

The Clinton Chronicle

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A New Curtain Raiser

Here we are entering a brand New Year which will call for the best in each of us. It is a curtain raiser, so to speak, an important turning point since it will mark the beginning of the second half of one of the most tragic centuries in all history, one in which material values have outrun spiritual values as one readily understands when we look at the world.

The beginning of a new year always calls for resolutions to be noted in the crisp, fresh pages of a new diary. Many people say making resolutions is nonsense, but we don't agree. It's a fine idea. We have made several we will try mightily hard to keep though we know we will slip for human flesh is weak. Probably you have made some also dealing with things you hope to do and things you hope not to do. Such resolves are well worth making. It's nothing against you to fall down flat, but to lie there is disgrace.

Let's face 1950 as one with hopes and promises, and with a determination that we will strive hard to make the grade whatever our goals may be. The truth is we don't have to wait until we tear down the old calendar—any day in the New Year can be celebrated for new resolutions.

A Flimsy Suit Fails

We note that a senator from one of the counties in the lower part of the state has lost his try at rebuffing the state's attempt to collect from him \$700 extra pay which the state supreme court ruled as illegal in a 1948 decision.

The senator in his claim for a countersuit said that the extra sessions of the general assembly put him to extra expense for which he was entitled to compensation. He asked the amount of time he consumed to transact varied business during the time the legislature was not actually meeting. He asked for \$3,800 for his services for the years 1947-49, less the \$700 already collected.

If there are long-drawn-out sessions only the members of the general assembly are responsible. They should complete their business in the stipulated 40 days. The reason many of them complain of how much time they must give to the office is their craving for power and making themselves administrative officers or business managers for the counties. They ignore the constitutional fact that their duties are legislative, not administrative back in the county courthouses. Officials there, elected by the people, are responsible for the duties of their offices. Members of the legislature should attend to their duties in Columbia and when they return to their homes, their job is completed. They are not bonded officers, either house members or senators, and yet many of them usurp power to themselves which is not constitutional. Too many follow the practice of making themselves bosses rather than servants of the people. Laurens county citizens are glad to know that no such tactics are being followed now in this county by the delegation and by their vote at the ballot box they should keep it this way.

A Call for a Great Man

The whole world is marching gaily backward through the pages of history, back to the days of the great feudal barons who ruled their subjects with a "hand of iron," backward toward the dark ages which were ushered in with the fall of the Roman empire.

Russia got a head start in 1917 and is now an absolute despotism ruled by the prototypes of the ancient tyrants. Every nation "behind the iron curtain" is in the same sad state. China is fast following in the footsteps of these countries, and within a short time all southeast Asia and later Japan will do likewise. England has succumbed to the sweet siren songs of socialistic, inexperienced leaders.

Western Europe is teetering upon the brink of state socialism and without moral and financial help, already would have succumbed to the distastefulness which this condition eventually entails. It is now merely waiting for us to hand the anti-Communist government in Spain over to the Reds and-or for a dictatorship to take over in England.

When the New Deal first realized that the American public was composed principally of people who voted emotionally and not thoughtfully, it became convinced that a few in

government (bureaucrats) were more capable of running a nation than the people themselves. So with the help of a docile congress it usurped many of the powers which belonged to the people. This progression has gone so far now on the Roosevelt-Truman route that even congress is slighted and often ignored by the New Dealers who still fight to hold unlimited power. Outright state socialism, under the pretty, catchy name of the "welfare state" is now only a few steps away unless a drastic halt is soon made.

The New Dealers are fostering these steps—though they deny it—toward the end of personal freedom. Many millions of gullible Americans want it, many millions who think don't want it. The millions of dumbbells in between keep on voting away their freedom.

One man alone could stop the fearsome trend—the President of the United States, but he is too small a man, too much absorbed in his own political future and that of his close cronies. There is little hope, we think, that the man who occupies this high position will ever see the light. What this country needs today above all else is the appearance of a great man on the political horizon and be made the President of the United States. He must be a strong man, not a weakling, a statesman, not a professional politician, of a questionable machine—a man who will defy pressure groups and stand fearlessly upon those solid principles which made this nation great. A towering man as leader is America's only hope if we are to be saved from national bankruptcy and outright socialism.

Golden Rule Enough Resolution For All

By William J. Davis, Staff Writer
Anderson Independent

New Year's Day holds intrigue for the masses. It is a day for resolutions to do better by many; it is a time of stock-taking for others; but for all of us it is a day of hope—a day on which we can look to the future with new confidence.

For the Christian it should be a day of rededication of himself to a year of better service to his Maker. For the church as a whole it might well be a day of challenge to duty—the duty of carrying out literally the mission to which it is assigned.

Looking over the field of world Christianity today we find many activities in progress, all aimed at furtherance of the cause of Christ. To mention a few: Baptists are engaged in an effort to bring thousands of new families into the Sunday school; Methodists are in the midst of their four-year Crusade for Christ; the Presbyterians have undertaken a five-year Program of Progress and the Roman Catholics have entered upon their Holy Year.

Other branches of the Christian church have their programs and the several objectives are admirable. Since the last great war and the advent of the awesome atomic bomb, people everywhere have turned to religion in greater forces than ever as an escape from the fear that haunts them—fear that is born of the lack of peace on the earth.

This New Year's Day finds us at the threshold of the last half of the

twentieth century. On every hand we find people looking backward over the last 50 years, reviewing the progress, the successes, the mistakes and the failures of these years. It has been a half-century of progress unparalleled in the history of mankind.

But on the other hand, it has been a half-century of chaos, the like of which the world has never seen. The maps of the world have been literally torn up and remade several times, at least politically and economically. In these 50 years great nations have risen and fallen. Two destructive wars have been fought and even today, the great powers of the world are again at daggers' point.

So, where do we go from here and what will Christianity do about it? With all the plans and programs of the various branches of the church, little can be accomplished if the church and individuals who make up the church lost sight of the real purpose—that of carrying on the work started by the Great Gallilean 1950 years ago.

He gave us the rule, the resolution of all time. His simple teachings were ample for the ages that have passed and the ages to come. If His rule were adopted today by Christianity everywhere as an every-day resolution for the New Year, no other would be needed. For the record, and for your consideration, let us repeat the greatest resolution ever spoken from the lips of the greatest Teacher who ever lived:

"As ye would that men should do to you: do ye even so to them."

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