

A Book of Freeman Cartoons

By

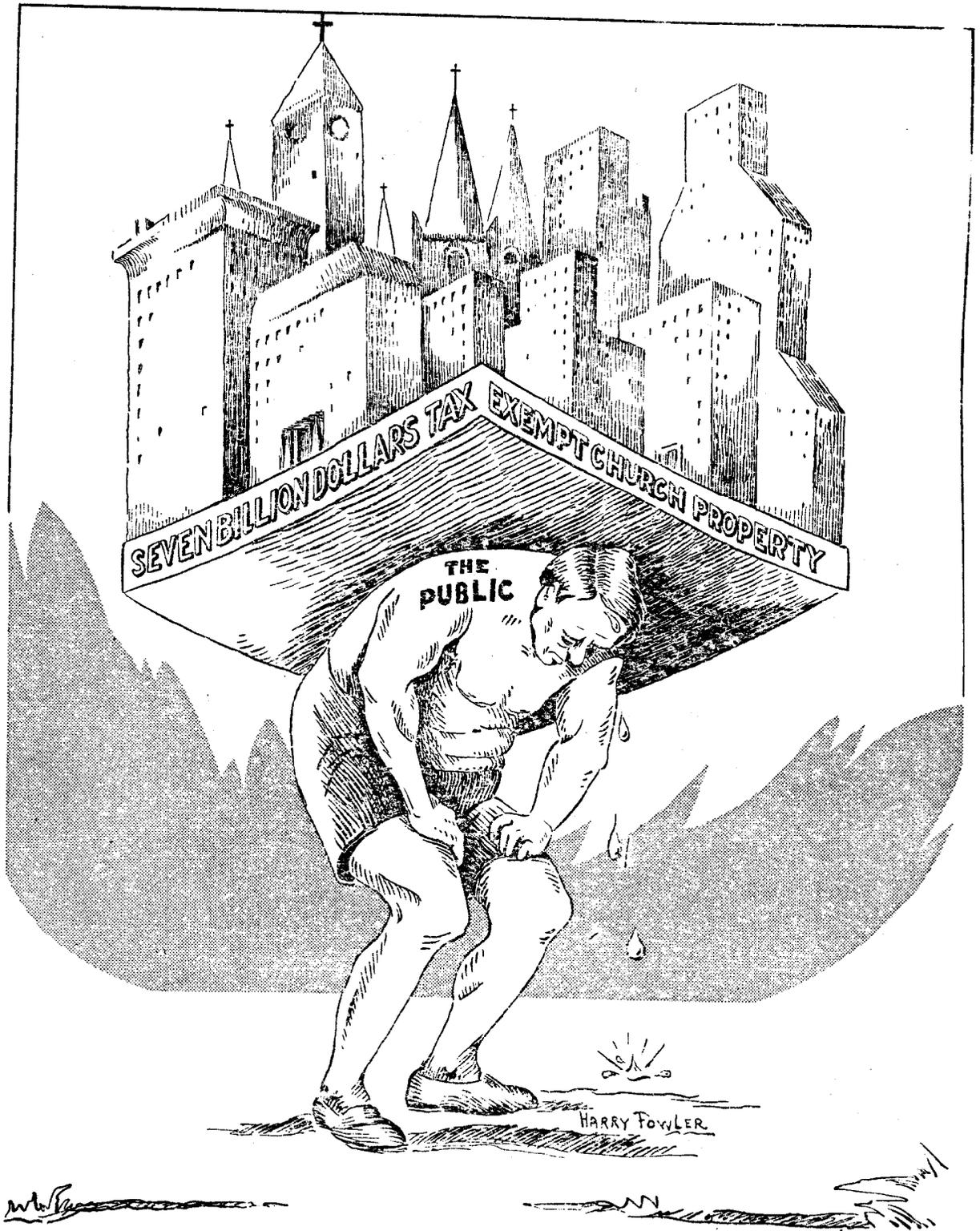
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and

Harry Fowler

Editorials by E. Haldeman-Julius

(Reprinted from The American Freeman)



RELIGION'S UNFAIR BURDEN TO CITIZENRY

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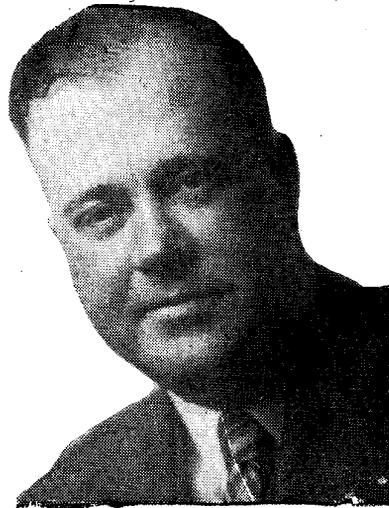
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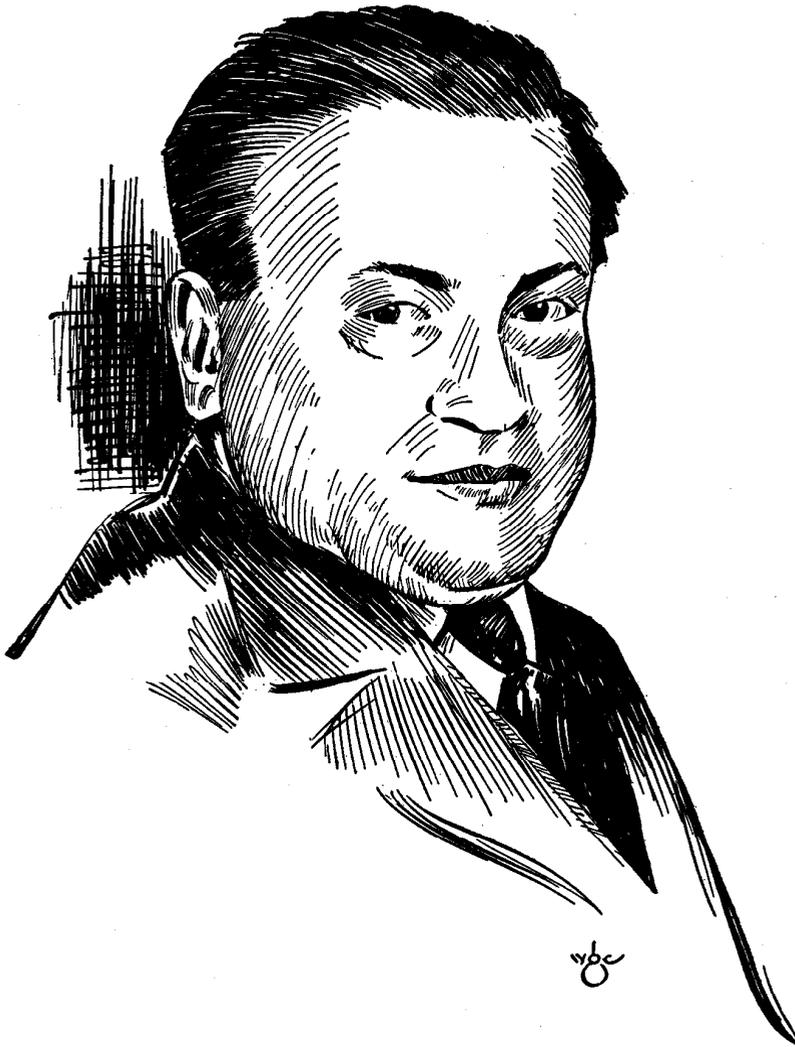
JAMES ERICKSON

ABOVE is James Erickson, of Minneapolis, Minn., who quickly won the admiration of Freeman readers by the skill of his cartoons and the pointed ideas behind them. He earns his bread and butter and keeps out the rain by working as a commercial artist. As a labor of love and as devotion to a noble cause, he works hard over Free-thought cartoons. He enjoys using his pen to ridicule Spookology, Clericalism, and superstitious ideologies in general. In addition, he likes to do cartoons on political and economic themes, in which he supports democratic ideals and strikes hard at social injustices and economic tyrannies. At the age of 18 he became an army serial number and learned to walk with the infantry. Although he had been assured that there were no Atheists in foxholes, he soon found himself digging them in the mountains of Italy. Later, while stationed in Naples, a Freeman reader introduced him to this organ of piety. Now he's doing cartoons for The Freeman.



CARTOONIST FOWLER

HARRY E. FOWLER, Freeman cartoonist, writes from Los Angeles, Calif., that he likes Eric's Freeman cartoons. "They are good," he says, "and his ideas as expressed in them have an effective punch." Fowler's recent cartoons have been poking away at the Catholic hierarchy, but, he promises, "I will get around to hitting the Protestants as I have no inhibitions, my mind being completely emancipated from the Christian superstition in any form. I have other hot pictures on the griddle to send you as they are completed. My efforts, so far, have been directed against the Roman Catholic Church, the 'fantastic monstrosity' that is more than merely a religion. Humor has its place in cartoon work—a large place—and I intend to do some with a funny twist, but I feel deadly serious about the Catholic Church, and it's hard for me to be funny in that connection."



**E. Haldeman-Julius, Editor of *The American Freeman*, Girard, Kansas,
and Author of the Editorials Accompanying the Cartoons in This Volume.**

WIDOWS' MITES FATTEN PRIESTLY PARASITES

Saintly moochers, licensed to carry on holy beggary by Rome, have built the world's richest organization. Most of its wealth has come from the extremely poor, who stand ready, at the behest of religious panhandlers, to deprive themselves of bread. Pious mendicants clip the rich now and then, but the real money comes from the dimes and quarters of the poor. They fear to offend priests who can shunt them into the hottest sections of Hell if they dare offend the official keepers of the keys to Heaven.

Priestly parasitism means less bread for the widow's children.

It means stronger chains on the wrists of the slaves of economic reaction.

It means the rejection of intellectual and cultural progress.

It means the glorification of ignorance and the sanctification of that terrible mental cancer—Catholicism.

It means surrender to superstition and bigotry.

It means the persecution of all who would establish advancement along rational lines.

It means palaces for the self-chosen agents of God and hovels for their dupes.

It degrades everything in life that has sane values.

It is the curse of mankind, the weapon of reaction, the tool of organized ignorance, the instrument of social backwardness.

A wise thinker has well said that we won't know the meaning of genuine progress until the entrails of the last king are used to strangle the last priest. The kings are going, but the priests are, in some respects, stronger than ever before, because they command wealth greater by far than that enjoyed in any previous period in the long, dark, melancholy history of priestcraft.

The great task facing Freethinkers is to rescue the masses from parasitic theocracy.

Our task is to bring the light of Freethought to the victims of priest-promoted supernaturalism and obscurantism.

We have it in our power to expose these mercenary, vicious, destructive, anti-social leeches on the poorest portions of the population. We can undo the harm they are doing. Our weapons are printed pages. Our tools are enlightenment.

We must work together to bring the literature of Freethought to the unhappy, miserable slaves of the priestly masters of the art of mumbo-jumbo.

Let's work to spread the wonderful lessons of Freethought throughout the world. The books, pamphlets and periodicals are here. All we need is a vast army of volunteer workers to spread Freethought ideas and thereby lessen the powers of the priestly befuddlers. Freethought can atomize the edifices of the bunk-shooters, and can do it by civilized, orderly means—through the medium of the printed word.

There's work to be done. The scorned and betrayed victims of clericalism can clear the way for enlightenment, for Rationalism, for Humanism, for freedom.

The priestly slave-masters are in conspiratorial partnership with the economic masters.

It's part of our task to rid ourselves of all exploiters, and as good a way as any is to begin with the priests.

Clericalism is an infamous thing. Let us say, with Voltaire: "Crush the infamous thing!"

We can serve humanity by showing the slaves of priestly parasites that their position isn't hopeless. It's possible to live without them. In fact, it's the only way to make sure of living full, decent lives.

Down with the priestly beggars! Down with their miserable farce! Down with their strangle-hold on culture and intellectual advancement!

Up with Freethought! Up with social enlightenment! Up with truth, justice and cultural honesty! Up with the torch of reason!

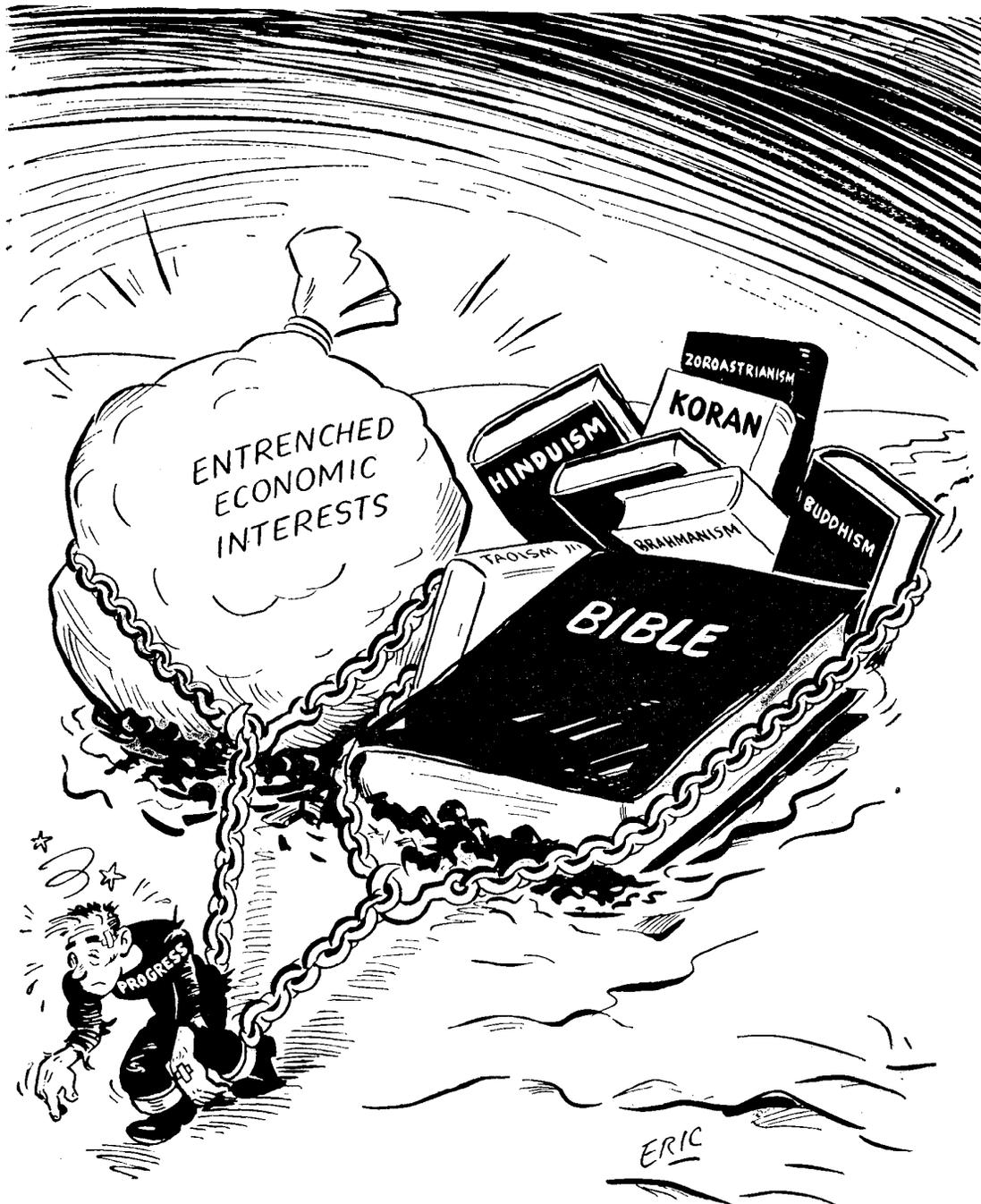


THE CHAINS OF ECONOMIC WRONGS AND MENTAL GODWEBS

James Erickson, of Minneapolis, Minn., who drew the above picture, seems to be giving poor little Mr. Progress a rough deal. He's puffing hard to go forward, but look what's holding him back. There's a load of reactionary economic traditions that make for a hard struggle to earn a living when, with the help of science, man could solve his social problems with the greatest of ease, were he of a mind to use Reason instead of bowing to outdated notions. And, in addition, he's being retarded by the heavy burdens of Supernaturalism, as expressed in the major religions. Theocratic superstitions serve to keep Mr. Progress almost in the role of Mr. Lack-of-Progress. Obscurantism serves to keep man in intellectual darkness. Here we have the situation pictured in a single, excellent cartoon—man held back by his economic and religious follies. The remedy? Mr. Progress must free himself of economic superstitions that make for poverty, unemployment, business booms and busts, preventable disease, insecurity, war, hysterical preparedness, and the like. Mr. Progress must free himself of the myths and fables of obscurantism. He must go forward to Freethought, to Intellectual Freedom. His position isn't hopeless, if only he'll use his intelligence. The information is available. The knowledge is at hand. The works of

