

Torrance Herald

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No Noose Is Bad Noose



For Strong Planners

Discussion by members of the City Council during recent weeks about the qualifications of commission members with particular emphasis placed on the city's Planning Commission touches on a matter which has been considered a problem by this and other city governing bodies for years. Stated simply:

"What kind of man do you want serving on the city's commissions?"

The case which was considered and decided in favor of Commissioner Jack Eardley last week states the problem well.

Mr. Eardley, a member of the Planning Commission for about two years, apparently came under fire because he had sustained from participating in or voting on several matters which came before the commission during his tenure.

To have members abstaining from actions of the commissions "dilutes the membership" and weakens the commission, according to Councilman Ross Sciarrotta, who voted to remove Eardley from the post.

The only other alternative, countered Mayor Albert Isen, is to have indigents on the commissions whose activities could offer no chance of a conflict of interests.

As he pointed out before the City Council during discussion of Eardley's case, a conflict of interest is no bar to membership on such a commission or to offering a valuable service to one's city. Concealing that conflict and participating in matters in which that conflict exists is a different matter.

The HERALD, in this case, agrees with the stand taken by Mayor Isen. The city needs the experience and knowledge offered by professional and businessmen on its commissions, and to eliminate the risk that some matters will present a conflict will eliminate most qualified men from serving as city commissioners.

The same could be said of members of the City Council: to eliminate all possible risks of such conflicts, nearly every present councilman would have to step down. As real estate men, Councilmen Nicholas O. Dralle and Ken Miller are obliged to abstain now and then when matters in which they have acted as agents or have other interests come before the Council. As an employee of Dominguez Estates Co., Councilman George Vico is obliged to abstain on matters in which his company is involved. As a business property owner, Mayor Isen has abstained from participating in decisions, even when his interest is only that of a landlord whose tenant is doing business with the city.

Such areas of conflict are perfectly proper—the only impropriety would be their concealment.

The City Council should continue to invite and appoint the best qualified men of the city to serve on its commissions and to be thankful that men of integrity will not participate in cases in which they have, or have had, an interest but will step aside through the avenue of an abstention in those cases.

To do less would be to reduce the membership of the various commissions to the level of the unqualified indigent. That type of membership dilution would benefit no one.

Misuse of Power

A four-line editorial in a recent issue of Editor and Publisher placed in capsule form a summation of the intolerable strike against the New York City newspapers.

Entitled "Power" here it is: "Congress couldn't do it. The President of the United States couldn't do it. Even the courts can't do it. Only a striking union, abetted by other unions can close down the newspapers in the nation's largest city, not to mention the newspapers in the eighth largest city."

The New York and Cleveland newspaper strikes prove, once again, some unions have achieved a monopoly power that cannot be countenanced in a free country. The strikes were conducted at tremendous cost to the publishers, some of them already fighting a losing battle against rising costs, and to merchants and others who counted on the newspapers to spur their all-important holiday trade. All efforts were arrogantly rebuffed in a spirit that demonstrated only complete contempt for the public interest.

Opinions of Others

NORWALK, CONN., HOUR: "For the fifth consecutive year, enrollments in engineering schools and bachelors' degrees granted in this vocation are on the decline. Engineering schools had hoped that after four years of hammering away at the advantages of the profession and the very real need for more recruits, high school students would show a greater interest. It has not been forthcoming."

MOUNT PLEASANT, PA., JOURNAL: "I lived to be 100 by refraining from smoking, dancing, drinking and chasing women," says a centenarian. This may explain how he lived that long, but it doesn't explain why."

WYNNIE, ARK., PROGRESS: "I see by the papers that the national deficit is now running at the rate of six billion dollars a year. You know, it takes a lot of patriotism to buy government bonds, investing in an organization that is losing money at the rate of \$500 million a month, \$16,666,666 a day or \$3694,444 an hour. What I'd like for Christmas is for the Kennedy Boys to quit believing in Santa Claus."

