

English Section

THE WYOMING VALLEY IS KNOWN AS THE CRADLE OF LITHUANIANS IN THE U.S.A.

THE UNENDING TASK

"Poverty" has been so much in the news headlines this year that many have talked and written about it in one letter which I have just read, the writer says, "In a newspaper review of the week's happenings it is reported that Sargent Shriver, the head of President Johnson's anti-poverty campaign, says the United States can eliminate poverty in 10 years if Congress will pass the Administration's program to deal with it... Should poverty be ended in the next 10 years there will be a tremendous boom in the printing business since the Bible will have to be revised and reprinted. It says: 'The poor ye have with you always'."

We have had career social workers in this country for many years who have dedicated themselves to helping the forsaken men on our skid rows and the extremely poor in the slum areas. Their work, though, has always and necessarily been limited to relief rather than prevention. Relief for those who live in the wretched filth of thriftless poverty, but without the power or resources to prevent the necessity for relief.

The greatest poverty-fighting task force the world has ever known is you—the group of men and women in this country and Canada commonly called Life Insurance Salesmen.

The people you work with are not living in filth and poverty. But they could be reduced to extreme want. Overnight, unexpectedly—as quickly as you can say "Death" or "Disability"—their circumstances could be reversed.

That is why we buy our life insurance during a time of "no need" for it. With the stroke of a pen and a small down payment we protect ourselves and our families against any future deficiency of money. We do this because we believe that when a man dies, he must not if he can possibly avoid it, bequeath severe debt or poverty to his heirs.

Too many of us, though, are blinded to the fact that poverty is not necessarily a lack of money with which to buy the necessities for living. There are other types of poverty besides an insufficiency of food, shelter and money—some of them perhaps more injurious than being dependent upon charity.

Each day's newspaper furnishes proof that on even this greatest of all continents and

in this wealthiest of all nations there is still a great poverty of morals, of fidelity, and of understanding. A poverty of humility and a poverty of forgiveness. The list is long and this poverty of intangibles contributes to keeping part of our population in endless physical poverty.

Even if we are the wealthiest nation in all the world, we will not eliminate poverty in ten years so long as we have such

vast numbers of people among us who are slowly starving for love and goodness and understanding.

This type of starvation which one individual can bring upon another—that's poverty, too. The kind which proves that man is an enigma. He says he wants to eliminate poverty, and even sets the years for its elimination, yet ignores the basic rules for such an unending task.

Jim Love
(The Fraternal Monitor,
August, 1964)

"At this Song and Dance Festival we see an expression of the flowing of Lithuanian culture"

(Remarks by Joseph Kajeckas, Charge d'Affaires a.i. of Lithuania made at the Lithuanian Song and Dance Festival, Singer Bowl, New York World's Fair August 23, 1964)

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the last New York World's Fair held here in Flushing Meadow, on the eve of World War II, Lithuanians exhibited to the world the happy fruits of the peaceful progress under freedom and independence which they had enjoyed since 1918. They demonstrated the indomitable spirit of a people whose language and culture are older than that of most other countries of the world.

Since that last New York World's Fair, however, Lithuania has been a captive nation and the victim of ruthless, flagrant and continuing aggression. We meet here today to honor the thousands of valiant Lithuanians who have died in the just cause of freedom, and also to demonstrate that the desire of Lithuanians to be free and independent again continues to burn with undiminished strength. Earlier today, we participated in ceremonies at the Lithuanian Wayside Cross erected here at the World's Fair;

that cross symbolizes the suffering of our people, but it also symbolizes their hope and determination to be free again.

Here at this Song and Dance Festival, we see an expression of the flowering of Lithuanian culture. The variety and vigorous life of our native arts encourages us to hope that the creative energy mirrored in art can lead to a better world for all peoples, if only we remember how to dream, how to be dedicated, how to spend ourselves. Our songs and dances teach us how to put aside inhibitions, how to go out of ourselves, and how to join with others in taking "arms against a sea of troubles". We are doubly proud today to have as the Mistress of Ceremonies of this Festival Miss Ruta Lee Kilmorie, who just a week ago succeeded, after long years of effort, in effecting the release of her grandmother from behind the Iron Curtain. She has given us all an example of how to persevere in a just cause. I am privileged to congratulate her and all the participants in this Lithuanian Day, especially chairman Prof. Jack J. Stukas and his committee, and to welcome the visitors to this event of the Fair.

Sen. Scott proposes five point program to combat soviet imperialism

Mahanoy City, Pa. — U. S. Senator Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) yesterday (August 16) proposed a five-point "policy of peaceful liberation" for the Soviet captive peoples.

