

EDITORIALS

The Right to Know

Laws requiring tax-supported agencies to conduct their business well within the public eye were broadened this week as Governor Edmund G. Brown signed a series of "open meeting" bills approved by the California Assembly and Senate.

Bills were approved to expand the "Brown Act" provisions to 21 additional state boards and commissions. The bills were authored by Speaker of the House Ralph M. Brown of Modesto who has long been a champion of the theory that no public agency should be allowed to hold secret meetings.

Assemblyman Brown has worked closely with the California Newspaper Publishers Assn. in recent years to bring scores of such open meeting laws into effect. The Brown Act, which now covers almost every public agency in the state, including city and county boards and commissions, is built on the theme of the "people's right to know."

Basically, it provides that no public agency may hold a meeting without first notifying the press and the public and public may not be barred from such meetings. Also approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor was a bill authored by Assemblyman Frank Luckel, San Diego Republican, which plugged up a loophole in a portion of the Brown Act relating to executive sessions for personnel matters.

Assemblyman Brown drafted an amendment to the Luckel will which will prevent public agencies from using the executive session provision to hold secret meetings on other matters.

Ideally, the bills should not be necessary. Unfortunately, however, there are always a few small-minded men in public office who think government is their own private affair.

To protect the people from the evils of closed door or star chamber government, the legislature and the governor have acted wisely.

To the Governor, to the two Assemblymen who spearheaded the drives, and to the California Newspaper Publishers' Assn. should go the thanks of all California citizens who value their right to know what their elected officials are doing.

A Chance to Help

The unfair struggle of a young wife to survive the staggering costs of a disastrous illness which struck down her husband recently is getting an assist this week from friends and neighbors throughout the Torrance-Peninsula area.

Sparkplugged by Mrs. Fern Nash of Palos Verdes, local groups and individuals have arranged a benefit dance for next Saturday night for Harold "Blackie" Francis, young Walteria businessman and veteran, who was stricken with a cerebral hemorrhage nearly two months ago. He has since lain in a Long Beach hospital, unaware of the tragedy that his illness is bringing.

Tickets for the affair are modestly priced, and sponsors of the affair are going all out to make it a whopping success.

If you don't get a chance to buy a ticket this week, show up at the American Legion Hall, 1109 Border Ave., next Saturday evening. You'll have a good time and contribute to a most worthy undertaking.

LAW IN ACTION

Old English Law

Convicts often seek the old English writ of *coram nobis* to bring out errors of fact at a trial and to get themselves released through a corrected judgement.

Suppose, because of fraud or excusable mistake, an accused person couldn't make a proper defense. He could seek a *coram nobis* writ which stresses facts unknown or un-presented at a trial.

A convict could also seek a writ of *habeas corpus* which, as a rule, stresses points of law rather than facts.

Delay in reporting this new fact to the court may bring about a denial of the writ of *coram nobis*.

As a rule, one seeks *coram nobis* only when he has no other remedy. For example, perhaps he can no longer appeal to higher courts or withdraw a guilty plea.

Courts seldom issue the writ of *coram nobis*. To get one you must show some newly found fact, not presented at the trial, sufficient to up-

set the judgment. A hard thing to do.

In one case a husband forced his innocent wife to plead guilty to a crime that sent her to jail. Finding out about this, the court granted her the writ so she could change her plea to not guilty.

In another case the court granted the writ to an ignorant man who pleaded guilty to murder upon an officer's promise that he would not have to go to the gas chamber.

By *coram nobis* the court may "vacate" a guilty plea and reverse the judgment if the new facts stand up in court.

But no court will grant the writ if the convicted person took part in a fraud upon the court. In one such case a convict pleaded guilty and lied in court to protect his employer who had promised in return to pay his fine.

Coram nobis could not help him; he was a party to the fraud on the court.

NOTE: California lawyers offer this column so you may know about our laws.



Local Man Reports on Brazil

(When he went to Brazil early this year to supervise construction work on a new plant for his company, the American Standard, William H. Speck, of 1511 Beech Ave., promised to let us know how he and Mrs. Speck found life in Brazil. Here with is his report.)

By WILLIAM H. SPECK We are starting our fifth month in Brazil, and are now getting acclimated and can talk enough Portuguese to buy our food and vegetables, order a meal in a restaurant, and travel in cabs and buses with a minimum of difficulty.

In Brazil, the people have the greatest respect for Americans. Naturally they are suffering from many misconceptions regarding the American way of life and American customs.

First, they believe we are all rich and everyone has servants. This is the result of American movies shown here and the fact that most Americans living here have servants.

We do not have a servant: We have a lady who takes our laundry home each week and does it. She comes once a week and cleans the house completely, scrubs and polishes floors, cleans windows, etc.

My wife, Mabel, likes to cook meals and tidy up because it gives her something to keep the time from being boring.

Also, a maid has certain disadvantages: some drink your liquor, some are difficult to train to do things American style. For example, they just don't believe in using hot water for dishes.

