

Living Together



Ruth Taylor

As the judge in the divorce court said: "It used to be that people were married for better or for worse, but mostly now it seems to be just for the better. They won't stand the worse."

You have to put up with all sorts of things to live with other people. It takes team work, both sides being willing to work together. It means you have to think of the other fellow's rights as your responsibility.

Each person, or each group, or each nation, always believes itself or himself is the standard by which all men should be measured. He or it is right. Therefore, others must conform to that standard of rightness.

But when people begin to work together, they learn to know that there are varying shades of rightness. They begin to assume that their's is not the only side.

Living together either as individuals or as nations, requires understanding—and what is more, a willingness to understand. Interdependency does not mean the other fellow must do all the giving. Relationships must be reciprocal if they are to endure.

Danger does not lie so much in what people believe—but in the uncompromisingness with which they hold those beliefs. It is much easier to be critical than to be correct.

The strength of any lasting association, whether it be between individuals or nations lies in their agreement upon fundamental ideals, in their willingness to concede to the other the rights they want for themselves, in their interest in the others' good fortune, and in their friendliness or loving kindness. In short, and to be very trite—it needs the strict application of the Golden Rule in all things.

Human kindness is the foundation of life on earth. Certainly there are occasions when differences arise. But it is up to us to handle ourselves that we can meet in peaceable fashion those with whom we disagree and can learn to work out a way to solve our mutual problems. That is all that living together means—whether or not we are individuals, groups or nations.

DYNAMITE

by H. George Davenport

THE BIG THREE AND P. T. BARNUM

It was P. T. Barnum who coined the phrase, "there's a fool born every minute." Barnum started out giving the people legitimate shows. As he progressed, he found out that people wanted to be fooled, so he concocted all kinds of silly things to fool the people. The more the people yelled fake, the larger were his gate receipts. Today we have three big men, maybe on the square, maybe not, but to my way of thinking, I'd prefer any P. T. Barnum. Two of them are supposed to be fighting for democracy—the other isn't saying much. In America the black man is used as patty to stop up the leaks in the army, navy and air corps. Discrimination is rampant. It was Wilson who instituted the segregation in the U. S. Government P. O. and other U. S. jobs. With one stroke of the pen he had separate wash rooms installed in all government departments, especially in the south. The first Mrs. Wilson was the instigator of the plot. At least we understood President Wilson, we know where he stood. But I'll be hanged if I can understand a President who could arrange for the postwar handling of foreign countries' affairs, and afraid to lay down the law in his own country. England is not fixing to up her colonies. Both England and Prussia will gain territory after the war under the guise of protectorates. Russia will fight for the use of the Dardanelles—a black sea fleet—and an eastern seaport, possibly Manchukuo. Turkey or Japan will not be able to resist. England will let Russia have it so she can hold on to what she has, possibly get back Shanghai, Singapore, and control of the Dutch East Indies. U. S. will be satisfied with kicking Montgomery Ward around. Why do I say that P. T. Barnum was right? Well, not so long ago, you heard this phrase, "Again! Again! Again and Again!—Blah, Blah, Blah." Then we were re-elected.



Davenport

Later on, came Pearl Harbor—"Remember Pearl Harbor"—"Let's win the war" as the next slogan. We were re-elected. Then we heard after election that the Atlantic Charter was only a memorandum. We swallowed that, too. Bretton Woods was another meeting place where the financing of the post war world was discussed. We swallowed that too. The Dumbarton Oaks was the next place where it was decided to keep peace by force if necessary. "They met to plan no more wars—yet decided to fight to keep peace." In the language of Gracie Allen, "Ha! Ha! Ha!—I don't get it." The Chapultepec act—Mexico City, another comedy was added—the 4 Freedoms was lost in the shuffle. The president told all about calta, but forgot to tell about the 6-3-3 votes—Now we saps go to San Francisco. White man you are as silly as some of the Negroes in the 2nd Ward in Chicago. I repeat, "P. T. Barnum was right."

Which Way Will America Choose?

(Extension of Remarks of Jerry Voorhis of Calif., Statement by the People's Lobby) in the House of Representatives Mon., Mar. 26, 1945

Mr. Voorhis of California. Mr. Speaker, at the request of the People's Lobby, I am inserting herewith with my remarks a recent statement by that organization, entitled "Which Way Will America Choose?"

Mr. Benjamin C. Marsh, the executive secretary of the People's Lobby has frequently appeared before congressional committees to testify on various types of legislation.

This war has proved that the United States of America has sufficient farms, experienced farmers, factories, technicians, mechanics, and natural resources—such as coal, iron and oil—to supply a good standard of living for all our people.

In spite of having 11,500,000 men and women in our armed forces, our production is such as to enable the majority of our people to enjoy the highest standard of living in the world—and still send goods to our allies, at a time when we are producing enormous quantities of guns, ships, airplanes and munitions.

This is not the result of "private enterprise." Many of our big manufacturing plants would not, or at any rate did not, convert from peace production to war production, until the Government guaranteed them prices to cover all costs, including a lot of wasteful advertising—costing the taxpayers billions of dollars.