LISLE, ILL, ADVERTISER: "... Dr. Paul Dudley White, a past president of the American Heart Association, believes human beings need a mixture of both physical and mental stress to live a normal, healthy life. He has this to say... 'Forty hours of work per week is probably too little for healthy humans. We spend so much time trying to entertain ourselves in our leisure time that we are probably less culturally adapted than were our grandparents, who, fortunately for them, did not have automobiles and television—they walked, and read.'"

ROYCE BRIER

Nobody Knows Eventual Outcome in Europe Pact

The flaw in hindsight is the time element. So you will one day know the meaning of the friendship treaty between France and West Germany, but nobody knows now, not even M. de Gualle or Herr Adanauer.

It may be dubbed the Paris-Bonn Axis (Berlin unhappily is not available for the journalistic title), and it may be significant, or it may not. Everybody now knows the significance of the Rome-Berlin Axis, though when it was erected the matter was not clear.

In theory other European nations can join, but it is likely they will be suspicious of it. The very idea of a warm Franco-German fraternity after a hundred years ranging from mutual dislike to mutual fury, is an odd one for the Western world, and we cannot even guess how it looks in the authoritarian east.

Economically and industrially the two countries are

formidable if they can work together, but there remain some loose ends outside their dual orbit.

We may take it President de Gaulle believes this pact is another step in his ambition to restore France to a Continental leadership she has had in but brief periods since the fall of Napoleon.

It is certainly an undertaking to diminish substantially the influence of the United States and Great Britain on the Continent. At the moment, however, Chancellor Adenauer and the Germans may have some reservations on this score.

It is also an undertaking to subordinate Italy and the Lowlands in whatever economic lines of force the French and Germans can agree upon.

Aside from possible deleterious effect on NATO and even the Common Market, the pact appears about to compel a realignment of European power reminiscent of the fer-

vid treaty-making of 1900-1910, and in the 1930s.

It is not so sinister, perhaps, but it is there. We must note that Prime Minister Macmillan is now visiting Rome. It is entirely possible the coolness between Britain and France over the Common Market talks will be deepened by the Franco-German treaty.

Despite this, Balance of Power—a term we see less frequently than we did early in the century—is an enduring force in the unique aggregation of nations which is Europe. Turned away by one combination, a nation will cast about for leadership elsewhere. Britain's intervention in Continental affairs has always been a Balance of Power play.

But Balance of Power now has a new form, with the American and Soviet giants splitting the Western world into two camps, and Britain faces a knotty problem if the Franco-German pact succeeds. So does the United States.

From the Mailbox

By Our Readers

To The Herald:

To you, and through you, the many thousands of persons it is impossible to contact personally, I would like to express the deepest thanks of the doctors of this community for your assistance in the Sabin Oral Polio Vaccine program.

At the outset of our consideration of sponsoring this community project, we knew that we had to have your support if it was to be successful. Through your newspaper we had to reach and enlist support from persons in every type of work...

Since this was a medical program, we had to have doctors in attendance at all times, and this was a job we were glad to undertake. LACMA members and members of the 41st Medical Society joined in this community effort, also on a volunteer basis.

In each clinic there were many others who worked hard in the public interest. Pharmacists placed vaccine on the sugar cubes. Nurses passed the vaccine to the people who came to the clinics. Schools and businesses gave space, time and effort to provide places for the clinics. The County and City Health Departments provided doctors and other personnel to staff clinics and lent their weight to the medical urgency of the program. Scouts and grocery store owners, police and sheriff's deputies, PTA members and service clubs of all types joined in the effort.

Only with the help of these and many more was it possible

to bring almost 3,000,000 persons to the clinics for immunization and to provide this wonderful protection against polio for a minimum donation of 25 cents.

Sincerely,
RICHARD L. TAW, M.D.
President,
L.A. County Medical Assn.

Editor, Torrance Herald

Much is being said these days about abolition of the death penalty or placing a moratorium on the death penalty, but in my opinion either idea is detrimental to our society. Let's have laws to aid our law enforcement officials, not to give comfort to criminals. If the death penalty saves a single life by making a criminal think twice about killing, then I feel it is worth it and should be retained as a part of our legal structure.

