and stabbed the helpless man in the abdomen. On another day Coughlin's hoodlums raided the headquarters of a labor organization in N.Y.C., destroying furniture, breaking typewriters, tearing up records, and beating up several employees. As a result of these incidents, a Mr. Milton wrote a letter to David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, N.Y.C., proposing the formation of the guards and thus giving Coughlin no end of reasons

for tearing his shirt and calling God's curse on all Communists and other godless scoundrels. Mr. Dubinsky, in a formal statement issued on July 10, 1939, characterized Father Coughlin's hysterical outburst as "absurd." The facts show that Harry Milton is a member of one of the New York affiliates of the Embroidery Workers Union, Local 66. Milton, according to Dubinsky, is unknown to the executives of the Garment Workers Union. He isn't even active in his own union. Says Mr. Dubinsky: "When he (Milton) appeared with his 'plan' before the executive board of his local union, I am informed, they consigned it to the waste basket." Mr. Dubinsky continues:

"Later, Milton succeeded in having his 'project' printed in the form of a letter to me in a little Trotskyite sheet, from which Father Coughlin apparently rescued it and made it the bugaboo subject of his radio speech, for the obvious purpose of smearing our union.

"As far as the International Ladies Garment Workers Union is concerned, I may state that we are quite a big organization and, like any other organized group, we have, aside from the overwhelming majority of sane and sound trade unionists, some Coughlinites, Trotskyites and some plain lunatics. We cannot forbid them, from time to time, to come out with some crazy ideas, but they certainly do not speak for our union.

"It is a pity that Father Coughlin had to go to the waste basket for his latest Sunday speech."

On the same day Allan Johnson, national secretary of the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, issued a statement repudiating the Milton letter. Coughlin, it will be remembered, made much of the alleged fact that Milton was a member of this brigade, but Mr. Johnson said that Milton "never was a member of the brigade and is not now." He added that Milton's private opinion about some sort of a guard didn't represent the convictions or opinions of his organization. Thus, from both union leaders and officials of the Spanish veterans' organization we learn that Father Coughlin, as usual, is ready to misuse any sort of an incident in order to injure a labor organization or

any group that seeks to preserve democracy and oppose Fascism.

How many slices make a rasher of bacon?

One.

How much money do the Hollywood stars get for endorsing advertised articles?

About \$5,000,000 per year. It's been turned into a profitable racket. If consumers knew how testimonials are bought and paid for they'd show a little more skepticism when they turn the pages of newspapers and magazines.

How much does it cost to get a patent in the U.S.?

At least \$200, and many times nearer \$500.

How long does it take a bomb to reach the ground after being dropped from a plane one mile up?

A little less than 20 seconds.

Which country has the greatest number of priests in proportion to population?

Tibet. There are about 600,000 priests in a population of 3,000,000.

ANSWERS TO UNASKED QUESTIONS

During a luncheon club address, I heard a consulting physician described as the doctor who's called in at the last moment to share the blame.

Two peasants, in a country not conquered by Hitler, were discussing politics. "What actually is this 'Socialism' one hears so much about nowadays?" asked one of them. "Well, I'll explain it," says the other. "You have two cows, haven't you? Now under Socialism these two cows would no longer belong to you but to the State. But you would keep the milk all right." "I see," says the first peasant, "this wouldn't be too bad. And now what's 'Communism'?" "Under Communism," the other replies, "they would take away your cows and your milk; you would have to work on your farm and get paid by the State." "I understand," nods the first. "Now tell me also what's this 'National Socialism'?" "Oh, under National Socialism you would keep your cows, but they would take away the milk." "Hey, what's the use of being left with my cows if I wouldn't have their milk?" inquires the first peasant perplexedly. "Well, answers the second peasant, "you would still have to feed them!"

A writer in "Liberty," once a convert of Father Divine, tell of his experience when he met the "God" of many Harlem

Negroes. "M. J. Divine turned to look at me, smiling a little. I was so overcome, I went right up to him, put my two hands around his, and said, 'Father Divine, I am happy and proud to meet you.' He just kept smiling. Pretty soon there was a silence. Everybody was staring. He opened his mouth wide, closed it, and then said, 'Boom.' It was startling—so loud and unexpected. Some fell down on their faces. Some fainted. He smiled at me again, and I fell on my knees, and admitted he was God."

William Patrick Hitler, nephew of Adolf Hitler, is in the U.S. after spending many unhappy months in the Third Reich, where the great pansy made life difficult for his young relative because of the fact that the youth knew too much about his background, especially his homosexual relationship with Captain Roehm and his sex affair with Geli Raubal, Hitler's young niece. The girl, by the way, was about to have a baby. She committed suicide, according to the official view. However, it was Hitler's revolver which was found by her body. When young William returned to Germany in October, 1933, after spending some years in England, he had to go to the dictator's right-hand man, Captain Roehm, in order to get permission to work. This questionable character (he had written some letters in which he described his homosexual habits) "had replaced Geli Raubal in Hitler's affections." This means only one thing—something that's common knowledge in informed circles in Europe—that Hitler and Captain Roehm were lovers. Later he had Roehm shot—because he knew too much. William adds: "Now that Ernst Roehm is dead, Hitler's handsome young chauffeur has become a force to be reckoned with in the Third Reich. Party gossip has it that the quickest way to the dictator's ear is through the intermediacy of this otherwise undistinguished young man." In short, the handsome chauffeur is Hitler's latest lover. Remember, all this comes from Hitler's own nephew. There's every reason to believe that Hitler is a fairy.

Wild-catters in oil are a breed apart. So are their brothers who rush around buying leases in places they have reasons to believe ought to produce oil. This brings to mind a story I heard from a person who makes his living getting farmers and others to sign up on the promise that royalties will be paid if a well is drilled and oil's found. It's a breathless, exciting chase, most of it moved by hunches, rumors and suspicion. An oilman found himself in a hotel in a small Kansas town, for word had gone out there was oil in the neighborhood. During the day no fewer

than 200 other oilmen registered at this hotel, so fast does the news fly. In order to get rid of his competition, our oilman used numerous tricks in order to spread the rumor that there was oil in a county 200 miles away. In no time the hotel was stripped of its guests, only the trickster remaining. He asked the clerk what had become of his colleagues, only to learn they had hurried by motor cars and airplanes to the place that was supposed to be rich in oil. The next morning, he wandered around the deserted lobby, smoking a cigar and worrying over the terrible silence. He tried to read his newspaper, but couldn't, for his mind was on the county he had named as the new goal for the fortune-seekers. Finally he had to pack his bag and check out. Asked where he was going, he informed the clerk he was on his way to the county he had designated in order to get rid of his competitors. "I think I'd better take a look around there," he announced. "You never can tell in this business."

Three farmers—the first from Michigan, the second from Illinois, and the last from Kansas—were waiting in the hallway of a maternity ward. Soon a nurse came out and called to the farmer from Michigan: "Your wife just gave birth to an eight-pound girl." Delighted, the Michigan son of the soil passed cigars to everyone in sight. Later, the nurse came out and announced: "The wife of the farmer from Illinois has had a nine-pound boy." Grinning broadly, the Illinois farmer exclaimed he was tickled pink, and passed out cigars. The next time the nurse showed up she said: "The Kansas farmer's wife has just had a two-and-a-half pound girl." The Kansan slapped his thigh, cheered, and passed cigars around. One of the bystanders asked: "I can understand the enthusiasm about the eight-pound girl and the nine-pound boy, but what's there to get excited about when all you've got is a girl that weighs only two-and-a-half pounds?" The new father answered: "Listen, we Kansas farmers are satisfied if we only get our seed back."

Benjamin Franklin is the source of this sentence: "Whoever would overthrow the liberty of a nation must begin by subduing the freeness of speech." Thomas Jefferson described freedom of speech as the liberty which "guards all other liberties." A dictator's first act is always the same—the destruction of the people's right to free speech, free press and free assembly. This brief discussion brings to mind a few sentences written by Lord Macaulay, as follows: "There is only one cure for the evils which newly acquired freedom produces. The cure is more freedom.

Many politicians of our time are in the habit of laying down as a self-evident proposition that no people are fit to use freedom. The maxim is worthy of the fool in the old story who resolved not to go into the water until he had learned to swim. If men are to wait for liberty till they become wise and good in slavery, they may indeed wait forever."

Edward Westermarck opens his valuable little book, "The Goodness of Gods," with this interesting sentence: "Gods may be defined as supernatural beings who are objects of a regular cult and between whom and their worshippers there are established and more or less permanent relationships."

* * *

Editor: I am always sorry when an intellectual man falls into what seems to me the stupidities of Catholicism. It happened many years ago to one of my dearest friends, Frederick Van Eeden, the Dutch poet and novelist. My acquaintance with Heywood Brown is mainly through his writings, and I will have to wait until he has given his own explanation of what has happened to him.

Pasadena, Calif. UPTON SINCLAIR

* * *

Editor: Heywood Brown, it seems to me, has made an intelligently emotional move. If one is at all church-minded, the Catholic Church, I believe, is the one church he must seek out.

N.Y.C. GEORGE JEAN NATHAN

* * *

Editor: In the October Freeman you say that no Speaker of the National House of Representatives ever became President of the United States. You are dead wrong, my friend. James K. Polk was Speaker of the House for four years, from 1835 to 1839, and he was President of the United States thereafter from 1845 to 1849. You may name your own penalty for having committed this little blunder.

Emmett, Idaho J. P. REED

* * *

I hardly know what to think about your use of a quotation from a book by Bertrand Russell in a volume of your questions and answers. You use his words approvingly to the effect that the Catholic Church holds to the amazing doctrine that if a pure, innocent girl were to marry a syphilitic man it would be her moral duty as a good Catholic to give her body to him, regardless of consequences. Are you sure you are on safe ground? If this quotation can't be supported by the record you lay yourself open to attack at the hands of the priests.

