American Education Week

We Americans have always put great faith in education. Maintaining this tradition, President Truman has proclaimed November 10 to 16 as "American Education Week." In answer to his summons, the National Education Association has suggested seven topics to guide our public schools during this observance of the week: Practicing Brotherhood, Building World Security, Facing New Tasks, Developing Better Communities, Strengthening Home Life, Investing in Education, Promoting Health and Safety.

The Department of Education of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in Washington, also eager to co-operate with the president, has mapped out a program for this celebration in the Catholic school system. Its general theme, "The Catholic School in American Life," is very close to some of the topics suggested by the National Education Association. "Catholic and public schools are partners in American Education" is its central point, which reads in full:

"People go into a partnership in business or in a profession because two or more persons each have something to offer towards the success of a joint enterprise. That's the way in American education. For years public schools and Catholic schools, often on opposite sides of the same street, with teachers and pupils from the same neighborhood, have pooled their efforts for the general welfare of the community.

"There are good reasons for this partnership:

1. Both are equipped to train intelligent American citizens.
2. Both are approved by the State.
3. Both are supported by the people of the community.
4. They differ in this — the public schools is managed by a school board under the direction of the State; the Catholic school is conducted under the auspices of the Church.

"5. Both work together — in different ways for a common purpose."

It is gratifying to read this. We have not two distinct systems of education in the United States — public and parochial. But one: American Education; we are united in American education as we are in everything else American. And from this partnership in a common cause it follows that public and parochial schools should maintain friendly relations not only with the American public, which they both serve, but with each other as well.

Fair-minded educators and teachers of both public and parochial schools have always tried to do this. They have not allowed their differences to blind them to the praiseworthy efforts of all American educators to train the characters of our young Americans, to develop God-fearing men and women, loyal citizens of the United States. American Education Week reminds us of this and inspires more cordial and more effective partnership among all the men and women who are devoting their energies and enthusiasm toward furthering the great enterprise of American education.

See You at the
ST. THERESE SOCIETY
(Brighton Park)
15TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE
AND FASHION SHOW
Sat. Nov. 16th
Dairies - Grennan Post Hall
4416 So. Western Avenue
featuring
JOHNNY WALKER and His Orchestra
and
PAUL SHIMKUS and His Boys
Entrée 8.00 p. m.

K of L Building Fund Dance
Draws Grand Crowd

The K of L Building Fund Dance at Holy Cross (Town of Lake) auditorium on Sunday, Nov. 10th will go down as another appreciable social success not only in the annals of the K of L Chicago District, but also in Chicago's Lithuanian circles.

Both the upper and lower halls were filled with young and old, either dancing, exchanging greetings with old friends, or partaking of delicious refreshments especially prepared for the occasion.

Paul Meeker and his orchestra provided dance music in the upper hall, while the older folks enjoyed a special "Ratkellari" performance, starring such stars as the gifted young soprano from Cicero council Eleanor Kandrat and the young baritone of Chicago Civic opera fame Algird Brazas....

Victor Bender, talented Lithuanian singer with the "Bloomer Girl" cast could not be present due to a hurried departure for further engagements with the troupe. Tony Peters and his orchestra accompanied the artists, and later led the folks (musically) in gay polkas.

Members and guests from all Chicago councils were seen present at one time of the evening or another. K of Lers of No. Side, Town of Lake, Cicero, Brighton Park, Marquette Park and the Seniors, cooperated beautifully in performing the necessary services needed in giving the guests real hospitality.

Arrangements for the dance were taken care of by: Jerry Kasualaitis chairman, Sally Juodkaite, Agnes Sandunas, Lorraine Mack, Grace Zakaras, Al Greblumas, Sylvia Racketis, Dolores Stantkus, Anthony Lukoilaitis, Virginia Pumplins, Mrs. Stella Pavis, Jack Yerkes, Charles Birgeiis, Shirley Sanders, Victor Balandis, Albin Bauzaitis and K. Zaromskis.

Pass the Sugar!

New York. — One hundred million pounds of raw sugar lay in the holds of ships in New York harbor alone recently — and nobody could get it, so the sugar, due to the maritime strike. With no sugar, four large refineries had to close down, idling several thousand men. And the nation's sugar bowls went empty.