Those who favor abolishing capital punishment say they believe in prison sentences without parole for convicted murderers. This sounds good but let's be realistic. The next step would be to champion the cause of parole because we Americans are a forgiving group, sometimes too forgiving. Therefore I am writing to my state senator and assemblyman expressing my views on the subject.

JOHN MARLOWE

Editor, Torrance Herald
We would like to take this opportunity, at the beginning of the new year, to thank you and your staff for your helpfulness and cooperation in connection with our church

advertising the past year.

We appreciate your kindness in running the news items and other items of interest concerning our church which are submitted to you by Mr. LaMue.

With every good wish for the coming year,
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
First Church of Christ, Scientist
(Mrs.) Maxine Small,
Clerk

Quote

JOHNNY MOORE, San Francisco—"The Negro can lose morale because in most cases, although he may have the education and the ability, there is no certainty that he can get the job he is best qualified for."

CHARLES SCHULZ, Sebastopol, originator of "Peanuts" comic strip—"In a way prosperity is kind of a nuisance. You have to keep track of everything for the income tax."

XAVIER (the Red Fox) BROCKS, San Francisco, ex-gang leader arrested for possession of narcotics—"I'm no narcotic user or pusher. It would be stupid for me—after all I've been to college."

MRS. HELAYNE BUTTONS, L.A., after divorcing Red Buttons—"I love Red. And he loves me. We will always love each other, but we are no longer in love with each other."

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

Nation Has Right to Know Exact Facts About Cuba

SAN FRANCISCO — We have been taught that reporting is a profession developed by our society to present and interpret news.

Perhaps to better inform, stimulate or influence public opinion and action where it counts.

But society had a very prophetic reason in mind when they subsidized the first newspaper... they wanted a check and double-check upon public officials and government, which not even the political opposition or the Constitution could adequately provide.

Trying to unravel the mistakes of public officials, protected by the powerful arm of government, is quite a task. Cries of violations of security or worse are the time bombs that explode under our typewriters.

We are accused of political favoritism, no matter what party officials we expose.

More so than any other job, we are vulnerable to error not of our own making.

We can be made to look bad by the sheer controversial aspect of party partisanship, not to mention the human idolatry of personalities unworthy of such public acclaim.

As newsmen we are caught in the middle. But we have our say, and time alone will measure us, sustain or destroy us. The rewards come in trying.

We're In Real Trouble In Cuba

President Kennedy is not telling us all of the present crisis in Cuba.

On Oct. 22 last, the President, in ordering the quarantine of Cuba... and actually "declaring war on Russia"... said to the nation, "Both Gromyko and Khrushchev lied to me when they denied the existence of Soviet rockets in Cuba."

They have lied to their athletes-teeth ever since our first negotiation right after the end of World War II.

From Stalin to Khrushchev, to the bearded hood in Cuba they have lied and lied.

The President, in resuming nuclear tests last year, after the three-year "phony moratorium," exposed the Soviet lie again by informing the nation in that previous emergency telecast that, "I have intelligence information that the Soviet government did in fact test underground in violation of our moratorium."

Lies, lies, lies. These are the words of the President of the United States... not of an eager-beaver reporter, not of Nelson Rockefeller, who may run against him in '64... not of a super-patriot who is besmirched each time he raises his voice of anxiety at the widening cracks in our security.

The President Should Inform Us

More than any other American, the President knows all the facts available on Cuba... or should. We citizens don't. In his most recent press conference he said, "We know of only one ship from Russia that could have carried military weapons that arrived in Cuba since last October."

Our government has stopped nuclear testing as a gesture of conciliation while the disarmament talks were in progress... with no similar gesture by the communists who are continuing the nuclear tests.

We have agreed with Rus-

D. J. TEPPER, San Francisco—"That more people prefer to be mentally massaged by television than to think actively for themselves is simply a reflection on the majority of humans."



On the "status quo" in Cuba by removing the Cuba question from the UN agenda.

NBC report this week showed films in Havana harbor of exactly 60 Soviet ships that were not there last week.

If NBC reporters confirm the presence of 60 Soviet ships which came within a week... why did the President say that only one Soviet ship was known to arrive in Cuba.