The statement doesn't contain the slightest exaggeration. The doctrine

is the Church's official position. Let me quote a passage from an article in *Our Parish Voice*, by the Rev. Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., D.D. Father Connell is the priest in charge of St. Sylvester's, in Chicago. The publication just mentioned is printed for St. Sylvester's by the publishers of *Our Sunday Visitor*, the largest Catholic publication in the U.S., with offices and plant at Huntington, Ind. Father Connell, in making a smashing attack on State laws forbidding persons afflicted with venereal diseases to marry, writes:

Disease, even of the most revolting character, is not so great an evil as mortal sin; nor is it so grave a misfortune that many children should be born defective as that God should be offended by a single sin of impurity. It is true, a person afflicted with a social disease is urgently recommended to defer marriage until he is cured, even though the partner is willing to enter into wedlock with full knowledge of the dangers it entails. But this is something quite different from declaring that such a marriage is forbidden by the law of God, and the Church, the authorized interpreter of God's law in all that pertains to marriage, has never made such a declaration.

From the same principles we can conclude that married persons are generally allowed the use of their conjugal rights when one of them is afflicted with a venereal disease, provided the other is aware of this circumstance and there is a good reason to justify their having intercourse. Such a reason would be particularly the grave danger that one of the couple may commit sin unless furnished with the legitimate satisfaction that marriage provides. The healthy partner is not indeed obliged to accede to the desires of the other; but he or she will often perform a praiseworthy action by doing so if the sin of incontinence is thereby avoided.

From this brief presentation of the Catholic attitude toward the social diseases as a bar to marriage it is evident that there is a wide difference between the Church's way of looking at this question and the way in which the modern world regards it.

The New Republic used the above quotation in its issue of August 16, 1939, adding the naive comment, "We refuse to believe unless we are forced

to that the Church condones advice to break the existing laws of a number of States, or to follow a policy so repugnant to every decent instinct of Catholic and non-Catholic alike as that advocated by Father Connell." At the same time the editor of *The New Republic* reports that he asked Msgr. John A. Ryan, of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, regarding Father Connell's "queer doctrine." The editor wanted to know if Father Connell speaks the mind of the Church. To *The New Republic's* further bewilderment, Msgr. Ryan replied that the statement is "authoritative doctrine and discipline. If I were attempting to cover the same points, I might use somewhat different emphasis, but the positive statements that he makes are correct as they stand." I urge my readers, at this point, to reread Father Connell's statement. It's stronger than anything Bertrand Russell or Joseph McCabe ever said about the Church's inhuman ideology. I believe that at some future time (let's hope it'll be soon) when the world turns to Rationalism and sanity, Father Connell's paragraphs will be quoted in order to show future generations of enlightened and civilized men and women how the Catholic Church gave proof of its own mental sickness, how it paraded its insanity, how it advertised its intellectual and moral degeneracy. Meanwhile, let me suggest that *The New Republic's* editors put aside their snootiness and make a serious study of the works of great Freethinkers like Joseph McCabe, Bertrand Russell, J. M. Robertson, Ingersoll, and others. As things stand, the editors of standard publications refuse to look into the Church's blood-stained history and savage doctrines because of fear of the wrath of the organized clericals, while the editors of too many liberal publications deliberately shut their eyes to Catholicism's cultural blight, preferring to believe that "such things simply can't be true." We Freethinkers have been charging what Father Connell and Msgr. Ryan candidly admit, but editors of the magazines like *The New Republic* often hint they believe we're showing ourselves to be guilty of "nope-baiting." The record, of course, shows that our anti-clericalism is

based on the soundest kind of evidence. Someday the liberals will catch up with the literature of protest and enlightenment which dedicates itself to the important and humanitarian task of showing the open-minded readers of our country what the Catholic Church really stands for.

* * *

I live in St. Louis, where I am having a hard time getting started. I left high-school two years ago and want to get into something that promises me opportunity and reasonable compensation. Recently I was visited by a representative of a West Coast school which is offering a training course in body work connected with the building of airplanes at Los Angeles. The school's enrollment contract offers me transportation to California, and room and board during the training period. The representative says the airplane building industry needs young men who understand body work. However, if my parents sign up for me it is going to cost them many hundreds of dollars. What do you suggest?

I think you should pass up this "offer." Just stop to think for a moment what this salesman is trying to put over on you. He actually expects you to be innocent enough to believe that California is suffering from a shortage of promising young men. He wants you to accept the idea that this California school must go to St. Louis, Kansas City, and other distant cities, for young men who care to learn body work. Doesn't that sound unreasonable? Does it make good sense to ship young men hundreds of miles at the school's "expense" (pardon me while I laugh) when the streets around the school are crowded with young men ready and able to supply the airplane industry with all the body builders that may be needed? Doesn't it begin to sound as though the salesman is trying to drum up paying students in order to help his own institution make a good financial showing?

Now let's take another look at this matter. This time let's study the words of the personnel directors of two large airplane manufacturers on the West Coast. The first writes:

"We feel that young men in the vicinity of St. Louis can find plenty of airplane training schools in their vicinity without having to journey to Los Angeles. . . . At the present

time we are at peak, and do not look for an additional up trend, if any, for some time."

The personnel director of another company writes:

"At present we are not enlarging our personnel, the only employment activity consisting of making a few necessary replacements from time to time. We are unable to predict whether or not we will be hiring in the future as this depends entirely upon the nature and size of contracts we may receive."

Young men shouldn't be easy marks for high-pressure salesmen representing airplane schools that try to give the impression that jobs may be had for the asking. The men who know the industry say the jobs simply aren't there. I feel that if my St. Louis reader takes my advice and passes up this "great opportunity" his parents will be saved losses amounting to many hundreds of dollars. I feel I've already done my boy scout deed for today.

* * *

You have told us about the condition of the feet of Germany's youth. You have given us numerous statistics showing Nazi Germany's increased number of persons afflicted with various diseases. Have you anything dealing with their teeth?

On July 10, 1939, the German Association of Dentists and Dental Surgeons held its convention in Wiesbaden, where Dr. Gustav Korkhaus reported:

"Forty percent of the 6-year-old German children and 55 percent of the 14-year-old exhibited marked deformities of the teeth, mouth and jaws. As causes may be assigned wrong nourishment of the pregnant mother and of the nursing babies, rickets, disturbances of the inner secretory glands, inadequate nourishment of babies after weaning and general constitutional weakness."

S. Miles Bouton, commenting on the above, properly says: "'Cannon instead of butter' are expensive luxuries."

* * *

I have discovered the secret of determination of the sexes. I also have experimented for over 20 years on a device for overcoming the gravity of the earth for flying machines and other purposes, also for propelling things on the surface of the earth. This is a revolutionary thing. I have in mind going

to the Soviet Union. Being a Socialist all my life I will fit in very good with the Soviet Union. Please advise.

I'm afraid you've become hipped on the subject you mention. Judging you by your letter (a method that has its faults, of course) I'd say almost dogmatically that you don't know a thing about sex determination and that you can't have more effect on the earth's gravity than a man's poof would have on a windstorm. I'm sure the Soviet Union wouldn't welcome you, despite the fact you've been a Socialist for many years. I may be wrong, but it's my notion the officials in the Soviet Union would look on you as something of an eccentric. Better stay stay where you are. You're safer among your friends.

* * *

Please give me your opinion of the course of Stenotypy offered by the La Salle people. I am interested in taking such a course, because I believe it has advantages over shorthand—I use the Gregg system—and I would like to equip myself to secure a better job than the one I have at present (which bores me to death).

The course in Stenotypy offered by the La Salle Extension University is exceptionally good, but I suggest the price—\$175—is excessive, though it does include the Stenotype machine.

* * *

What portion of the world's population uses soap?

About 75 percent.

* * *

Would you mind telling your readers how you organize your material so all your important facts are available when needed? I hope to become a journalist myself and realize how important it is to be able to draw on authentic sources for facts and material, but what puzzles me is how to file away those pieces of information so they can be put into use when needed. I know there must be a system. How do you keep so many facts at your beck and call?

I know it looks complicated to the average person, but it's really very simple, because I have perfected what I call the Newscip Filing System, which is a workable way of handling thousands of clippings on no end of subjects. I can't go into details here, because too much space would be required, but any reader who is interested in learning how to put away clippings and find them when needed should drop me a request for a free

little brochure I prepared on this interesting subject. Without such a system I'd be helpless.

* * *

THE MENACE OF THE BICYCLE
Editor, The American Freeman:

A friend recently lent me a book entitled "Donkey, Horse and Bicycle" written by Dr. C. E. Nash and privately printed in Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1896.

The book contains a study of the influence of the bicycle on civilization. It contains also "an allegory on the bicycle road to hell."

In this book we read that the so-called Cleveland depression of the early 1890's was due to the bicycle.

Businessmen generally complained about the bicycle; horsemen, theatrical managers, cigar store keepers, dry goods merchants, confectioners, and other tradesmen complained of the loss of their trade among the people who were saving up their money to buy bicycles. Other businessmen were attempting to adjust their business products to suit the demands of bicycle owners. The capital thus invested in the manufacture of bicycles was diverted from "normal and more wholesome industries."

Bicycles, this book states, were responsible for the increase in the number of fools in America. "If our American women do not go to breeding better stock than this," writes Dr. Nash, "it will not take 65 years to become all fools."

"What do bicycles give to the public?" asks Dr. Nash. And he answers:

"The old homesteads are going to wreck. Lands are washing away, and the young girls and old maids and the boys of the farms are hastening to the towns and cities to catch this insane fad that they may be noticed for their expert riding.

"It has been said that \$150,000 have been taken out of Little Rock for the purchase of bicycles, while the general trade of the city has been reduced proportionally. Could this amount have been put into building for the rich and the poor, the sound of the hammer and the whizz of the saw would not have been hushed as it is."

Dr. Nash continues in his denunciation of bicycle makers:

"If the manufacturer of the bicycle would accompany every man and woman bicyclist in their unprofitable fad and see how much money and time is spent in this unprofitable and unsatisfying amusement, how many cripples are reported by physicians, how many de-

formed women and men, would he not feel as the great statesman did who denounced war? Yes, it is the vilest war that has ever been made on the morals and manners of free and practical Americans. Don't cry, 'Hard times!' when you can throw away millions on a fad which has a tendency to destroy morals, deplete the pocket and cripple the body.

