

**WESTERN NEWS  
AND LIBBY TIMES**  
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OFFICIAL PAPER FOR LINCOLN COUNTY

Today Americans throughout the world pause to observe Thanksgiving Day. Practically every home throughout our nation will serve a special dinner or attend a special dinner served at the home of a friend. All will be merry and dancing and gay parties will claim the attention of hundreds of thousands. It is well to be merry and enjoy this great American holiday as long as our celebrating is done with decency and sobriety, but should we not also remember what the day originally stood for as a day of thanksgiving to God for his blessings, first to the Pilgrim Fathers, and later, to our fathers' fathers and our nation down through the years of its existence.

So let us be merry and celebrate, but in the midst of happiness, let us pause at least long enough to realize that our blessings come from a Divine source and that we, through our greediness and godless living have imperiled our national safety, and only by recognizing proper values in our lives, can we hope to keep America a country in which to enjoy freedom, and to have blessings for which we may be thankful. Let us give thanks where thanks is due.

Now the hunting seasons are over most law abiding citizens will clean their "artillery" and put it away to await the legal shooting in 1948. Some will shoot varmint, thereby doing a good turn for the game; and others will shoot a few rabbits, but the rank and file will do no more outdoor shooting till next year. Let us hope that we as hunters, may also deserve the name of sportsmen, and by protecting our game during the closed season, do our part to conserve good shooting for coming years.

**It Is Good  
For America  
To Give Thanks**

By Charles D. Rowe

Seldom in the history of this great nation has there been greater reasons for its people to give thanks to a beneficent Providence than there is today.

To be sure, the world is full of trouble. Problems of the greatest importance beset us on every hand. Tasks that need the highest statesmanship for their solution must be met and wisely handled. The forces of evil seem to be running rampant throughout the earth. Selfish, fanatical, deluded men are waging a campaign looking toward world domination, a campaign that must

be met and overcome if we are to retain the liberties that are worth more than life to us. Men's minds are filled with fear for the future, and one of the greatest of those fears is fear of a third world war with all its beastly horrors. Throughout the earth one finds the grim spectres of hunger and sickness, selfishness and hatred, disillusionment and despair stalking through wide portions of what should be a happy world, but that isn't.

The skeptic, viewing this black picture, might ask in derision what, under the sun, is there to give thanks for?

The answer should be easy for every American; and we should know that Thanksgiving Day is in a large degree, an American custom. First, we should give thanks that we are Americans, thanks that our lot in life has been cast in so favored a land. Much of the despair that grips the world in its cruel and cold grasp does not touch us here. Hunger we do not know. We do not have to suffer the heart-rending grief of watching our little ones grow weak and ill from lack of proper food. Nor do we also have to suffer the pangs of a hunger that is never fully satisfied. We meet the cold of winter with an abundance of warm clothing and with our warm homes. We do not have to go shivering through the cold winter because of lack of sufficient clothing and fuel.

On this Thanksgiving Day millions of people throughout this nation will sit down to richly laden tables, to the usual Thanksgiving feasts. And they will gorge themselves to a degree that the doctors insist is often not good for them. A contrasting picture comes to mind, of which I recently read. American officials in the American zone of occupied Germany recently distributed a mimeographed sheet among our forces there urging them to eat less. One of those sheets fell into the hands of a former German officer. He read it and then laid it down with the remark: "That is a clear example of the abysmal difference between the United States and conditions here."

Yes, the people of America surely have ample reasons to give thanks not only today but every day. Surely the God of the universe has turned a horn of plenty onto this fortunate land. To be sure, there are grievous problems to be solved but we shall meet them like men. We can truly join with that American patriot who once said, at a critical time, "God's in his heaven; all's right with the world." We should find encouragement in the assured conviction that while troublesome days may come, eventually all will again be right with the world. For the blessings of today; for the faith that is within us and for the hope of better days to come, let us all send forth our thanks to the high throne of heaven from humble and grateful hearts.

Yes, we have them here; the real article; red Communists with a deep and radical sympathy for Russia. One of them, a Lincoln county man, recently stepped into a Libby bar-

bershop and got into a discussion as to the relative merits of life in Soviet Russia and the United States. And according to him, the Communists have it all over us, in every particular. In that utopian land there are no class distinctions, so he thought. Everyone there works for the same wage or salary, to hear him describe the land of his dreams. He was fanatically sure that the Communists of Soviet Russia have developed an almost perfect government, a paradise for the workingman.

When he was told that he was badly mistaken, that the standard of living was far below what it is here, that human slavery is common in that supposed-to-be workingman's paradise, that there are no liberties as we understand them, that those who dare to oppose the tyrannical dictates of a cruel police state are "liquidated," he shrugged it all off with the stock argument that all such statements are merely lies, put out by the Associated Press in behalf of the capitalist system and to delude the people of the world. Every proof that went contrary to his own delusions he dismissed with the statement that they were all lies.

Of course, it is useless to argue with such a one. Because there is no one so blind as he who will not see. And what a comfortable feeling it must be to know, beyond every possible doubt, that one is absolutely correct in all one's convictions. And how comfortable it must be to dismiss every argument with the easy answer that all opposition to one's own convictions is based on lies. O well, it takes all sorts of people to make a world.

Some unknown person recently sent us a clipping from some unknown publication containing an article by David Lawrence which stated that the present high cost of living might defeat the Republicans in the next presidential campaign. Perhaps it will; no one yet knows what the outcome will be. But, by the way, David Lawrence is one of our favorite writers. We value his judgments highly and read him every week. In fact, we have taken for years a publication in which he is the chief editorial writer.

But there was one thing about the mailing of this clipping to us that didn't appeal to us. Why was

it anonymous? Was the person who sent it afraid to stand up for his own convictions? He or she shouldn't be. This is free America. Here we have freedom of speech. Here everyone is entitled to his own convictions and the right to express them. We demand that right for ourselves. We must, therefore, grant the same right to everyone else. Voltaire once put this wisely and well when he said, "I wholly disapprove of what you say but will

defend to the death your right to say it." So please don't send us any more anonymous letters or clippings. If you believe a thing, have the courage to stand for it. That is your American privilege. God forbid that it will ever be otherwise in this land of ours.

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