

## Only for the Strong

When personnel and commissioners of the Planning Commission are made suspect by charges or insinuations by elected officials in open meeting, it is time for the public to exercise their "right to know."

At the same time those implicated by the charges have a right and a duty to defend themselves.

In the opinion of this newspaper, Planning Commission members should by character be so completely above suspicion that they may be free to exercise their authority in the best traditions of the judiciary.

Again, in the opinion of this newspaper, there have been many fine members of the Torrance Planning Commission and there have been some whose background of experience either cloaked them in robes bearing "conflict of interest" labels or so weak in experience and stamina that they were putty in the hands of manipulators, some of whom have had halcyon pickings in this fast development area.

As in many sections of Los Angeles County, the record shows that Torrance zoning laws apparently have been made to be broken. So many deviations from a prescribed course have been made by the Planning Commission rulings (and at times even City Councils) that it is a wonder there is any orderly development of this city of 113,000 at all. More often, it has been through the works of a few good developers that Torrance has anything at all to point to with pride. Fortunately, too, for the good of the city, there have been hundreds of individuals who through personal pride, taste and thrift have contributed greatly.

By and large, however, it must be accepted that too often many developments have done little more than thicken the pocketbooks of boom town promoters, operating with little more respect for posterity than the transients of California's Gold Rush days.

As Torrance reaches the maturity of years, it becomes increasingly important that the stature of membership on the Planning Commission be improved. Only those capable of standing against the precedent arguments, dredged up by every appellant with a hungry dollar pitch, should be appointed to this important public body with so much power to do so much good for the future of Torrance.

## Most Taxpayers Honest

The Kansas City Times quotes a midwest regional officer of the Internal Revenue Service as saying that the overwhelming majority of all federal taxpayers voluntarily file and pay their correct taxes. In his words, "By and large the citizens of this country, the taxpayers, do a tremendous job. . . . And since this situation doesn't exist in any other country it's worth talking about." Statistically, he added that about 97 or 98 per cent of all the tax dollars which the Treasury has coming reach it without any goading or legal steps by the government.

Here, coming from an authoritative source within the government itself, is some potent ammunition for those who oppose the plan, which got nowhere in the last Congress but will be offered again in the next, to apply a federal withholding tax to income from dividends and interest.

If this scheme were adopted the burden would fall heaviest on those who could least afford it—people in the very modest income brackets, most of them elderly, who rely on income from these sources to keep their heads above water. In many instances the withholding levied would be greater than the tax they actually owe. It is true that the over-payment could be recovered by making proper application to the Treasury, but this is a time-consuming matter, and meanwhile, those involved would be without funds to which they are entitled. Moreover, numbers of them would not know of or understand the routine which recovery of over-payment of taxes involves, and so would lose income which is rightfully theirs.

Certainly, the Internal Revenue Service, with all its experienced personnel, with the vast resources of information which it has in its files, and with modern electronic equipment which can instantly produce all relevant information about every taxpayer in this country, can catch up with the tiny percentage of tax evaders without a law which is based on the principle that just about everyone is crooked.

The new Torrance street map, published by the Membership Committee of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, has been made available to all members of the organization and contains vital statistics of concern to every resident and those with business interests within the city. Copies may be had at the Chamber headquarters, 2204 Torrance Blvd.

Don't be so ready to tell a poor soul to go jump in the ocean. In this area he can do just that in a very few minutes.

The trouble with being punctual is there's nobody around when you get there to appreciate it.

## Opinions of Others

Offhand, we would think the Cuban ransom thing would practically destroy all the international faith temporarily reconstructed by the blockade action. A background story in *Time* magazine about the methods used to obtain the loot with which to ransom back those prisoners makes you shudder. If *Time* is correct, the Administration used blackjack methods to hijack drugs from companies to pay the ransom. We can see this thing progressing to the point where this country could never afford to indulge in any kind of skirmish as eventually we would go broke buying back our prisoners. If this got to be too good a deal, the average American tourist would be kidnapped for ransom. —California Farmer, Jan. 19, 1963.

## If You Want To Brighten My Corner



## ROYCE BRIER

# Likens Nuclear Apathy To 'Stromboli' Complex

Once while the writer was passing Stromboli on a liner the volcano was erupting. With a good glass you could see several-score fishing boats, standing out to sea, where they would wait a few days until they could return to their village and shovel out the ashes.

A Neopolitan gentleman who knew said this happened about every 25 years. They simply bundle their families on the boats and take off. It had been going on since the Roman day.

These fisherfolk were practicing what the psychologists call "denial," a primitive mental trait of refusing to think about danger until it is upon you.

In this happy circumstance you think disaster and death are for the other guy. If you brush them you are surprised and indignant, and if you escape you forget the whole thing.

But the trait, if primitive, is hardly discarded by the civilized. It must account for the soldier facing the odds of gunfire. It permits you to drive a freeway at 85 mph, when you know intellectually that your hazard mounted when you left the lateral.