On Oct. 22 the President told the nation that Soviet rockets were "discovered in Cuba a few days ago through U-2 photo-reconnaissance," when actually they were there for months. Why do such discrepancies exist?

The Nation Demands An Answer

Americans are becoming impatient. They demand and deserve some blunt answers.

What are the 17,000 Russian and 3,000 Chinese red troops doing in Cuba? This is a build-up from less than 1,000 "technicians" from Russia and Red China there last August.

The present military power of Castro is estimated as 10 times greater than it was last fall... in Soviet MIGs, tanks, missiles, anti-aircraft guns... and who can be sure that nuclear bombs which could be delivered by other Soviet aircraft are not now based in Cuba?

What assurance do we have that the big missiles were removed, or that others have not arrived in Cuba?

Since when does a Russian fishing base in Remedios require high concrete installations and bunkers? What kind of fish are they trying to catch?

What about the three new Soviet submarine "fishing" bases built since October, guarded by Soviet patrol boats, but impossible to completely shut out from view?

What about the increasing number of Soviet restricted zones all over Cuba which keep out even Cuban officers?

What does all this mean, Mr. President? The people have a right to know, NOW.

Our Man Hoppe

On Washington Senility Rule

Art Hoppe

Well, it was a great trip. And you'll be glad to know I came home with a pocketful of notes for my book, "Strange Customs in Washington & Other Savage Lands." I just hope the Anthropological Society won't think I made the whole thing up.

Take my notes on the Solons. Of all the primitive, warring tribes inhabiting Washington, the Solons are perhaps the most unbelievable.

They occupy the strategic heights of Capitol Hill where they busy themselves happily with their handicrafts, such as nit-picking, niche-building and feather-nesting. And while the Solons excel in these Washington arts, their chief distinction lies in their ritualistic method of choosing their tribal leaders.

This method is called: "The Senility System."

The Senility System of the Solons is undoubtedly unique in primitive societies. If anything, it approximates the weird Ancestral Worship Cult of the Northern Zambogangas. Except that those most venerated of the Solons are still alive. If just barely.

Among the Solons, you see, the males are usually not inducted into the tribe until they approach vigorous middle age. At this moment, they are at the height of their powers, energetic, alert and ambitious. But the tribal rites require they be sent immediately to the lowest post in the most unimportant of the subtribes—such as "The District Committee," "Postal Affairs" or "Fisheries."

If the new Solon manages to survive the constant intratribal vendettas, he finds that he slowly rises in importance through the Senility System as death takes those at the top. Which helps explain why the wish most frequently expressed by one Solon for another is: "Drop dead."

Eventually, the infirmities of age, both mental and physical, overtake him. He is then judged ready for leadership of his unimportant sub-tribe. Or perhaps even of an important sub-tribe such as "Ways and Means," "Rules," or "Foreign Affairs." But only if he has completely lost his faculties.

Thus it can be seen that the Senility System is self-perpetuating. Because those Solons who have the power to change it are out of their minds.

Alternatives have been suggested. But it should be cautioned that modern democracy would never work as each Solon has been conditioned since puberty to vote only for himself. The results would be chaos. Indeed, the value of the Senility System lies in the fact that when two Solons debate their own characteristics, the only issue on which they ever agree is who is older.

But we should not give up hope. I would suggest some philanthropic foundation send a delegation of nomadic Eskimos to Capitol Hill to teach the Solons their more practical and understandable methods of dealing with the elderly: euthanasia.

All do-gooders, I'm sure, would support this.

But the problem, of course, is to convince anyone the Solons actually exist. That any society, primitive though it may be, could be governed under the Senility System... Well, as I say, it's unbelievable.

Morning Report:

I am always happy to see another newspaperman move up in the writing world. Take Jack Kennedy. He started out on one of the Boston papers, then last month had an article in Look magazine, and just recently hit the high-class American Historical Review.

His latest effort runs to 800 words, which is a long story to get by a city editor, but it deals with a big subject. The first four volumes of the Adams papers.

The Adams family produced two presidents and, all in all, sent more people to Washington than even the Kennedy clan. The Ks just bunch them up a little more.

Abe Mellinkoff