"These fads are crying out lustily for bicycle roads. How many pay a dollar tax to keep our present bad roads in repair? One hundred years from now Arkansas will not have a turnpike in every county, but long before that time the bicycles will be piled up with the old wheels and trumperies at the Smithsonian Institute, where all fads find a burial place, and we have only monuments to a deluded age."

Another charge:

"The bicycle interferes greatly with domestic duties. It makes breakfast and supper late by taking away the time that should have been spent in their preparation. It also teaches the girls that while they are having fun, someone else must do their work."

Even the preachers, according to Dr. Nash, were succumbing to the bicycle fad and riding every night with the girls. The temptations were too great for some of the parsons. In fact, Dr. Nash was inspired to write a bit of poetry in this connection:

Of all the sights I ever saw,
'Twas in the state of Arkansas;
A preacher on a cycle sped,
To split the air and cool his head.

Also, Dr. Nash was concerned about the effect of bicycle riding on walking and other healthy exercises. He writes: "If brain workers would not go at concert pitch, and take more time and more exercise in open air by walking a mile or so in the morning, or riding on horseback, would not they be healthier and wiser than riding the dummy wheel?"

The degenerating influence of the bicycle on American manners was considered by Dr. Nash. "It is impossible," he writes, "to make a polite bow from the top of a bicycle." Moreover, the bicycle is reducing Negroes and the whites to equality, he charged. "Aren't the Negroes, the white women and men, riding side by side with polished, refined and cultured gentlemen and ladies on equal terms?"

The bicycle is generally demoralizing, Dr. Nash insists. Women no longer want to spin and sew and weave and wash as they once did. They don't even have time to cook in the old style.

"The chief reason is that we wish to do everything too fast," Dr. Nash writes.

"Such machines as the bicycle are destroying the morals of 19th Century womanhood," he concludes.

Dr. Nash's study of the "Donkey, Horse and Bicycle" may not be literature. However, it is very illuminating to those of us who lack historical perspective and do not see events in their relation to the longer view. Human inventions and gadgets are somewhat novel but man's complaints are tiresomely repetitious.

Kansas City, Mo. L. M. BIRKHEAD

* * *

Have U.S. Presidents always received the same pay?

No. We began paying \$75,000 per year when Taft was in the White House. Before that, from Theodore Roosevelt back to Grant, we paid \$50,000. Prior to Grant, Presidents received \$25,000.

* * *

What does the average film print cost Hollywood?

About \$150.

* * *

Can one catch pneumonia from one already afflicted?

Yes, the disease is highly infectious.

* * *

Who was the shortest U.S. President?

James Madison, five feet four.

* * *

Did Lincoln write poetry?

Reams of it, and all of it bad.

* * *

Which President was the first to be a born citizen of the U.S.?

Martin Van Buren.

* * *

How tall was Abraham Lincoln? Was he the tallest President?

He was six feet four, the tallest President.

* * *

Editor: A blood-relation of mine (a victim of supernaturalism and mysticism) got a dose of gonorrhea from a Toronto priest's housekeeper. He refused the advice of an able doctor and resorted to the "curative" of a Quebec monk—a crazy old "saint" who stripped \$100 from my lady-loving relative's bank-roll for giving him the following "cure": "Request the Little Flower (St. Theresa) and St. Anthony, five times every day for two weeks, to take away your disease. Then go to the Midland Shrine, Ontario, and request the spirits of the martyrs to decrease your sex appetite."

This crazy idiot showed every sign of insanity after two weeks. He went to the Midland Shrine and met money-

grabbing, religious swindlers and racketeers who stripped him of another \$100, gave him a St. Anthony medal and told him to fast and pray for seven days. The inflammatory discharge continued to grow more painful. The parish priest, whose housekeeper gave my idiotic relation more than he bargained for, advised him to go to the Shrine of the Little Flower, Detroit. He went there, gave another \$100 to Coughlin and Co., and returned to Toronto with several medals, an Agnus Dei, rosary beads, a scapular, and the same dose—all blessed by that scallywag known as Father Chas. E. Coughlin—the screwy deposter of the Holy Roman Fascist Church.

My gullible relative eventually discovered that the religious racketeers did not chase his dose away. The unhappy, unfortunate fool (who was now almost ready for a padded cell) went to medical science for help. Six weeks later he was free from his dose.

"What have you to say now, Mike?" I asked him.

"Shure, no saint never heard my prayers."

"But the oily, smooth, cunning religious rascals swindled you out of \$300."

"If I had taken your advice while the dose was fresh I would have saved \$500. Shure them religious devils and their saints are damn frauds."

"And who gave the priest's housekeeper the germ she gave you?"

"The priest. He's woman crazy."

"He loves the old and tried biological ritual?"

"Sure! And the women are crazy about him, too. But I'll have nothing more to do with a priest's sweetie."

It is a crime to permit religious scoundrels to obstruct people from enjoying the wonderful gifts to humanity that scientific medical research has placed at their disposal.

Toronto, Canada. PATRICK SULLIVAN

* * *

Are oysters nourishing?

Not much, but that doesn't make them undesirable as articles of diet, especially when one's in the mood for something of a gustatorial fling. One authority says there's more nourishment in two hen's eggs than in 24 oysters. I can believe that, but still look forward to a half dozen on the half-shell the next time I'm in a place that serves sea food.

* * *

Please accept my warmest thanks for the way you keep boosting the idea of municipal ownership of light and other utilities. I suggest that you dig into your newsclip filing system for some figures showing what the consumers paid for their juice when the power plants

were in private hands and what they're paying now that they're municipally owned.

Here are only a few examples of how municipal ownership pays the public real dividends:

	Before Municipal Ownership Per KWH	After Municipal Ownership Per KWH
Cleveland, Ohio	15c	3c
Seattle, Wash.	20	5.5
Springfield, Ill.	11	5
Winnipeg, Man. Can.	20	3
London, Ont. Can.	9	1.3
Pasadena, Calif.	15	4.5
Jaamestown, N.Y.	10	3.5
Ottawa, Ont. Can.	7	.9*
Lincoln, Nebr.	12	4.75
Toronto, Ont. Can.	8	1.5

Carl D. Thompson, director of the Public Ownership League of America, who compiled the above table, adds this comment:

"You will notice that Cleveland, O., has a maximum or retail rate of 3 cents a kilowatt. No private company has ever given or attempted to give such rates. Seattle has a 5.5 cent maximum rate which is extremely low.

"But Tacoma, Wash., has probably the lowest rates of all. The maximum is 4½ cents per kwh but it scales down to as low as one-half cent for cooking, heating and other domestic uses which is the lowest rate on the continent for that class of service."

The facts show that municipal ownership is a success—in large and small communities. As Mr. Thompson says:

"With modern equipment, machinery and methods, which are now easily available to any community, even the smallest city can have a municipal plant and make a success of it—no matter what the conditions are or the limitations."

As Mr. Thompson has pointed out, the larger a city the greater the advantage in the production of electric power, and, therefore, "the more money it can make on a municipal plant and the lower rates it can offer. And yet even the smallest towns and villages have found great advantages in owning their own plants." Here are some interesting examples of the reduction of rates in smaller cities, according to Mr. Thompson's authoritative report:

KIMBALLTON, IOWA, a village of

382 population, owns a Diesel engine plant. It has paid for it out of earnings, is saving \$302 a month, has \$3,000 in the light fund and is installing another unit.

ALMA, NEBR., (population 1,000) has a little municipal light plant that the private companies have tried to buy, but the people voted 410 to 14 not to sell. The town is earning \$12,000 a year profit with rates lower than those in surrounding communities.

WALNUT, IOWA, (population 1,072) started a municipal plant in 1925 and found that it could produce current at the switchboard for less than 2 cents a kilowatt hour, which was much cheaper than it could buy it from a private "high line" company. And, besides, the plant paid for itself in three years.

HIGGINSVILLE, MO., (population 3,339) made a net profit of \$19,762 in 1933 with rates that averaged $2\frac{2}{3}$ cents per kilowatt hour. It cost them only three-quarters of a cent per kilowatt hour to produce the current. They use Diesel engines.

MAQUOKETA, IOWA, a city of 3,600 population, because of its municipal light and power plant, has a 7 cents maximum rate scaling down to as low as 2 cents whereas in 22 other cities in that section of the State the maximum rate charged by private companies is from 14 to 18 cents per kwh.

GARLAND, TEX., (population 1,421) reduced its rates 10 percent at its municipal plant and still made enough profit so that it was able to reduce taxes 40 cents on the \$100 of valuation.

CANBY, OREG., (population only 744) reduced rates over 30 percent to begin with and made several other reductions during the 16½ years the plant has been municipally owned. And, in addition to that, the net earnings of the plant have made and saved the city \$158,938 in the 16½ years.

* * *

I was amused at your reply to the Rev. Rimmer, who offered a reward of \$100 to anyone who could prove the Bible wrong on any scientific question. Can you give us a few more quotations in this entertaining field?

In my previous piece I showed that the Bible describes insects as being four-legged when it's common knowledge they have six legs. We find another boner in Leviticus 11:20, where

we learn the amazing fact that fowls have four legs, as follows:

"All fowls that creep, going upon all fours, shall be an abomination unto you."

In another place (Exodus 8:17) we are told how lice sprang from dust:

"... for Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod, and smote the dust of the earth, and it became lice in man, and in beast; all the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt."

I wonder if Dr. Rimmer would consider this accurate information on a scientific subject.

If Dr. Rimmer isn't satisfied yet, maybe he'll admit Zephaniah (Zephaniah 2:14) was all wet when he prophesied that a duct would be sung by a pelican and a porcupine:

"... both the pelican and the porcupine shall lodge in the capitals thereof; their voice shall sing in the windows. . . ."

