Bishop Sheen Writes

Ruling the Tongue Oft A Most Difficult Task

BY FULTON J. SHEEN

Some people say that their heads are right on top of their stomachs, and when anything goes wrong with their stomachs they can not sleep. An equally serious condition is one in which words



BISHOP

are always on the tips of people's tongues, so that reason never intervenes to stop their utterances. This advice was once given to those whose speech is intemperate: "Think before you speak; then talk to yourself." Ruling the tongue is one of the most difficult of all tasks. For that reason the ancient Persians taught their youths two things: to be secret, and to tell

Those who abuse speech are divided into three general classes: The first are those who are always "putting people in their place" as if they were ordained by God and the Constitution to "tell off" everybody for what they call "their own good." The second class is made up of those who detract from the merit of others by criticizing, finding fault or putting an evil interpretation on all they say or do. They go to an art museum and criticize every picture for

not being hung properly, but they can never see that the pictures in their own homes are all upside down. A critical spirit is born of wrong behavior. There is not a critical person in the world who is not in need of criticism. Criticism of others is an escape from necessary self-criticism. The third class is made up of just plain liars. Conscious of their own littleness and insignificance, they try to give weight to their characters by exaggeration, or by creating a mythical world which is built according to ther own specifications.

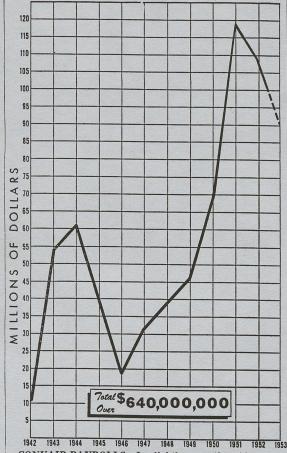
SPEECH IS INDEX TO MIND.

Socrates said: "Speak that I may see thee." Speech is the index of the mind and the summation of a soul, all that the person has been, is, and will be. We need only hear a word and we can say: "He is an ignorant man," "he is a proud man," "he is a kind man," "he is a cruel man." The whirlwind on the tongue is the sign of the tempest in the soul. If there is envy in the heart, it will show in the tone of the voice; if there is love in the heart even the words share the glow. But a skunk in the cellar soon smells up the whole house. It is a physical and psychological impossibility to develop the art of conversation without first developing the art of a good and humble heart out of which come our words. The power of edifying speech increases with the improvement in morals. Many of the suggestions offered today for the refinement of the art of conversation are in reality nothing else than the art of deceit and amount to "How to disguise your feelings," "How to praise when you want to damn," "How to compliment when you want to condemn, "How to influence people when you hate them."

Words are to be judged in two ways: by their transparency and by their purpose. Words should be like windows: We should be able to see through them. They should not be like curtains which veil the inside of the mind from the outside of the lips. An equal sign should always be made between what is in the mind and what is on the lips; if we can not make the equation, the words should not be said. There is hardly a human who has not at some moment of life come face to face with persons who never said what they meant, or never meant what they said. Many others, on the contrary, so spoke that the words were like open doors to their hearts. If they invited you to dinner, they really meant it.

MIND MUST CONTROL SPEECH.

Speech also has morality. Speech is a vehicle for the transportation of ideas, as an automobile is a vehicle for the transportation of persons or things. We judge the morality of a vehicle by the purpose for which it was made. An automobile used to rob a bank is the wrong use of a vehicle; words used to deceive, to malign, to destroy character are for that reason unmoral. A Communist who uses freedom of speech to destroy freedom of speech has used the vehicle of words for an evil purpose, and is to be judged in exact



CONVAIR PAYROLLS—In slightly more than 11 years of operations, Convair has paid \$640,800,000 to employes of its Fort Worth division. The breakdown by years: 1942, \$10,100,000; 1943, \$54,600,000; 1944, \$61,-900,000; 1945, \$40,400,000; 1946, \$18,300,000; 1947, \$31,100,000; 1948, \$39,200,000; 1949, \$46,700,000; 1950, \$69,500,000; 1951, \$118,000,000; 1952, \$108,000,000; and 1953, \$42,000,000 for the first five months through May or an estimated \$90,000,000 for the year.