OUT OF BALANCE

Let's Finish the Job — Buy More Victory Bonds!
COMMENTARIES

Not so many years ago, (during the period that Hitler and Stalin were still chums and hadn’t yet got) into an argument over who was going to get which slice of Europe. It is through these two unfriendly Communist parties squawked continually that the war Hitler had started in Europe was “none of our business”. That the Yanks are NOT coming”, that Roosevelt was a “war-monger”, that the Selective Service Act was unnecessary, that we should not go over to help “imperialist England”, etc.

Then the two partners-in-crisis ever in Europe sud­denly dissolved their partnership and tore into one another. It all happened so suddenly that Communists in this country were entirely unprepared for it. One of the hilar­ious memories we have of those otherwise dark days is that a group of Commies had just arrived in Washington, to take their place in the picket line around the White House. They had their Keep-Out-Of-The-European-War picket signs all ready to go to work.

No one had told them yet that Hitler had declared war against Russia overnight and, very innocently, they prepared to do their bit “to keep America out of the war”. At the last minute, Communist headquarters frantically got word to them that now the shot was on the other foot. Russia had been invaded and needed help — America can help!

New picket signs were quickly painted. The picket line went on as scheduled — but now the signs no longer read “America Out of Europe”, or sentiments to that effect. They now read “Help Russia”, “Help Rus­sia”, “Help Russia”. . . .

And so now the war is over, and America DID help Russia (from the very brink of defeat at Stalingrad to victory in May, 1945) and there is now no more need for American soldiers, American supplies, American tanks and planes, American guns and ammunition to help out the Red Army. The boys in Moscow of Communism more or less when some progressive American exercises his right trying to disrupt the lives of the younger generation is.

To whom or what shall we give thanks? To the apple trees and cornfields, or to the honey bee? But we show them our thankfulness by our care for them in the tender youth of their spring and summer, by believing them to be the heavy burdens of apples and corn in the fall when they are bent with age.

To whom, then, shall we give thanks for these things?

This was a question the people of old often asked themselves. Their answers were, for the most part, not really true, but the fact that they did try to answer this question show that they felt the need of gratitude. The Greeks, for instance, always held a festival in the autumn to show thanks to a god of the harvest and vintage. People flocked from all the villages to offer prayers, sacred songs and dances in honor of Dionysus, their god of fruitfulness.

There is something in the hearts of men that would show thanks to the one who gives fertility to the earth, something that should make us shout from the hilltops and fill our valleys with the echo of “thanks be to God” for rolling fields of golden­rods, for acres of tasseled corn, for colored rows of apple trees. How fortunate that we know it is good, our infinitely good Father, we should turn to give thanks, for He a’one has given fruitfulness to our crops.

To show you how obediently Vilnis, for one, is following these latest instructions, we give you the following samples, culled from recent issues of this Communist sheet:

On U. S. Military Preparedness: “The people (well, the Communists, anyway! E. J. K.) do not see what danger faces our country, which would compel it to adopt such a vast program of militarization... (militarists) using their own war cry as blackmail to force Americans to continue paying 80 cents out of every tax dollar for war... the American people to disrupt the lives of the younger generation, to pay this the price we must pay for Wall Street’s (this is always a good one! E. J. K.) ambition to dominate the world."

On the State Department: “The U. S. foreign policy has been captured by the most reactionary war-monger­ing section of our nation... Secretary Byrnes completely destroying unity of the Big Three.”

On the President: “Truman has shown a shyn ful willingness to permit (reactionaries) to dictate our foreign policy,... we condemn President Truman’s firing of Henry A. Wallace”... “the role of Truman in the meat crisis has been cowardly”...

On the U. S. Military Staff: “...stockpiling” atom

Talking It Over

Thanks Be to God....

The long, pliant branches of the apple trees bend under their rosy-red balls, playthings of the winds. Over­ripe ears of corn, full and plump, stoop over in gleeful laughter on their slender stalks. busy honeybees, attracted by the brilliant banners of the goldenrod, market from one flower to another, filling their baskets with honey, and paying the price with golden pollen. It is the harvest time; it is the time of fertility, the time of thanksgiving.