Joseph McCabe, Clarence Darrow, Robert G. Inger-

soll, Thomas Paine, Bertrand Russell, Herbert Spencer, John Stuart Mill, and dozens of other Free-thinkers are at hand. They hold the key to intellectual emancipation. Mr. Progress must turn to them for relief; otherwise he must reconcile himself to an unending future of unrealistic, myth-laden, false, illogical notions that make a mockery of education and enlightenment. The American Freeman is dedicated to the prodigious task of breaking the two chains pictured above. It seeks to be of constructive service in the great war of human liberation, mentally and physically. This paper seeks to wipe away economic injustices and cultural Godwebs. Once the two chains are broken man will be free to go forward to tremendous achievements in civilized living and fearless truth-seeking. Mr. Progress's future isn't dim and remote, for he has it in his own power to decide—through sane political and educational action—when to throw off the chains of economic backwardness and enslavement to Supernaturalism. Let's all help give Mr. Progress a forward push. Our first task is to build up a powerful press that'll devote itself to the tasks of emancipation. Without a free, open-minded, truth-loving press, Mr. Progress can hope to make but small headway, but with the sturdy, fearless aid of such a press he can march toward new horizons. Let's help break those chains.



BRASS-CHECK PRESS IN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO SMEAR THE SOVIET UNION

For more than two years, the standard press has been echoing the anti-Russian line as demanded by Wall Street and the Catholic Church. Both are engaged in a campaign to bring on an atomic war against the Russian people. In order to prepare American public opinion for such a catastrophe—a war that neither the Russian nor American people want—every conceivable lie, every possible insult, every available trick in the art of bending the masses to the will of wily propagandists has been used to the limit. It's probable that such a brutal, inhuman crusade will fail, because Russia has nothing to gain by going to war with the U. S., and the best interests of the U. S. would be served by a policy of peace and friendship toward the Russian people.

Russia isn't as bad as the capitalistic press and prostituted radio paint her. Nobody could be that bad. It's possible that the instigators of reaction have overplayed their hands, with the result that the war-hysteria will subside and our people will be given an opportunity to study ways to become friendly instead of belligerent.

I speak as a non-Communist. I have never been a Communist. My hundreds of articles on the Russian question prove beyond question that my motive is peace and understanding. I have said again and again that I am not a Communist, that I want to help teach the American people the facts of the situation.

I've never even hinted that Russia's economic and political experiments or permanent policies should be duplicated in this country. I believe that Socialism will come to America—perhaps after another serious depression or two—but it'll be along democratic lines. We must let Russia work out her own economic salvation, for that means peace for the world. At the same time, we must tackle our own problems along different lines, for we should trust democratic methods for social changes at home.

I consider it an important part of my job as writer, editor and publisher to expose the lies of the capitalistic editors with regard to the Soviet Union, but I can't go into my various arguments in this brief editorial. Interested readers should read my pieces about Russia and decide for themselves whether the picture is nearer the real truth.

My motive is a simple one. I merely want to bring what seems to be the truth to my readers. I don't say that Russia isn't subject to criticism. I have, in numerous articles, told about Russian conditions that I don't like. There's plenty of room for honest, sincere, candid criticism. But there's no room for a vicious, bloodthirsty, war-mongering, hate-breeding campaign that's intended to drive our people to hysteria merely because Wall Street and Vatican interests feel that they'll be more secure if they can prevail on the U. S. to drop 75 or 100 atomic-bombs on Russian cities, thereby killing perhaps 50,000,000 men, women and children.

A campaign of truth-telling will best serve the American people, who, in the end, will surely show their fairness and generosity. The people here are all right. The trouble is with the leaders who control the media of communication. That can be countered by a campaign to build up a truth-telling press. This is one of my pet subjects, about which I've written hundreds of times, but I must return to it again and again because I believe it's of prime importance.

Without an independent, truth-seeking, radical, progressive press the future will be melancholy indeed. We who love liberty, equality and justice have our work cut out for us. We must combine our efforts to build a free press that will be able to bring the truth to the American masses and thereby break the monopoly of the capitalistic press. This can be done if believers in economic and cultural progress will make efforts to build such an institution. I consider it a matter of great importance and intend to keep repeating my little sermon until a fair-sized body of readers decide to make sacrifices of time and money in order to place a free and honest press on a sound, secure basis.

The capitalistic press will tell fewer lies when the American people find there are powerful papers available which believe in putting the mirror up to nature instead of distorting and falsifying nature.

The capitalistic press lies about everything it dislikes or fears. We have a duty to build a press that'll take the brass-check press apart and show what makes it behave the way it does. We can then show how its propaganda is jammed with lies, distortions and appeals to unreason and hysteria.



THE GODITES ARE ON THE RUN BEFORE FREETHOUGHT

Freethought is winning its world revolution—without armies, without organizations, without endowments, without dues, without taxes, without hired spokesmen. Freethought is growing stronger year by year. Where only a few decades ago, the religionists were in the saddle and riding a believing, ignorant humanity, today we find the masses growing more and more immune to the arguments of the priests, preachers, pastors, monks, friars, bishops, and the rest of the parasitic crew.

It's a bloodless revolution.

It's the triumph of the world's mightiest force—reason and truth.

No one is compelled to become a Freethinker. No one is compelled to give lip-service to something he secretly abhors. No one is asked to believe what doesn't appeal to reason. Therein lies the strength of Freethought, and therein lies the explanation of why the Godites—the Theists—are on the run everywhere before the growing power of advancing scientific knowledge.

During the past few years hundreds of millions of people have been rescued from the grip of religious tyranny throughout the world.

This magnificent victory has been won with the power of facts, of verifiable knowledge, of science.

This victory—which is to grow stronger with the years to come—is the result of printed and spoken words. Hundreds of millions of books and pamphlets have been distributed throughout the world in which the philosophy of Freethought has been given free and candid expression. This work has brought rich results.

Our theistic enemies have everything but the truth, which explains why they are retreating all down the line. They have seemingly limitless treasures, and yet they cannot strengthen their melancholy cause.

Freethinkers have found the answer to the powers of darkness and obscurantism—the printed word.

If we want Freethought to become still stronger we should work together to establish a more powerful Freethought press. We should see to it that rationalistic literature gets the distribution it deserves.

The knowledge, and the skill to present that knowledge, are here in abundance. All that remains for us to do is to give wider distribution to that knowledge.

The case against Godism is overwhelming. It can't stand up to the logic of Freethought.

You are asked to help in this best of causes—the

spread of enlightenment to the victims of supernaturalism and superstition.

There's no blood on the hands of Freethought.

It has never resorted to an Inquisition.

It has never taught its principles by means of the rack and the screw.

It has never burned any of its enemies at the stake.

It scorns such tactics. It leaves them to the organized religions, which in the past never hesitated to burn, murder and destroy in the name of God.

Freethought will yet win the world, because its goal is right, just, and truth-loving.

Freethought places no shackles on the wrists of the people.

It breaks chains.

It frees minds.

It opens eyes.

It broadens the capacity for knowledge and wisdom.

Freethought is truly the hope of the world, for once the gods are driven out of men's minds there's immediately room for the light of truth.

Take men's eyes from the realm of the spooks and you have men who are ready to tackle this world's problems, apply science to its institutions and, in time, solve our social problems, including those of poverty, preventible disease, imperialism, war, and mass exploitation.

People who are Freethinkers believe in making the world a better place for future generations.

It's easy for Freethinkers to transfer their activities to immediate problems, because this world is the only one they know about. And once they apply science to society's evils it's certain that they will go the way of man's other enemies—superstition and supernaturalism.

Freethinkers everywhere should take heart.

The future is theirs.

But they shouldn't rest back, because of this, and do nothing.

There's much they can do to advance the wonderful cause of Freethought.

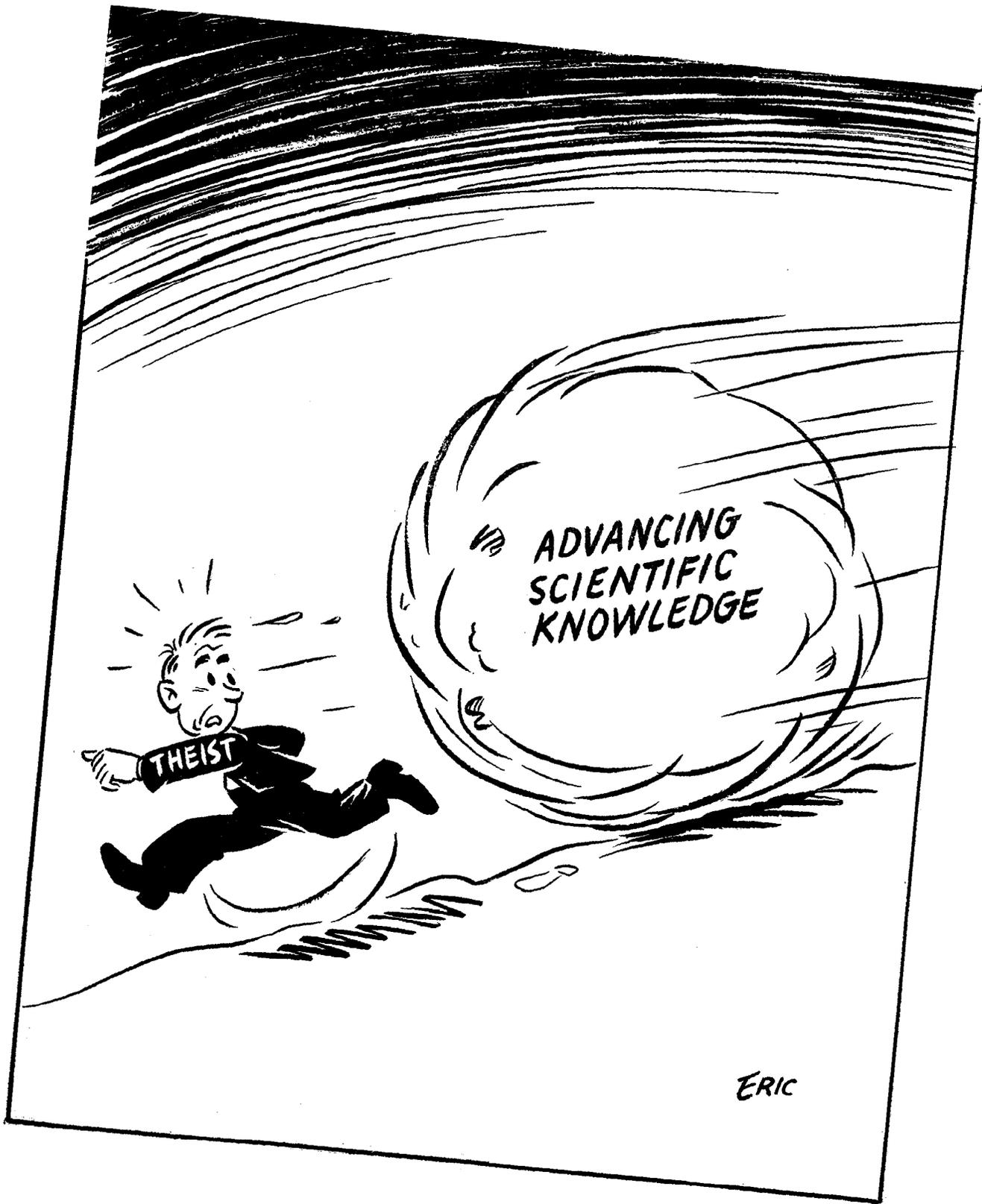
Let's begin with the strengthening of the Freethought press.

You and I have jobs to do.

Let's get to work.

We have the enemy on the run.

Let's finish the job by freeing men's minds of all forms of obscurantism and mysticism.