Speaking at the Fiftieth Lithuanian Day celebration at Lakewood Park, Senator Scott said:

"For nearly 20 years the United States has demonstrated a massive inability to come to grips with the problem of the once free nations, such as Lithuania, held captive by Soviet imperialism.

"Soviet policy in this regard has never deviated — it has sought Western, and particu-

larly American, acceptance of their World War II conquests as both final and legitimate.

Though United States policy has with some degree of consistency over the years, deplored the plight of the captive nations, it has wavered back and forth as to just what course to follow.

Today, the thrust of our foreign policy is directed toward some form of detente with the Soviet Union, an impermanent power which has yet to renounce its aim of burying us. Even debate on our policy toward the captive nations has become muffled. What little discussion there is tends to revolve around two negative positions — nuclear war or gradual acceptance.

"Yet there is a positive policy which we can follow, measures which we can take, that are short of war, and yet do not constitute supine acquiescence to Soviet policies of colonialism and enslavement.

"The U.S. should have a policy of peaceful liberation for the peoples held captive by the Soviet, that includes:

"1. Making it a cardinal principle of our U.S. foreign policy that we refuse to recognize Soviet imperial acquisitions as permanent.

"2. Using every available media to spread the facts about Soviet imperialism throughout the world.

"3. Raising the captive nations issue at international conferences, diplomatic meetings, and the United Nations.

"4. Issuing strong and forthright statements on Captive Nations Week as President Eisenhower used to issue, rather than the "watered" down ones of recent Administrations.

"5. Passage by the Congress of a strong resolution calling for free elections in the captive nations, supervised by the United Nations.

"In the first session of this Congress, I cosponsored a resolution, S. Con. Res. 15, which called for such elections in Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. This resolution should be passed.

"Unless we vigorously take measures such as these, and pursue a policy of peaceful liberation, we will be failing in our duty as free men to come to the aid of those who are not free."

Plastic pool fails

MUSOMA, Tanganyika, Africa — Murphy's law, "if anything can go wrong, it will" came true here, much to the chagrin of a missionary who thought he had a great idea in a plastic lined swimming pool for storing water.

When he was home on leave last year, Rev. Edward M. Wroblewski, M.M. of Brooklyn, N. Y., thought he had solved the water shortage problem in East Africa. Some friends ordered a 15-foot plastic wading pool for him, which would hold 5,000 gallons of precious water, enough to tide Musoma Mission over the dry season.

After the pool was set up all at the mission waited for the first rain to fill the pool. However, the unpredictable happened. Something which the makers of plastic pools and Father Wroblewski had not counted on. African white ants love plastic. Before the rains came the plastic was riddled with small holes.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the nice introduction and congratulations for the fine way you recalled the past history of Lithuanian Day. It was a fine tribute to members of the committee who gave their time and talent for the past fifty years. By their hard work many of our Catholic institutions received a helping hand. Yes, also the war sufferers of Lithuania.

This day brings back fond memories to Mr. Gibavics, Mr. McCloskey and myself, the surviving members of the committee which planned the first Lithuanian Day.

We are grateful to the Wyoming Valley Choirs Association for honoring us on this, the 50th annual day. Our sincere thanks also to Professor John J. Saucianus who we believe made it possible for us to receive this recognition.

It appears in order to mention that Mr. Peter Gibavics was President of two of those early Lithuanian Day Committees; I was President of three.

The committee in charge of the first Lithuanian Day, July 16, 1914, was made up of thirteen young men. Fifty years seems like a long time; still those years passed by quickly. The Wyoming Valley is known as the cradle of Lithuanianism in the U.S.A.; it was, therefore, appropriate for this day to originate here. I wonder how many are present on this day who attended the first Lithuanian Day. In memory of those ten deceased members of the first committee, let us have a moment of silence.

Just two weeks ago I had the pleasure together with many members of the Wyoming Valley Choirs Association to be at the World's Fair in New York City. We witnessed a glorious exhibition of Lithuanian folk dancing and listened to the singing of combined choirs, in which between two and three thousand participated. An official, when extending greetings to the Lithuanians, in behalf of the World's Fair Committee, noted that the Lithuanian Day was the biggest single demonstration, to date, at the Fair. Here in this valley in the year of 1926 the biggest crowd that ever attended was at a Lithuanian picnic at which the late Archbishop Matuskevicius was the chief participant. These events prove that we can do it.

In the earlier days of the Lithuanian Day of Wyoming Valley, we also had massive programs. Each day opened with a mass, then there was a marathon race from Wilkes Barre to Valley View Park which was followed by a full day of athletic events, wrestling and boxing matches, and singing of combined choirs.

