

Future by Yoshio Kusayanagi

1998.38.14

Kusayanagi, Yoshio

Social Problems

“Future”

While there are many of yesterday's problems which are still left unsolved, more and more problems of the present and future are confronting us.

As we the youths of today approach the time when we will have influence and when we will be recognized as forces in making public opinion and determining the policies of our government, we have to understand our problems and act accordingly.

Today the world is in a miserable condition. The hopes for mankind which we all had now seems as a hallucination. Instead of progressing in our steps towards civilization, we seem to be reviving ourselves to ancient savagery.

No doubt there are and will be many who will take this affair as something which just happened and which they can't do much about. We can't do much about these people, but we the youths of today must have and can have a better world if we have a firm belief in our goal.

A good society is produced only by good individuals just as sure as a president is elected by the vote of single electors. Everybody can do something toward creating in his own environment kindly feelings rather than anger, reasonableness rather than hysteria, happiness rather than miser. The sum of such actions makes the difference between a good and a bad world. Whether we have great influence and can do a lot or whether we have little influence and what we do is small, we can always do something.

A man can do evil which may not seem so bad; but suppose there was a community of such people. Wickedness will not only affect that community but will affect the rest of us.

Never before in the history of the world has the independent thought and conscience of every human being been so necessary and important. We need – each of us – to make a serious and determine effort toward something better than the present. There must be the hope of a world with less cruelty and suffering, and there must be a firm will to do whatever is possible toward bringing it into existence. We can't fight and defeat these “isms” without having something ourselves to combat it with.

We could just try to ignore the injustice, prejudice, falsehood, and cruelty now going on in the world but that alone wouldn't help any in getting rid of these things. We have to do something – no matter how indirect that thing is – to create a better world for better living.

Since we are free people we can and should use our own best judgement in figuring things out for ourselves. Know what is right and what is wrong.

The world is a strange mixture of the divine and the devilish. Complete despair is no more reasonable than blind optimism. There isn't only cruelty and suffering – there's aspiration, rising triumphant over pain – showing us how well man can be at his best, inspiring us to live up to what is noble and torn away from what is petty and mean. There's courage and endurance in many millions of human beings, heroism in countless humble homes scattered throughout the land. There's heroism in serving mankind. Doctors and nurses are exposing their self beings to dangerous disease, scientists are risking their lives in experiment which may latter save others who may be suffering, firemen, etc. are all facing {unclear—maybe unpopularity} for a cause.

There is and has been good and bad things happening and its up to us to correct it.

It is said that, "It is from weakness that people reach for dictators and concentrated government power. Only the strong can be free. And only the productive can be strong." This has not only been true in the past but still holds true in the present. One of our basic need today is production.

We can't have successful military preparedness unless we first have an effective and strenuous economic system. A discouraged and slack economic system will produce a slack military effort.

The axis countries try to make the people to produce goods; while we here in the United States have a government which upholds production as an ideal and which inspires the people to produce and which then lets them do it.

The world can't produce geniuses thru force; rather people such as Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, and Scripps proved that people can do things through inspirations and ideals. Implant in the hearts of Americans the ideal of maximum productivity for maximum national welfare and for maximum national defense, and they will make their own plans.

This doesn't mean that businesses should be left alone as they please for they should be regulated to prevent wrong. "Our business transactions, one with another, will require proper regulation," – Plato. This also holds true in today.

One wrong in business can be overwork of employees. British and Germans have proved that if employees are worked too long they get so tired that they soon start producing less and less instead of producing more.

Getting together (especially of Government, labor and business) is the root of everything in a democracy. If business just tries to get domination for itself, and if labor just tries to get domination for itself, and if the government just tries to get domination for itself, we'd get nowhere in a democracy. The one great role of a government in a democracy is to combine all elements, including itself, into a common free purpose.

We here in the United States should prove to the rest of the world that our American economic system can produce more- more for peace or for war than any other system on Earth.

If we want to serve and to save democracy, we must produce. Speeches aren't enough, resolutions aren't enough and wearing uniforms aren't enough. We have to get together, work together, and produce together.

Anybody in Europe, with half a mind, knew that Germany had been preparing for a war on a colossal scale since 1934. No nation spends 20 billion dollars on self-denied wealth and luxury for a bluff. While the democracies of Europe and elsewhere were playing, Germany was hard at work. American, also, was turning her resources toward ease and luxury. It is a given fact that while the allies were making automobiles and other gadgets for pleasure, the Axis were busy producing tanks, guns, and other materials essential for war, and exercising for fitness. The worth of and the permanence of democracy cannot be insured by great navies or air forces, but only by our physical endurance as people. At no time in history has any people successfully protected itself without strengthening its own fibers (themselves).

In our magnificent outdoor training grounds of democracy we did everything possible to remove any incentive for people to use human activity for pleasure. Folk too lazy to climb a seven-foot stepladder can climb Mt. Mitchell, Mt. Washington, or Pike's Peak while sitting down. We spend more time in enclosed rooms than any race that ever survived in history. For mental exercise we play bridge on certain evenings, though we are too tired for serious reading. There's also, perhaps, golf, baseball, etc.

It's all good enough but it'll not survive in a world where a people concentrate its national spirit on a pursuit of fitness and power.

Instead of raising a race of lusty, weather-conditioned sons and daughters, we Americans exhausted our purses to buy (and still will if there weren't any rationing going on) gasoline for our racing youth. We had to have better clothes than others and better than that which our parents had. We must be constantly amused with movies and its likes. Schools shouldn't be so different for us as it was for our parents. Our pride is hurt if we aren't allowed to join some sort of a society for enjoyment. Our children graduated if they could and we tried to find them a mate or a job. If we want our nation to be safe to face these present and future dangers from any quarter, and strongly bred to stand up against any wind of fate, we'd have to stop "tying" ourselves to our mothers' apron. We must be able to stand on our own two feet and be able to meet whatever obstacles which may confront us.