The above is from the American Standard Revised Version. In the King James Authorized Version the animals become a cormorant and a bittern. Maybe the two versions ought to get together and turn the warblers into a quartette. I'd walk a mile just for a note.

Another misstatement will be found in Leviticus 11:13, 19, in which the bat is described as a bird, thus:

"And these are they which ye shall have in abomination among the fowls; they shall not be eaten . . . the heron after her kind, and the lapwing, and the bat."

The same error appears in Deuteronomy 14:11-18. School-boys nowadays know that a bat is a flying mammal. Another boner has a bird carrying its young on its wings, (Deuteronomy 32:11), this way:

"As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings."

Now let's turn to another amusing incident. Hezekiah had a boil which hurt him awfully. The Lord, in order to give him a sign that the boil would be cured, moved the sun backward, an act which would have caused the instantaneous destruction of more heavenly bodies than I can figure. You'll find this piece of perfect sci-

ence in Dr. Rimmer's Bible, Second Kings 20:11:

"And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the Lord: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz."

That's wonderful Astronomy. And all done in order to cure a boil. I wonder how many experts in the field of medical science would admit that a woman of 90 could bear a child. Well, it's in the Bible (Genesis 17:17; 21:1-2):

"Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, . . . shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear? . . . And the Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did unto Sarah as he had spoken. . . . For Sarah conceived, and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him."

And, for good measure, let Dr. Rimmer, who claims everything in the Bible must be accepted literally, explain how it's possible for a man to write the story of his own death. Deuteronomy is "The Fifth Book of Moses." Dr. Rimmer, of course, believes it was written by Moses. Well, what about the 34th chapter, in which we are told about the death and burial of Moses? Dr. Rimmer hates the higher critics of the Bible, but in this case they could help get him out of a fix by showing him the best scholarship insists Deuteronomy was written about six centuries after the time actually believed by Dr. Rimmer and the other Fundamentalists.

After all this—and I could draw on many other misstatements and contradictions—what becomes of Dr. Rimmer's widely published challenge that every statement on science in the Bible is absolutely true?

If a person followed a proper diet how much, on the average, would be added to one's life span?

Your question is too loose and covers too much territory. However, Dr. Henry Sherman, of Columbia University, says "the average span of human life could be increased by about seven years if people consumed more vegetables, fruit and milk." This estimate should be accepted with the greatest caution, because so many other factors must enter before any-

one can point to concrete results from proper habits of diet.

Have you ever invented anything?

Oh, yes, I'm an inventor. My first success was a newsclip filing system, which works like a charm. Now I'm at work on a gadget that's intended to fit any radio. If a broadcast is in French and I want it in English, all I need do is to turn the dial to French-English and my device will translate each word as it leaves the speaker's lips. It's quite an idea.

Which U.S. President lived the longest?
John Adams, who died at 90.

Which U.S. President died the youngest?
Garfield, who died at 49, at the hands of an assassin.

I am told Herbert Hoover sued you for libel and collected, therefore your personal hatred for the man.

Very interesting, but untrue.

Can one poisonous snake poison another snake?

No.

What is a luthier?
Violin maker.

What's the scientific name for the pimples of adolescents?
Acne vulgaris.

Can you explain why gun stocks are usually made only of walnut?

Because this wood absorbs a recoil with less shock than any other wood.

How many separate ideas is the human brain capable of holding?

According to the distinguished British psychologist Hooke, about 3,155,760,000, but you can't prove it by me, for when I made my last count I was several hundred thousand below that figure.

How tall is King Victor Emmanuel of Italy?

Four feet 11 inches.

What always amazes me about maxims is that even when they're wrong they sound right.

Inspirational success books are always popular with American readers who want to get to the top of the heap, a fact which has helped bring success to many second-string pub-

lishers. Such books never describe a type familiar to me, who became a big shot this way: He was courteous to nobody except those who might be of use to him. He greeted cordially only those he wanted to cultivate. He preferred never to shake hands, and when he did he presented a flabby hand. He never tried to remember the names of people he considered unimportant. He always acknowledged introductions coldly if he sized the party up as insignificant. He hated to look people in the eye when talking to them. He never interested himself in what others said or did, except when such interest could be made to pay. He was quick to criticize and slow to praise. He never walked erectly. He smiled only when amused, which wasn't often. He took little pride in his personal appearance. He didn't radiate enthusiasm, cheerfulness, good-will. He believed nothing he heard and only half he saw. He always figured out the worst thing that could happen and was pretty sure that would happen, and when it didn't he dismissed it as exceptional.

* * *

Which metal is most plentiful in the earth?

Aluminum.

* * *

How much of the earth's surface gets snow?

About 30 percent.

* * *

Who wrote: "Men don't make passes at girls who wear glasses"?

Dorothy Parker.

* * *

In reading printed matter does the eye look at the entire letters?

According to *Science News Letter*, the eye depends mostly "on the top of words, as you can prove by covering the upper, and then the lower, part of a printed line."

* * *

Do frequent haircuts make the hair grow faster and thicker?

No.

* * *

ANSWERS TO UNASKED QUESTIONS

Dr. George H. Gallup, in *The Saturday Evening Post*, says: "I could prove God statistically. Take the human body alone—the chance that all the functions of an individual would just happen is a statistical monstrosity." Dr. Gallup writes like a Fundamentalist, though he thinks he's indulging in profound mental processes. If he had the slight-

est knowledge of the science of evolution he wouldn't pen such stupid words. It certainly would be a monstrosity if nature were to pop forth with a body as complicated as ours. Science teaches us that biological developments took place slowly, through almost countless ages, building cell on cell, and function on function. Each evolutionary step was in response to the organism's environment, and the impulse (first blind, later intelligent) to survive. When we see life developing from the "simple" one-celled organism to the complexities of the human body we get an entirely different picture of man's place in nature. No evolutionist has ever claimed that the numerous functions of an individual just happened without regard to natural forces. However, this doesn't mean the science of evolution accepts supernaturalism as a reason for even one of the human body's functions. On the other hand, our Creationists propose the intellectual monstrosity which would have us believe that all the functions of an individual were pushed into existence with one stroke by a life-creating God or gods.

Among the questions asked in the examination of an applicant for a place on the New York police force was this one: "What would you do to disperse a crowd quickly and without violence?" The answer: "I'd pass the hat."

A story, originating in Berlin, hints that all isn't well with German morale. It goes this way: "Who is the most miserable person in the world? A German Jew in 1939; a German soldier in 1940; a German in 1941."

Nothing ever happens—if you don't know enough to recognize the importance of happenings. I'm reminded of an old story about an aged French cobbler, whose shop was in one of the side streets of Paris. He worked over his bench for long hours each day. As might be expected, his outlook was somewhat limited, to put it modestly. But he kept a diary. Years after his death someone came on his diary. An entry dated July 14, 1789 commented on the dullness of the day, that nothing ever seemed to happen. On that day the Bastille fell. This took place about a mile from the cobbler's shop. He was within a mile of the event that marked the beginning of the French Revolution, an upheaval that remade Europe and shook the world.

The notion of a pure race is ignorance's purest myth.

What kills the idea of a "superior" race is science's certain discovery that all races, if given the essential requirements of freedom and opportunity, can add to man's wealth of art, culture,

knowledge, humanitarianism, progress, justice and plain decency.

There isn't a shred of evidence to prove that the Negroes are an inferior race.

Herbert J. Seligmann, in his recent book, "Race Against Man," shows how America, "far from being merely a 'melting-pot,' has actually been a laboratory in which the surprising adaptability of transplanted races can readily be observed."

Newspaper editors appreciate the truth of this story: Back in the old days of the wild and violent West the timid, half-pint editor of an Arizona sheet wrote a strong editorial attacking a lawless character who would come out of the hills to prey on the townspeople. "Bill H. Smith," said the editorial, "is a scoundrel and a cut-throat who deserves hanging. This thief would murder his mother for a quart of booze. This community ought to put up a statue to the hero who goes after him and shoots the holy daylights into his rotten hide." A few hours after the paper was issued the bandit called at the editor's office and demanded: "Are you the rat that done wrote this piece about me?" The newspaperman looked into the outlaw's ugly face and thought his last minute was here at last. "Yeh, I wrote it," he stammered. The visitor thundered: "Listen, you goddam son of a baboon, you done wrote my name Bill H. It's Bill K. Smith. The next time you mention me be sure to get my name right."

Charlie McCarthy went to buy a pair of pants. "How much?" ask Charley. "Thirteen dollars with the tax," says the salesman. "To hell with the tacks," says Charley, "I'll wear suspenders."

A father, during dinner, said to his son: "I want to have a long, private talk with you, sonny, on the facts of life—the problem of prostitutes, the dangers of venereal diseases, aspects of birth control, the proper use of contraceptives." The son quietly closed the door and said: "Well, Dad, just what is it you'd like to know."

So help me, this is taken from a note issued by the Nazi Party News Agency: "We request that every hen lay between 130 and 140 eggs a year."

Parke Cummings, in an article entitled "The Art of the Off-Color Story," in the September, 1939, American Mercury, pays deserved tribute to the thousands of anonymous literary artists who have contributed their off-color masterpieces to a world that's always ready to stop long enough to listen to the one about the farmer's daughter, the bashful bridegroom, or the latest boudoir

adventure of Mae West. Mr. Cummings gives us an illustration of what he means by a good off-color story—which must have definite plot, setting, and characters. It, he says, has technique, form, laws of development. It's art. Here it is: A salesman stops at a farmer's house and asks to be put up for the night. The farmer consents, but indicates that his house boasts only one bed, and that the stranger will therefore have to share it with him and his young wife. At dinner the pretty wife serves coleslaw, the salesman's favorite dish. He has several helpings and asks for more, but the farmer, who also likes coleslaw, won't give it to him. Soon the trio go to bed, the farmer in the middle. In the middle of the night, they are awakened by noises and discover that the barn is on fire. The farmer rushes out to save his barn, and the woman whispers to the salesman, "Now's your chance, stranger!" So the salesman dashes down to the icebox, and eats the rest of the coleslaw.