ERIC

THE DRY BONES OF SUPERNATURALISM MUST BE KEPT ENTHRONED

There was a time when the standard press would permit Freethinkers like Robert G. Ingersoll to discuss critically the claims of revealed religion and the absurdities of obscurantism. But those days are gone. All means of mass-communication today are dedicated to the melancholy task of making religion seem vital, alive and significant. The reason is simple: Capitalism fears for the future of its economic powers, and feels that religion is a powerfully effective weapon to keep the workers' minds befuddled and thereby more easily chained to the present system of mass exploitation. As our cartoonist, James Erickson, of Minneapolis, Minn., shows clearly above, Hollywood, the standard newspapers and magazines, and the blatant, blaring radio are content to humble themselves before the cobwebby, dry, rattling bones of churchianity. It's felt that a pious worker means a worker who'll readily embrace capitalistic ideas. Hollywood, which makes heroes of all clergymen, during recent years has afflicted us with a flood of sickening films in which the Catholic Church and her parasitical priests are glorified. No movie is permitted to even hint at the slightest criticism of obscurantism; that would mean a boost for Freethought, which won't be tolerated so long as our economic masters insist that superstition and religious ideology are necessary in these days when the workers in far-flung places threaten to think for themselves. The standard press has forgotten that there's such a thing as a case against religion. Thousands of brass-check editorial writers agree that the dry bones of religion can be used to club theological dogmas into the heads of the masses, thereby making their exploitation easier of achievement. As for the radio, what does one hear along religious lines except the worst and most stupid phases of Fundamentalism? Religious ideas that were demolished by great scholars centuries ago are presented by arrogant, militant, Bible-thumping parsons as so many agreed, accepted, sacred truths. The most reactionary, pious, intolerant, stiff-necked, puritanical, jigoted, hate-breeding, culture-hating sermons are considered the only kind fit for radio audiences. So far as the radio is concerned, liberal theories of re-

ligion, let alone Freethought and Skepticism, simply don't exist. It's comforting to realize that the lower the movies, press and radio go in their abject surrender to a degrading obscurantism, the people respond less and less to their appeals. A growing section of the population simply refuses to respond to appeals that stink of insincerity and sacred bunk. We who still believe in freedom of speech must take steps to counteract the poisonous propaganda of the movies, the standard press and the radio. We must begin with the printing press. Our immediate duty is to build a tremendously effective press that will reach the masses with the truths of Freethought, Agnosticism, Materialism, and the other weapons that Rationalists have evolved in their planned war on superstition and intellectual medievalism and reaction. Each free-minded, enlightened reader has a duty to do something constructive in the campaign to establish such a press. There are many ways to help. It's a duty to find out. The information is easily available. Let's dedicate ourselves to that most wonderful of efforts—the enlightenment of the victims of the prostitutes of the movies, press and radio. Religion no longer rests its full case on the pulpit. It knows its power through the pulpiteers has waned alarmingly. In England, we're told by competent sources, hardly more than 10 percent of the people take religion seriously. Since the pulpit has lost its appeal, the obscurantists have turned to more powerful and effective media—the movies, press and radio. But even here they're doomed to failure. The people will not be propagandized into accepting ideas that belong in the 13th century. By building a free-spirited press of our own, we libertarians will prepare the way for true enlightenment and intellectual emancipation. You readers have the power to undo all the scheming of the theologians and their rich, fawning lackeys. Soldiers are needed in the liberation war of mankind. Will you do your share by making possible a press that'll be strong enough to expose the reactionary aims of the three tools of superstition pictured above in Mr. Erickson's good cartoon?



UNCLE SAM'S MONEY BAGS WON'T STOP COMMUNISM

Communism is an idea. It's really a simple idea. It's so simple it can be written out on a piece of cigarette paper. When Marx and Engels drew up the epoch-making Communist Manifesto 100 years ago, they outlined the philosophy and program of Communism, the historical background for the movement towards Socialism, a list of immediate social reforms, and the case against Capitalism—all in a small pamphlet. That manifesto shook the world to its foundations.

Interpretations of Communism appeared in time, because there were points regarding aims and methods that needed to be worked out as practical propositions. Marx himself gave several versions of just one point—how to bring about the social order in which the means of wealth production, distribution and exchange shall belong to the people who do the work of the world.

Marx said that where there was tyranny and no traditions of true republicanism and real democracy, the social change would have to come by means of violence. He had in mind Czarism, medievalism, semi-feudalism, entrenched clericalism, and like social or governmental conditions. But where the people had political freedom, where they could speak, write and meet with some degree of freedom, where rights were guaranteed and respected—in such an environment (meaning countries like England, the U. S. A., etc.), social changes could be made by virtue of the fact that the people legally registered their willingness to accept such a program.

It seems to be the slower way of getting the job done, but taking the long view it's really the faster way than by means of violence.

Violence engenders new forms of violence.
Illegality encourages illegality.

Above all, violence usually serves as an invitation for the Man on Horseback to take charge, and when his dictatorship gets firmly established, reaction sets in and the movement for social progress is hurled back decades or even generations.

Socialism is growing. The world is coming around to Socialism. But there are various roads one may travel.

In the U. S. S. R., the road is a dictatorship of the Communist Party, with Stalin and the members of the Politburo carrying out the policies of the party dictatorship.

It's inaccurate to call Stalin a dictator. His is the most powerful voice in the dictatorship of the party, and that party represents only a tiny minority of the people of the Soviet Union.

On the other hand, there are the democratic Socialists who insist they'll have none of the Kremlin's methods. Democratic Socialism is opposed to Russia's form of Socialism. In fact, it's denied that there's any real Socialism in Russia.

Democratic Socialism objects to Russia's program for a number of reasons. First, it's undemocratic in that a minority rules a vast country with a population of about 180,000,000 people. There's only one political party. There's only one party line, and anyone who questions or even doubts that line is guilty

of a form of treason. The means of communication are controlled by the ruling group. The industries are run from the top, not from the bottom. The people themselves have nothing to say about working conditions, wages, prices, social benefits, and the like.

Western Europe is socializing its large-scale industries, particularly in England and the Scandinavian countries.

The so-called Communists in China are really moderate land reformers. They're wresting the land from a small class of landlords and opening new avenues of prosperity for China's hundreds of millions of land and small-industrial workers. But the ideals of Socialism inspire them.

Capitalistic America, alarmed at the spectacle, tries to answer this tremendous upheaval by the simple expedient of erecting a retaining wall made of dollars. What a pitiful, naive, inadequate notion!

Uncle Sam's dollars will be welcomed whenever and wherever they're handed out, but there's a limit to dollars. And when the dollars are gone the idea still remains. That's why it's childish to try to stem an economic idea with Uncle Sam's money bags.

True, America has a lot of money, but not enough to stop an idea that's reached its growth and is ready to emerge.

Money can't kill an idea. It can only deflect a few from the idea while they make use of that money. The idea itself remains untouched and unharmed.

An idea can be defeated only by a better idea. Money bags, bayonets, atomic bombs, long-range fighting planes—all are able to either buy a few holders of an idea or kill some of those who hold it. The idea itself can't be killed, except by the strength of another and better idea.

If Capitalism, as envisaged by American ideas of "Free Enterprise," is better than dictatorial Communism or democratic Socialism, it'll win out without its money bags. It'll conquer because it can take better care of the economic and cultural needs of the masses.

If Capitalism can solve the problems of booms and busts, of tremendous waves of unemployment, of military aggression, of cultural and intellectual oppression by theological and other reactionary groups, and advance the interests of the workers, it'll win and hold the world without vulgarly resting its case on great piles of money bags. As Victor Hugo said, there's nothing more terrible than an idea whose day has come.

Dropping atomic bombs on scores of millions of people who reject Wall Street's system of social organization won't dispose of the idea.

Spending new billions of dollars won't long stop the spread of an idea.

If Capitalism under liberal conditions is better than a Communistic dictatorship (and I think it is) or better than a system of democratic Socialism (which I don't think it is) then it can state its case on a piece of cigarette paper and feel secure about its future. But if the opposing idea is the answer to the people's demands and ideals, all the force of bayonets and dollars won't stop it.



TWO PLUTOCRATIC PARTIES BETTER THAN ONE

Capitalism is too shrewd to rest its case on one political party. A single organization for Capitalism would soon give the game away. The people would get politically wise. It's smarter to confuse the issue, complicate things, and remain in power longer by hitching up both the GOP elephant and the Democratic Donkey to Big Business' chariot. At the moment, the Democrats are doing the more effective pulling for the system of private ownership of the large-scale industries and public utilities. But when they tend to muff the job, the Republicans will be handy for the fresh chore of taking over the Government and running it in such a way that Capitalism will be sure of another lease on life. That game has been working successfully for generations. Tweedledee and Tweedledum go through their regular mock battles, put on wonderful exhibitions of political shadow-boxing, and end up in control of the Government. Just which it happens to be doesn't make a lot of difference to Wall Street. It makes a whale of a difference to the masses of industrial workers, farmers, white collar employes, and the like, but they're still to show signs of waking up. The masses act on the theory that if things don't go right the remedy is to kick the rascals out—and install another set of rascals. The political programs of both old parties are virtually the same. Both believe that the people should let their economic masters retain private ownership of the large-scale industries, insurance companies, banks, power plants, railroads, systems of communication, and so on. They call that the glorious system of Free Enterprise. But this game won't go on forever. A day of reckoning is sure to come. And when the masses see through the ancient ruse, they'll come forward

with their own political organization, their own platform, their own candidates, and their own press to bring home to the masses the economic truths of democratic Socialism. That's what the people's party of the future will stand for—democratic Socialism—the socialization of the large-scale industries, with democratic controls so that the evils of dictatorship will be avoided. The people's political party of the future won't outlaw small businesses or one-family farms. They'll let competing businesses remain untouched by the movement to socialize production and distribution. Only the facilities and utilities that are monopolistic or approach monopoly proportions will be socialized. Get that point clearly understood, for the capitalistic press likes to give the masses the impression that democratic Socialism aims to socialize everything—and that isn't true. Mention was made above that in addition to building a new political movement, the masses will also have available a free, independent, truth-telling press. That's an important element in the situation, and it happens to be a fact that the job of building such a press must be done now. First the press; later the new political movement. And as the radical press grows, the movement for industrial and political emancipation will grow in proportion. That's the key to the situation. We all have a pioneering job to do—to build a powerful, independent, free-spoken press that will work to lead the workers in the direction of democratic Socialism. Let's all pull together now and get this preliminary job done on a grand scale. Let's turn constructive and erect a truth-telling institution that will expose for all time the farce of Capitalism's two political fronts, the Republican and Democratic parties.



"HEAVENLY DAYS, HOW HE'S GROWING"

Clericalism, which seeks to maintain and further ecclesiastical power and influence, is shocked by the galloping progress being made by the wise, old owl of Secularism, which rejects every form of religious faith and worship, and accepts only the facts and influences derived from the present life. Secularism places man above Godism, the material elements above the mythical notions of a soul, immortality, a hereafter, and other theological dogmas.

Out of 150,000,000 people in our country, more than half live their lives away from the influences of churches and clericalism in general. This is a tremendous compliment to the age. It proves that the people are gradually—almost noiselessly—freeing themselves of what my friend, William J. Fielding, calls the shackles of the supernatural.

The churches used to be crowded. Today they are half empty. Tomorrow they will be two-thirds empty. A day after, they'll be three-fourths empty. And when Secularism finally wins its glorious battle against dogmatism, bigotry and superstition, man will be ready to meet life as a realist who says that this life is the only one he knows about and that it's the essence of good sense to strive to make this life as sane, happy and constructive as humanly possible.

The Secularist knows of no mansions in the skies. He's busy trying to build decent homes in this world.

There was a time when Clericalism could use force and the other powers of the State to compel unbelievers to go to church. Those days are gone. Now, Clericalism can only implore, pray, or threaten dire punishment in the world to come, a world about which the wise owl of Secularism knows nothing and about which it knows the clerical interests are equally uninformed.

The growing indifference of the masses to religious notions is the most exasperating fact facing Clericalism.

Secularism makes for unoccupied pews, and that means reduced influence and finances for the clerical

forces. This is all to the good. Clericalism has too long been one of the race's worst enemies.

Clericalism means organized and entrenched ignorance.

Clericalism means the neglect of worldly matters to the enhancement of the domains of the Ethereal Esquire, where we can enter only when the priests give the sign, for they claim to hold the keys to heaven.

The promises of heaven no longer appeal to the secularistic masses.

The threats of hell no longer make them shudder and fall to their knees.

Secularism will continue to grow in strength and prestige until men and women will be able to emerge into the sunlight of Freethought, without submitting to the humiliating surrender of their reason to the clerical elements that thrive on continued mass ignorance and ignoble fears.

Freethought and Secularism offer the people progress, confidence in their growing strength, and ideals that are workable, constructive and sane.

Freethought has no ulterior motives. It has no designs on mankind. It asks only the freedom to examine religious ideology, criticize it, and reject it openly and candidly.

Freethought rests its case on reason, sanity, and humanitarianism.

Freethought demands the right to present its case to the dupes of religious institutions, the motive being to free them and make possible tremendous advances in the realms of culture, education, material strength, and enlightenment.

Freethought is winning because its position is sound. It knows what a fraud clericalism is, and it knows how to expose its pretensions and its aspiration to dominate our lives.

Freethought helps make Secularism invulnerable.

Let's strive to make Freethought stronger than ever before. Freethought is the best of causes. It has never failed humanity. It never will.



THIS HOG ALWAYS HAS AN APPETITE

Cardinal Spellman is spearheading the drive to make the American people support parochial schools as well as public schools. He insists that the Catholic Church is politically powerful enough to put over such a program. The cardinal—who hasn't shown himself to be any too bright and who writes poetry that carries the odor of a too-old egg—started off with a brazen, arrogant, unfair, insulting attack on Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt. Because she had written a piece in her newspaper column in which she said she believed in strict separation of Church and State and insisted that if Catholics want their own schools they must be willing to pay for them, Cardinal Spellman called her an anti-Catholic bigot, an unworthy mother, and an enemy of everything that's fine and decent. It went beyond an attack on Mrs. Roosevelt. It was an insult aimed at the American people.

The parochial hog has a craving for an unlimited diet of American dollars, but here we must join hands to prevent such a violation of our Constitution. No one denies Cardinal Spellman's Church the right to run schools of its own, but the least its supporters can do is to carry the financial burden and not try to swing it to the shoulders of American taxpayers who are already paying the costs of our public schools.

Cardinal Spellman's parochial schools are notoriously backward. Statistic issued by both Catholic clergymen and non-Catholic students of social conditions prove that the Catholic parochial schools produce more criminals in proportion to the number of students than do the public schools. The parochial schools are breeding spots of crime, delinquency, superstition, bigotry, racism, and all sorts of social evils. Instead of being educational institutions, parochial schools are really sources of social backwardness. For example, *Who's Who* shows that the least number of celebrities are admitted to *Who's Who* from parochial schools, being as bad as or worse than the Seventh Day Adventists, Hill Country Holy Rollers, Shoutin' Baptists, and other religious groups that appeal to the lowest standards of intellectuality in the community.

And yet, these citadels of ignorance, superstition,

crime and vice are to be given special consideration by the Federal government and their programs are to be financed, in part at least, by a country that's supposed to be committed to the principle that church and state shall go their separate ways, neither to interfere in the affairs of the other.

Those who appreciate the country's fine tradition of separation of Church and State will let it be known that not a dollar of the taxpayers' money is to go to the support of anything but public schools.

Cardinal Spellman can't honestly claim this discriminates against Catholics, because they have the right to avail themselves of the facilities of our superior and more socially useful public schools. If they prefer to take their children out of the public schools and set up their own parochial schools then they can at least pay their own expenses and not look to the American public to put out money for two kinds of schools.

