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It's Your Cause, Too

For many years it's been fashionable to deride the business community and its chief symbol, the Chamber of Commerce. The scorners are so busy with the attack that they overlook the fact that the Chamber often saves their bacon for them.

Here is a prosaic but very important case in point: For many years, Torrance has been one of the very few places in the metropolitan area where industries must pay a differential to truckers for shipments to the Pacific Northwest.

This differential forced some industrial firms out of the city and discouraged others from coming in—a most unhealthy condition, as even critics of business will admit when they stop to think about it. Industries mean jobs; jobs mean the ability to buy bread and butter, carpets and cars, hats and houses.

Three years ago the Torrance Chamber, working with nearby communities, led a movement to eliminate the unfair tariff. The inequity was brought to the attention of the Pacific Tariff Bureau and the carriers themselves.

As the result of a long and tenacious campaign, major carriers have reduced or promised to reduce freight charges for product shipments by Torrance industries to the Pacific Northwest. This action can mean an average saving of at least 80 cents per hundredweight on class-rated shipments bound for the Northwest.

This may sound dry and financial, but it has definite meaning in terms of community well-being . . . your well-being. It is tangible . . . and the Chamber deserves credit for a job well-done.

Freedom or Anarchy?

If you have talked seriously with your friends lately, you probably have noted a growing tendency to suggest they are getting fed up with all demonstrations, right or left.

While most Americans have been tolerant of the demonstration as part of the American way of life, there seems to be a growing tendency toward use of the device for a type of coercion that is very close to anarchy.

Student demonstrations at the House Un-American Committee hearings and sitdowns in the offices of Boards of Education and the like, are leading many Americans to view them more as a sinister growth of disrespect for law and order than as legitimate quests for redress of wrongs.

The demonstrations in Torrance this last summer were a case in point, but, they were polite affairs when compared with the disgusting treatment given Adlai Stevenson in Texas and the boorish pelting of Chief Justice Earl Warren with leaflets demanding his impeachment in New York City.

Right or left, rowdy or just plain stupid, these demonstrations serve little useful purpose except as propaganda for use by our enemies. The rights of protest and freedom of assembly are basic in the Bill of Rights section of the Constitution. We must be careful that these rights do not become so distorted in use as to become wrongs against the great mass of law-abiding citizens.

Demonstrators for minorities would be well advised to be fearful that their techniques may boomerang and cause the conscientious, with a complaint that ought to be heard, to end up suffering along with the irresponsible.

Economic Illiteracy

Economic illiteracy is among the gravest of this nation's problems, particularly among university and high school students.

That, in substance, is the view of President Robert C. Kirkwood of the F. W. Woolworth Company. And, as he sees it, if this problem is to be solved educators and businessmen must develop more effective ways to bring the teaching of free enterprise up to date.

The evidence is all on Mr. Kirkwood's side. Dependable surveys have shown that only one person out of three thinks that investment in factories and machinery makes a major contribution to economic growth. And they have also shown that more than half of the adults in this country believe that net profits of most firms are equal to or exceed the wages these firms pay. Fewer than one-tenth know that payrolls substantially exceed profits.

Such misconceptions as these provide fertile ground for those whose purpose is to destroy free enterprise and the free political institutions which are part and parcel of the American system—a system which has done more good things for more people—materially and spiritually—than any other yet devised by man. There is a crying need, indeed, for a better knowledge of how the system works and what it produces, most especially among the young people who will determine the course our nation is to take in years to come.

Opinions of Others

ANDERSON, S. C., FREE PRESS: "... while you are being bled dry by taxes, the electric Co-ops go practically tax free . . . while they are certainly no symbol of the true American free enterprise system, the electric Co-ops are certainly entitled to the dubious distinction of being the 'free-est enterprise' in the country today. By the same token, we will have to reach the conclusion that their type of 'free-est enterprise' is very close to the type of 'free enterprise' existing in Russia today."

ISLE, MINN., MESSENGER: "Spending by the federal government for interest on the public debt will reach \$10 billion in 1964—or \$213 for each American family! How long can we continue spending more money than we have?"

Y'Might As Well Take Credit



ROYCE BRIER

Democratic Process Has Queer Twist in Orient

It is clear there is no magic formula for establishing or supporting a democratic process in the Far East which will be friendly to us in the common international sense.

We continue to have little success in South Korea, and our failure in South Vietnam is a current wonder. Indonesia chafes at American influence in its part of the world, and the Philippine Republic is dubious. Only Japan is friendly, and large elements there are wary of us. But Japan is a special case on historical and economic grounds.

The latest sign of our diminishing acclaim out there is the South Korean election. Observers are saying we "lost" that election, which is one way of putting it. General Chung Park, a rigid military figure who barely won the presidency, is not considered effusive in his affection for us. His defeated opponent, Posun Yum, a former president, declared himself to be pro-American.

It is true the election was the most orderly yet held in South Korea, with little evidence of corruption or coercion, but President Park, who was not adverse to purges during his military ascendancy, is not expected to be forgiving.

Park is a forbidding figure who, like Sukarno of Indonesia and the erstwhile Perez of Venezuela, is addicted to dark glasses. These appear to be a psychological quirk of the so-called strongmen.

