

By SPECTATOR...

COMMENTS

ON

MEN AND THINGS

Where do we go from here? as someone once oratorically asked.

There is something wrong with our people, that is responsible for the half-baked men so often found in public life. But it isn't confined to men in public life; erratic men are found in private life, too.

What is being taught? After wrestling with Economics and International Finance in a great Northern university I am almost disposed to recommend that the fundamentals of our way of living, individualism, private business be deeply, carefully, vigorously indoctrinated in one or two lessons.

There are many theories that a student is lost in the maze of theoretical abstractions.

What is meant by sound money?

What are the inevitable results of Socialism? What is the difference between a Federal Republic and a Federal democracy?

What have we in the United States?

America needs teachers; I mean men and women who know their subjects and are themselves thoroughly imbued with the American spirit—or what was once the American spirit.

At the risk of having someone throw a rock at me I venture to believe that not every man of post-graduate degrees is a competent teacher. Many very able teachers have not explored the moon or the illimitable distances of the deserts, but are highly proficient in their limited sphere. That is also true

of teachers in the common schools. I have sat in classes of men having doctorates and also have known intimately men without the doctorate. The text to be applied should be the ability to teach his subject rather than to stand appalled at the excursions he has made into the vast and vague reaches of reconquered scholarship.

It is possible that we should decide exactly what should be taught and how it is to be taught.

Something else: should we prepare a man to do something or to be something.

Not every man will be a lawyer or physician or dentist, but every man must make or earn his bread and meat.

I do not suggest that a training should neglect the cultural phases. Every man should know something of History, Literature, and the elements of Chemistry and Physics, along with Geology and, obviously something of Mathematics. But some have an astonishing predelection for Chemistry or Geology. Let them concentrate on the subjects of serious concern.

It is possible that a small private school of real teachers would produce the best results. Who knows today the so-called rights of our citizens?

Rights? What rights? Do our people know anything of our History? Have they thought of England's Magna Carta and what it means even to us? Have they read thoughtfully the Constitution of the United States and the first ten Amendments? Of course it seems now of only historical value since the man-

handling it has received from the Supreme Court. But do the Senators and Representatives in Congress know the Supreme law?

By the way, a Men's Sunday School Class is considering a plan that is unique. The basic idea is that within that class of seventy men there in a composite wisdom and practical knowledge that might be brought to bear on the problems and needs of their community. For example, let us assume that in the class are: one lawyer, one teacher, thirty farmers, several merchants, one or two insurance men, a physician, a veterinary surgeon, a lumberman, a man of broad experience with cattle, twenty ex-service men—all branches—several retired men of practical road-building experience, one or two experts on car bodies, etc.—you see what a wealth of knowledge and experience may be found in that group.

The idea is to make available to anyone needing advice or information all the resources of that varied and broad experience.

The underlying idea is that the class should function practically and helpfully in its own community and be a sort of power house of service, instead of merely spending a half hour over a lesson once a week.

No one can measure the resource of knowledge and experience in a group. To make available, as needed, the individual or composite knowledge and experience of all those men would be to throw a light on almost any problem or need.

It seems likely that the Democrats of South Carolina will not follow blindly any Tom, Dick and Harry who may be chosen to lead the Democracy in the presidential election. On the other side, Mr. Nixon does not arouse or inspire our confidence, for he is a second Eisenhower, but without Ike's charm or war record.

Ike may not be a great general of the school of Alexander the Great or Napoleon, but he was commander of our greatest army and victory was won by that army—so we heed not quibble; but victory or no victory, Mr. Eisenhower sold the South down the river.

Our Senators Johnston and Thurmond have upheld the great Southern tradition valiantly.

Senator Richard Russell of Georgia is leading the fight against the so-called Rights Bill and most Southern Senators are loyally and capably supporting him.

There is hardly any doubt that the proposed Rights Bill is repugnant to the Constitution, but it is equally beyond doubt that the present Supreme Court will declare such a law constitutional. The Congress should have curtailed the assumed powers of the Court; it is now a great agency of oppression.

Our only hope is that time, the great healer and corrector, may prove the fallacy and the folly of the present trend.

As I've said before, as one man turned our course into other channels we may some day rear another man with the same blandishments who will have respect for the foundation principles of our nation and lead us back into the right way. One man started all this trouble; let us hope that one may appear on the scene resolved to revive and restore the traditions of that noble band that founded this republic.

This country was born in a revolt against the act of King George. The thirteen colonies resolved to assert and maintain their rights as their ancestors had won and cherished those rights.

In those days of the simple life, without daily newspapers and a thousand magazines and such other distractions as the score or more of diverting interests that so engage us that we have no time to think. Our nearest approach to thinking is to read or listen to someone's remarks and then express agreement or disagreement—all on the spur of the moment, with little information to guide us.

William B. Gillespie
Laurens—William Bergin Gillespie, 73, of 517 E. Main St., died early Thursday morning at his home following a short illness.

A native of Henderson County, N. C., he was the son of the late William and Mary Shipman Gillespie. He was a retired farmer and a member of Freewill Baptist Church of Gray Court.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Alphar Crowe Gillespie; four sons, Elbert, Addie and Clate Gillespie, all of Laurens, and Claude Gillespie, of Gray Court; five daughters, Mrs. Mary Pennington, Mrs. Allie Templeton and Mrs. Margaret Templeton, all of Gray Court, and Misses Maggie and Pet Louise Gillespie, both of the home; three brothers, Jule and Carl Gillespie, both of Woodruff, and John Gillespie, of Augusta, Ga.; four sisters, Mrs. Grace Parm, of Enoree; Mrs. Gladys Chumley, of Woodruff; Mrs. Maude Rogers, of Newry, and Mrs. Mary Wilson, of Greenville; 22 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted Friday at 2 p. m. at Friendship Baptist Church near Gray Court by the Rev. J. B. Abercrombie and the Rev. Tom Turner. Burial was in the church cemetery.

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Our men of 1776 and earlier days remembered and cherished the demands their forefathers made of old King John at Runnymede, England, in the year 1215, as I recall.

King John was bent on governing according to his own ideas or whims, but those sturdy men asserted aggressively certain ancient rights of Englishmen and the bull-headed King bowed to the demands and granted a charter of rights and liberties which is known up to this time as The Great Charter (The Magna Carta).

In the course of time those valiant subjects of the English Sovereign won other concessions such as the Writ of Habeas Corpus, by which a man held under arrest may demand a hearing to determine whether he is lawfully detained or not.

I mention just these concessions wrung from a usurping monarch to show that there was a time when men did not meekly submit either to domineering kings or misguided parliaments.

And in this country of ours a band of men dared to defy the king over a tax on tea. A great war followed and we are a free and self-

governing people.

We must make our will known and also make it effective at the polls, for we are being dominated and victimized by all sorts of manipulations, demands and exactions.

I cannot conceive of a more utterly ridiculous piece of nonsense than the demand that we give billions of dollars abroad while heavily in debt ourselves and compelled to increase postage rates.

Thing of it seriously: Isn't that about as completely foolish as any proposal you ever heard?

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