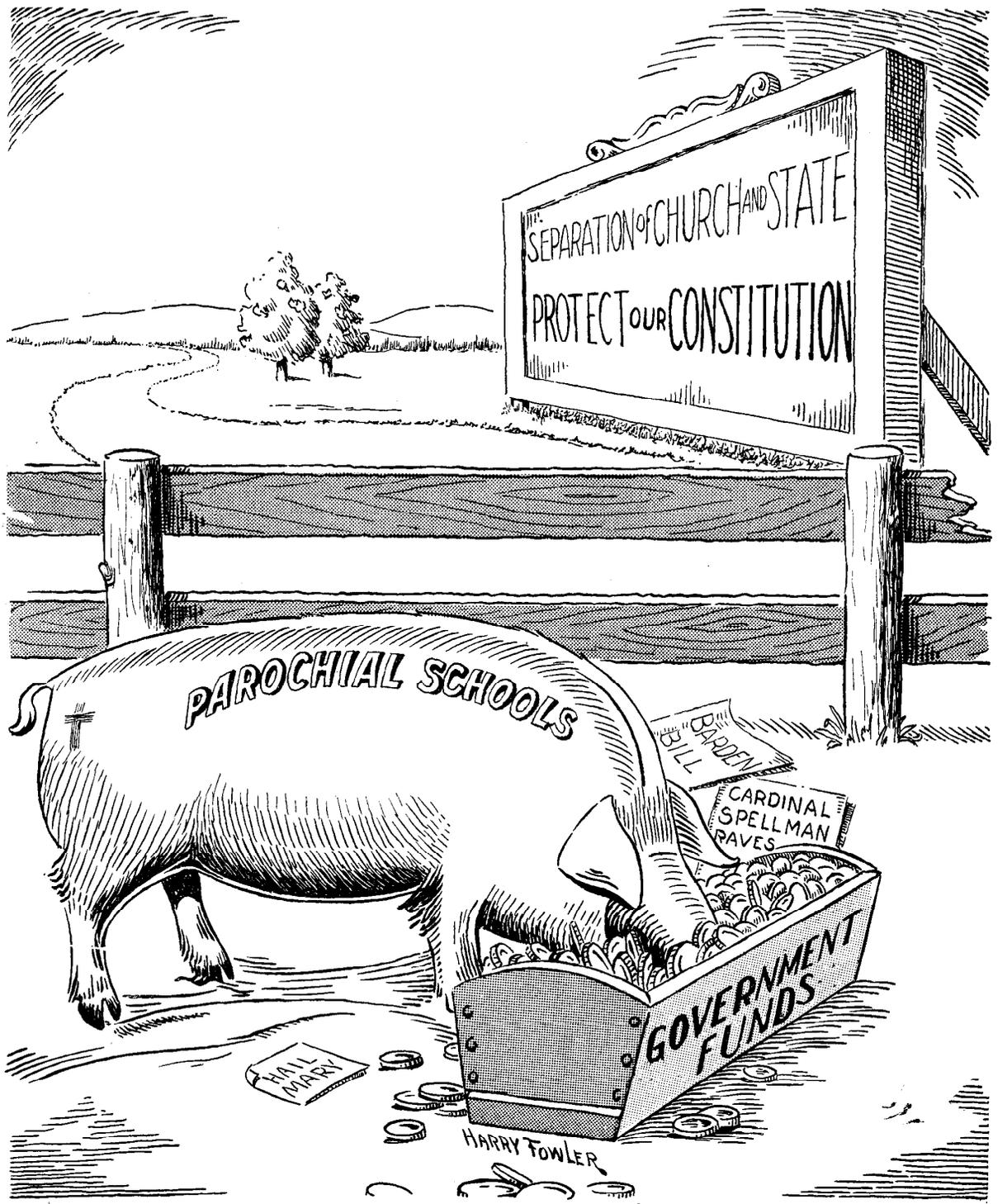
There should be only one way to use public money in support of education, and that's through our public schools. The moment we begin financing Catholic parochial schools we'll soon be asked to grant funds to Lutheran, Jewish, Methodist, Christian Science, Ethical Culture, and other schools. In fact, since there are about 600 separate religious organizations in the U. S., it would mean, in the end, that 600 different kinds of schools could turn to the Federal government for money. Those without schools today could quickly organize their own schools in order to be entitled to a share of the graft. The whole business is bad from every possible angle and shouldn't be tolerated, no matter how hysterical Cardinal Spellman prefers to act.

Keep the religious parasites out of the public treasury.

Money for education should go only to the public schools.

Let the schools of priests and nuns get their money from their own dupes, and not from the American people.

Keep the parochial hog out of the dollar-trough! Let's say, with Voltaire: "Crush the infamous thing!" (*Ecrasez l'infame!*)



THE PLUMED KNIGHT OF JOURNALISM---THE AMERICAN FREEMAN

It is the custom to purvey and promote our silly sacred institutions, but The Freeman is puncturing them one by one.

In The Freeman's opinion, nothing is too "holy" to bear inspection, analysis, criticism and, if deserved, opposition.

The Freeman insists on asserting its right to free discussion, regardless of how hush-hush some subjects may be.

Our timid Casper Milquetoasts say that a free press is all right, if—there's an if—it doesn't go too far and tread on the sensitive corns of ecclesiasticism and the touchy unions of economic privilege. This notion The Freeman rejects in toto.

The Freeman demands social democracy, and fights for it.

This paper supports Freethought, which means that it asks its readers to apply the rule of reason to all intellectual, religious and theological situations.

It hates bunk, and being a tireless, fearless debunker, it goes searching for bunkistic ideas and

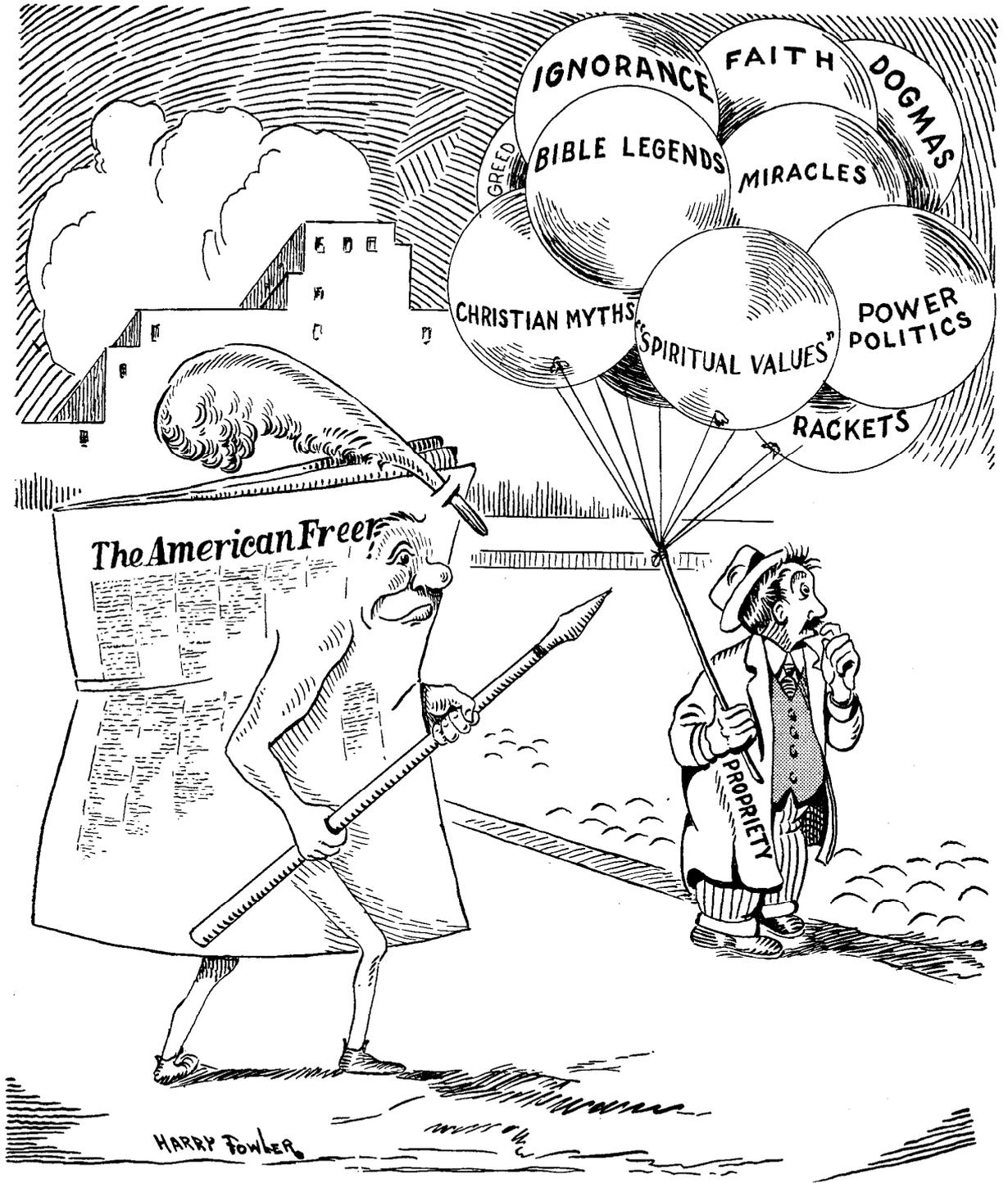
pricks them with laughter, satire and irony.

It believes that civilization can become far more progressive if it were freed of the loads of religious myths, legends, miracles, dogmas, spiritual "realities," and the other backward prejudices that go with faith.

It fights intolerance, racism, social injustice, mass exploitation, imperialism, and economic tyranny because it wants to see a world free to go forward to loftier planes of existence.

It sees the realizable vision of mankind freed of ignorance, superstition and supernaturalism. And seeing such a worthy end, it works to bring that happy state to fruition.

The Freeman is a militant paper, but it uses only civilized methods—the weapons of discussion, free controversy, academic freedom, free speech and free press. It never calls for the suppression of its enemies. It leaves such methods to its ignoble enemies, who, when unable to meet one's arguments, yell for the cops.



THE OLD CRY--THE PERSECUTOR SCREAMS "I AM PERSECUTED"

The Catholic Church always has been a source of persecution, intolerance, bigotry and hatred of enlightenment. It's that way now. It'll always be that way. It can never change because its nature is bred into its very marrow after 1,500 years of cruel, bloody hounding of every quality that goes to build a real civilization based on freedom, free expression, culture, and humanism.

The great 19th century historian, Lecky, studied the ghastly record of murders committed throughout the centuries by the Inquisition and reported that his survey permitted him to estimate that 10,000,000 men, women and children were murdered by the forces of theocracy.

Inquisitors roamed the streets, roads and byways of almost every European country in search for heresy—and always found it.

It was common for a fiendish, sadistic Inquisitor to find 50 or 100 heretics in a single village and send them to the stake.

"Fry the heretics and Jews!" was the cry.

In a matter of about two nights, the church persecutors in one place caused more than 30,000 deaths—so wonderful and glorious a sight was it that the Pope ordered a special medal struck to commemorate what was to become known as St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre.

Wherever the hierarchy ruled, there strode death, misery, torture, ignorance, and superstition.

The Dark Ages sent Europe into black despair for more than 500 years—and it was all the result of church domination.

When the Black International ruled Europe, humanity lived under the lash, the threat of the dungeon, the flames, the gallows, and religious wars of extermination.

Yes, Rome's past is bloody. It reeks with the stench of human blood.

What melancholy irony to hear such theocrats cry "Persecution!" when their cardinals and archbishops conspire to betray countries in which efforts are being made to put an end to economic and age-old

intellectual tyrannies. Mighty members of the hierarchy violate the country's laws by dealing in black market transactions, shipping money unlawfully to Rome, and in other ways undermining the new states. They shriek their loudest when the new governments refuse to make financial contributions to the priesthood, instead taking the position that Church and State should be separated and kept that way.

The new regimes say that the church should get its finances from its followers, and not from a secular-minded state.

That's the real reason why the hierarchy cries, "Persecution!"

It's heresy of the worst kind for a government to order its church leaders to raise money for their salaries from their dupes and not from the taxpayers in general.

That provokes international repercussions. Throughout the world the persecutors raise the cry of "Persecution!" but the facts show there's no persecution of religion, once its leaders obey a country's laws and cease conspiring to dig their hands into the public treasury.

The walls are in vain. Man is moving forward.

There's been enough of church meddling in public affairs.

The entire world will come, in time, to the position that church and state must go their own ways.

We have fought that battle here and won part of the fight, but even in America—where our Constitution calls for strict separation—we find the theocrats in positions to influence our supposedly secularized government—Federal, State and Municipal—to finance and in other ways buttress church projects.

This tendency must be fought.

The Constitution must be sustained.

We must strive to bring about a condition in which Church and State will stand by themselves.

That's one of the roads to peace, progress and security.



FREETHOUGHT IS CONQUERING MIND-CRIPPLING FORCES OF RELIGION

Bishop Beerbelch, the Rev. Fiddle, D. D., and Priscilla Prissy-Pratt are working hard to save what's left of Christianity—or rather, of all religion. They are giving their all—but their all isn't enough. Civilization is on the march. The brain cancer known as supernaturalism has lost hundreds of millions of believers during the past few decades.

Humanity is learning that religion is one of the chains intended to keep the masses in subjection to the priestly class of parasites and misleaders.

Enlightenment has risen like a tide, and all the forces of obscurantism, superstition and blind faith can't keep it from washing puny religious enemies into eternal oblivion.

Science has undermined religious ideology.

Evolution has made a joke of Genesis.

Freethought has taught men to look to the authority of reason for enlightenment, and not to the authority of a sacred book or a divine figure.

Rationalism has taught men to reject all things that don't appeal to reason.

The theocrats are howling, but the waves continue to rise. They are trying to sweep back the tide. They're doomed. The future will know a different kind of civilization—one that's free of all theological influences.

The future belongs to Freethought.

The forces of reaction know that religious ideologies are useful in their war to retain economic privileges. That explains why the mass-exploiters make such a pretense of piety. It's all hypocrisy, of course, for they're really too intelligent to believe the holy mumbo-jumbo they mouth as they roll their eyes heavenward.

That's all a front. It's intended to impress the yokels, the theory being that a pious people will be

more amenable to the designs of mass exploiters. But here again the tide is against them. The tide of civilization rises from day to day. The opposition can have no lasting effect.

Freethought has won a bloodless victory. It hasn't persecuted anyone in order to advance the ideals of intellectual emancipation.