* * *

"I have been reading your 17 volumes of 'Questions and Answers,' and they are like taking a post-graduate course in the Big Stuff. . . . It won't be long before Movieland will be shooting pictures of real social significance. Charlie Chaplin, who is completely left, is likely to laugh dictatorships right out of business by the utterly devastating film he is making. You'll love it."—Rob Wagner, editor, Script, Beverly Hills, Calif.

* * *

How many pennies have been lost by Americans since they were first coined? Since 1793, about 5,000,000,000.

* * *

"Being a member of a discussion club, the value of the information gained through your publications places me in an advantageous position when speaking upon any subject, for which I thank you very much."—L. A. Lawrence, Pittsfield, Mass.

* * *

The Hearst press and the capitalistic newspapers in general, the interests represented by Lord 'erbert Hoover and Garner, and the Wall Street crowd in general, keep harping on one theme, which I wish you would discuss, for I'm certain you have the data in your news-clip filing system. I refer to the groans about the way the New Deal laws to protect the masses are hurting business. They all keep repeating that business could provide jobs for idle workers if the government would stop interfering with business and let the big industries enjoy a "chance to make profits."

The whole argument is shot

through with bunk and deception. As I showed before, big business has been making handsome profits since 1933, especially during recent years, including the first half of 1939. The table below gives the lie to those capitalistic propagandists who say they could help the masses if only the administration were to do something establish "confidence." The figures cover a cross-section of U.S. large-scale corporations, and prove that the first six months of 1939 were even more profitable than the first half of the previous year, which, by the way, was in itself a good year for big business. The profits shown below, let me say again, are for only a half year, and are figures after interest on bonds had been paid and in most cases, after allowances had been made for income and other taxes:

In the face of the above facts how can one explain the following from Hearst's N.Y. *Daily Mirror*, except to say that the editor who passed it for publication deliberately went out of his way to deceive his readers? Here's the Heastian lament:

	First 6 months 1938	First 6 months 1939
DuPont (chemical, rayon)	\$17,000,000	\$41,000,000
A. T. & T. (telephone)	74,681,000	89,399,000
General Foods (food)	6,193,000	7,574,000
Southern Pacific (railroad)	26,000	9,095,000
Atcheson, Topeka (railroad, for 12 months)	1,284,000	7,500,000
Union Pacific (railroad)	3,853,000	4,490,000
Westinghouse (electric supplies)	4,500,000	6,338,000
National Biscuit (food)	5,645,000	5,854,000
National Steel (steel)	2,094,000	3,431,000
John Mansville (building supplies)	24,000	1,203,000

"Business and Industry are eager to provide jobs—if only the bureaucratic costs and restraints of government can be lightened long enough to permit Business to work out its own recovery."

The truth is just the opposite. Business is already making immense profits. It's bellyaching, of course, but because it wants still greater earnings on investments—at the expense of the masses.

* * *

I am an oil field pumper, but have turned philosopher at large. I have a N. Dak. 8th grade education, plus six months radio training. I believe, and can prove, to the satisfaction of all, that Heaven is understanding and knowledge. Purgatory is misunderstanding, and ignorance is Hell. That after death there is rest, peace, quiet everlasting. No pain or sorrow, no

work—nothing. The New Testament is a mistranslation of his teachings. Jesus did not rise again, but rather his philosophy. I further claim that I can tell others how to do everything Jesus, Moses, Abraham, Adam or any other man did that is now known as a miracle. I have found the Rod, which we might call the key to translation or mistranslation. I can prove the present theory of geology is wrong and can definitely prove the true theory.

This reader ought to get a barrel of cold water and soak his head until he gets rid of some of the fever in his noodle. As he stands, he's a candidate for the nearest boobyhatch. I print his droolings in order to give my rationalistic readers a look-see at a real nut in action. I get junk like the above in almost every mail. As I've said before, there's nothing more terrifying than the spectacle of ignorance on a jamboree.

* * *

REACHING BIGGER MARKETS

[The following article is reprinted from the Septembr, 1939, issue of "Bookbinding and Book Production," the trade journal of the book manufac-

	First 6 months 1938	First 6 months 1939
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John Mansville (building supplies)	24,000	1,203,000

turing industry:]

Selling books by coin-vending machines is the latest book merchandising wrinkle. The printed products are the Little Blue Books, published by the Haldeman-Julius Co., Girard, Kans. The sponsor of the idea is Automatic Libraries, division of the O. D. Jennings Co., 4309 W. Lake St., Chicago.

Until recently the Little Blue Books have been sold mainly by mail, and more than 200,000,000 have been distributed through the U.S. Post Office. Eighteen months ago the Jennings Co. began experimenting with a coin-vending machine which would offer Little Blue Books to consumers with a bookish bent, instead of the usual fare of chewing gum, cigarettes, candy bars, and the like.

Recently 10 test machines were placed in several key cities, and the results were pleasantly surprising, the publisher

states. One was stationed in the subway station at 34th St. and Sixth Ave., N.Y.C., near Macy's, one of the world's largest department stores, and in four days sold \$35 worth of the Little Blue Books. Inasmuch as executives in the coin vending machine world figure that any machine which grosses \$1 daily is doing very well as a producer, the record hung up by this particular machine provided considerable discussion in the coin vending machine industry, according to E. Haldeman-Julius, president, who informs B&BP:

"Other test machines were placed in St. Louis where one device in the Lambert Airport showed daily sales of \$2.75. In the Greyhound bus station sales amounted to \$2.40 per day. The smallest return was \$1; this was in a minor drug store location in Chicago.

"Since the tests show that there is public acceptance for this book publishing enterprise, it is reported by the Jennings Co. that mass production will begin shortly with an output of 100 machines per day. According to this company, 10,000 units can be placed in first-class locations in population centers."

Already orders for 500,000 Little Blue Books to be placed in the vending machines have been received, according to Mr. Haldeman-Julius, who expresses the opinion that this method of merchandising books shows "great promise and that it is possible the near future may see something of a revolution in the methods of book distributing." This is the first time in history that any large-scale attempt has been made to sell books by means of vending machines, he told B&BP.. He emphasized that his only interest in the machines was his role as supplier of the books and that their distribution and servicing are controlled by Automatic Libraries.

"I believe it is entirely possible for us to adapt our unit to vending other sizes of hard-covered books without making a great deal of change," R. Greenbaum, Automatic Libraries' director of sales, informs B&BP. "Our factory and engineers are capable of producing equipment which can and will vend anything providing we have the specifications and the quality desired. We believe this method of distributing inexpensive reading matter is an ideal way not only of supplying the book-loving public with good reading material, but also of making the operator of such equipment a substantial profit."

Under the caution, "Why Wasn't It Done Before?" The Coin Machine Journal, Chicago, the world's leading authority on coin operated machines, has described the idea launched by Automatic

Libraries as a venture which so far has "demonstrated that the one remaining field of development for coin machine operations is now a reality.

"How it was overlooked all these years, in the face of such a world-wide demand and dependable production facilities, is a question seasoned coin machine men are beginning to ask."

* * *

I have data for the making of a book which would stun the whole civilized world. It deals with spiritualism and the sex problem on the other side. This, no doubt, seems ridiculous to the average person, but the fact is I have made a study which has taken me years to complete. I find that the sex desire on this side is as nothing compared to that on the other side. That there is a life hereafter cannot be questioned. I will show how spirits—not of a lower or devilish order, but masters in a high sphere—got into my body. If you would arrange to have a writer take down my statements I should be glad to accommodate, as I want to show the world how a student in this thing may be led into the most vicious trap every devised. I am a married man, and they want to turn my house into a brothel to satisfy themselves—that is, hundreds of them, at least. On my refusal of their dirty requests I have, for the past six months, been subjected to the most terrible torture by keeping me awake most of the night, threatening me and actually stopping my heart actions at will. My head continually buzzes as if a hive of bees were there. They often signal me: "If you don't provide the sex stuff you're going to get the heat." Their desires in sex are unquenchable. If you think this brief outline could work up an idea for a book, I shall be pleased to cooperate.

There's no doubt that you could be made the subject of a book—maybe several books. But the work should be done by a psychiatrist like Dr. Menninger or Dr. Freud. You are in immediate need of the services of a doctor who understands sick brains. What gets me is how legibly and intelligibly you write your drivel. That's what leads me to believe that a good psychiatrist may be able to do you a genuine service, perhaps saving you from oncoming insanity.

* * *

Is there any factual basis to the fairly common belief that vampire bats suck human blood?

Gloyer Morrill Allen's "Bats" is the best book on this subject, so far as I know. In this interesting work, which was published by

Harvard University Press, Mr. Allen, who is connected with Harvard's Museum of Comparative Zoology, says he has seen bats with a wing-spread of more than four feet (in Java) down to the size of a small penknife. There are, he says, more than 200 genera of bats. There may be several thousand distinct species, but the exact number won't be known for some time to come. Mr. Allen, whose authority is of the highest, says vampire bats are very real animals, indeed. He has studied many in tropical America, where he learned they live on the blood of mammals and even birds. They usually approach their victims while they're asleep, making a superficial cut from which small quantities of blood ooze. Mr. Allen says vampire bats subsist on the blood of horses, cows, mules, donkeys, fowl and sometimes men. The results usually are slight. Mr. Allen writes: "The human victim may sleep on quite unaware of the unwelcome visitor, to find in the morning a slight wound in an unguarded nose or toe, with a trickle of blood flowing from it." Such attacks rarely cause dire consequences. Mr. Allen also claims there is only the remotest chance that a bat will get tangled in one's hair. There are, he says, authentic records of such a thing happening, but so rarely as to cause no alarm when one finds himself in their presence. Bats, he says, carry their own blood-sucking parasites, including the ordinary bedbug. Bats come in quite a few colors—black, white, gray, brown and russet. While others have yellow-spotted wings or bodies that are orange-striped. Not all bats are bloodsuckers, by any means. Quite a few are vegetarians. Others live on insects, fish, frogs, mice, or lizards.