Recently Dr. Lester Grinspoon of Harvard University, told a session of the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science that "denial" of the nuclear peril is a foremost attitude of Western civilized man. He knows the odds against him in nuclear warfare. They are far higher than anything imposed by Stromboli, comparable perhaps to the odds against a Pompeian in the famous Vesuvian blowoff.

Dr. Grinspoon said a survey showed only four per cent of Americans worry about nuclear war. As you listen to cocktail-party conversations, you might think the figure would be higher,

but possibly the martini neurosis is not representative.

The Daily Express in London published a cock-and-bull story that some weeks since Vulcan bombers had pierced the North American radar defense, and flown at will over such cities as Washington and Chicago.

This yarn sounds as if Lord Beaverbrook was having his jollies, and American radar experts deny such a flight ever occurred, but in any case, it is a piece of news easy to forget.

Besides, these bombers crawl along at 600 m.p.h. as against 16,000 m.p.h. for a missile, so what's to worry? If the missiles come you've got about five minutes, they say, hardly time to get to the pub.

It may be a "denial" to estimate that nuclear warfare is improbable at present, as Adlai Stevenson did. The writer has for some years held this view, and moreover has seen the Stromboli fisherfolk, and they came out all right. Shall we anticipate the psychologists, and in their own jargon call it the Stromboli Syndrome?

## TALK OF THE WORLD

### THE BLOOD SELLERS

TOKYO — Public criticism is mounting against the increasing reliance of private Japanese blood banks on professional donors from a notorious Tokyo slum area who sell their blood as often as 50 times a month.

Living in a state of continual exhaustion, these flop-house donors in the Sanya, Asakusa district, resort to all sorts of stratagems to renew their strength. Many drank daily doses of chicken blood, while others gulp down iron filings mixed with salt water, or eat dried sardines and spinach.

Popularly known as "tako" (octopus), these habitual blood sellers are paid only about 500 yen (\$1.40) for 200 cc., which is slightly more than half a pint. Yet it is estimated that about 500 donors manage to average 8000 yen (\$22.30) a month.

Of the 40 public and private blood banks, the latter provides almost 80 per cent of the blood used in Japan. Moreover, many of these private banks apparently disregard laws prohibiting donors from selling blood more than once a month and limiting the amount that can safely be sold to about 500 cc. per month.

Some banks also buy so-called "scrap blood"—thin or impure blood—for use in a product to "rejuvenate the skin of middle-aged women." Still other private banks specialize in purchasing blood

with a high percentage of white corpuscles. Donors of this latter type are paid an extra 300 yen (85 cents) per 200 cc.

Actually, so much blood-letting can be dangerous to the health of both the donor and patient. It can cause the donor's blood to turn yellow and even shorten his life; and a patient given weakened blood may develop serum hepatitis.

To cope with the problem, the Health and Welfare Ministry has launched a nationwide blood donation drive, since public blood banks are entirely dependent on volunteers.

Local alpine rescue teams in Japan's mountainous districts are balking at continuing to risk their lives to save reckless amateur climbers, most of whom come from Tokyo and other large urban areas.

In a recent mishap the rescuer fell to his death while carrying the body of a dead climber. Since the rescue operation was completely voluntary, the family of the dead rescuer received no compensation.

Despite warnings from every side, climbers by the hundreds stream out of the cities on weekends as though they were headed for a picnic. Many carry only enough food for one meal, neglect to wear gloves or other types of warm clothing and ignore signs of threatening weather. On a single recent holiday weekend no less than 19 plunged to their deaths.

## A Bookman's Notebook

# Welles Old Troubles As 'Citizen K' Retold

William Hogan

One of the memorable American motion pictures remains the inventive and audacious "Citizen Kane." Orson Welles, then still in his 20's, produced and starred in it in 1940. It was loosely based on the career of William Randolph Hearst and his communications empire. The picture was cast with members of Welles' fine Mercury Players.

I was looking over "Citizen Kane" the other day. This is the spirited biography of the late publisher by W. A. Swanberg that almost won a Pulitzer Prize for biography last year—and now is available as a 95 cent Bantam paperback reprint. Why it did not win a Pulitzer is another story—having (it was suggested at the time) to do with old Pulitzer-Hearst feuds. But Swanberg's account of the Welles-Hearst feud in this book makes wonderful nonsense.

When Welles was making the picture at RKO, Hollywood was shocked to learn that the story was based on Hearst's flamboyant life. Louella Parsons, Hearst's movie hatchet woman, demanded to see the picture as soon as it was finished. She brought two Hearst lawyers with her, Swanberg tells us, when Welles gave her a private showing. "Miss Parsons and the lawyers sat through the picture in silence and left the RKO projection room without bidding good-bye to Welles."