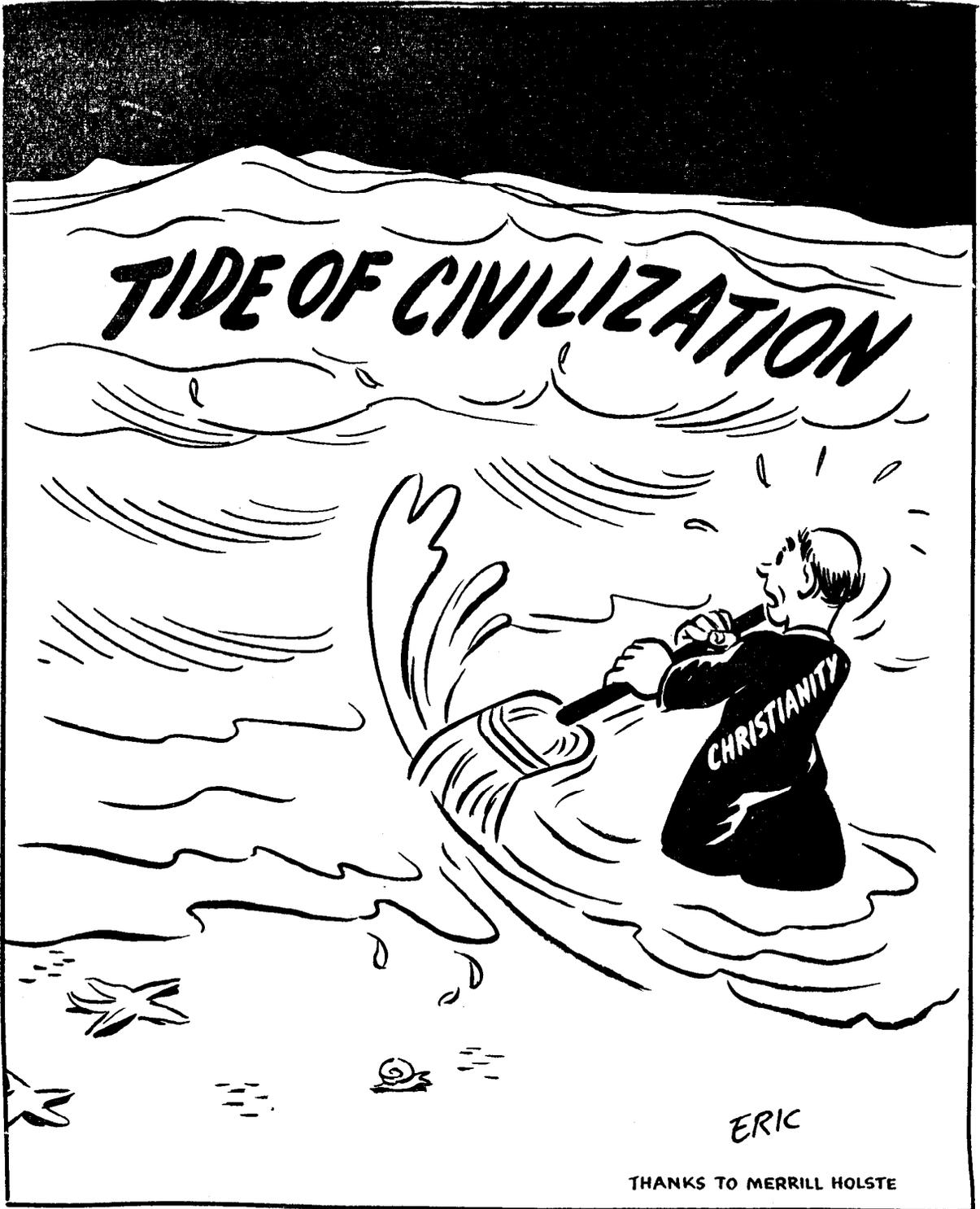
No Inquisition helped give new strength to Freethought. Its strength came from the power of its logic and the strength of its truisms. Its criticisms of the religionists were devastatingly effective, with the result that the theologians everywhere are in retreat, despite the fact that they receive valuable privileges from the press, movies and radio, where the worst expressions of religious ideology are given serious consideration.

Freethinkers mustn't stop to celebrate. Their enemies are ever on the alert to establish movements of a reactionary nature so that they may recapture their old-time powers.

Freethinkers have a splendid opportunity to serve civilization by giving wider circulation to the ideas of Freethought. This can be done through the distribution of Freethought pamphlets and the strengthening of Freethought periodicals by bringing them larger bodies of subscribers. There's still much to be done.

The bright future of a civilization founded on Freethought can be brought to fruition sooner through cooperative efforts in the spread of enlightenment among the portions of the masses that show signs of being knowledge-hungry.

The tide of civilization indicates eventual eradication of religious dogmas and myths. That promises a happier, sounder, brighter, more cheerful future. Help hasten the day.



ERIC

THANKS TO MERRILL HOLSTE

CHAINED TO HIS SAVAGE, PRIMITIVE ORIGINS

The most solemn, pretentious, pompous Man of God holding forth in the most ornate House of God can't escape his past. He uses educated speech, but the ideas belong back in the dim days when civilization first fought to break with its crude, barbarous beginnings.

High-toned verbiage comes rolling forth, but the essence is what the man-apes believed. First was Fear. The barbarian feared the dark, the cold, the mysterious. He feared the thunder and he feared death. Fear became the foundation on which primitive man built his religious ideas. He feared a stern, implacable, cruel Father of All. The modern religionist uses Fear as a part of his psychological equipment to impress and control the masses.

The savage saw his reflection in the water and assumed there was a spirit world. The modern priest uses the myth of the soul as one of his greatest means of profit.

The savage saw his shadow and concluded that it was his spirit. This also serves modern clericalism.

The savage saw the images of dead people in his dreams, so he concluded that the body does not die at death but lives on forever in a spirit world. The theocrats have built on this notion of Immortality, but basically it has no sounder factual support than that which came from the crude, ignorant brains of savages.

Religionists are chained to their past. They can't shake off the ideas of primitive men who shivered in cold, dark caves and dreaded what an angry god might hold in store for them.

As men began to use reason instead of imagination, religion began to weaken. When the entire human family belonged back with the primitives, the religious impulse was accepted almost unanimously. But this changed with the growth of inquiry, the spirit of skepticism, the courage to ask questions of those who claimed to know all the answers.

As knowledge and culture grew, religion declined. The retreat of the religionists was slow at first, but during recent generations the decline has been rapid because of the astonishing growth of independent, realistic, scientific thinking. Religion never was weaker psychologically than it is now, because man never was more advanced intellectually than he is today. As knowledge grows—which will surely happen—religion will retreat still further into the dark recesses of the past, until clericalism literally joins its primitive, crude, cruel, savage sources in obscurity—a condition that'll be all to the good.

This means, of course, that the future belongs to Freethought. The strength of Freethought has been growing at the same pace as man's capacity for thought has been growing. The reason Freethought will be all-powerful tomorrow is because the man of tomorrow will be as an intellectual giant compared to the thinking mechanisms of those living in the present.

Freethought is the sun-drenched philosophy of tomorrow. Theism is the mysticism of the primitive past. As Theism slips into complete decay, Freethought will emerge as the reigning system of philosophy. Freethought is a progressive force. It rests its case on reason, sanity, education, enlightenment, civilization.

Clericalism, true to its vicious, destructive past, has rested its case most of the time on sheer force. When it had complete control, in the Dark Ages, it terrorized mankind into accepting its dogmas. It resorted to fire, sword, torture. Gradually, thinking men rebelled against this horrible and infamous thing. The greater the degree of progress the greater the decline of religious ruthlessness. Today, in most civilized countries, the voice of the priest is no longer supported by the powers of destruction. This means that the future is bright, that the priests, in time, won't even be voices, for the people will be too intelligent to even listen to their rubbish let alone be terrorized by their threats of eternal punishment.

Rationalism doesn't rest its case on force. It appeals to reason. It has no blood on its hands. It has no dungeons, no gallows, no stakes, no racks, no excommunication, no condemnation to the everlasting fires of hell. It speaks only in the accents of culture, enlightenment and education.

Freethought, in time, will liberate even the priests and free them from the chains that hold them to their savage, primitive origins. That's one of the grand things about Freethought. It aims to liberate even its enemies. It has nothing in store for the world but things that are good, decent, and progressive. Freethinkers are true friends to man—all people, including the priests who today live off the ignorance of the masses, because even the priests will be given opportunities to serve humanity usefully, constructively and sanely.

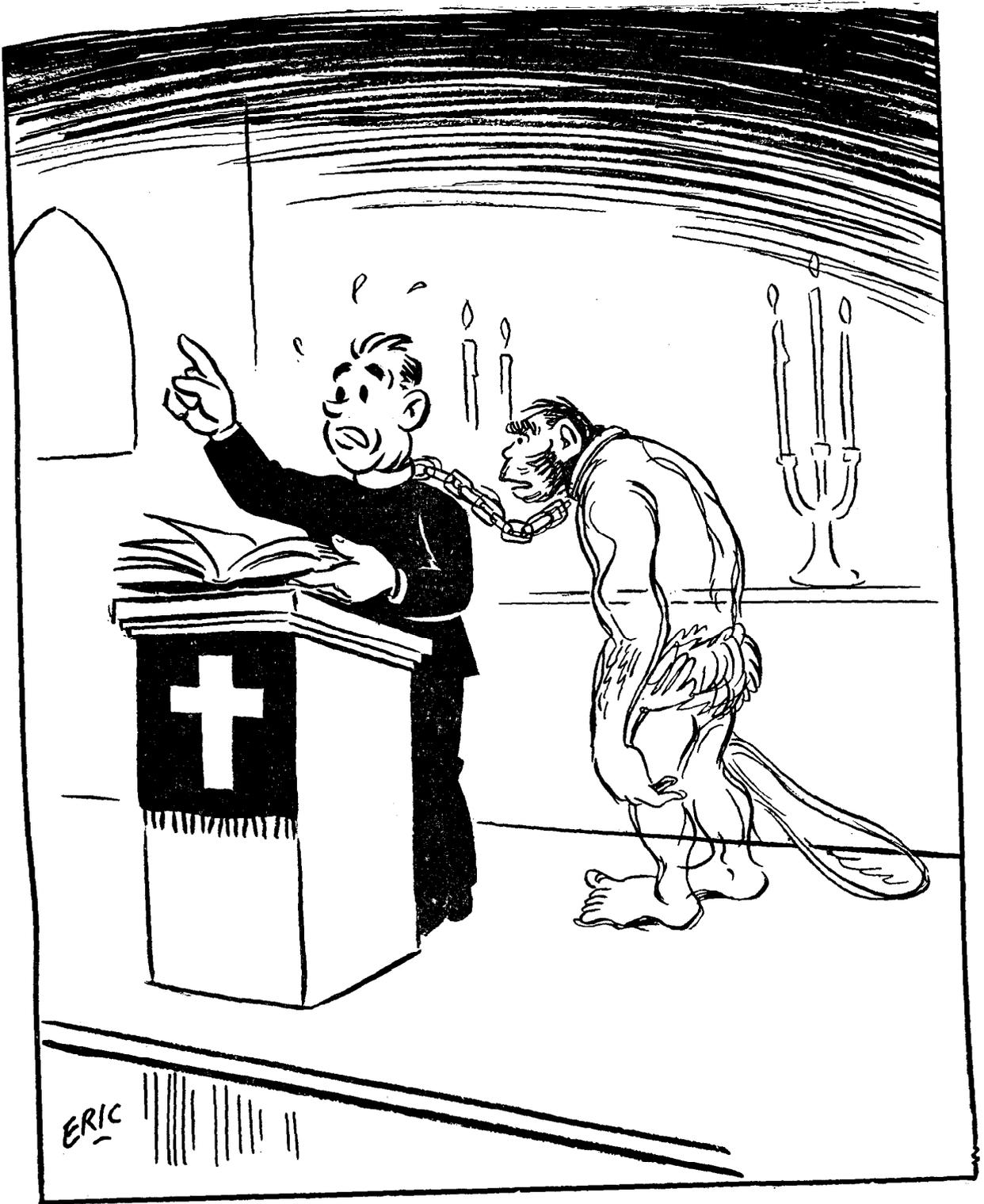
Freethought will put an end to the reign of ancient lies that were born in the dim days of emerging man.

Freethought will stimulate and inspire people to evolve into cultural supermen.

Freethought is the trail-blazer. It is the guide to new worlds of wisdom and civilized living. It points the way to a better, saner, more humane world. It's the great liberator, the source of growth.

Freethinkers everywhere should strive to make Freethought stronger by bringing its messages of liberation and progress to men, women and children everywhere.

Religion puts chains on man and holds him down; Freethought puts wings on man and sends him soaring. Religion is sterile; Freethought pulsates, breathes, lives. Religion is so other-worldly that it solemnly follows the ancient who told how one boob went to milk a he-goat and had a helper who stood by with a sieve. Religion is degrading; Freethought liberates and ennobles, giving man a new dignity. Religion rests its case on dogmatism, which, as Kant said, "is the infancy of reason."



LIBERTY RAPED--IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

The witch-hunters are blubbing. Political witch-hunters are demanding "loyalty" oaths—loyalty to their ugly regime of crass social reaction and brutal waste of public resources. Theocratic witch-hunters, sniffing for heresy, are gagging free enterprise in the schools, movies, radio and press. Economic witch-hunters are worried about the future of bankrupt Capitalism and would destroy our liberties if that would mean the prolongation of the present system of mass exploitation and class tyranny.

And it's all done in the name of Freedom and Democracy! Even the Vatican now talks about freedom and Christian democracy! What hypocrisy!

In the name of Freedom and Democracy, the witch-hunters demand that the Soviet Union be atom-bombed, with perhaps 50,000,000 resultant deaths, in order to destroy an economic system that they fear may work after all and thereby put our unworkable system of Capitalism in the shade.

In the name of Freedom and Democracy, the bureaucrats, the native Fascists, the plutocrats, the racists, the dividend-hungry monopolists, the church hierarchy, and the rest of the sacred and profane parasites are closing ranks in a final struggle to make the world safe for Capitalism, Imperialism, war-mongering, superstition, and all forms of economic and intellectual reaction.

In the name of Freedom and Democracy, books are being looked into—for there's always the danger of finding an idea or two in a book.

In the name of Freedom and Democracy, our asthmatic teachers are being terrorized, our brass-check editors are made to submit their fly-specked, sun-bleached, flea-bitten, rat-gnawed brains the way prostitutes submit their bodies, bought-and-sold commentators extoll the virtues of obscurantism and "Free Enterprise" because they fear and hate Free-thought and Rationalism, our movies present lies in a way that's intended to make them attractive.