33 Silversmiths Observe 50th Anniversary in Trade Harris ground squirrel at the flowers at one sting and had to be treated for spere stomach

century of service at most trades and most of them are still turn- to qualify as die cutters. Many ordinarily earns a man one or stainless-steel tableware. Their this point, they had just started more of these reputations: An aggregate seniority gives the their education as silversmiths. book of Joshua. old hand at the game, old war company a bank of experience horse, old campaigner — ad in- that, if expended year by year, finitum. In the silversmithing would last beyond 8,000 A. D.! trade, however, it seems a man's just a pup with anything less than a silver anniversary to his

The skill of silversmithing, hard-learned trade. brought to flower by medieval artisans, is handed down from generation to generation, and spans, rather than in years.

records at the Wallace Company 6,000 to 8,000 hours of training. here illustrates the point. At this On top of that, several more

WILLINGFORD, Conn., May 118-year-old firm, 375 men have 30 (NANA). — A quarter of a qualified for the 25-year club, years' experience was necessary just looks at the nants.

And that's not all: 33 more silversmiths have celebrated golden anniversaries, and eight of them continue daily to ply their

Most of the senior silversmiths began learning the business as terms of service are measured youths. Before they qualified as in quarter- and half-century apprentice 'smiths, they had to learn the 12 phases of silver-An examination of personnel smithing, which required from

Squirrel Has Tummy Ache | cage in which we planted two

Harris ground squirrel at the flowers at one sking and had

ing out exquisite sterling and of them will tell you that, at

TUCSON. May 30 (A).—The squirrel ate near all of the here was supplied with a new ache. Marvin Laton, assistant zoologist, said the animal now

The first geograpical records are in the Pentatech and the

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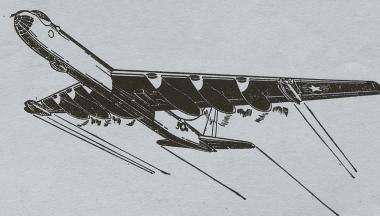


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The horse has a bit, the ship a rudder, and man has a mind made to control his words. This applies equally to men and women through their conversations. Men generally speak about things; women generally speak about persons. The women used to be called the gossips. Now that dubious honor is being stolen by the men. When a patient goes to see a doctor he says: "Let me see your tongue." We have a Divine assurance that something like that will be said by the Divine Physician on the last day. He said that we would be held responsible for every idle word. Conscious of that responsibility, it helps to keep in mind the words of David: "I will take heed to my ways, that I offend not with my tongue; I will keep my mouth with a bridle, when the wicked is beside me."

More Tourists Leaning Toward Tower in Pisa

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Visitors are jamming this city hands

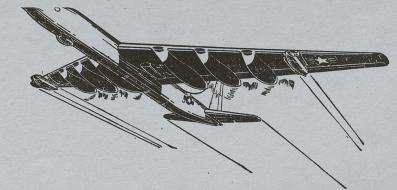
PISA, Italy, May 30 (AP). - The | of 70,000 population so tightly leaning Tower of Pisa, which has it's hard to find a place to park been giving tourists pains in the a car. Some drivers, intent on neck for 600 years, is at the a view of the tower, park near top of her tipsy glory these days. the city outskirts and return to For reasons pleased Pisans don't the center by horse-drawn car-

Pisa tourist office, rubbing its



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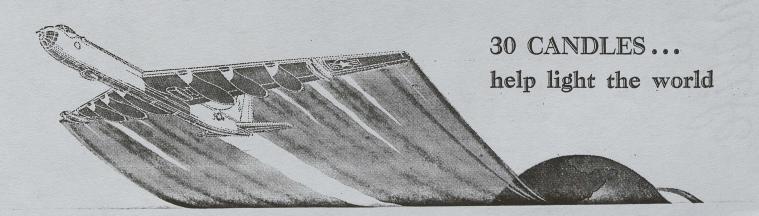




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"Nothing like this has ever crowds of sightseers in her his- happened before," announced the Pisa tourist office, rubbing its



.THOS. F. ABBOTT, JR., President

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