It is hard to say when we, the Americans, developed a faith in furthering the democratic process abroad in our own image. The Spanish-American War was a manifestation of it, and Woodrow Wilson was a spokesman for it. We have never lost the faith. It informs a good deal of congressional and other domestic oratory, and indeed underlies most of our historical action of this century.

We early adopted the concept and practice of democratic self-government, which had won the acceptance of

thoughtful men of the time. We produced brilliant and sensible men to carry it out, and while it still has some conspicuous shortcomings, it has proved an immense success for us.

But this does not mean it can be imposed on the world at large, or will work effectively with peoples with a historical experience quite different from ours. Most of the

Latin American republics have constitutions similar to ours, but these do not create political societies similar to ours.

In any case, one of the fundamentals of our system is that we accept the verdict of a free election. So if we "lost" the Korean election we will have to make the best of it, as Republicans and Democrats do within our system.

Bookman's Notebook

Dorothy Thompson Saga 'In Questionable Taste'

by William Hogan

Dorothy Thompson was a Syracuse-born journalist who, in her early 30s, became chief of the Central European Service of the old Curtis newspapers (Philadelphia Public Ledger). She outshone most of her male contemporaries in reporting the pre-Hitler scene in Germany and elsewhere. Divorced from a Hungarian newsman, she met Sinclair Lewis in Berlin. Himself on the verge of a divorce, Lewis launched a whirlwind courtship. They were married in London in what was probably the most publicized romance of 1927.

Both creative and neurotic personalities, their marriage was passionate, erratic, and a disaster. As a liberal political columnist and an important radio personality, Dorothy for a time outglittered "Red" Lewis in the public eye—dictating as she did to three secretaries and running up world-wide telephone bills and mental tension alike, almost to the point of doom.

Before this hectic union was disbanded, the sardonic Lewis declared: "I had a wife once, but she vanished into the NBC Building and has never been heard of since."

A younger colleague of Miss Thompson's and an intimate friend of both Dorothy and "Red" for many years before they both died, Vincent Sheehan has written a

curious record of the marriage. He draws on his own association with the pair and on the late Miss Thompson's papers, most of them housed at Syracuse University Library. These include very intimate documents, one of which describes her lesbian association in Europe when she was playing her own version of Sally Bowles of Christopher Isherwood's Berlin stories.

Sheehan insists that Miss Thompson intended that these papers be published. While they might add a personal footnote to the Lewis literary saga, this intimacy seems to be in questionable taste. But as Sheehan puts it: "The all-or-nothing principle, when all is said, was an essential part of (Dorothy's) greatness."

"Dorothy and Red" will be published by Houghton Mifflin this month. Harper's Magazine carried an extensive selection from the book. It is an exciting literary document and a spirited insight into the manners and morals—journalistic, political, artistic—of the 1920s and '30s on both sides of the Atlantic. An especially urbane writer and journalist, Sheehan projects vividly both the time and the personalities involved. Dorothy and "Red" emerge brilliant and tragic figures, and Lewis once again (as he did in Mark Schorer's biography) shows up as a cantankerous, loutish, thoroughly unattractive human being—although a charming rake when he wanted to be.

This is a strange document. Much of it resembles a collection of old movie strips, where one remembers the actors with a pang, or scenes from long ago with nostalgia, embarrassment or laughter.

The Harper's version suggests that Sheehan has performed a notable and honest feat of resurrecting public personalities of only yesterday. The private personalities behind these facades are what make the record fascinating. For all their brilliance, both Dorothy and "Red" seem always to have been on the verge of utter madness.

GLENN BENEDICT
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AFTER HOURS By John Morley

More Reds Where Most U.S. Latin Aid Goes

GUATEMALA—Under the Alliance for Progress program, the United States has expanded aid to Latin America over the last two years as follows: Brazil, \$360 million . . . Chile, \$305 million . . . Argentina, \$215 million . . . Colombia, \$200 million . . . Mexico, \$200 million . . . Venezuela, \$115 million . . . Bolivia, \$103 million . . . Peru, \$100 million . . . and an average of about \$50 million each to Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Ecuador, Paraguay, Honduras, Haiti and Dominican Republic.

I gathered these figures in Washington a few weeks ago and confirmed them here in Latin America.

The most disappointing discovery to this reporter thus far in Latin America, is that the nations receiving the major share of U.S. aid also have the major share of communism and leftist pressure.

This includes Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, the noted exceptions I found are Chile and Uruguay.

I attended a press conference in Mexico City for the Bolivian president, Victor Paz Estenssoro and was amazed at his implied criticism of the U.S. on insufficient U.S. aid so shortly after his visit with President Kennedy in Washington.

In addressing Mexico's President Adolfo Lopez Mateos at his official guest residence, Los Pinos, Estenssoro said, "I'm not a communist . . . but a liberal reformer and progressive" . . . whatever that means.

President Kennedy's highly-touted program of a "democratic revolution" in Latin America is now two-and-a-half years old. Latins say it will be still nothing but a highly-touted program two years hence.