According to Representative Ross A. Collins; despite our huge army camps swarming with draftees, our state of unpreparedness is alarming. To conquer and enslave all Europe, they (the Axis) have relied on youthful command, plus a diabolical ingenuity in the use of new weapons. They took our own American inventions – notably the plan and the caterpillar track – and with them re-shaped their entire military, air and naval establishment to a formula of destruction that has revolutionized warfare.

When we entered the present war, we found ourselves with utterly inadequate air strength; with only a few tanks; and not one panzer division. We found ourselves without modern anti-tank guns; and without enough anti-aircraft guns to protect a single city and for the first time in our history we found ourselves facing enemies on both oceans.

Even now, after a year of war, we find people who aren't willing to do their part in this war. They're the ones who say that it doesn't concern them and that it'll be over before we know it. These people are the kinds of people who are hindering our war efforts.

At the present time, all workers and civilians should do their part when their country is meeting a crisis. Workers shouldn't change jobs just because of better pay because working time will be lost. No decent person or persons should try to start a strike and we all should bear the hardships, confronting us at the present time, the best we can and equally.

High school students and Japanese internees who would like to work on farms such as beet fields, etc. should be allowed to. Courses in high school should be shortened to the minimum or a special class instituted where boys who would like to finish their courses early can do so and thereby help this country in whatever field they are capable for. I, however, do not believe that schooling should be cut off entirely since without sufficient knowledge, we wouldn't be able to get anywhere in whatever we strive to undertake or do. Women, who are capable, should be used for war just as the Russians are using them. The Waacs and the Waves are a good examples of what I mean. Women may man anti-aircraft guns in all our coastal cities, be nurses, help build morale in the armed forces, work in defense plants, and do other things of which they are capable of doing.

At the present time, jobs are definitely in the market for the really competent men and women and opportunities number far more than is generally believed. The incompetent and ordinary are the ones who are unable to place themselves.

Thousands of openings require no experience whatsoever and there's plenty of jobs for competent young men and women who want to climb. Now is the time for every one to do his share in this war.

If everyone does his part in this war and should we win, we'll have to guard and keep guarding the American institutions which gave us victory. If we lose this war, we'll be slaves. Our aim at the present is to win the war and talk afterward.

Ordinary civilians can help this war in many ways. We'll be forced to sacrifice almost everything but the necessities of life. No family should object to mean rationing when they realize that the beef and bacon they don't get are being served to their sons and brothers in the army.

Tins, tea, coffee, dairy products, shoes and clothing will be rationed by the end of 1943. Electric goods, garden tools, lawn mowers, kitchen utensils, plumbing fixtures, and plated silver will be scarce or obtainable. No more percolators, metal furniture, ice boxes and its like will be available after the supplies are exhausted.

Theaters, department stores, hotels and office buildings that have large air-conditioning machinery will have to give it up, for the large compressors are needed for making synthetic rubber. Before the end of 1944 at least 1,600,000 new subscribers will find it impossible to get telephones.

Many of us may be forced to sell some of our possessions such as iron, steel, copper and brass goods which aren't serving us in any way. However it will not do us any good if we give these items up and then go to the store to buy another.

Another way to help the war is to donate your blood to the Red Cross. Although the present Red Cross program is to get 3,000,000 pints of blood, only a little over 1,000,000 pints of blood has been donated.

Perhaps many of us are not aware of the urgent need for plasma; it is just as positive a lifesaver as insulin is for diabetes.

Plasma gives the victim sufficient strength to withstand surgery, keeps him alive while he is being carried to the base hospital for treatment. Plasma is the thing which in most cases spells the difference between life and death for the untold numbers of men and women.

According to Dr. Earl Taylor, National Technical Consultant of the Red Cross Blood Donor Services; our present quantity of plasma is far short of the most conservative requirement.

What has all this got to do with our future? Plenty!! These are the factors which decides whether we can win this war or lose it. If we win, our future will be bright and hopeful for us and we will eventually be able to live as normally as we once did. Everybody will be his own dictator instead of having people like Hitler and the rest of the dictators telling us what, where, and when to do things. If we lose this war, there will be no future for which we can look forward to. Our freedom will be lost and we'll no doubt be enslaved. In other words, the way we live today will mean a lot in the way we live tomorrow.

If we do win this war, we should make and plan things so as to unite the entire world into one solidarity. We should not disarm ourselves, however, before we are certain that such mistakes as had happened at the end of the last war will not be repeated.

Such things as narrowness, selfishness, meanness and stupidity, and all other defects of human character and education should be wiped out entirely.

The United States and the twenty Latin American republics should be united; the Japanese should be stripped of all her conquests and China should be reunited with all her former concessions plus Korea. European countries should be restored to their original place and ownership and our duty and aim should be to see to it that there will be lasting peace from then on. But as stated before, we must face the present facts in order to win the war for the future.

There has been, in history, good periods and bad periods, but neither has been lasting. It is our misfortune to live in a bad period, but it will end eventually. It will end the sooner if we as individuals keep our hopes alive.

We should remind ourselves that the world is what we make it, and that to the making of it each one of us can contribute something. This though makes hope possible; and in this hope, though life will still be painful, it will be no longer purposeless.

The things which we the youths of today must therefore concentrate on, is on that of winning the war.
Then may we think of our individual careers for the future.