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★ FREEDOM OF THE PRESS ★

Today We Pay Homage to Our Flag

Few times in the 163 years since adoption of the Stars and Stripes as our national emblem have we had occasion for more serious consideration of the importance of our flag, of what it stands for and of what we owe it as citizens of the "free" United States of America.

Today is Flag Day. Then let us consider some of the privileges we are enjoying. To merely repeat the fact that we have freedom of religion, freedom of speech and freedom of the press may not impress us—may sound like trite phrases we have heard before.

But when we consider that thousands upon thousands of European citizens in the dictator nations have been forced to flee, as refugees, have been made to suffer physical, mental and spiritual cruelty or have been put to death, just because their religion failed to coincide with views of the state, then we may stop and appreciate the privilege we enjoy of freedom of worship.

Freedom of speech is taken for granted in America. Americans may "cuss" their own politicians, say what they please about any other government or individual, may express views openly and publicly upon any subject, controversial or otherwise. Even in Canada, just across our border, this condition at present does not exist. Canadians recently were told that to "quote a German broadcast or news item" would be regarded as a "fifth columnist" activity, and "if you are guilty of doing so, go give yourself up." Of course that is not a circumstance to restrictions which have been on citizens of the dictator nations for years.

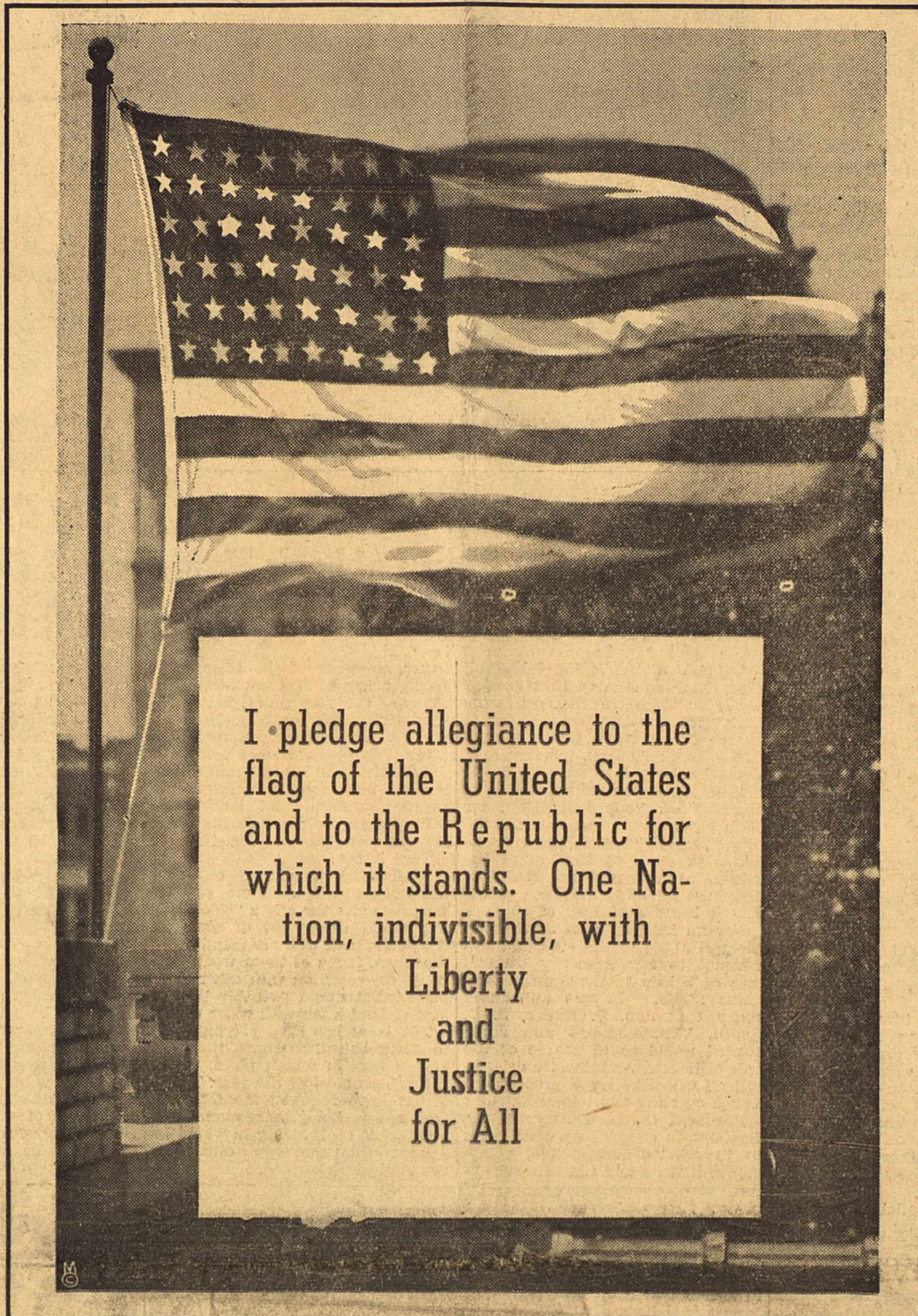
Freedom of the press means that the news may be printed in full, with liberal comment by writers and editors as long as they stay within the laws of libel. In the dictator nations, the people read what their dictators want them to know. They hear on the radio what the dictators want them to hear.

Contrast the rights of citizens living under the protection of the Stars and Stripes with those under other flags.

But the very privileges enjoyed under the flag may be abused by citizens under its protection. Today there are groups who refuse to pay homage to the flag, yet are enjoying its privileges. There are groups abusing the freedom of speech and are sowing propaganda to undermine the United States, whose flag allows them this freedom of speech. If we are to enjoy American freedom, we must respect and protect its principles as exemplified by the Stars and Stripes.

It is time for us to quit "leaning on the government" and to let the government "lean on us." As we observe Flag Day, let us do it with serious consideration of our obligations to the Stars and Stripes.

★ FREEDOM OF SPEECH ★



★ FREEDOM OF WORSHIP ★

Proper Display of the American Flag

The proper way of displaying the American Flag, according to the regulation of the War Department in Washington, D. C., may be summarized as follows:

When carried in a procession with another flag or flags, the flag of the United States of America should be either on the marching right, i. e., the flag's own right, or when there is a line of other flags, the flag of the United States of America may be in front of the center of that line.

When displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, the flag of the United States should be on the right, the flag's own right, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

When a number of flags of States or cities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs with the flag of the United States of America, the latter should be at the center or at the highest point of the group.

When flags of States or cities or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States of America, the latter should always be at the peak.

When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, i. e., to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed the same way, that is with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street.

When displayed over the middle of the street, the flag should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.

When used to cover a casket, the flag should be placed so that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder.

When the flag is displayed in the body of the church, it should be from a staff placed in the position of honor at the congregation's right as they face the clergyman. If in the chancel or on the platform, the flag should be placed on the clergyman's right as he faces the congregation.

The American flag should not be permitted to touch the ground, or trail in the water and it should not be used as drapery or as decoration, where bunting of red, white and blue is in order. When the flag is in such condition that it is no longer a fit emblem for display, it should be privately burned.

The complete flag circular of the War Department can be obtained by writing to the Adjutant General's office, Washington.

★ FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY ★

Today Is Flag Day

Turn to Page 2 for Late News

Turn to Page 2 for Late News