The springtime was the time for prayer of petition, a prayer of desire for fruitfulness. But the autumn is also a time of prayer. It is the time for prayer of thanksgiving to Him for answering our prayer of springtime by bringing rich fruits to our crops.

But to whom or what shall we give thanks? To the apple tree or cornfield, or to the honey bee? But we show our thankfulness by our care for them in the tender youth of their spring and summer, by believing them to be the heavy burdens of apples and corn in the fall when they are bent with age.

To whom, then, shall we give thanks for these things?

On the U. S. Department of Justice: “...it trembles when some progressive American exercises his right of free speech”...

On the U. S. Member of the War Trials Commission: “The namby-pamby sense in which the trial was conducted makes the world hold their nose at the antics of people like America’s Francis Biddle who whitewashed, tacked off” (Of course, that false-haired paragon of justice and righteousness, Russian Judge Nikitchenko, was incomparable throughout the trial! E. J. K.)

If the above “patriotic” sentiments were really those of a substantial segment of the American people, and not merely the frantic ravings of a few noisy Communist pay­rollers — all we could add would be the fervent prayer — God Help America!...
The lives of the refugees living in camps are made further miserable by constant interference and inspection on the part of the Russians, who send forth a steady stream of propaganda. According to the bolsheviks, citizens of the Allied countries who are in Soviet-occupied areas will be exchanged for men for Baltic nationals.

Hence, all Lithuanians, Latvians and Estonians will be held there, until they perform have to be turned over to the Russians. Further, the Reds say, the Allies intend to abandon refugees to their fate, so these will have to turn to "good Mother Russia!"

There are only a few of the tales and rumors the Russians are constantly circulating among these heartbroken people.

According to reports trickling out of the "Bolshevik Paradise" of present day Lithuania, those who escaped are most fortunate no matter where they are living. In the east of the country, only 25% of the inhabitants were able to escape from their Russian overlords, but in the central part the percentage was much higher reaching 50%, whereas 98% of the civilians in the Memel district fled.

Many of those remaining went into the forests and their resistance has been so effective, that in country districts the invaders dare not go out alone at night. However, the Reds who at first hunted the Underground Lithuanians through their hiding places in dense forests, now simply drop incendiary bombs, or set fire to the woods from the ground. It is impossible to imagine how even men as desperate and courageous as Lithuanian Partisans can continue their resistance much longer.

Streets and towns in Lithuania have been re-named in Russian, and Russian is taught in all schools instead of Lithuanian. The press and radio are all Russian, and of course, communist and anti-religious. Religious instruction is forbidden.

Churches destroyed, or partly in ruins, must not be re-built. No religious books are permitted to be published, and many religious orders have been expelled or killed off. Everything is done to turn parishioners against their priests or pastors. Of four Seminaries, three have been closed, and the days of the lane survivor are numbered.

Hardly any able bodied male Lithuanians are to be seen. They have either hidden in the forests, been drafted into the Red Army, or deported to Siberia and other Soviet-occupied areas. Systematic raping of women and children and looting of homes is commonplace.

Worst of all perhaps is the ruin of family life. Hardly a family is intact; 60,000 children from the Baltic States were deported to Russia. If they returned at all, it was after they had been indoctrinated with communism, so that they might act as spies on their relatives and friends. Their frantic parents have no means of communicating with those left in Russia, and realize they will never meet their children again.

Soviet authorities are rapidly re-settling Lithuania, particularly the Western part, with "reliable" people, that is, communists, Lithuanians — men and women — are daily being sent to forced labor camps in Siberia, dispersed all over Russia, or shot without trial.

Complete extirpation of all the Baltic peoples is the intention of Soviet Russia. Then they can beam at their American allies and give the assurance that — "We have one big happy family of Soviet citizens." And they will be believed — Americans are now as gullible as that.

In February, the Soviet plans to hold elections in the Baltic States. By that time, they should have completed elimination of the native inhabitants, or, the Russians will practice the same tactics on voters as they did on the Parliament last summer. Moscow decided that "Parliaments" of all three Baltic States should vote for admission into the Soviet Union. Some members objected, but they were promptly told that any one who dared vote against this measure would be shot together with all his family. Hence it is perhaps not strange that the "proposal" to join the Soviet was carried by "unanimous vote".