They are more generous in using garlic in cooking, and they will clean a room and polish the floor—then brush the furniture.

The wages for a servant—six days a week—is approximately \$2 per month, or 2600 cruzeiros. The exchange rate varies from day to day. We have received as high as 145 cruz. per \$1 and as low as 130 cruz. since we have been here.

The American dollar is one money that is good the world over. I still have some American money and have been offered cruzeiros much higher than the going rate of exchange.

Food over all is much cheaper here. Vegetables and meat are the best buys. You can buy Filet Mignon for 40 cents a pound now and this is higher than it was when we arrived. Coffee is 46 cruz. for a kilo, which is 2.2 pounds, or about 20 cents a pound. Canned goods are more expensive and so are paper products such as napkins, etc.

One interesting thing I have noticed is that when you dine out, they place a bottle on the table in the better places. They measure the contents of the bottle before and after to determine what you drank and what to charge you.

The people are neat and clean—also very formal and courteous. We live over the Theatre in Judai on the main street in town. We have a porter who keeps an eye on the place, cleans the lobby and corridors, and keeps out peddlers. We live on the third floor (actually the fourth floor because the don't count the ground floor). We have an elevator, chute for garbage, etc. . . . in many ways it is quite modern. We have a balcony with a nice view, living room, maid's room and bath.

Two doctors and a tailor live in the building along with the plant superintendent and two supervisors from our company.

The theater here has American movies every week. We go because they are "sound movies" and we can hear the dialogue. They flash the words on the screen in Portuguese. Our trouble now is we are anxious to learn Portuguese and forget to listen, thereby missing half of what it said. It's rather frustrating at times.

We keep quite busy socially; going to parties for someone new arriving in our organization or someone being transferred to Europe or elsewhere.

One thing we hope will be corrected soon is that more Americans learn other languages. We were at a luncheon the other day with members of the foreign division, some visitors, relatives, and people from other countries.

One gentleman spoke Italian, French, English, Portuguese and Spanish. His mother spoke French, Portuguese and some English. A gentleman from a company building new kilns for our plant

here spoke German, French, English, and Portuguese. Our plant architect spoke Italian, French, Portuguese, and English . . . and so on around the table. The conversation going on was carried on in six different languages.

Mabel and I spoke only English and a little Portuguese; another American couple spoke Portuguese poorly, English, and a little French. We managed quite well, but you can see we felt inadequate.

If what I say here can induce some students in school to just try a little harder to learn another language, they may someday find it invaluable.

Countries such as Brazil are growing by leaps and bounds—new industry is coming in every day; the people I associate with here like America, like our democratic form of government; they feel like we are a big brother, and they also hope to achieve the same prosperity and the same manner of life.

They are deeply concerned also. When Russia put the first satellite in space, they were perturbed. When we caught up, they were deeply relieved and said they knew that no people will ever get out and stay out in front of the "Norte Americanos."

They resent us saying we are Americans. They consider they are Americans, too. They are South Americans; we are "Norte Americanos."

We have taken some pictures here, but mostly in color which we can show when we come home. I really don't have a black and white picture to send. Possibly later if we get some good pictures in Rio, I will write again and send a picture.

Graduation ceremonies that week, 81 elementary pupils received their diplomas.

To celebrate the completion of the metropolitan aqueduct and the bringing of Hoover dam power to the area, a committee was appointed to look into the feasibility of having a national exposition in the Palos Verdes Hills. Simultaneously, exhibitions were being planned for San Diego and San Francisco.

Of interest to poultrymen a quarter of a century ago was a demonstration held under auspices of the county farm bureau to determine the sex of day old baby chicks. It was expected that the new system would mean poultry breeders would only have to buy half as many chicks as they had been buying in order to come out with the number of pullets they needed.

There is a realization that suddenly the child is a man—a man whose decisions affect the rest of mankind, a man who contributes productivity to the world of reality in business or research or perhaps by writing—a man who will marry in due course of time and carry on the stream of society.

But behind the thrill and wonder and the awe there is a sadness too. A sadness at an era ended. The friendships that were will never again be the same. Different paths have a way of separating friends, and a d relationships change.

All the shared experiences that have been good are over, as well as those that were not so good; but shared, nevertheless. They are the past, to be remembered with sweet nostalgia in years to come.

There are faces one knows one will never see again, faces that have been an intimate part of one's life.

There's a sweet sadness in farewell to times and faces that have finished their job in molding a part of the individual into the unique self he is—an influence he

THE SQUIRREL CAGE by Reid Bundy

Is Your Father a Goldbrick?

Today is your day, Dad! Ever wonder how it got to be that way?

Honoring father is an age-old custom, dating back to the ancient Greek civilizations, and beyond. "Father" is a title of honor.

George Washington, for example, is recognized as the "father of his country." That title he shares with such illustrious Romans as Julius Caesar, Augustus, and Cicero, who, in turn, were called the fathers of their civilizations.