Each form of parasitism is supposed to help all other forms of obscurantism get away with their falsehoods, myths, legends, and exhibitions of intellectual backwardness. There is a solidarity among all exploiters. One crook for all crooks; all crooks for one crook. One Godite for all forms of Godism; all heresy-hunters against anyone who dares wander from the beaten path of orthodoxy.

The slobbering witch-hunters are on the march. They mean business, because they know it's a case of Now or Never. The deceivers of the masses aren't going to be able to retain their positions of power, prestige and wealth if once the people are brought into contact with mind-liberating ideas. So the struggle is nervous, neurotic, panicky, fear-haunted.

The witch-hunters will sacrifice anything—the lives of millions, the future of culture, the power of ideas—if only they can remain in the seats of the rulers. That's why Freedom and Democracy can be sacrificed so casually in these times of concern over the future of the stability of the organizations and systems of ideas that work together to maintain this capitalistic and theocratic society.

Snoopers are tracking down political, religious and economic heretics. They must be driven from public office. They must be denied the right to reach the public with their dangerous ideas. Anything that smacks of free inquiry is branded as subversive. The witch-hunters are conducting the New Inquisition, but instead of throwing their victims to the flames they must be satisfied with depriving them of their right to make an honest living. The gallows may come later. Meanwhile, there's the economic weapon—the power to strike at a heretic's bread-basket.

We are witnessing a decayed, outworn social sys-

tem in the throes of final dissolution. The system is disintegrating before our eyes. It fears for the future. It knows it can't avoid booms and busts, tremendous depressions, armies of unemployed, and all the evils of a society based on the private ownership of the large-scale industries, utilities, banks, insurance companies, and the like. As the old order can't be preserved by means of science, logic, intelligence, facts, truth—because the system is based on prodigious lies—then it's necessary to resort to the weapons and techniques of tyrants—force, terror, persecution, censorship, suppression. Freedom and Democracy serve only as slogans, for the real aim of the people's exploiters is to destroy Freedom and Democracy. That's why Miss Liberty is being toppled over. Liberty is a nuisance in these days of social upheaval. It's smarter to give lip-service to Freedom and Democracy and at the same time smother them.

But all the efforts of the witch-hunters will fail. They'll cause untold misery in their campaigns of persecution and suppression, but in the end they're doomed because they're standing against the forward-marching world of fresh ideas and attainable ideals. The witch-hunters will be defeated, if only those who believe in the new day will hold their ground, give proper support to publications that are fighting their battles, and see to it that truth-seeking authors and other leaders are protected in their right to present what appears to be the truth.

The witch-hunters will be defeated if our political, economic and religious heretics refuse to be thrown into a panic. Don't let truth-telling editors be muzzled. Give them hearty, generous support. Stand your ground. Tell your friends what the true situation is. Show them how to meet the mean assaults of the witch-hunters. The best weapon is the truth. Preserve the truth. Get the facts. Get them straight. Tell them to those who'll listen. Try to influence three, five or a dozen open-minded men and women. Do your part. Don't be terrorized into surrender.

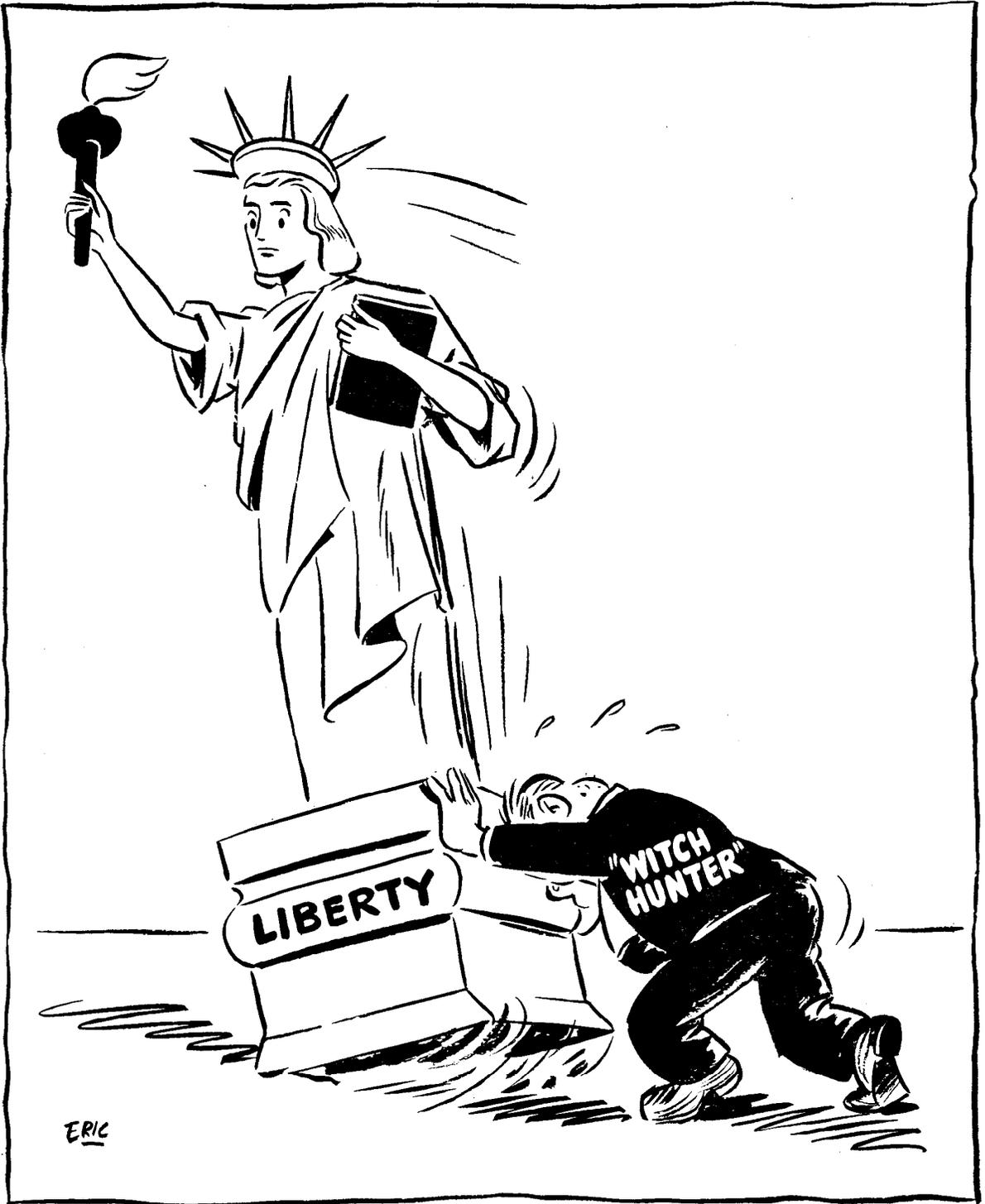
Just standing up to the witch-hunters means that the battle is half won. Getting the truth circulated means the whole battle is won. Be calm. Be firm. Speak and work hard for the truth. In the end, the witch-hunters will be driven back to their caves and cellars. They've emerged from their dark haunts many times in the past, and each time they've been defeated they've found themselves so much weaker. Now they're really so weakened that this battle, once won, could well be the last. This would leave humanity free to go forward to new and glorious heights.

Don't quit in the face of the witch-hunters. Their hot breath can be frightening, but they can be exposed and routed. Yes, these are times that try men's souls. These aren't days for "summer soldiers and sunshine patriots." Thomas Paine stood up to the witch-hunters of his generation—and look what wealth of ideas he bequeathed to us.

The geniuses, the patriots, the truth-seekers of the past should all inspire us to greater resistance.

Hysteria rules. But this hysteria will burn itself out if we refuse to prostrate ourselves before the neurotics, the obscurantists and the foes of honest thinking.

Hysterical mountebanks can't get far once they see their intended victims resisting their advances. Be calm. Call for facts. Insist on knowing the truth. Retain your right to express yourself. The witch-hunters really are intellectual cowards. They always curl up when they know they're facing men and women who are wise to their stupidities, lies, distortions, and anti-progressive aims.



THE BIRD OF ILL OMEN CASTS ITS SHADOW

Powerful clerical elements have always resented and opposed the American provision of separation of Church and State. This animosity found particular expression in the public schools, where, theoretically at least, instruction was supposed to be strictly secular, the idea being that religion should be kept out of the schools. This was a sound policy, because there are something like 600 religions in America—almost 300 in Los Angeles alone—and once a religion is admitted to the schools it then becomes a question how the other 599 are to be excluded. But this never discourages the theocratic interests.

Not only do the priests and others demand the privilege to teach religious ideas to the children in our schools, but they are equally determined to get financial and other support from the Federal and State governments for their parochial schools.

One of their favorite arguments is that it's "unfair" to make Catholics support their own parochial schools. It is, they allege, equal to double taxation, for they pay taxes to support public schools as well as make voluntary contributions to pay the expenses of religious schools. The argument is dishonest because no one compels a Catholic layman to pay to maintain parochial schools. He does this on a voluntary basis.

It would be different if the State were to compel Catholic laymen to pay to support the public schools and then assess an additional tax to pay the costs of parochial schools. But the simple fact is that they pay for parochial schools because they want to, so it isn't honest to yell about "double taxation."

The case against religious training in the schools and public money for the support of parochial schools is found in the first amendment to the Constitution:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. . . ."

The Supreme Court of the United States, in the McCollum case, ruled that religious education in the public schools violates the principle of separation of Church and State implied in the amendment quoted above. Yet, despite the 8 to 1 decision of the Supreme Court on March 8th, 1948, boards of education in many communities throughout the country are going right ahead with their program of religious education in the public schools.

The battle is still to be won. Secularism in the schools won't really come until the citizens everywhere demand that religion be taught in the churches and the Sunday schools, where such ideology can be absorbed by people who want it and are willing to pay for it out of their private funds.

It is illegal, in the face of the Supreme Court's decision, to use the public schools for theocratic ends.

The average community sadly lacks a Vashti McCollum to challenge the attempted encroachments of the priests and other voices of orthodox religion.

The idea of complete separation of Church and State isn't new in this country. It's older than the Declaration of Independence. Roger Williams prevailed on Rhode Island to put an end to the partnership of religion and the State before the Declaration of Independence.

Virginia, after the Revolution, swung into line and passed its "Act for Establishing Religious Freedom." It was written by Thomas Jefferson, who thought it his most important work, second only to the Declaration of Independence.

James Madison, another Founding Father and an opponent of the fusion of Church and State, had a

sound, logical policy on this important subject. Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography contains Madison's philosophy as follows:

"Religious liberty was a matter that strongly enlisted his feelings. When it was proposed (by Patrick Henry) that, under the new (Virginia) constitution, all men should enjoy the fullest toleration in the exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience, Madison pointed out that this provision did not go to the root of the matter. The free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience, is something which every man may demand as a right, not something for which he must ask as a privilege. To grant to the state the power of tolerating is implicitly to grant to it the power of prohibiting; whereas Madison would deny to it any jurisdiction whatever in the matter of religion. The clause in the Bill of Rights, as finally adopted, at his suggestion, accordingly declares that 'all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience.'"

This proves that Madison was against any arrangement that permitted the Church to have any rights in the public school system. Also, it proves that Madison had such ideas as early as 1776. Five of the 13 colonies joined the Virginian in demanding the guarantee of religious liberty. This demand found its way into the first amendment.

A partnership between Church and State can make only for dissension, reaction, bigotry, confusion, disunity, and sectarianism. It is a divisive force.

There is no such thing as a majority creed in this country. Each religious organization represents only a minority. To give such denominations access to our public schools—to be followed by financial appropriations—can mean only one thing—the State will be used by minority after minority to dictate to the consciences of the people regarding a religious question about which there is no unanimity and never could be, and even if it were possible it would still be unconstitutional.

Roger Williams properly said that religion is the one realm in which majority rule does not apply. Even if a majority of the country were Catholic it still would be wrong to permit the Catholic hierarchy to use the public schools to teach religion. They have their parochial schools. Let them be satisfied with them and keep their hands off our public schools.

Alexander Hamilton joined with the other Founding Fathers in the view that the individual's right to believe, or not to believe, as his conscience directs, is one of the greatest rights enjoyed in this country. Such conscience is insulted when organizations conspire to force religion into the schools, and actually succeed in many communities.

Keep the churches out of the public schools.

Drive the priests back to their own parochial schools when they seek to invade the public schools.

Compel all other religionists to keep hands off.

A partnership between Church and State can mean only one thing—new growths of bigotry and sectarianism.

The State must never be permitted to dictate to the conscience of its citizens.

Religious training in the schools can mean only one thing—minority creeds warring against other minority creeds.



BEHIND THE HYSTERIA LURKS PHYSICAL AND MENTAL ENSLAVEMENT—FASCISM

Capitalism, which controls all media of mass-communication, has devoted itself to one tremendous effort—the creation of hysteria over a phony crusade against “Communism.” This, mark you, in the country where the workers and farmers are most indoctrinated into the acceptance of capitalistic ideas. After all, the bulk of the American voters are workers—and they are the ones who voted for Dewey or Truman in the last election. The average worker is as capitalistic in his thinking as the biggest operator in Wall Street. There will, in time, be a bust, and that economic bust will compel millions of toilers to revise their thinking, but for the present they’re as loyal to capitalism as is the group in control of Standard Oil of New Jersey. Then why this tremendous, tireless crusade against the so-called Reds? No Reds are threatening to capture the White House, or, for that matter, that tiny filling-station down the street. Capitalism, in the U. S., is safe—so long as the economic boom isn’t followed by a bust. Of course, there’ll be a bust, sad to relate, because the system operates in such a way as to make depressions inevitable. It’s only a question of time before the scores of millions of workers produce more goods than the private, capitalistic owners can sell at a profit, with the result that factories will close and millions of workers will be thrown out of work. When that condition will arrive no one knows. It may come in a year; it may come in five, or even 10, years; but rest assured, it’ll come. But until that happens, American labor will support Capitalism with the same enthusiasm as the heads of General Motors or General Electric. Again let’s ask: Then why all the shootin’? The answer is all too simple. The workers have certain rights under the Constitution, and should we be hit by a devastating depression on the morrow they’d surely use those rights to better themselves economically, even if that meant the inauguration of a system of socialization along the lines followed by the British Socialists. Capitalism, by working up a frantic wave against the “Reds,” now aims to chain down the workers so that they won’t be able to do anything to harm Capitalism,

should the capitalistic system break down, as it does from time to time. In short, Capitalism has in mind a form of Fascism for American conditions. It won’t necessarily have to work along the lines laid down by a Hitler or a Mussolini, but it’ll be Fascism just the same, for it’ll be a situation in which the powers of government will be used to keep the workers from doing anything effective in the direction of Socialism should the capitalists make a mess of things, as they usually do if given enough time. There you have the whole scheme—and how well does our cartoonist, James Erickson, express it in his excellent drawing! Capitalism is shrewd, when it comes to using the powers of propaganda in order to impress its ideology on the working masses. Hysteria is in the saddle, rights are being trampled under foot, true Americanism is being scorned—all in the name of the American Way of Life, a way which, so far as results are concerned, might as well be called by its right name—incipient Fascism. We who see the line-up, we who understand the trends, we who know the political and economic score, have a tremendously important work to do. We are still few in numbers, but our task is by no means small. It’s prodigious, and its significance is not to be belittled. We need help in the struggle to bring our messages to the masses. Our aim is to expose the Red scare for what it is—a fake maneuver in the drive to steal our constitutional rights by means of a form of disguised, or even open, Fascism. We still have the right to talk and print—to a limited degree, it’s true, but we still aren’t without weapons of enlightenment. Let’s use them to the full today by building up tremendously powerful engines of publicity. Our job is to expose the Red hysteria, defend the Bill of Rights, and defeat emerging Fascism. Such a campaign can’t be carried on by a few individuals, if there’s to be hope of constructive results. Mass support is essential. There’s only one way to get such support—through a free, independent, progressive, liberal and radical press. Let’s do our best to build such an institution quickly. Time is of the essence. There must be no dawdling.