A book could be written on the horrors of Russian prison camps, of forced labor conditions in Siberia, where the food consists of watery soup and moldy bread, where men and women work 18 hours a day, where the inmates are in rags and barefooted. Other nationalities in this war, which has so completely destroyed all moral sense, have committed atrocities in their treatment of prisoners of war, in their slave labor, but none can touch the Soviet in this respect.

Such are the surroundings and conditions which the late President Roosevelt so blithely and cruelly supported when he sponsored "forced labor" to rebuild Russia.

Let us not minimize our responsibility for these horrors, but rather let us admit them and repent in sackcloth and ashes. It had not been for our slavish obedience to Stalin, the Baltic States could not have been destroyed. But there is one thing we can do, — combat the vicious lie that Baltic nationals are Slavs, that they are returning to "Mother Russia" of their own free will; that small countries are a nuisance and cause wars.

This last piece of propaganda was put forth by some of our Red Congressmen, who evidently forgot that America too was once a comparatively small and weak country.

Whether based on abject fear of Russia, or merely on incredible stupidity, there is no excuse for our policy towards the Soviet. It is true that President Truman recently declared there should be "return of sovereign rights and self-government to all peoples who have been deprived of them by force." However he spoiled this by adding: "In some cases it may be impossible to prevent forceful imposition of unwanted governments."

No wonder growing distrust and hatred of Americans are found all over Europe today!

(from the CATHOLIC MIRROR)
Incidentals

By P. JAVINS

Catholicism is rather widely recognized as the greatest enemy of Communism. Recently, the father of a certain local Lithuanian Communist, disappeared in an eastern city. Since the father was a devout Catholic he received a Catholic burial. Among those present at the funeral services was the dead man’s son, the Lithuanian Communist. Strangely enough, it was the Communist editor himself who gave the offering for the last rites of the deceased. It would seem that the same editor wished to convey to his own home town people that he himself was a practicing Catholic, and recently he succeeded in that. Yet, here is the style: Paul Lavens, for which he worked, didn’t make any mention in their notice of condolence, about the man’s Catholicity and burial from Church! What’s the matter... afraid to mention the truth?

I wonder who is older, Leland Stowe, the NBC commentator, or Joe Sacal of Vilnis? From a recent article in the Lithuanian Communist newspaper Vilnis, it would appear that Joe Sacal is. Whereas, we remember years ago, when Leland Stowe was a reporter for the Worcester Telegram and Gazette, Joe Sacal was a kid with short pants selling newspapers on Water street. Now, if Joe Sacal knew him as a “pantywaist”, evidently, Leland Stowe wore his short pants into his late twenties or thirties. He may have been the style then? Joe Sacal saw the great Leland Stowe only from a distance on Federal street, when he came to collect his few pennies for selling newspapers... I don’t think the Telegram and Gazette of Worcester would be proud to know that their former employee (he presumably good then) grew up to be editor of a Communist daily, I wonder if he’s working out of conviction or for money. If, it’s out of conviction, he doesn’t sound convincing.

An interesting story. In the year of 1935 “Dutch Schlultz”, the famous gangster and racketeer was the Al Capone of New York City. At the age of 33 he became the greatest lawbreaker in the country. He was of Jewish extraction, and his real name was Arthur Flegenheimer. Cold blooded murder, crimes and robberies were imputed to him and his gang. On Oct. 23, 1935 he went to his favorite tavern in New York. New York police saw him in company with two of his lieutenants to count the profits reaped from his crimes. Suddenly two strangers appeared in the doorway. Their guns began to bark and spit fire. “Dutch Schlultz” staggered and fell. He was rushed to a hospital. The next day, “Dutch” realized his serious condition. He knew he was going to die. He called one of the attendants and asked him to summon a Catholic priest. “Dutch” expressed his desire to become a Catholic. The priest baptized and administered the last rites of the Church. Schlultz soon died and received a Catholic burial.

To those who read “Draugas”. Did you ever take time to read “Tarkanuiakai”, written by Nolečiu Vidika, on page 4 or your favorite newspaper Daily Draugas? If you haven’t, start now. In his articles he has the Commies against the wall. He states nothing but facts and facts the Commies side...