Physicians honor the father of medicine when they take the oath devised by the Greek physician, Hippocrates.

In modern times, we have the father of the atom bomb in J. Robert Oppenheimer; father of the hydrogen bomb in Dr. Edward Teller, and the city fathers—our seven members of the city council.

Official recognition of fathers with a special day is new, however. New in the sense that it was started in 1910 by a Mrs. John Dodd in Spokane, Wash., who advocated that dear old dad be given a day of his own.

We don't know whether it was Mrs. Dodd's idea, but the dandelion was once selected as the symbol most appropriate for Father's Day. The dandelion, you know, flourishes best when trampled the most.

But be that as it may,

My Neighbors



Reckless driving killed and injured 255,000 persons in 1958.

RAMBLINGS by Ronnie Saunders

Grad, Diploma in Hand . . .

On college campuses commencement exercises took place throughout the Southland this week. In two of the high school of Torrance early graduation was held last week.

The feelings of both sets of graduates at this moment in a lifetime are much the same—exhilaration, excitement, awe—exhilaration at having attained a long-range goal; excitement born of ceremonial rituals, signing of autograph books, and address swappings with a promise of letters that may or may not get written; and awe at the glorious realization that one is at last part of the adult world, part of the masses that make a village or a city or a world what it is.

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Father's Day traditionally brings up statements on how hard father works to keep his family in a nice home, provide them with food, and keep fancy clothes on the female members of the household.

But does father really put out like this? As Al Smith, 1928 Democratic Presidential candidate often said, "Let's look at the record."

There are 365 days in a year. Right so far?

You sleep eight hours a day, or a total of 122 days per year.

Subtract 122 from 365 and that leaves 243. Right so far? If you work an eight-hour, five-day a week job, you're off duty another eight hours a day for another total of 122 days. Taking 122 from 243 and that leaves just 121 days to work.

But, there are Saturdays and Sundays, remember, 52 of each, or a total of 104

more days which dad doesn't work.

That just leaves 17 working days for the breadwinner. But, whoa!

How about Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day . . . and maybe some others?

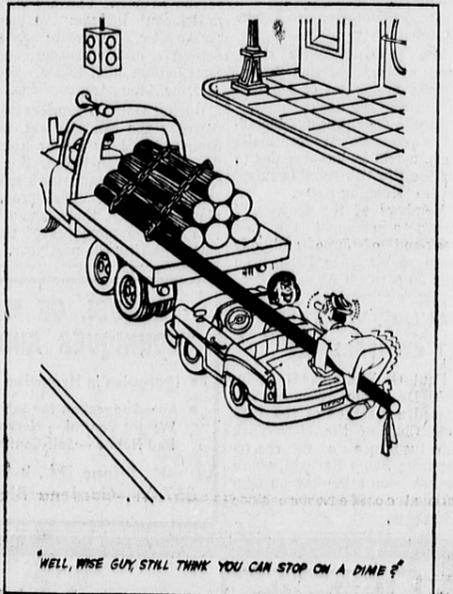
There are at least six other days dad gets off, which leaves 11 days for his job.

What kind of a boss would not give a man a two-week vacation in these modern times?

Take 14 days from 11 and you've put yourself three days in the hole.

So when the family gathers around today to tell you what a great guy you are and how they appreciate the long hours you put in for their welfare, just remember that you probably owe the boss three days work just to keep even with him, and you might not get a vacation this year.

The Luckless Legion by Irwin Caplan



Reckless driving killed and injured 255,000 persons in 1958.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS 1-Man's nickname 2-Above 3-Note of scale 4-Excuse (Colloq.) 5-Come into view 6-Flower 7-A state (abbr.) 8-Stage whisper 9-Existed 10-Crafty 11-Former Russian ruler 12-Conjunction 13-Declares 14-Turf 15-Man's nickname 16-Around 17-A state (abbr.) 18-Printer's measure 19-Fabulous bird 20-River in Wales 21-Printer's measure 22-Diphthong 23-Card game 24-Ventilator 25-Number 26-Seek 27-King of rain 28-Real estate map 29-Weaken 30-A continent 31-Part of flower 32-Prefix; twice 33-A longside 34-Shoulder of basket 35-Singing voice 36-Compass point 37-Things, in law 38-Down 39-Falls behind 40-Reminiscent stone

Grid for crossword puzzle with clues and answers. Includes words like 'OUR STAFF', 'REPAIR', 'SOBBED', 'PIT STOLA', 'SALT UP', 'RENAL', 'LITIGIOUS', 'SAGIO', 'AS ORACLE', 'SIB', 'SEED LIEN AMA', 'HEADS AD STR', 'SEPAR HIT', 'SATRAP HARASS', 'ARE TISLET TID', 'MAR NEARS RUP'.

STAR GAZER by CLAY R. POLLAN. Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars. To develop message for Sunday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.