THE REAL FRUITS OF CAPITALISM REEK WITH MASS MISERIES

On the surface, Capitalism usually succeeds in putting up a bold, bright front. It produces consumers' goods in abundance, which it sells at a profit. Its front is cheerful, but dig down a little and you come on fruit that's bitter and wormy.

Capitalism tries to hide its shortcomings and failures, and during so-called boom times the system rides high and handsome. But every now and then booms turn to busts. Capitalism has no way of avoiding periodical depressions, because busts are a part of the system of private ownership of the large-scale industries.

Capitalism sees a rosy world when there are buyers everywhere and its goods are moving fast. But when purchasing power dries up, the capitalists aren't able to keep their employes on the pay-rolls. So out they go. They're told there's overproduction. It's really underconsumption. The people could easily consume everything that Capitalism is able to produce, but since the system functions only when a profit is to be realized, production is slowed down and virtually halted when the consumers begin to show signs of being unable to buy everything Capitalism is able to offer for sale.

That explains our economic crises, our mass insecurity, poverty and unemployment. That explains our imperialism—an attempt to force our goods on foreigners—and a war economy that's aimed at the destruction of enemies who are considered unfriendly to the aims and policies of Capitalism.

So long as Capitalism exists—so long as the large-scale industries, railroads, communication systems, utilities, mines, mills, etc., remain in private hands, you'll have the making of profits as the sole motive for continued production.

If the people were to socialize the large-scale industries and run them for the good of the masses instead of the profits of the classes, you'd have a system that could produce in abundance, the way

Capitalism does when it's working at its best. There'd be no motive in a Socialist economy for shutting down so long as people needed the things it could produce.

That would mean Socialism—democratic Socialism, I like to say, because I don't want to see such a system of socialization run by a small class of politicians and bureaucrats. The people should own the industries and decide by their votes as citizens what the aims of such establishments should be.

Industrial democracy along with socialization means democratic Socialism, the only kind of Socialism that can appeal to free-minded members of an emancipated community.

There can be no poverty when the people, through their social organizations, own and control the large-scale means of production, distribution and exchange. Poverty would disappear because the system would function in order to bring its benefits to the masses instead of trying to exploit them both as consumers and workers.

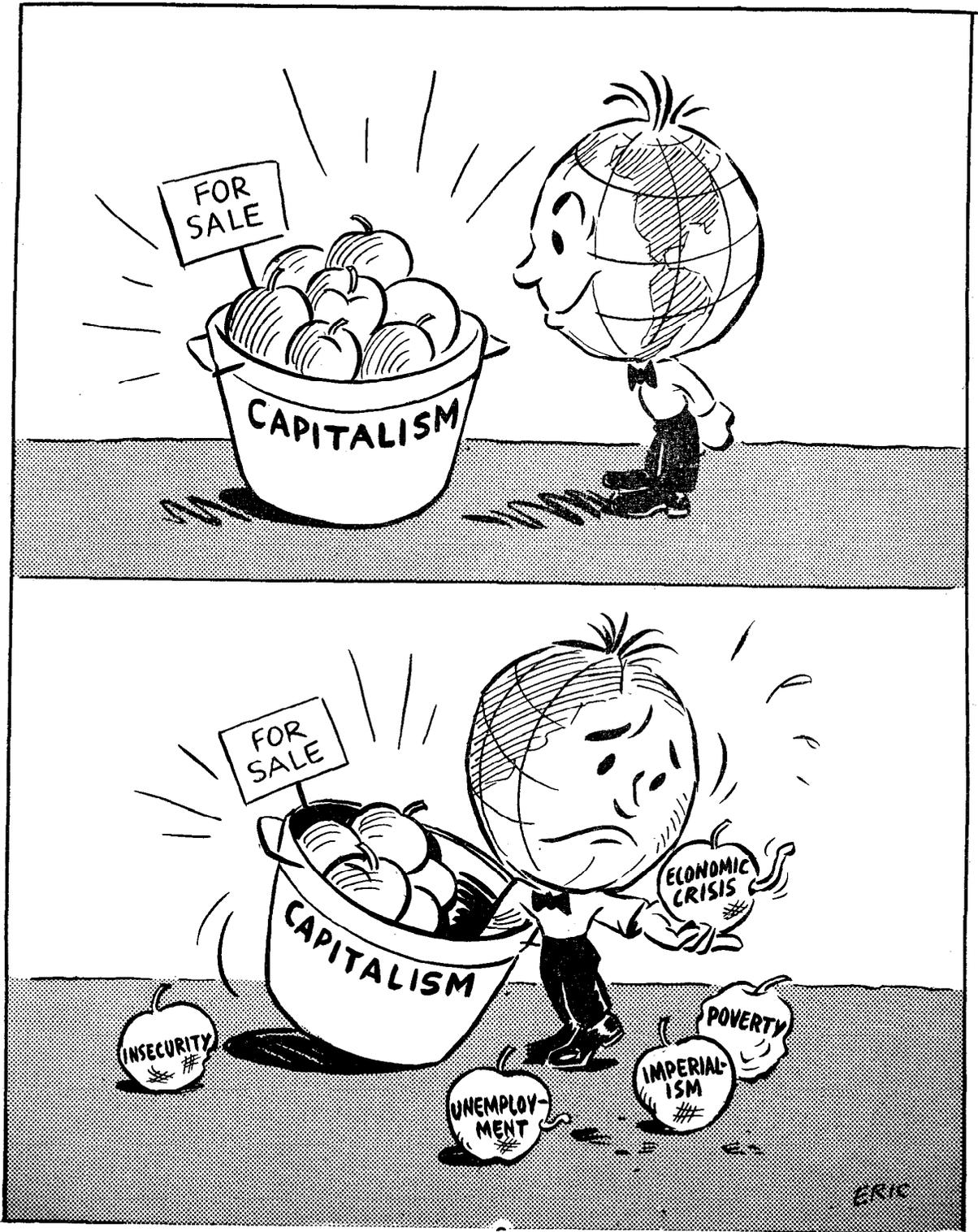
Imperialism would go because there'd be no motive for a socialized economy to force itself on unwilling peoples.

Since production would be for use instead of profit, what good would there be in organizing machines of destruction?

There'd be no unemployment so long as there were machines and raw materials with which to produce goods and to satisfy the other needs of the community.

Economic crises would be a thing of the past because the motive would be usefulness and production, not profit. That would result in a most valued quality—social security.

Socialism is the goal of civilized humanity. It can come through democratic means. Let's try to achieve our goal through such civilized channels. Socialism can come by democratic means, if we plan it that way.



THE EVER-PRESENT MENACE OF CLERICAL SHACKLES

It's a constant battle. At times the theocrats seem vanquished, but they merely wait out the defeat and return with new attempts to nullify the Constitution and give religion special advantages in the public schools, give the church's schools public funds, and in other ways impose the ideas of the Church on a State that's supposed to be free of all theological ties.

The constitutional provision to compel religion to stay by itself is a wise one. The U. S. government must always be secular. Sectarianism is the curse that divides people, creates dissention, encourages intellectual and cultural reaction, spreads divisive prejudices, sets one group of religionists against all others and all religionists against Freethinkers who want to live their lives freed of the shackles of the supernatural.

The Founding Fathers built well when they provided that Uncle Sam shall never be manacled to the dry bones of religion. We aren't living up to their ideals in all respects, but fortunately we still have the power to assert the priority of the U. S. Constitution and compel religious organizations to keep church affairs out of state affairs.

No religion is being injured when all religions are commanded to keep hands off. In fact, in a country like the U. S. A., with its 600 different religions, a partnership between Church and State could easily mean the relighting of the fires of bigotry and put us back into the intellectual darkness of 13th Century Europe when the Catholic hierarchy ruled all of Christian Europe and just about blotted out en-

lightenment and left entire lands steeped in ignorance, superstition and supernaturalism.

Once let religion chain itself to the State and we'll begin to decline intellectually and culturally, because then the forces of obscurantism and mysticism would be in a position to outlaw progressive ideas in education, literature, art, and all other media of expression. They have already done immeasurable harm in the fields of the movies, the press and the radio. Imagine what it would be if religion were wedded to the State and given official support, moral and financial! It would spell disaster.

Let all lovers of freedom be ever on the alert against the plots of the hierarchies to make Church and State a single entity. Let's keep the priests and preachers out of the public schools. Let's deny the hierarchy the right to censor books, magazines, newspapers, movies and radio programs, as they do today through the strength of their pressure tactics, which include threats of the direst kinds, including boycotts.

The dry bones of religion are bad enough in the churches, but at least they are limited in power to do mischief when they are confined to such limits. But once they obtain official right to a formal partnership with the State we will be headed for a new Dark Age, in which the people will be steeped in superstition and the intellectual portion of the population gagged and persecuted.

Down with the unclean, pernicious conspiracy!



OUR "FREE" RADIO IS FREE ONLY TO ANNOY

The American radio, which could be a powerful medium for mass education and enlightenment, is a device of reaction, a voice of exploitation and special privilege, and a tool of salesmanship. Radio's commercials are merely a sign and symbol of the innate corruption of a means of communication that could, were it freed of commercialism, bring light into the darkest places.

The radio has become a hawker of merchandise. It has become a gigantic huckster. Its mood is that of the salesman. Its god is to distribute merchandise at a profit.

The big business interests, through their sponsorship of radio time, own the air waves, even though in theory the air belongs to the people. The listeners are told endlessly how wonderful the American system of radio is—it's free to all who can afford a set.

You turn a dial and everything's on the house—meaning, of course, great corporations like General Motors, Ford, General Electric, Westinghouse, U. S. Steel, and many others.

When they sponsor news, it has to be slanted to the needs of Capitalism.

When they sponsor editorial opinion, it has to be done by Kaltenborn or some other paid prostitute of Capitalism. Everything about the radio is commercial. It isn't just a case of commercial announcements at certain moments. The commercials saturate everything that comes over the air.

The invention is obviously a tool of Capitalism, intended either to sell goods for the capitalists or make the hearers believe that Capitalism is the best system ever devised by the brain of man.

I have listened to British broadcasts and am convinced that the radio in England is far superior to

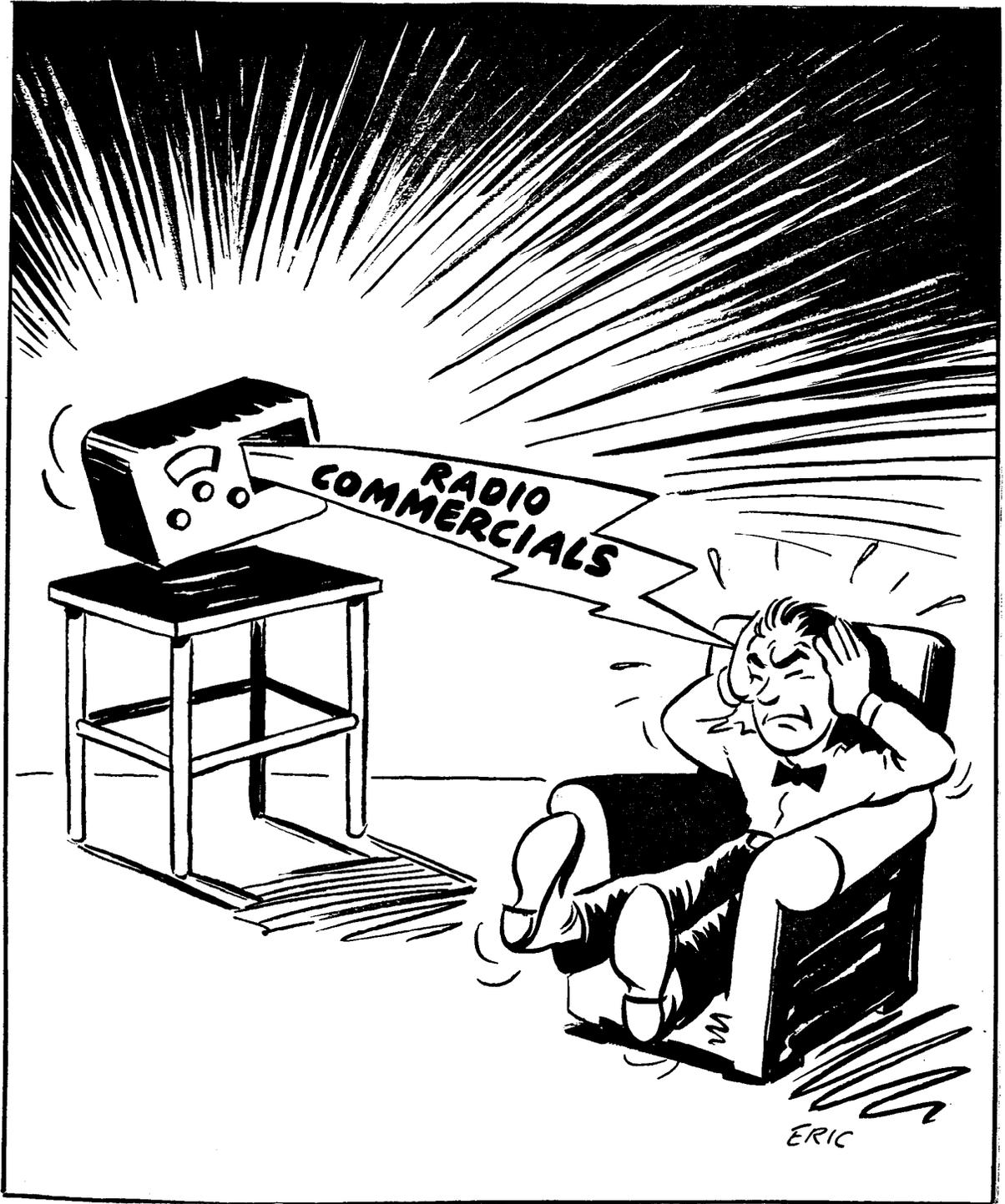
ours. It doesn't permit commercials. It doesn't sell time to corporations and other great interests. Radio time can't be bought in England. The radio belongs to the people. It serves the people.