* * *
How much, on the average, does an American eat each day?

About four pounds.

* * *
I enclose a clipping which quotes Mahatma Gandhi as having made the statement that the Jews are seeking to bring about war as a revenge measure against Hitler. Please comment.

Gandhi made the remark without first studying the facts. Later, when asked about his statement, Gandhi made a careful investigation, with the

result that he wrote a public apology which appeared in a Bombay newspaper. Gandhi's manly retraction makes interesting reading, so I quote it in full:

In the Harijan of December 24 there is a long report of my talk with missionary friends from Tambaram on non-violence and the world crisis. When, during the talk, I took the illustration of the Jews I am reported to have said: "It is true that the Jews have not been actively violent in their own persons. But they called down upon the Germans the curses of mankind and they wanted America and England to fight Germany on their behalf."

On reading the last sentence a dear friend wrote to me a fiery letter and challenged me to produce my authority for my remark. He said that I had been hasty in making the statement. I did not realize the importance of the rebuke. I did, however, want to produce support of my statement. I put Pyarelal and later Mahadev on the search. It is not always an easy task to find support for impressions one carries when speaking or writing. Meanwhile, I received a letter from Lord Samuel supporting the contradiction of the friend referred to above. Whilst I was having the search made I got the following letter from Sir Philip Hartog:

"May I take the opportunity of saying that I agree with what my friends, Mr. Polak and Lord Samuel, tell me they have written to you about the attitude of the German Jewish refugees, of whom I have myself seen hundreds since 1933. I have never heard one of them express publicly or privately the desire, for a war of vengeance against Germany. Indeed, such a war would bring further misery to the hundreds of thousands of Jews still in Germany, as well as untold suffering to millions of other innocent men and women."

I put greater diligence in my search. The searchers were not able to lay hands on any conclusive writing. The manager of the Harijan put himself in correspondence with the Editor of the Jewish Tribune, Bombay, who sent the following characteristic reply:

"This is not the first time that I have come across the imputation made against Jews that they urge countries like England and America to go to war against Germany on account of its persecutions of Jews.

Jews have never urged the democracies to wage war against Germany on account of its persecution of the Jews. This is a mischievous lie that must be nailed to the counter. If there is a war, Jews will suffer more than the rest of the population. This is a fact gleaned from the pages of history. And the Jew is a great lover and advocate of peace. I hope you will refute any such allegation that is made against them."

In the face of the foregoing weighty contradictions now enforced by the Editor of the Jewish Tribune and of the fact that I cannot lay my hands on anything on the strength of which I made the challenged observation, I must withdraw it without any reservation. I hope that my observation has not harmed any single Jew. I know that I incurred the wrath of many German friends for what I said in all good faith."



ANSWERS TO UNASKED QUESTIONS

The shape of a man's head has nothing to do with his capacity to serve the world and add to its store of civilized characteristics.

She: "I haven't been sick for three months." He: "Fine! That shows how healthy you are."

Oscar Wilde called attention to a real truth when he said any book that is called immoral always is a book that shows the world its own immortality.

It's hard for a realist to get used to the way today's most supernatural-minded obscurantists make use of the facilities of this scientific age. Recently I got a kick out of a news story that came from Fukuoka, Japan, where seven persons were killed in an air crash. There wasn't anything unusual about this incident. It was exactly like the ones happening all over the world. But this Japanese story brought out an angle that was both different and surprising. The authorities in charge of the airport decided their operations were being interfered with by "air devils," and if they could be chased away future flights would enjoy better luck. So the head man put in a long-distance telephone call to a temple, where three Shintoist priests were hired to come over and do their stuff against the devils of the air. The priests telegraphed the hour they would arrive by train. They then rode in a motor car to the railroad station. At Fukuoka they got into a bus and were taken to the airport, where they were told they would have to wait some minutes before an airplane would be available for the one

intended for their religious efforts was aloft. The manager of the airport got in touch with the pilot by radio and ordered him to come down immediately, which he did. Dolled up in ceremonial white robes the priests spent a half hour circling around the field, chanting "Demons, begone! Away with evil spirits!" The press report added that "the roar of the engine mingled with the droning voices of the priests as they carried out the ritual of exorcism, shaking branches of sacred trees festooned with holy papers." When they landed they were met again by the manager, who paid them their fee and expressed satisfaction with their services. After that he sent ships up into the clouds with the calm assurance that all would be well, because the priests had driven away the "sky devils." All this slumgullion out of the ages of superstition and ignorance took place alongside the finest mechanisms offered by this scientific era. Doesn't that sound funny?

Most of us can sympathize with the Japanese huckster who went through the streets of Seattle, Wash., with this notice tacked on his cart: "Vegetable nice and fresh and do not care anything about U.S. secrets like navy and fortifications."

Aldous Huxley, in his book, "Jesting Pilate," tells about his recent journey in India, where he met many holy men. Like a true Rationalist, he reacted strongly against their odor of sanctity. He uses straight and strong speech when discussing India's Men of Gawd, thus: "Indian friends have assured me that the power of the priest is less than it was and goes on rapidly waning. I hope they are right, and that the process may be further accelerated. And not in India alone. There is still for my taste too much kissing of amethyst rings as of slipped feet. There are still too many black coats in the West, too many orange ones in the East." Neatly said. This brings to mind a clipping Upton Sinclair was thoughtful enough to send me. It's from "The Arbitrator," a little publication issued by a tough-minded Freethinker, William Floyd. Mr. Floyd tells how he felt when he first heard the rumor that Heywood Broun was about to become a Catholic. At that time Broun, in one of his World-Telegram columns, wrote: "Three kings of the Orient once followed a star, and they are still remembered by us as the wise men. That truth endures." It didn't take Broun long to make the leap to the Catholic Church, whereupon Mr. Floyd wrote him as follows: "If it is true that the wise men were guided by a star to the manger where the infant Jesus was born, we should all be Cath-

olics; for then Christianity would be the sort of supernatural religion that the Roman Catholics claim it is. If the guiding star was true, then the virgin birth, resurrection and ascension may be true . . .

I often get letters asking me why I insist on supporting Fascists in their right to free speech. They always make the point that the Fascists intend to use free speech only to destroy it. True. I've discussed this subject many times, as may be seen by referring to my numerous volumes of questions and answers. At this time I'd like to quote a sentence from Arthur Garfield Hays' book, "Democracy Works," in which he recognizes that freedom is essential to democracy. He agrees that anti-democratic elements should have all constitutional rights, in these words: "I would respect their rights, not because THEY believe in freedom of speech, press, and assemblage, but because I do."

Hitler's pen prostitute, George Sylvester Viereck, can use Bernarr Macfadden's Liberty whenever he finds occasion to defend Nazism or promote Hitler's propaganda. In one article he gets off this masterpiece: "Hitler has no designs upon the independence of Rumania or the Ukraine but he will not rest until he has unimpeded access to the oil of one and the granaries of the other."

Many spokesmen for the church-minded resent the statement "Religion was born of fear," but they can't destroy its simple truth.

Many common phenomena of nature used to move the ignorant founders of religion to the oddest kinds of conclusions. They saw miracles in things that can be explained in terms of natural law by school children today. Take, for example, the way they saw a miracle in the fact that the sparkling waters of all rivers flow into one ocean without ever filling it.

Overheard: "I ain't never smoked cigarettes nor hung around a poolroom. When I started out on my job as a curve-greaser for the Kansas City Street Railroad Company I was given a single curve, but I done my work so well I got promoted, so now I'm a curve-greaser on a double track."

Two Scottish ladies were discussing the new minister. "What like is your new meenister, Mrs. McNah?" "Och, he's nae muckle guid. Sax days o' the week he's inveesible, an' the seventh he's incomprehensible."

A famous author, whose reputation is international, writes this way about Heywood Broun's conversion to Catholicism: "I have no opinion about Hey-

wood Broun's conversion. He seems to me so silly a fellow that his ideas don't interest me. The stuff he has been writing of late has been really dreadful."

A small boy looked longingly at the luscious bananas, tagged "4 for 3c." Then he reasoned: "Four for 3 cents, 3 for 2 cents, 2 for 1 cent, 1 for nothing. Guess I'll take one."

* * *

Has science discovered any evidence to show that animals, like men, have a sense for probability?

Emmanuel Lasker, in his book "Struggle," (page 63) discusses animals' sense for probability interestingly, as follows:

"Wild beasts have a well-developed sense for probabilities. They have their lairs in the least accessible and least conspicuous places; and such as we would call, in our terminology, the points of the least probable pressure. In flight, they have a wonderful ability to quickly discern the line of least pressure. It would be interesting to chase an animal by two dogs of about equal velocity and placed at the same distance from it. Will the animal take the direction that halves the angle which forms with the dogs? Very likely it would on a level plane. And when stones, woods, hills, knolls, etc., are about, the animal would probably select the line of the least probable pressure, no matter how complicated the situation might be. Animals are quick to draw inferences. A wolf follows a trail made by a likely prey. If, warned by its excellent sense of smell, it thinks itself pursued, it runs to a knoll, not in a straight line but in a half circle, to bury itself there so that only the eyes show, and to watch whether its trail is followed. When it has made certain of that, it runs rapidly away. In the hunt for big game, it calls in a typical manner for aid from its comrades. In the search for prey the company disperses.

"Some insects have the wisdom or the instinct to seduce their foes to draw false inferences. When they fear attack they feign death. When the assailant is not deceived thereby, they rapidly fly. Many species of insects have two varieties, of which the birds find one suited to their taste, the other not. It often occurs that a tasty insect assumes the garb of the other variety. We may look upon all these, and related matters, as the natural result of the survival of the fittest principle. But it remains, neverthe-

less, a curious fact, how much of strategic acumen is displayed by animals and how accurate is their judgment of the probabilities that mostly concern them."