Government-planned war production, which is much harder to plan than peace production, because submarines, shifts in the fighting, casualties and the enormous distances goods must be carried, upset calculations.

Government takes all the risks in war. After this war will we go back to "one-third of our people ill-fed, ill-clad and ill-housed," as we did after World War No. 1?

If we do—World War No. 3 becomes almost inevitable.

America is the one great nation where nobody needs to "go short" if willing to work.

We could be the storehouse of democracy in peace as we are the arsenal of democracy in war, if we do not return to the system under which we never produced and distributed enough to maintain peace.

From 1922 to 1936, when this war really started in Spain our productive machine ran one-third short of maximum production, therefore our people ran short.

You can't eat your cake if you can't make it.

America has all the making of all the cake Americans can eat—and enough to share some with the world.

Big corporations make more money out of scarcity, and the resulting high prices.

That is the reason American trusts and international cartels were started.

When the owners talked about "the law of supply and demand" they meant that they wanted a law that would keep down supply and increase demand—that would increase profits.

About 20 years ago, big corporations got less than half of all profits, now they get about two-thirds and would be willing to have 99 1-2 percent.

Can we block their game?

Yes; if enough Americans like you protest.

Early in the war, the Government spent about \$9,000,000,000 on plants to produce airplanes, machine tools, steel, aluminum, synthetic rubber, gasoline, magnesium, etc.

The Government now owns about half the machine tool factory facilities.

The Government owns a tenth of steel productive capacity—and enough of many other plants to control much important production.

The big corporations want these plants.

Private ownership of factories, mines and other things essential to production gives the owners the right not to produce the things he people need—unless they get the profits they want.

This is a dangerous form of dictatorship.

It would be as bad policy to give up Government plants in peacetime as to give up our ships in war—if we want to ensure full production.

There is only one way to raise the living standard of all Americans.

That is to have full production of everything Americans need, and pay producers enough to buy the products of industry and farm, out of current income—not by general installment buying.

To get this American standard for all—the People's Lobby is trying to get the Government to keep the factories and plants it has built for war production—and convert all possible, to peace production.

Most of them could be converted in from one to six weeks.

They would be operated through public corporations—by production engineers and technicians who

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News-letter WHAT'S HAPPENING IN Washington

"THE MISSOURI GANG" (a nickname you'll hear often; connotations are as yet not unfriendly) is expected to replace many New York Roosevelt intimates. Roosevelt often appointed conservatives to top places, but immediately below that was the "subway circuit"—radicals who had direct pipelines to the White House inner circle. Its power consisted in its ability to present conservative superiors from following natural inclinations. Disliked policies were frequently sabotaged by tips to Washington gossip-columnists. The circuit, thus extended, formed a very powerful clique.

Leftwingers fear that the "subway circuit" will give way to subordinates who will be loyal to a new group of Missourians and New War I friends of the President; the whole framework of government suffers tremors when a new President takes office.

Leftwing attitude:

THE NATION: "With Truman labor will have to fight hard for everything it gets and be extremely vigilant about keeping what it has. Noblesse oblige, which labor could count on with Roosevelt is no more."

MAX LERNER, writing in PM: "President Truman, some of your so-called friends say you will swing the country to the right. If you do so now, breaking the understanding that President Roosevelt had with labor leaders and rank and file, it would be a tragic mistake."

"Going to the right would mean alienating ourselves from the trend in Europe and strained relations with Russia."

"President Truman, your so-called friends say you are going to end the era of personal rule in the White House. Even before President Roosevelt had been buried, (re-actors) begin their campaign to make a cipher out of the Presidency. You must have the strength to show them that they are wrong."

"President Truman, your so-called friends are saying that you will restore the rule of Congress. Perhaps it is because the reactionaries know that their only chance is to work through the men in Congress they control, instead of through a Presidency they cannot control."

THE NEW REPUBLIC, whose editor says that small-town America is still living in the 19th century: "Mr. Truman comes from a small Midwestern town and bears the cultural inheritance of the American middle class—which has not been culturally attuned to a world in depression, war, and revolution."

COMMUNISTS, whose world-wide current attitude is cooperation with Russia, raise the question: "Can Truman win Stalin's confidence?"

NEW DIRECTOR OF RECONVERSION: An early appointment of Truman Administration elated leftists Robert Nathan was named director of reconversion under "Assistant President" Vinson. Nathan's Washington apartment was a favorite meeting place for the "subway circuit." Wallace's "60 Million Job" program originated in part with Nathan.

Current belief, however, is that Nathan was not appointed for his ideology, although the President was conscious of the value of his gesture to the left. Nathan, a brilliant young economist, while in charge of WPB planning, demonstrated an unusual grasp of the war production problem. When others fumbled, he was decisive. His capacity is equal to his new assignment.

The left is delighted to have this springboard for its Keynesian propaganda. (Keynes: Don't wince at deficits, however large, if required to maintain full employment.)

Nathan's book, "Mobilizing for Abundance," (McGraw-Hill, New York, \$2) calls for "intelligent central direction" of the economy. His program is basically the Mur-

ray-Kilgore-Thomas-O'Mahoney Full Employment bill. He says: "First, the people must determine upon the approximate level of total production which is sought. A gross national product of \$150 billion at 1943 prices would seem to be a reasonable and feasible level."