It isn't working for the same age-old reasons since Bolivia. Too many mouths to feed . . . over-population skyrocketing monthly . . . inadequate resources . . . illiteracy . . . and worse of all, crooked politicians at all levels.

Congress has approved President Kennedy's request for another \$852 million for Latin America which will last only to July 1964.

The feeling among my Rotarian friends and independent business and professional men is that it would require not \$852 million, but \$100 billion in its unfortunate economy. Total U.S. commitment so far in two years is over \$2 billion.

Our \$2 billion investment in Latin America undoubtedly has done some good. The figures handed me indi-

cate some 400 projects now in force . . . including 150,000 new homes, 9,000 classrooms, 155,000 farm loans, 1,000 hospitals 800 community sanitation, water systems, etc.

But non-government people invariably point out that much of U.S. foreign aid is pocketed by politicians.

Our U.S. readers cannot conceive the tragedy of over-population in countries that could hardly feed one-tenth of the present 212 million people in Latin America.

Population is now increasing at the astounding rate of four per cent a year. The housing and food deficit is beyond description.

Hunger and hopelessness surround the luxury hotels and modern impressive government buildings.

It is heartbreaking to hear and see the hungry people protest, in marches, the failures of political promises made by the U.S. and their own governments when the Alliance for Progress was announced. The whole program was way oversold to the

American and Latin American people.

Originally it was to be a 50-50 program between the U.S. and Latin American governments . . . but only the U.S. has put up any real money thus far.

The resistance of land owners and their political cronies make foreign aid programs leading to land reform well nigh impossible. As mentioned in our last column from Mexico, "land reform" sounds good politically . . . but on the hard ledger of execution, it's a flop.

Small plots of land given to peasants cannot finance expensive tractors and nitrates needed to operate profitably. Mechanical equipment, like automobiles, are very expensive here.

A \$5,000 U.S. car costs \$10,000 in Latin America . . . and all machinery is proportionally higher.

What's the answer? Bring population and politicians under better control. That would be the miracle of the century.

Our Man Hoppe

Nobody Can Count on Us

Art Hoppe

We keep having these tie-ups on the autobahn to West Berlin. Mr. Khrushchev says any one of them could lead to a nuclear holocaust and the end of civilization. True. But fear not, neither side will ever yield.

As you know, the Russians get to check every convoy of troops we send over the autobahn to West Berlin. And if there are more than 30 passengers in the trucks, they have to get out, line up and be counted. A typical Cold War agreement. Very simple. Theoretically.

But take the last tie-up. Along come 12 U.S. trucks. "Stop!" says the Russian colonel. And he peeks inside. "Aha!" he says, "you've got one, two, three, four, five . . . 44 soldiers in those trucks. That's more than 30. Now that I've counted them, they've got to get out and get counted."

"Hold it!" says the American colonel. "You counted the drivers, too Drivers don't count." "So, okay," says the Russian colonel, "we don't count the drivers. You got one, two, three . . . twelve trucks. Twelve trucks, twelve drivers. Twelve from 44 that's, let's see, 32. Hah! Everybody out!"

"Hold it!" says the American colonel. "We got 24 drivers. Count them for yourself. Those in the front seats are drivers and those 20 in the back seats are passengers. What the matter, can't you count?"

"You mean it takes two drivers to drive on truck?" says the Russian. "Right," says the American. "One steers and the other lights his cigarettes, wipes the windshield, scratches his back and hollers 'Look out!' when necessary. Just like the Teamsters Union. It is, sir, the American way!"

"Bah!" says the Russian colonel. "I am checking with Moscow." So he does. "Don't back down!" cries Moscow. And rushes up reinforcements. "Don't back down!" cries Washington. And rushes up reinforcements. All Soviet forces are alerted. All U.S. forces are alerted. NATO is alerted. Rockets presumably swivel ominously into position. France and Britain cry. "Don't back down!" and rush up reinforcements. To defend America's inalienable right to have two drivers in every truck.

Forty-two hours pass. Personally, I don't know how World War III was averted. Because both sides claim they didn't back down. But 42 hours is a long time to sit in a truck. And I think the Russian colonel was finally able to report to Moscow that all 44 U.S. soldiers had at last gotten out of the trucks and been counted. "All at once?" says Moscow. "Not exactly," says the colonel. "Kind of one by one."

Well, whatever, I'm glad we didn't blow up civilization. This time. But don't get me wrong. I'm sure we're all willing to die for our right to have two drivers in every truck. Just as all Russians are willing to die for the egalitarian principle of one truck, one driver.

Moreover, if you're looking for a reason to destroy civilization, it's as good as any. If you're looking for a reason.

Morning Report:

From the time one stops studying the Revolutionary War in the eighth grade until one takes up serious skiing, everybody forgets New Hampshire. Except once every four years.

It's that time again. New Hampshire's early primary looms. Rockefeller and Goldwater will cover every precinct. The rural mail delivery boxes will be full of printed political thunder.

The votes will be counted in March. No matter how it comes out, pundits will see national omens. Actually, all it will prove is how accurate the pollsters have been. New Hampshire is that kind of State.

Abe Mellinkoff