* * *

Please comment on the following statement made by Dr. Willibald Hentechel, in the Nazi magazine, *Der Hammer*: "Round up a thousand German girls of the purest stock. Isolate them in a camp. Then let them be joined by a hundred German men equally of purest stock. If a hundred such camps were set up, you would have a hundred thousand thoroughbred children at one stroke."

This is something of an understatement, for I'm sure it'll take much more than one stroke.

* * *

When Marxians speak of the "bourgeoisie" are they referring to the middle classes?

Karl Marx used the word "bourgeoisie" in a different sense from its usual dictionary definition, thereby causing considerable confusion. According to Webster's New International Dictionary the word is used in its French sense to describe people "in the middle rank of society; a citizen, as between a gentleman on one hand, and a peasant on the other; one of the shopkeeping class." When a Marxian speaks of such people he usually calls them *petit bourgeois*. But the bourgeoisie, according to Karl Marx, are the great capitalists, the figures who control the billion-dollar corporations and seek not only to exploit the proletarians (working people) but grind out of existence the middle class independent shopkeepers, and the like.

* * *

Is Mother Hubbard a fictional character?

No. An official of a London archeological society has shown that Old Mother Hubbard (of bare-cupboard fame) lived in the village of Ightham, Kent, in 1784.

* * *

In studying your volumes of questions and answers I find that you like to spoof our dear, old Bible now and then, one of your favorite stunts being to quote disturbing contradictions. I called a few of your strictures to the attention of a rock-ribbed, hard-shell Baptist, who made the argument that while it might be possible to find a contradiction on some minor matters the fact remains that the Bible is always consistent in matters of a fundamental

matter. Among the fundamentals he mentioned murder. What about that?

I'm afraid we have your friend there. If he'll turn to Ex. xx. 13 he'll find these familiar words:

"Thou shalt not kill."

But if he'll turn to Ex. xxxll. 27, he'll come on the following:

"Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor."

Then let him balance "The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree" (Ps. xcll. 12) against "The righteous perisheth, and no man layeth it to heart" (Is. lvll. 1).

* * *

Do glasses cure bad eyesight?

No. *Hugeia* writes sensibly on this subject, as follows:

Many persons erroneously believe glasses are prescribed to cure the condition causing poor vision. However, usually eyeglasses act to improve the sight only while they are being worn. They do not change the structure of the eye. Actual improvement in sight depends more on bodily health than on the wearing of lenses.

It is true that some who have worn them in childhood have later discarded them, but this is not because the glasses cured the faulty condition but because the shape of the eyes changed as they developed, so that lenses were no longer necessary.

* * *

I want to know how much of each dollar paid for life insurance reaches the surviving beneficiaries of the insured.

Seven cents, according to an official study covering the last 20 years.

* * *

Can you give me Petrarch's story illustrating the fatuity of war?

The famous story follows:

A fool in Florence, at the sight of soldiers issuing from the city, wishes to ascertain the reason of their march.

"Don't you know," he is asked, "that war has been declared on Pisa?"

"But," asks the fool, "will not this war be terminated by peace?"

"How can you talk of peace, O fool," chides his interlocutor, "since the war is now beginning?"

"None the less," shouts the fool, "peace must return some day."

"Well, no war is eternal: there will be peace some day, but now it is war," is the retort.

"Since we must needs come to peace," insists the fool, "why not make peace just now, before beginning the war?"

* * *

Do you call yourself an Atheist?

Sometimes I call myself an Agnostic, then again an Atheist, other times a Freethinker or a Rationalist, and so on. Some people seem to have the idea each name represents something distinctly different. Maybe so, but it strikes me they all add up to the same thing. If you want to know what Freethought means to me, just go through my volumes of questions and answers. I've always gone out of my way to express my views on Freethought, Theism, Atheism, Agnosticism, Skepticism, and the like. In fact, it's my pet subject.

* * *

I am 21 years of age and have been bothered with excessive falling of hair. Would you recommend one of these concerns which advertise courses of treatment?

I don't see how the concerns which advertise treatments for the hair can do you any real good. The truth is that science is yet to discover the cause of excessive loss of hair. Sometimes men get good results with frequent washings, using ordinary soap. None of the preparations on the market will do a man more good than numerous shampoos with warm water and a 5c cake of soap. When persons afflicted with excessive loss of hair are in their early twenties I usually recommend visiting a recognized medical doctor who specializes in skin ailments. As you live in Chicago, many experts are within easy reach. Call up the secretary of your county medical association for the names of a few specialists. Such a practitioner will tell you exactly what's wrong with your scalp and if there's anything to be done about it. The companies that advertise will fill you with plenty of ballyhoo, take away great gobs of your money, and leave you worse off than ever.

* * *

What is your opinion of small loan companies that charge 3½ percent a month interest?

I have written frequently about the loan shark evil, especially in my

News-Letter. Under present conditions the only concrete suggestion I can make is for the prospective victims of these ghouls to get together and form Credit Unions, another subject I have discussed frequently. Credit Unions are making wonderful progress in this country, which proves that the consumers are getting wise.

* * *

Is cream heavier than milk?

No.

* * *

I have a friend who has just sold a substantial business and is looking for something new. There is a possibility that I may be able to convince him that he should join me in a partnership in the business of placing automatic libraries on locations in this part of Ohio. I wish you would give me the main facts about this form of distributing books.

I'm very glad to oblige. There are 20 facts about automatic libraries which recommend this novel setup, as follows:

1. Opens an entirely new and profitable field of automatic merchandising.

2. Places popular reading matter conveniently before the reading public and enables the book-loving public to secure economical pleasure.

3. Dispenses nationally advertised Little Blue Books, which are a 64-page, 15,000-word digest of famous books by renowned authors.

4. An attractive and profitable fixture for every desirable location.

5. Automatic Libraries are completely automatic and do not require an attendant.

6. Offers a variety of 18 individual selections which are changed frequently from a huge library of hundreds of Little Blue Books.

7. Makes additional profit for a location without investment or obligation.

8. Proves that merchandise properly displayed is more than half sold, and eliminates loss to locations by pilferage, destruction and theft.

9. Automatic Libraries are made of the finest materials obtainable and by the greatest of skilled craftsmen.

10. Automatic Libraries have a new, modernistic and luxurious finish which blends harmoniously into any location.

11. Positive, quiet and easy operation due to fine engineering and precision workmanship.

12. Durability—long and consist-

ent efficiency insured by hard-wearing surfaces and finest materials.

13. Simplicity in construction.

14. Easy to install—Automatic Libraries appeal to location owner and purchaser of Little Blue Books alike.

15. Automatic Libraries fill a long-felt need of distributing inexpensive reading matter to the general public.

16. Will enable the book-loving public to accumulate a library at home for a nominal cost.

17. Automatic Libraries are backed by a AAA-1 Dun & Bradstreet rated company that has produced automatic equipment for over 33 years.

18. Automatic Libraries are an exclusive non-competitive profitable business, offering the best value known.

19. Automatic Libraries are serviced regularly by franchise owners.

20. Automatic Libraries will remain a permanent and profitable income so long as the public continues to read.

Readers who want to know more about this new business should write to the O. D. Jennings Company, 4309 West Lake Street, Chicago, Ill., for a copy of their attractive, illustrated catalogue, in which the whole idea of Automatic Libraries is discussed from every conceivable angle. As I've stated before, I have nothing to do with the manufacture or distribution of these vending machines. Letters of inquiry, therefore, shouldn't be addressed to me. Instead, write to the Jennings concern, at the address just given.

* * *

The enclosed UP dispatch says Bernard Shaw, in a letter to the London Times, guessed Hitler "had gone to Canossa." What does this mean?

The word Canossa is sometimes used to describe a situation in which a person goes to a place for the purpose of humiliating himself. This usage developed from a famous incident in 1077 when the Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV went to Canossa, a village in Italy, in order to do penance and make humble submission to Pope Gregory VII.

* * *

Are the statements made in the enclosed article true?

The article by Howard Mumford Jones, entitled "Men—Not Cattle," in

the April, 1939, issue of *The Atlantic Monthly*, is strictly factual. The facts of history sustain Mr. Jones's claim that an immigrant Jew, Haym Salomon, helped finance the Revolutionary War for almost four years, dedicating his entire fortune for the cause of democracy and independence, and that he died a bankrupt. I also agree with the author's statement that but for this help we might not have our present United States.

* * *

Can one catch syphilis from drinking cups and towels?

I don't see how such a thing can happen. Recent medical scientists insist the germ that causes syphilis can't survive as much as a second once its removed from human tissue. If that's true, it follows that germs deposited on drinking cups and towels can't cause one to be infected. I know this busts up a lot of scarum propaganda, but that doesn't hinder me from telling the facts. This doesn't mean I'm suggesting community towels or public drinking cups. If they're dirty—and they usually are—it's best for all to avoid them. Do it on the score of plain cleanliness, not because of one's fear of syphilis.

* * *

Can butter be made without churning?

Yak butter, made by the wives of yak herders in Tibet, is produced without churning. They let their milk remain untouched for 24 hours, after which they roll it in leather bags until the butterfat forms a lump. Then it's made into pats by hand. These same people churn their tea. They mix their tea with butter and salt and then churn until they turn out a soupy mixture that looks like hot chocolate.

* * *

How many people go to church on Sunday?

This is a case where my newsclip filing system isn't worth a dime. Church statisticians, so far as I know, have gathered no data on this subject of inquiry. If they have, the facts haven't been publicized. However, I'm going to venture a guess, which you can accept or reject as you see fit, without offending me. I'd say that between 15,000,000 and 17,000,000 people go to church every Sunday.

* * *

Editor: There are seven in our im-

mediate family inclusive of two in-laws, and for Christmas shopping we decided to place the name of each in a container for shuffling and drawing—each was to buy a present for the name drawn and not to exceed a stipulated sum. The result was, believe it or not, each drew his or her own name. How many times would this have to be repeated to strike the law of averages before it should happen again.

Anaheim, Calif. M. E. BEVER

* * *

I want to become a printer. Enclosed please find advertisements of a private school which offers courses in printing. Please advise.