I again congratulate the Wyoming Valley Choir Association for continuing the tradition. It is a sincere wish that the Association would make a real effort to build up the Committee and again put on one of those big demonstrations such as were held in the past. Friendship of the Lithuanians was exceptionally high in those days and there was also great respect for people of our nationality in the Wyoming Valley.

These big events kept the younger people together. They met, they danced and they married. They were great social events.

There are no longer the big meetings, banquets or other big events. Today, we have numerous small events. The Lithuanians do have the talent and the masses of people, and it can be done again, but it

needs leadership and then work. The Lithuanian Roman Catholic Alliance needs you also. I urge you to join the Catholic Alliance as another stepping stone and, therefore, become a more important part of

community life in this Valley. The Catholic Alliance has the foundation to do big things. But it, too, needs younger leadership. It has a fine Home Office building which is a credit to all of us. We don't have community centers such as other national groups, but we can start in a small way, and you are invited to use the facilities in the Home Office building.

WHAT IS A GRUDGE?

To carry a grudge means to show stubborn, prolonged resentment against someone for some real or doubtful or imagined slight or offense or insult that has been given.

The inclination to show hurt feelings in this manner is a very human inclination, and persons who are interested in developing their character and personality ought to be ready to make special efforts to control this inclination.

No one needs lessons on how to express a grudge. Persons who indulge this weakness seem to know all the tricks. Some do it by a cold and disdainful silence, by a refusal to answer questions except in uninterested monosyllables and a cold aloofness from the plans and activities of one who unknowingly has been the occasion of the grudge. Sometimes the grudge-bearer will even go on a temporary hunger strike to show how much his feelings have been hurt.

Some persons resort to sarcasm, to biting remarks, to sneering interpretations of another's conduct and words. Some persons do it by throwing over themselves a black mantle of sadness that is heavy enough to make their cheeks sag quite obviously and their shoulders to droop with the burden of their sadness. And every aspect of their attitude says sorrowfully, "See what you have done to me!"

Strength of character will provide the ability to overcome resentment against others, to hide hurt feelings and to forgive readily and quickly. It is good for all of us to check ourselves occasionally to learn how much of this strength of character we have developed. These questions will help.

1. Am I inclined to be sensitive and touchy in my dealings with others, quick to notice or imagine or exaggerate slights and slurs and very slow to forget them?

2. Do I lack control over my features and general attitude, so that the moment I am slighted or hurt I let it be seen in my appearance that I have a grievance?

3. Do I find myself dreaming about appropriate and devastating answers to people who have humiliated me, but actually expressing these remarks only by a cool and hurt silence?

4. Do my friends find it necessary to apologize frequently and to bet me not to be hurt by something they have said or done?

5. Have I spoiled parties and gatherings by taking offense at some remark that was made and by refusing to be congenial afterward?

(Holy Trinity Parish Bulletin, Wilkes Barre, Pa.)

The importance of friendship

Friendship run natural lines is a beautiful thing, friendship run on supernatural lines is more beautiful still. When a man does not make friends or keep them, there is something wrong in the character of that man. He ought to examine his conscience; perhaps he is fundamentally selfish; selfishness is the death of friendship.

There are people who with a perverted pride boast that they can very well do without friends. Such a boast reveals an ugly deformity of soul, a self-centeredness which is repellent to God and man, for God made man to love God above all things and his neighbor as himself. A man who sees nothing lovable or attractive in any of his neighbors, his fellow-creatures of God, who sees nothing in them to admire, nothing to cherish and cling to, nothing to give his heart to, such a man is indeed in need of self-examination and our prayers.

We must be constantly aware of our utter dependence on other men. We must look for and see Christ in them. We must love them if our love of God is to be sincere.

(Holy Trinity Parish Bulletin, W. Barre, Pa.)

He Should

The school visitor was putting questions to a class of boys. He nodded to a little fellow with curly black hair. "Do you know the Ten Commandments he asked.

"No, sir!" said the boy

"What! You don't know the Ten Commandments? What's your name?"

"Moses", said the boy.



WESTERN times parade practice. (photo from the Lithuanian)

ISICYKITE L R K S A ISTORIJA!

Kiekviena namonings lietuvis, kuriam rūpi susipažinti su mūsų pirmųjų steigėjų vėgais ir rūpėdais, su pirmųjų draugų, organizacijų ir parapijų steigimu, su mūsų Suaukštėjimo pradžia, darbais ir nuopelnais religinėje, fraternalinėje, tautinėje ir kultūrinėje srityse, turėtų įsigyti

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