On the other hand, the people who have radio sets pay small yearly fees for the privilege of hearing the broadcasts. That's fair. That means freedom from commercials and sponsored programs that are intended to indoctrinate the masses with the ideals of Wall Street.

Being freed of commercialism, the British radio supplies numerous types of entertainment and education. There is the sort of thing the less educated elements of the population crave. There are programs for the better educated type of listener. Then there's what's called "the third program"—radio hours that are given over only to the finest music, operas, discussions, lectures, plays, recitals, reviews, and the like.

Our commercialized radio aims at the country's lowest average mentality because that's where the mass market is to be found. It has nothing but contempt for the demands of educated and discriminating listeners.

If radio is to be saved from complete disintegration because of its essential stupidity, it'll be necessary for the people to assert themselves through their government and demand that the air waves be taken back and made the property of the people. Only then will the American radio become really free. The hearers will have to pay a few dollars each year, but what's wrong about that? It's worth something to be rid of a wretched nuisance. It's worth cash on the line to be free of pestiferous commercials and all the inane devices of sponsored, capitalistic radio.



DR. PATSY O'BANG'S SELF-PORTRAIT (YES, HE'S BEEN DRINKING AGAIN. SO WHAT?)

While consuming an appropriate number of Haldeman-Julius Specials at the H-J Farm the other Sabbath, the great Patsy O'Bang, world's greatest artist, decided that other artists never seem able to draw the real O'Bang, so he called for materials and went to work on himself as he sat before a long mirror. Drawing rapidly, he kept sipping steadily and saying how wonderful H-J Specials are—real masterpieces of art. Finishing his fifth highball and the picture at the same moment, he announced to his admiring friends that here, at long last, was the real O'Bang.



JOSEPH McCABE'S TRENCHANT PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE CROSS

For more than a half century, Joseph McCabe has been a leader in the fight for intellectual emancipation. His powerful pen has been used to make a tremendously effective case against Godism, clericalism, superstition and supernaturalism. He has exposed the lies and myths of religious history, theology, priestly ethics, and jesuitical philosophy. He has made a career of the search for truth. His monument is already here—more than 200 books in support of Freethought, Humanism, and sane, realistic concepts of human behavior. He has searched all the byways of knowledge, with the result that he is now the world's greatest scholar and foremost Freethinker. McCabe's pen has shown itself to be the Cross' most powerful and effective enemy. The case he presents is overwhelming. The only thing that remains is for his messages to be made available to those who need them most—the common people, the victims of obscurantism and the disease of Goditis. That job remains to be done, and we are the ones to do it. All who believe that Freethought will bring new inspiration to humanity should join in a campaign to bring his works to the attention of men and women everywhere who have open minds and are willing to examine an outspoken, fearless Freethinker's arguments. The world needs McCabe's mind. It needs his expositions of the truths of science. It needs his logical presentations. It needs his blasts against hypocrisy, intolerance, organized cruelty, and bigotry. Our work faces us. Let's not be shirkers. Properly used, McCabe's works can shake the edifices of supernaturalism and superstition to their foundations.



BISHOP BEERBELCH'S SUBVERSION DETECTOR

There's propaganda seeping into the schools, where young Americans are mixing spelling with Communism, arithmetic with birth control, geography with free love, and history with notions that democracy should include the elimination of racial discrimination. There's propaganda which would have our young people actually believe that one American soldier can't whip 50 Rooshians, and that a truckload of atomic bombs couldn't dispose of the Soviet Union during one long week end. It's reported that in a school in Nebraska an evolutionist sneaked in during recess and converted three pupils out of 300 to the belief that man evolved from apes, when everybody knows Eve came from Adam's rib and Adam himself came from a heap of dust which the Ethereal Esquire had shaped into the figure of a man and then had blown life into it. There must be protection against such dangerous doctrines. Our young people must be immunized against subversive doctrines. With that aim in view, Bishop Beerbelch invented a Geiger Counter that can detect signs of emerging intelligence before any damage can be done. The Subversion Detector knows. And it tells. Once a pupil is found tainted with even the hint of a progressive idea he can be segregated until purified and made acceptable again. Terms on request.

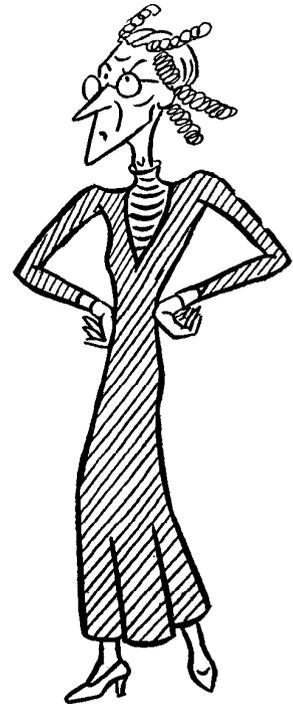




THE REV. FIDDLE, D. D.: "Now I wish to talk about onions. Scientists can tell whether it is going to be a severe winter by the thickness of the overcoat of an onion. In times of anxiety I have often thought of God's care in providing a warm overcoat for the onion."



BISHOP BEERBELCH: "I have been asked if I believe in the Doctrine of Total Depravity. Indeed I do—that is, where it is lived up to."



PRISCILLA PRISSY-PRATT, full of piety, offering herself for service at a prayer meeting: "I am ready to do anything you ask of me, Oh Lord, so long as it is honorable."

PURGATORY--THE SWEETEST RACKET IN THE POPE'S BAG OF TRICKS

Little Johnny was a good little boy. He never played hookey. His deportment was always excellent. He was teacher's pet all through school. He went to church whenever saintly, virtuous, pious fellows are supposed to go. He never failed to do everything the priest commanded. He married a Catholic girl and sired 11 children, all of whom he sent to parochial schools. He worked hard. He never chased after worldly thrills. He never had a single affair with a stripteaser. He was always true to his wife. And when he died, he didn't go straight to heaven as you and I might expect. No. There were two flaws in his record.

Once as a boy he had stolen a big watermelon out of Farmer Jones's garden, and on another occasion he had picked up a two-bit piece that he had seen a woman drop from her handbag—and kept mum as he pocketed that quarter.

No priest could do a thing for him when his soul headed for Purgatory instead of the heavenly realms of the Ethereal Esquire. Johnny had to go to Purgatory to have those two awful stains burned out of his soul.

Johnny's friends then started to pay and pay and pay. It took money to get Johnny out of purgatory, even though he'd lived a life of saintliness, except for the way he acted in Farmer Jones's watermelon patch and the way he'd kept 25c he knew belonged to a lady.

The relatives paid, and paid, and paid. And the priest prayed, and prayed, and prayed. Each prayer brought more cash.

It was a beautiful situation and Johnny was kept in Purgatory until the last possible dollar had been squeezed from his frightened and chastened uncles, aunts, daughters, sons, grandchildren, great grandchildren and a whole regiment of cousins and other relations.

Everybody pulled hard for Johnny. Everybody paid as much as could be expected, considering the times and the high cost of beer and other necessities.

And finally, with a broad smile, the priest announced that the deed was done. Johnny had been prayed out of Purgatory.

It took such an organized movement and so much money to save a near-saint like Johnny, imagine what it meant to get ordinary, mine-run, common sinners like the rest of us out of Purgatory! Boy, that takes money and the expert praying of the Lord's most experienced and convincing masters of the art of plain and fancy praying.

Without a doubt, Purgatory is one of the neatest little inventions ever produced by the fertile brains of the priesthood.

Little Johnny is now flitting hither and yon in paradise, despite the fact that he'd stolen a watermelon and kept a 25c piece he knew belonged to a strange lady.

Millions of other little Johnnies will join him from year to year because of the power of professional exhorters to talk them out of Purgatory. That's to say, if they have relatives and friends who are willing to make a cash investment for the eternal benefit of their souls.

Here I'm reminded of the ancient story which has Bridget paying the priest to pray her departed husband out of Purgatory. Later, the priest informed her that his prayers had succeeded only in pulling him

half way out of Purgatory. This meant more money, which Bridget produced. Then the priest announced that he had succeeded in praying him out of Purgatory with the exception of his feet, to which Bridget replied. "Aw, Father, let him stay there. He always did have cold feet."

It's such rubbish that produces countless millions of dollars for parasitic priests.

It insults one's intelligence, but that doesn't discourage the pious.

It's a good investment, they say, and the racket goes on without halt.

The dupes like it, and the dupes are masters of the situation because they're the ones who produce the money, and it's the money the priests are after.

There are other rackets, but they can't be discussed now. It's Purgatory that holds center stage here—the trick of making the relatives of the most pious continue paying good money into the coffers of the richest corporation in the world.

All this would be amusing if it weren't fraught with such menace to decent living and honest thinking. It's a threat to everything that's dear in civilization. It makes respectable the most ignoble impulses of parasitic priests and makes holy the cavortings of the most ignorant sections of the community.

Freethought strikes hard blows at such obscene and disgusting spectacles.

It shouts the truth to all who will hear—that here is a shameless pattern of behavior that brands much of the community as morons, lowbrows and ignoramuses.

It points to the churches as citadels of superstition, supernaturalism, miracle-mongering, and other idiotic exhibitions of credulity.

It exposes the lies, fallacies and myths of the organized religionists.

It brands the whole mess as a cesspool of ugliness, frustration, deception, exploitation and bigotry.

It shows, with the light of reason and logic, that the world would be a more wholesome place for all if such absurd institutions went into decay and disappeared. Then, and only then, could we say that man was at last intellectually free and privileged to march forward without the menace of fanatical reaction and planned backwardness.

Freethought's destructive side strikes blows at all priestly farces and tragedies. At the same time it shows the way to constructive achievements.

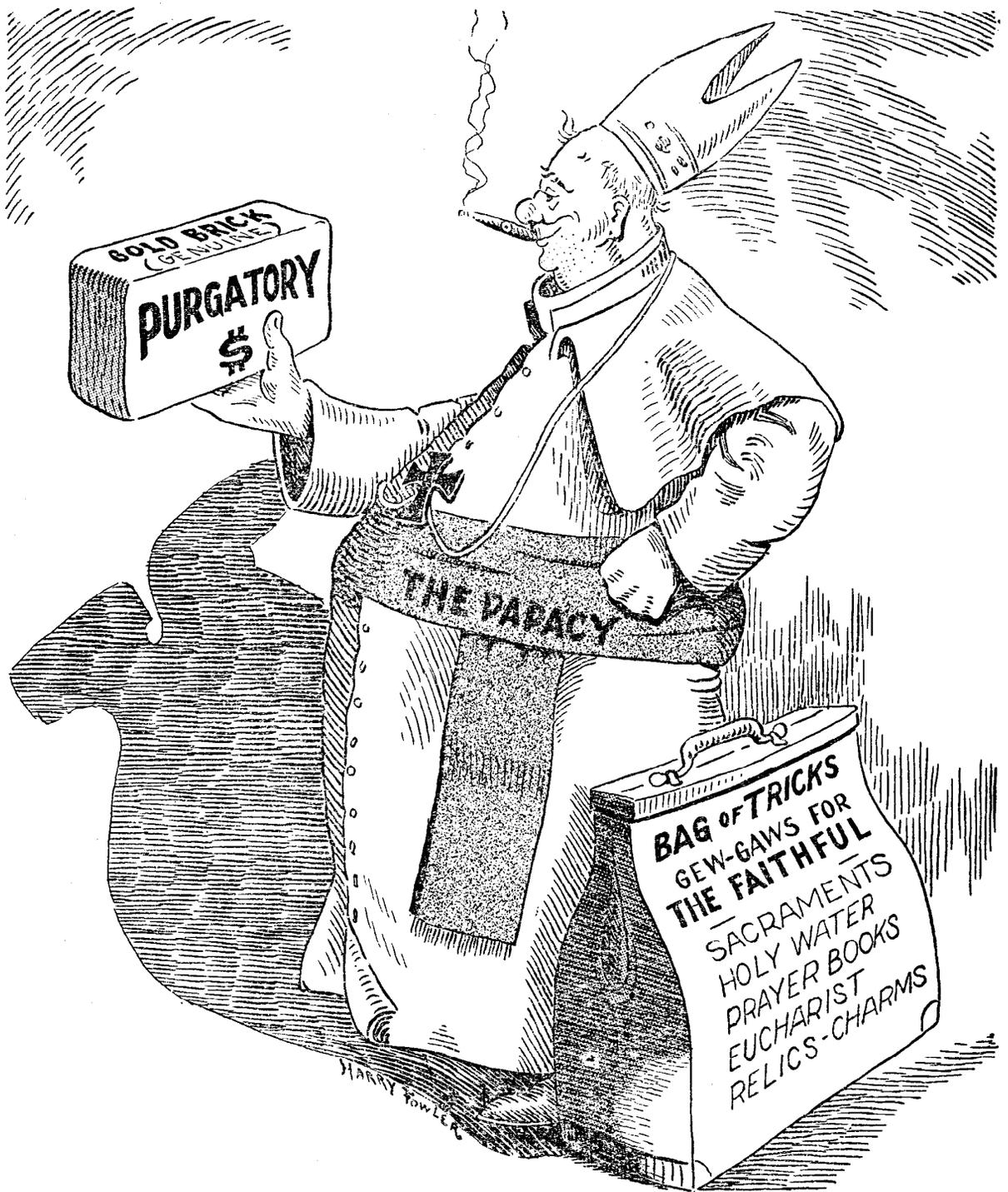
Freethought asks the world to take its eyes off a utopia in the skies and strive to build a happy, secure, enlightened civilization here on earth. It can be done.

Freethought asks us to apply science to our lives in order to wipe out poverty, insecurity, preventable disease, and organized ignorance.

Freethought asks us to seek always for the truth, to respect facts, to demand verifiable evidence, and to elevate the spirit of free inquiry in order to enable the race to make giant strides forward in the worlds of thought, art, music, literature, the drama, philosophy, and every medium of mass education and lofty enlightenment.

Freethought is the answer to the tricks and lies of the priesthood. It is the key to newer, brighter worlds.

Freethought is the weapon that can destroy—by means of the power of reason—the belief in Purgatory—the sweetest racket in the Pope's bag of tricks.



PURGATORY--THE SWEETEST RACKET IN THE POPE'S BAG OF TRICKS

[See inside back cover for an editorial on the above cartoon.]