BALTIC, from p. 3)

General’s Office of the War Dept. His talk was of great interest as the members of the crew who was formerly associated with a ski troop battalion comprised mostly of Scandinavian Americans and also was with the first American troops to land in Norway. He was the Chief of Staff of the American ski troops while they were stationed in Norway and was decorated by the Norwegian King.

After prefacing his talk on Norway with some words of encouragement and praise for the Society’s aims and purposes, he then gave an interesting talk of his impressions and his experiences in that land of fjords and midnight sun. The Society has among its guests members of the Swedish Legation.

H. V. S.

An electronic reading aid for the blind which converts printed letters into recognizable sounds is being tested by an eastern manufacturer.

The device may eventually make it possible for the blind to read without printed matter being transcribed into Braille. It has been developed after years of research.

Lieut. Col. Leo J. Wiltrakis

Reorganizes

122nd Field Artillery Battalion

Leo J. Wiltrakis, youngest of the five sons of Mrs. Elizabeth Wiltrakis, was recently promoted to the rank of Lieut. Col. Wiltrakis, and was placed on command of the 122nd Field Artillery Battalion of the Illinois National Guard. The Illinois National Guard is being reorganized on the basis of youthful and superior leadership. Unions must be readied at all times for the defense of our country. These units must have the best combat leadership. For combat troops, the best led is only the best test of such ability is service with merit on the battlefield.

The 122nd Field Artillery Bn. is being reorganized at Washington Park Armory at 5200 Cottage Grove under the able leadership of Lieut. Colonol Leo J. Wiltrakis, I. N. G. Many desirable vacancies exist for those officers and enlisted men who can qualify at this time. Lieut. Colonel Wiltrakis stated that all former World War artillery officers who have an efficient rating of Excellent or better and enlisted men who desire service with the 122nd F. A. Bn. are requested to communicate with him at the Armory.

Lieut. Col. Wiltrakis will be present at the Washington Park Armory on Wednesday and Friday evenings from 8 to 10 P.M. Lieut. Col. Wiltrakis is typical of the new youthful spirit of the reactivated Illinois National Guard. He commands the 122nd F. A. Bn. at the age of 34. He has served many years in the 122nd F. A. Bn. and continued with the 33rd Division through all its campaigns of World War II up to VJ Day. Lieut. Col. Leo J. Wiltrakis was awarded a position of a Lieutenant in the various service in the Philippines.

It is an honor for us, the Lithuanians, to have another youth from our ranks who has attained so high a position. Lieut. Col. Leo Wiltrakis is now one of the three Lieutenants. Colonels of the Wiltrakis family, i.e., the other brothers, Dr. George A. Wiltrakis and Edward Wiltrakis have been Lieutenants. Colonels for some time now. Just as the another brother, is a Lieutenant in the Navy where he has served for 25 years and Joseph, the eldest, served in World War I.

This And That From

The Lithuanian University Club

The October meeting of the L. U. C. last Oct. 27 was one of the most successful and interesting in a long time. After-meeting interest was supplied in a very fascinating manner by Miss Stephanie Novick, winner of the 1946 Tribune Festival piano contest, by Vytautas Belay, the nationally famous folk-dance teacher, and by a young Lithuanian refugee, a cousin of Stan Kascowick, who just arrived in America from Europe.

Stephanie gave a very enlightening picture of the problems confronting Lithuanian refugees in America. As a Lithuanian artist herself, she understands the struggle every young musician, composer, singer, or artist must wage until his goal of recognition is attained. She is to be commended for her initiative in bringing others to work for the attention of the Lithuanian public.

In subsequent articles more will be said about the subject matter of the other two guests. Much serious thought has been given to their words about the true Lithuanian University Club is busy setting up business for the new fiscal year. Waldo and the other officers have been sworn in as the new President and the following committee heads have been re-appointed for over the next year. Social Committee – George Smulskis; Membership Committee – Valdas Publicity Committee, Irene C. Mankus; Education Committee – Elen Skirmont; Baltic University Committee – Joan Gysbe; Librarian – Al Bankiewicz; Chalking Drive – Claude Luth.

I. C. M.