

Apathetic, we are no longer

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by Andrea Leonard

Without a crystal ball or occult powers to forecast the future, it's impossible to know what, in this world, will happen tomorrow, next week, or during 1980 to change our lives or determine how American will cope with international crises.

Neither can we predict with any certainty the outcome of matters of national importance. We know not what lies ahead, even at Town Hall. At this point, we don't even know how much money to set aside for payment of Barnstable real estate taxes for the year drawing to a close.

The only thing we can be positive about is that there will be crises, there will be changes in national policy, and leadership, and we will all be affected by them, and taxes will be levied.

It's anyone's guess what the final outcome will be as a result of the Iranian invasion of the American Embassy in Teheran. Reaction by most Americans is well-placed outrage. Suggestions for ending the impasse range from total capitulation to Iranian demands to sending in the Marines or bombing Iran into the Red Sea, with the preponderance of opinion being that militancy is the course to follow.

We're angry. We experience the same emotions that prompted Patrick Henry in a speech before the Virginia Convention in March, 1775, to ask, "Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery?"

Cooler heads are saying, "Wait; exercise restraint; be patient. See if we can't work out a solution that won't plunge the world into another international conflict."

Whatever course we take, the issue is coming clear. Americans are singleminded about one thing. We're united in our desire to break the stranglehold of dependence certain foreign nations appear to have upon us.

Whether snapping those bonds comes about through voluntary sacrifices or imposed ones, whether it comes about through force, whether it comes about through mediation, come it will, because people in this country feel as one on this subject, even though we may disagree amongst ourselves

upon every other question.

For this, at this Thanksgiving time, we may be due thankful, for as Ben Franklin remarked at the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

It will take hanging together; it will take concerted action; it will take a unity of purpose unknown to millions of people in the United States who were yet unborn at the close of World War II and who therefore have no memory of their motherland's entire population being dedicated to a single spontaneous resolve.

Whatever else may result from the difficulties we face, American will profit from a unanimity we have long done without, and without which we are impoverished. Each of us has reason to be thankful that the capacity for unity is surfacing and will demand satisfaction.

Apathetic, we are no longer. We are now aroused.