

Déjà vu

Christopher L. Murphy, BF

MSCNY Article No. 51

This tattered article caught my attention while rifling through my personal "archives." It appeared in the *Empire State Mason* in February 1955. It was sent to me many years ago by Bro. Boudreau for the image on the other side of the page. As a result, I don't have the continuation.

Let's see... I was 14 years old when this article was on nice white paper with its edges clean and straight. I am sure many of you reading this were "there" as well.

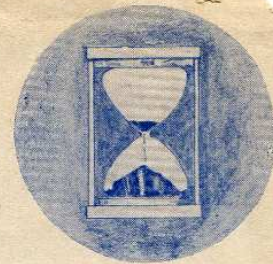
If Grand Master Raymond Ellis were to write this article today, I think he would reverse his priorities, making nuclear warfare the first concern.

Although those of us sort of "watching the sun set" may have grown a little complacent with the current world situation, it appears we are on our way to another nuclear crisis.



Top: Ghana's skull/bomb stamp (1962). Lower: Stamp from the Marshall Islands (1998) that may be associated directly with MW Bro. Ellis' article.

Indifference Complacency Apathy



By M. W. Raymond C. Ellis

In these perilous times it is not unreasonable that our attention should be focused on the obvious dangers that threaten the peace and security of the land. But behind the obvious are dangers much more real, much more fundamental, and much more serious. In this atomic, or hydrogen, age, into which we have been catapulted with a suddenness so unexpected that the appalling consequences have not as yet been realized by the great mass of our people, we would be naive indeed to be blind to the seriousness of our position and the threat to our liberties from the Kremlin and its satellites. There can be little doubt that we are the prime objective of Soviet hatred, and that we are the one great world power

that stands in the path of Communist aggression. We are hated because we are feared. We are feared because of our strength — our ingenuity — our production capabilities — our ideals. Fear is usually the basis of hatred.

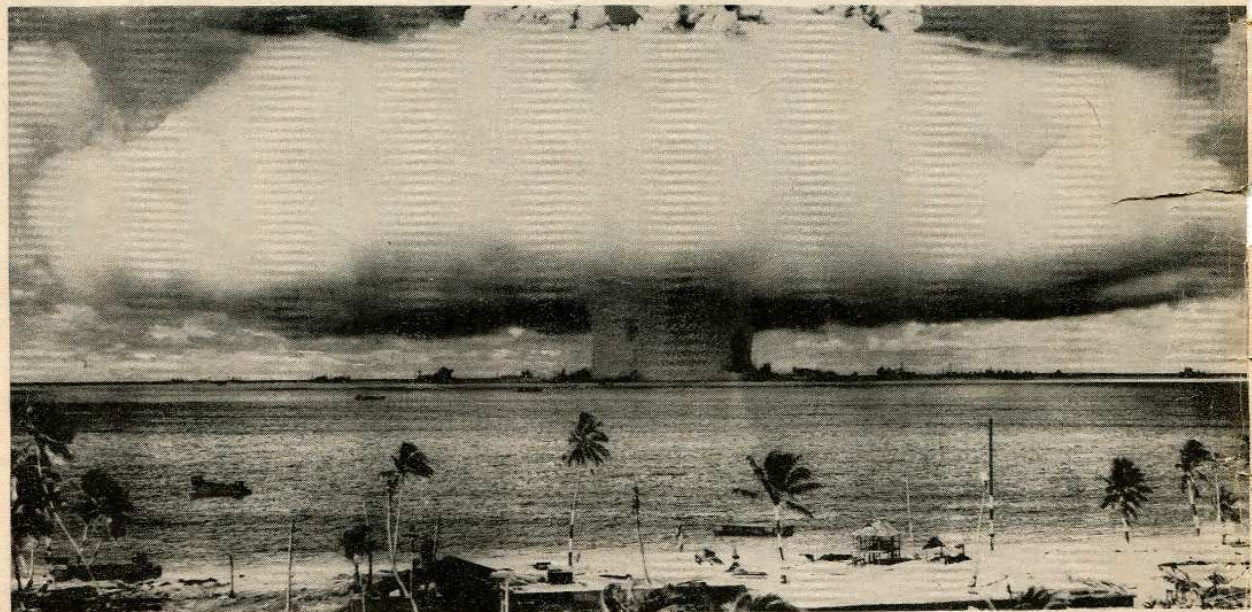
Yet, however grave may be our dangers from *without*, much more serious are those dangers from *within*. *Indifference, complacency, apathy*. These come from within, and have been gnawing at the vitals of our national social life for over 50 years. *Indifference* to the use of the ballot on Election Day with the result that many candidates have been elected to high office by a minority vote. *Complacency* in the face of corruption and national scandal.

Apathy toward our churches and synagogues with the result that large as may be the number who have taken upon themselves the obligation of religion, the percentage is small of those who support church or synagogue with their prayer with their attendance.

A people that spends, as Mr. Hoover of the F.B.I. recently said, \$750 for pleasure for every \$1 contributed to church purposes, have something to answer for.

Speaking from the Christian standpoint, Ruskin was right when he said, "It is not that people disbelieve in Christ as that they neglect Him." Neglect is only another phase of indifference. Any police officer

[Concluded on page 36]



ATOMIC BLAST FLINGS "MUSHROOM" CANOPY OVER TARGET FLEET . . . The underwater atomic blast in Bikini Lagoon, produced this mushroom shaped cloud formation a moment after the explosion. Note the gap in right side of cone of water, just above the water level. This hole, shaped like a cave at the base of a cliff was at about the position of the battleship *Arkansas*, sunk by the blast. Observers aboard the

press ship *Appalachian* at Bikini interpreted the rift in the column as being caused by the interference of the *Arkansas*' 26,000 ton bulk with the formation of the water column. This joint Army-Navy Task Force One photo was made from an automatic camera mounted on Bikini atoll. Its clear depiction of the famous "mushroom" cloud makes it one of the most remarkable photographs in existence. *Wide World Photo*