

# The Jewish Veteran



## Trees...

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovelier as a tree.

A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.

Sgt. Joyce Kilmer.



BULL RUN

SAN JUAN

GETTYSBURG

CHATEAULAIN

CRUZ

CEBU

PEKING

VERDUN

SAISNE

ST. MIHIEL

MARCH  
1940

MARNE

BUNKER HILL



## Citizen in the Making

Baby's got a new friend today.

She's a Girl Scout who's going to help out regularly at the day nursery because she and the other girls in her troop voted to do it as part of their community service.

She is learning to take care of babies—not one special baby but any baby who needs it, regardless of his parents' race, religion, or politics.

Babies don't know that the future of Amer-

ica depends largely on millions of girls like this one.

But you know it!

You know that a country is no better than its citizens and that citizens, by and large, reflect the training they got as children.

A lot of tomorrow's mothers are Girl Scouts who are learning tolerance with their baby care and civic responsibility with their housework.

*Support Girl Scouting*

**Girl Scouts Build Character—Character Builds a Nation**

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**GIRL SCOUTS, INC. • 14 WEST 49th STREET • NEW YORK CITY**

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THE JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES ENDORSE THE GIRL SCOUT PROGRAM

# ALIEN *Legislation and* CIVIL *Liberties*

Hate and fear. It is through these two emotions that dictators gain power. Place in the hands of an ambitious leader the means of instilling these in the minds of a people and you take the first step toward bondage. In Germany, it was hatred for and fear of the Jews that made Hitler strong. In Russia, it was hatred for and fear of the church which led to Stalin's ruthlessness. It is always so. We in America want no dictator. We want none of Hitlerism nor Stalinism.

That is why we must resist any effort to create hatred for or fear of any class or group here. I don't care what may be their race or religion or social or economic status. Once we set apart *any* group as our common enemy to be hated or feared, we endanger the rights and liberties of *every* citizen in the land.

There are pending in Congress four dozen bills directed against aliens. I hold no brief for aliens. Certainly they must not be granted favors over American citizens. But the danger lies in singling them out as the objects of legislative disfavor. Whether we like it or not *we are all the descendants of aliens*. No one with good sense—no one with true devotion to American ideals can justify whipping up popular sentiment against them just because they don't have the right to vote.

I know how easy it is for political self-seekers to condemn aliens. It is perhaps the best vote-getting argument in present-day politics. The politician can beat his breast and proclaim his loyalty to America. He can tell the unemployed man that he is out of work because some alien has a job. He can urge the immediate deportation of all aliens. Of course, he won't tell where the aliens are to go or how ships will be provided for their deportation. He has two objectives. One, to instill fear and hatred against the aliens. Second, to raise the false hope that by following his leadership work may be obtained by citizens who so much want it.

The tragedy of it all is that apparently neither the politician nor those who listen realize he is sowing the seeds of discontent that will inevitably bring despair and disaster to all our people.

You say I am exaggerating. Let us look for a minute at H. R. 5643, which provides for concentration camps for aliens. You say that can't be true. Surely here in free America no Congressman would advocate concentration camps. This is not Germany. Unfortunately, it is true. Let me read you an excerpt from this bill:

"Any alien (in certain classes), where deportation or departure is not effectuated within 90 days after the date the warrant of deportation shall have become final, shall be taken into custody and transported to

By Hon. Lewis B. Schwellenbach  
*U. S. Senator from Washington*

such place of detention as may be designated by the Secretary of Labor and confined until such time as deportation may become feasible."

What does that mean? Simply this—we have several hundred aliens who are subject to deportation. Through no fault of their own the countries from which they came have been destroyed. They may be from Poland, Monrovia, Bohemia, Albania, or one of the other countries which has been wiped out in the last few years. They can't be deported. There is no place which will receive them. So this law says they shall be confined "until such time as deportation may become feasible." That time may never come. It may mean life imprisonment. Do you want laws of that kind upon the statute books of free America?

Maybe you say, after all, they are *only* aliens. Why should we Americans worry about them? If that is your attitude, I want Abraham Lincoln to answer you. Let me quote from what he once said: "Familiarize yourself with the chains of bondage and you prepare your own limbs to wear them. Accustomed to trample on the rights of others, you have lost the genius of your own independence."

We have before us another bill under which any alien who even in private conversation favors any change in our Government shall be deported. He need not advocate force and violence. He need not be a Communist or Nazi. He just needs to be critical of our Government or the administration in power. You may again say, "Why should we let aliens remain here who criticize our Government? They are only aliens after all." If you say that, I am going to ask Thomas Jefferson to answer you. In his original draft of the Virginia bill for the establishment of religious freedom he said, "The opinions of men are not the objects of civil government or under its control." Do you think that Thomas Jefferson or any other of the original patriots would countenance measures which are today being advocated? If they had, we would never have enjoyed a democracy here. We still would be English colonies.

I think the height of politics was reached on January 3, 1939, when H. R. 999 was introduced. That bill provided, "That after December 31, 1939, every alien in the United States shall be forthwith deported." The author of that bill knew it could never be enforced. All of our ships and all of our machinery of government could not make it effective.

I do not criticize men who advocate things such as this. I pity them. I do

not fear them. Their proposals are too outlandish. I mention this bill only because it indicates the trend—a trend which involves a deep-seated danger so far as our future is concerned.

My appeal is not on behalf of the alien; it is on our own behalf. We don't dare permit these emotions to be kindled in our midst. The fate of any individual alien who might be injured by such legislation is not important as compared with the fate of our own people who will ultimately be injured thereby.

We in America inherit a treasure. That treasure is not in gold or land or other resources. It is the treasure of liberty. The right to be free, the right to think and to speak and to print and to worship—these are our inheritances. He who strikes at them strikes at our democracy itself. He who would restrict and limit the rights of any within our shores endangers the right of all within our shores. He who would ask us to hate and fear our neighbors, just because they are not citizens asks us to light a fire which might well consume us all. He may wrap around himself the cloak of patriotism. He may attempt to charm with impossible promises, but he cannot deceive those who truly understand American democracy, because the hate and fear he teaches is foreign to it.

The spirit of American democracy is a spirit of tolerance. Fortunately, we in America have in our hands the tools with which we may make that spirit effective. The tools of our democracy are contained in the first 10 amendments to the Constitution. They are known as the Bill of Rights.

It must not be forgotten that the very nature of these tools of democracy is such that they cannot be misused, exploited, or even neglected for long. They cannot be permitted even intermittently to lie dormant. Their nature is such that neglect and nonuse causes them to atrophy and die. Untiring alertness is the price which must be paid for their preservation.

We live today at a time when the need for this untiring alertness is greater than at any previous period in our Nation's history; this for the reason that right now three factors have merged.

1. For a full decade we have undergone a condition of depth-reaching depression. This could not have helped but to have weakened the resistance of our people. False doctrines of government acquire much more attractive color to a depressed than to a prosperous people.

2. The last two decades have seen the acceptance by the peoples of many nations of political doctrines which are the direct antithesis of those in which we believe.

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