"Next, we must forecast the probable magnitude of consumer expenditures and of savings at this level."

"Finally, we must estimate the magnitude of the various offsets to savings which can be expected year after year under a steadily growing volume of total production."

"Then, as has already been stated, if prospective savings are far above prospective offsets to savings, steps must be taken either to reduce the volume of savings or else to support offsets to savings by large-scale

government spending. Government spending must fill in the gap when private offsets to savings decline."

Deficits as high as \$30 billion a year would not disturb Nathan if they are required to prevent unemployment.

Nathan believes that "over-saving" is a principal cause of depression. "The power to tax is the power to create," he says. "If the burden of taxation is removed from the lower income levels, their demands for goods and services will be enlarged. These taxes should be borne by the middle and higher income levels, where taxes can come from funds which would otherwise be saved."

RECONVERSION: As repeatedly predicted here while official reports were stating the contrary, war production will be substantially reduced before long. VE day isn't important any more. Cutbacks are already being issued. As contracts are completed, no replacements are authorized.

Willow Run is to be closed by August. One Los Angeles plane maker sent cancellations to 2,000 subcontractors. Certain bomber and fighter planes—types unsuitable for the changed Jap war since Okinawa—are being dropped. Production of ships is being drastically reduced. Armed services now admit war production will be down 25% within first quarter after VE day and 55% within one year. In all probability, even these percentages are underestimated.

Insiders estimate that at least 2,000,000 will be released from war work and the armed services within a few months, 4,700,000 within six months. Nevertheless, OWM and WPB expect demand from peacetime industry for the next year will be so intense as to create a tight labor market for the country as a whole. Refusal of labor to shift to labor shortage localities may cause spotty unemployment.

IN ANOTHER FEW MONTHS, reduced war needs may loosen up 3 million tons of steel. Much will go into civilian rehabilitation. Railroads and farm machinery will come first—then trucks and buses. Radios and refrigerators will get a little assistance, but only for essential uses. Things like office furniture will have to wait. By midsummer, the automobile industry may get going—at a rate of perhaps 2 million cars a year.

GERMAN SLAVE-LABOR: Professor Varga, Soviet official, two years ago proposed that 10 million German men be put to work in Russia for 10 years. At Yalta,

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IF ALL 'FOREIGNERS' WENT BACK TO THE 'OLD COUNTRY'



Illustration by Thomas O'Mahoney

have proved that they know their business—as American mechanics have, by their war production records. What will happen if we don't have all factories, plants, mines, and so on, run to meet America's needs? The United States Department of Commerce reports that in 1946— "Even with an average workweek 5 hours shorter than in 1940, there would be more unemployed than the 13,000,000 in 1932." Aren't 13,000,000 unemployed 13,000,000 too many? If you want to learn more of what to do to get, and keep, full employment—which America never has had in peace, but always could have, in peace as in war— Write People's Lobby, Inc., rooms 307-308, 1410 H Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. The People's Lobby is trying to get the Government to adopt the principle of paying as large a part as practical of the costs of war by current taxation, based on ability to pay, exempting income essential to health and well-being, as determined by Government agencies. It is also working for: 1. Government direction of farm production, and control of processing and distribution of farm products, during the war economy, with direct payments where needed to marginal farmers. 2. Effective Government control of prices and of quality of essential consumer goods. 3. The participation of the United States Government in international arrangements, such as the control of money, credit, trade, natural resources, and cartels.

Russia demanded that Germans be imported to rebuild its ruined areas. At the first press conference after Yalta, Roosevelt suggested "it might not be a bad idea." In March 9th Gallup poll, Americans by 71% to 29%, approved that 2 to 4 million German ex-soldiers be required to spend two or three years rebuilding destroyed Russian cities. Currently discussed proposal: 5 million Germans for five years. Soviet policy to spread this manpower throughout Russia. Not being allowed to bring along German women, many men during a five-year period would marry Russian girls. Children are raised mostly by mothers; only the Russian language would be taught in schools; thus, the new generation would be Russian. No resemblance to foreign colonies in which entire families of a single nationality live. Both Russia and Germany have suffered devastating losses in males of military age. Russia's losses would be partly offset by this newly imported manpower. Postwar Germany, further depleted of male vitality, would decline faster than any great power since Carthage was razed by Scipio in 146 B.C. These proposals draw sharp attack from groups headed by Dorothy Thompson and Norman Thomas. Their theme: "Not since ancient times have citizens of a defeated nation been carried off by the victors into slavery." Friends of Russia reply: while the men selected would be prisoners in the sense that labor is involuntary, they would be paid wages at prevailing Russian rate. Captive Germans who volunteer are now being paid at usual piece rates. Some energetic captured German workers, it is claimed, are making more than the Russians working alongside of them.

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION: Look for early Presidential message to Congress on broadening unemployment compensation. Truman is expected to urge lengthening unemployment coverage period to 26 weeks at not less than \$29 a week. Recent study shows that out of 43 million non-agricultural workers, 13 million are not covered by existing unemployment compensation laws.

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