I advise you against taking a course in printing in some private establishment. The expenses will be heavy and the advantages few. The best way to learn to be a printer is to get a job in a good, up-to-date establishment, where you will draw apprentice's wages while learning. Or, if you prefer, you can enroll in one of hundreds of public vocational, industrial, normal schools. In such tax-supported institutions one can get the best kind of instruction at little or no expense.

* * *

Editor: We insignificant earthly creatures, afflicted more or less with an overdose of egoism, elect a President of the United States every four years by popular vote of the people. Occasionally, if he proves to be an exceptionally good ruler—or at least if the majority of the voters believe so—they re-elect him for a second term. But, good or bad, the President is dependent upon the will of the people for his election, re-election or, if actions justify removal from office.

Not so, however, with the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, the omnipotent, all-loving God of Christianity who, according to tradition, some 20 centuries ago is alleged to have risen from His grave on the third day and ascended bodily into the heavens to rule over this universe of self-conceited mortals for but a generation—approximately 30 years, (See Matt. x, 23; xxiv, 34; Mark xiii, 29, 30; Luke xxi, 32.) at which time He promised to "dethrone" Himself and return to His "children." Not only one generation, but more than 60 have passed since this mythical ascension took place, and many deluded, credulous souls today are waiting, patiently and impatiently, for the Prodigal Son to fulfill His long overdue promise.

Although, after all these centuries any and all evidence to prove the actual existence of this all-powerful Sovereign

of the Skies still remains purely hypothetical, we are only concerned now in proving that even if His existence were an indisputable fact, admitting His ability, as well as responsibility, of controlling the activities of the elements; bestowing providential blessings and adversity alike upon the faithful and unfaithful, the just and unjust; pushing aside the clouds to provide sunshine and rain, then deliberately causing death, destruction and suffering by drouths, floods and storms; such a tyrannical, incompetent, deceitful, brutal and wasteful autocrat, who so obviously mismanages the affairs of the universe in so haphazard and unsystematic a manner, should be forcibly deposed from His high throne without further delay. But how? We'll leave that to the supernaturalists.

Year after year He continues to turn on the water in the springtime, but neglects to shut it off, which is wasteful extravagance, resulting in disastrous floods which bring death and devastation, assisted by tornados, dust storms, earthquakes, hail and frost. . . . He turns on the heat in the summertime, but fails to turn it off, causing untold suffering, further loss of life and desolation due to excessively high and unbearable temperatures; prolonged drouths which destroy millions of acres of crops annually. He permits crasshoppers and other insects to assist in the ruination. . . . He turns on the cold in the Winter, but neglects to turn it off, resulting in more death and destruction due to immoderately low and intolerable temperatures; raging blizzards also lend their assistance to the havoc. Such is the cruel and ferocious but undeniable record of the "benevolent" God whom Christianity worships.

We earthly mortals with all our assumed superiority and inflated arrogance are absolutely helpless to cope with these mysterious forces of Nature. Prayers to this mythical Tyrant of the Ether for help are as futile as begging the "man in the moon." To even tolerate a Heavenly Ruler such as this for a term of 2,000 years is unthinkable, but to worship Him is indeed degrading.

If Jehovah rules the world from a throne on high,

Then verily, we need a "New Deal" in the sky!

H. G. Hayes

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Let me suggest that you reprint the leading article from the August, 1939, issue of The Coin Machine Journal, the world's authority on vending machines. This is an interesting and thorough study of the book vending idea. Notice the compliment this article pays you

with its heading: "Why Wasn't It Done Before?"

The article referred to certainly deserves to be reprinted here, but space limitations forbid. The article covers five solid pages, which means I would have to devote a page of this publication to *The Coin Machine Journal's* discussion, a luxury I simply can't indulge myself, however flattered I may feel over this enthusiastic recognition of the work now being done to distribute books by means of vending machines. However, I feel justified in quoting a few informative paragraphs from this article from the pen of the journal's editor, who, needless to say, is the best-informed man in the coin machine industry:

What is behind this newest form of coin machine operating? First, of course, as we pointed out in the beginning, is the human element. Without it none of the amazing things we shall shortly present could have happened. For this venture, like any successful coin machine, catered first to a definite need; then made it universally and economically within reach of everyone.

Some 20 years ago a restless, aggressive young man with a newspaper and writing background set out to give the commoner the best subjects from the world of literature in condensed form for easy reading and at small cost. He was the pioneer of the so-called "Digests." He went further than the "Five Foot Shelf" idea, a very successful venture. Thus did Haldeman-Julius make culture so accessible that the masses would absorb it painlessly and without benefit of canvassing or contract. His plan made it available in units, take it or leave it, so easily acquired that in a surprisingly short time he was able to write a book about his experience bearing the title "The First Hundred Million"—the number of Blue Books that up to that time had been sold. This book, incidentally, is so full of statistics on selling and the likes and desires of the people that any coin machine man will be the better for having read it.

Every newspaper of any consequence in circulation, every magazine of any appreciable influence in this and other countries has carried page display advertisements of these books periodically for some 20 years. It was the publisher's theory, after some experimenting,

that these large and expensive ads must pay their cost with a proportionate profit within a few days after their insertion. The record of success is without precedent in the publishing world or the advertising business for that matter. The displays were plain cold type ads, with the most meager copy, and these ads sold thousands upon thousands of the books year in and year out. No article of commerce is so universally and consistently featured, unless it be motor oil, automobiles or Coco-Cola.

The result of this plan and its advertising promotion has built the huge Haldeman-Julius enterprises at Girard, Kansas. They are the chief industry of that section and one of the country's outstanding businesses. This organization and another, well known to the coin machine world, are behind the Automatic Libraries. Several months ago the O. D. Jennings & Co. organization linked its manufacturing facilities and knowledge of coin machine vending with those of the publishers and produced the Automatic Libraries at its plant, 4309 West Lake Street, Chicago, Ill. A venture that has in a year's time demonstrated that the one remaining field of development for coin machine operations is now a reality. How it was overlooked all these years, in the face of such a world wide demand and dependable production facilities, is a question seasoned coin machine men are beginning to ask.

Yes, literature, the vending of books, in a new, dignified, legal field appealing to resourceful operators. The field as regards human interests and activities is wider in its scope even than music or moving pictures. It appeals to many moods; for instance, the desire for self-help, repose, entertainment. The library, as we said before, is properly cross indexed, enabling the public to satisfy any mood or need with proper subjects. So well indexed is it, the operator, with the guidance of the Automatic Libraries Analysis Sheets, can quickly build a steady patronage regardless of locality or population.

It is a strong proposition, for it caters to a habit urge. It is purely voluntary. It is not dogmatic in routine. There is no organized proselyting. It cannot possibly run counter to any ordinances, petty or otherwise, for the lists contain no subject matter capable of offense to the most fastidious or fanatical. It

is a practical, economical source of reading matter and, moreover, a guide to more extensive reading while providing a scrapbook of knowledge without labor for the masses.

The immense advertising program behind it assures a ready patronage. The worldwide acceptance of the books assures a carefree operation, a most pressing need in the operating profession today.

In every proposition there, naturally, are inherent weaknesses. However, experience and a careful analysis of the Automatic Libraries reveals no weaknesses in the proposition itself.

Mechanically the vending unit is the last word in design and engineering. The product is one that vends easily—has an established worldwide acceptance—does not deteriorate—cannot offend in any way.

The only weakness that can develop is that arising from the operator himself. If he is careless in following the analysis sheet of the sponsors or if he does not attend to his business just as he would have to do with any other line, naturally, his income would be curtailed in proportion.

It is one proposition, from our viewpoint, that requires no pioneering on the part of the operator. So well worked out is it, it might be said to be a "cut and dried proposition," but one in which the exercise of intelligence and ingenuity will greatly expand the results which have already been determined by several months of careful location tests.

I am enclosing circulars concerning cosmetics and a laxative on which I would like your honest, candid opinion.

I always make it a practice to advise against the purchase of exceptionally expensive cosmetics. There's nothing in them to warrant their outrageous prices. In a recent article (see my volumes of questions and answers) I showed beyond debate that these highly-advertised brands of cosmetics usually cost the manufacturer about 10 percent of the selling price. The margin of profit is long—and the benefits highly questionable. The simple cosmetics that can be bought in an ordinary five and ten cent store are every bit as good as the articles sold for 10 times as much in swanky establishments. By the way, the Federal Trade Commission has been de-

bunking a lot if the fancy claims made by these cosmetic people.

As for the laxative compound, this is hardly more than a patent medicine, and I always advise my readers against using such concoctions. If one feels the need of a laxative it's better to take one on the advice of a competent medical doctor. Self-medication is a dangerous practice.

I am suffering from myopia. Can you give me the name of some reputable specialist who can tell me by mail how to cure this condition without the use of glasses?

If you are suffering from myopia (near-sightedness) and want to cure the condition by diet, I don't doubt that Dr. Emanuel M. Josephson, of New York City, can do you a great deal of good, for this expert has shown that near-sightedness can be prevented by minor changes in diet—in some instances with only greater use of table salt. He also says that glandular disturbances are the prime cause of the affliction. However, I don't see how you can expect a reputable doctor to treat you by mail. You must see him in his office, where he can make a first-hand study of your symptoms, etc. You can get this specialist's address from the secretary of the N.Y. Medical Association.

I want to build a cabin. Would you suggest that I put it up near the seashore or high up in the mountains?

There's nothing wrong about living near the seashore. The mountains are good, too. The desert, also, has its advantages. It's a matter of personal taste—and one's economic, financial and other circumstances. This is a matter on which my opinion would have little weight. The Colorado mountains are wonderful, but so are the Pacific and Atlantic coasts.

What is the world's annual fish catch and what is its value?

About 35,000,000,000 pounds, worth about \$721,000,000, according to figures released by the Bureau of Fisheries.

Where does Argentina stand in wool production?

Third place. First, Australia, 460,000 metric tons; second, U.S., 206,000 tons; third, Argentina, 170,000. These figures are for 1938.

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