"Citizen Kane" raised a storm. Louis B. Mayer, boss of MGM and Hearst's pal, offered to pay RKO the \$800,000 the film cost if RKO would destroy it. RKO refused. It was said that Hearst angrily threatened to open an editorial attack on the whole film industry unless the picture was censored or suppressed.

The pressure against the release of "Kane" came from top men in the industry. Swanberg recalls, George Schaefer, president of RKO, had to scratch to find theaters that would book it. The great Radio City Music Hall in New York, a part of Rockefeller Center, refused it. Schaefer telephoned Nelson Rockefeller, who said that all he knew was that Miss Parsons had called him to warn that the picture

should not be shown. Schaefer had to lease independent theaters to introduce "Kane." The big circuits of Warner's, Paramount and Loew's wouldn't touch it. RKO subsequently threatened a conspiracy suit against Warner Bros., which finally relented and did show the movie. The people loved it, and "Kane" went on to win the Best Picture of the Year award, beating out "Sergeant

York" and "How Green Was My Valley."

The Hearst press refused to mention the picture, or take ads for it. Worst of all, from the Hearst viewpoint, Welles was never again to be mentioned in Parsons' column.

Swanberg tells some great tales in this fair and fascinating study of the senior Hearst—a fine paperback choice.

## Around the World With



# DELAPLANE

"Is there an off-season in Hawaii? Can we get advice for a traveler on a budget? Advice on hotels that are not expensive?"

There's hardly any "off-season" in Hawaii anymore. Right now would be as "off" as any but it's a popular place.

Best for a budget traveler's information comes from Hawaii Visitors Bureau, 2285 Kalakaua Ave., Honolulu, Hawaii. (There are local offices in Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York.)

Ask them for the Hawaii Hotel Guide pamphlet. Get a place a Waikiki but OFF the beach a few blocks. The beach hotels are much more expensive and you can walk from the cheaper ones to the beach. You might also consider the outer islands hotels—except for the luxurious ones—are less than at popular Waikiki.

"Can you tell us the best way to get tickets for shows in New York? We will be there in March."

"Gentleman George" Solitaire, the New York ticket broker, told me once that out-of-towners do best by writing the theater direct of tickets. He said the producer loves to get your name on his mailing list. Because next year he'll have a new show and may want to push it by direct mail advertising. He thought out-of-town people had a better chance at tickets on hit shows than New Yorkers.

"We have a small group of young people, all interested in the theater. We would like to start a Little Theater in some English-speaking community anywhere in the world. Naturally on a budget. Do you have any suggestions?"

Auckland, New Zealand, might be the place for you. They like theater, get very little of it. Not much to do in the evening that I could see. Two fair restaurants. No nightclubs. Bars close at 6 p.m. Theater should be good.

"You mentioned Hawaiian poi as being fattening. Where do you get it and what is it?"

It's the beaten up root of potato-like plant. Very starchy. Poi is the bread of the Polynesian islands. (But poi in Tahiti is a sweet dessert.) In Hawaii, you usually get it fresh—it's ground up in a poi factory at Honolulu and put out in cellophane bags. But I have seen it in sealed bottles. I could only suggest you write Hawaii Visitors Bureau and ask where it is sold on the mainland.

"If we go to Switzerland this summer with a six-months-old child, can we get the usual baby needs?"

In Switzerland, yes. Canned baby food is about three times the cost of it here. Only place it's unavailable is in Spain. Help is so cheap there everybody grinds and strains their own.

"... about drinking water in Mexico?"

All tourist hotels keep a big bottle of purified water somewhere on each floor. The maid is supposed to refill your room jug with this. However, I'd empty what you find in the room and ask for a refill. At roadside restaurants, order Tehuacan—tay-wa-con. If you want it without carbonation, say, "Sin gas." Seen-goss.

"How do you find out about the time they change the Guard in London?"

You dial ASK 9211. Gives you all the daily tourist events with the times. Now if you want to get the time, dial TIM. Easy?

Stan Delaplaine finds it impossible to answer all of his travel mail.

For his intimate tips on Japan, Italy, England, France, Russia, Hawaii, Mexico, Ireland, and Spain (10 cents each), send coins and stamped, self-addressed, large envelope to the Torrance HERALD, Box RR, Torrance, Calif.

## Strength for These Days (From The Bible)

Things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. —(II Cor. 4:18)

If you look only at the surface of life we may sometimes find it disturbing. But when we look deeper, to the unchanging realm of Truth, we face life with faith, courage and composure.

## Mailbox

Editor, Torrance Herald: May I express my appreciation and that of my church for generous space you gave our church publicity in last Thursday's issue of the Torrance Herald. Our Methodist church is situated in the edge of Lomita Pines area where the Torrance Herald is widely distributed.

Again our appreciation. MRS. E. IRENE HOWE Secretary and Publicity Director Harbor City-Lomita Methodist Church

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