



Fear!

8/4/2016

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[The following was written in 1954 and appeared in the "The Butcher Workman, Chicago, IL and in the International Molders' and Foundry Workers' Journal, Cincinnati, OH. A shorter version was later published in my book, In the Shadow of the Hills.]

Fear! There breathes no man who hasn't felt the icy fingers of fear seep in to his bloodstream. He knows the sickening feeling when it captures his courage. He hasn't any peace of mind until he understands how to cope with it.

A little fear is a good thing. Fear for our soul gives us love and respect for our God. Fear for our mortal body gives us the common sense to protect it. Through fear of our parents we learn to respect them and, in turn, we are shaped into better citizens in our adult life. But too much fear can turn strong men into spineless jellyfish. They become pawns upon a checkerboard of time, moved at the will of a few.

We have felt the effects of many fears in this century. They have turned levelheaded men into stampeding mobs, trampling the innocent and guilty alike. In our grandfather's time we feared anarchism. As a result, many innocent workers suffered hardship and humiliation. Only through the courage and willpower of our early-day labor leaders, were we able to overcome this evil. In the early thirties it was the great depression. Chaos was fast becoming the reigning king, before we found a solution.

Today we are faced with communism. Because we don't know how to deal with it we are letting tyrannical methods of combating it destroy the ideals and freedoms upon which this great democracy was founded. Strong men are becoming pawns of powers which would in time destroy our right to think, to believe, and to worship.

What can we do to overcome this, the most deadly menace we have faced in the history of our union? Part of the answer lies in education, tolerance, religion and sound economy. While we wisely spend billions for our defense, we pinch pennies for our educational needs. We need more teachers and more classrooms, so that we may give our children the individual attention they so badly need. A diploma is worthless paper unless the child has absorbed the knowledge its represents.

Fear is the forerunner of hate. When hate moves in, communism is close at hand. When Catholic is pitted against Jew, white against black, and majority against minority, communism will make inroads into our way of life. Without sound economy we have less chance to combat this deadly evil. When men are jobless and hungry they are weakened spiritually as well as physically. They are ready to grab the first golden egg offered to them, no matter how rotten the yolk may be.

The pillars of our great nation are common sense, courage, determination, respect for our fellow man. Let not the termites of fear, hate, prejudice, and greed destroy those cornerstones. Let us fight communism, certainly, but as sane men, not fear-crazed animals.

Source: *A Bit of History* by Virgil Talbot, Page 173.

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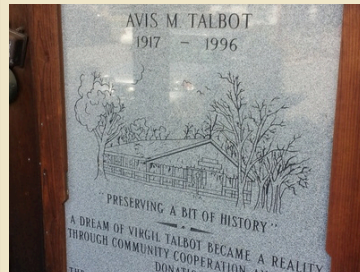
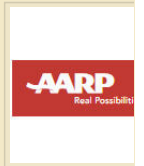
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