

Some Random Impressions: Today Across the U.S.A.

If There Is a Will There May Be a Way

A recent Herald editorial, suggesting there had been some overzealous selling of the Torrance site for the proposed state college, was based on carefully considered opinion. Of course there was mixed reactions, some individuals even assuming this newspaper—among the earliest leaders in the campaign to bring the college here—had given up the cause.

Quite the contrary. The Herald is very much in favor of a continuing campaign to locate the college in Torrance and is heartened by the hope, inspired by further deliberations of the site committee and clearing of the atmosphere, to enable Torrance interests to re-submit a plan offering less acreage for high development.

We suggest a re-grouping of forces behind the new proposal and tactical reformation subordinating the blatant elements whose hardshell flights into carnivalism hardly have been compatible with the dignity one might associate with the winning of a new college.

Members of the site committee are gentlemen of stature and the college officials involved are highly reputable authorities in their field. They cannot be blamed for nursing resentment over wild and irresponsible charges of "deals" and "prejudice".

The fact remains Torrance, we think, has so many advantages to offer in general location and climate, that it can build its cause forcefully and soundly on merit. This newspaper suggests adoption of such a program at once.

It has been reliably stated that Santa Fe, owners of the proposed Torrance site, are prepared to make the land available at a price that should be appealing, particularly if the high rise building program is adopted for the Torrance location. The city and property owners in the general area must also be prepared to offer a long range program of improvement and beautification to give the new college a climate in keeping with the general high character of the institution.

Not Much Hope

The bill providing for health care for the elderly has been introduced in this Congress varies from the Medicare bill of last year only in minor details. It would bring everyone drawing social security under the federal tent—whether or not they wanted or needed the aid.

Administration estimates place the cost at \$5.6 billion over a four-year period—and that is hardly pin money, particularly when looked at in the light of current budget and tax problems. Other estimates, from informed sources, place the possible figure at twice that sum.

Peter Edson, a well known Washington columnist, provides an interesting footnote to the proposal. An effort is being made to get rid of the name Medicare, which is in obvious bad odor in and out of Congress, and to substitute a term such as "hospital insurance." But social security is not an insurance in any accepted sense of the term—and the Internal Revenue Service itself is authority for that statement. In the case of an Amish farmer who refused to make his social security payments on the grounds it was insurance, the IRS ruled that it was a tax. And it seized and sold the farmer's horses in order to meet the tax.

That aside, the American Medical Assn. News does a good job of summing up the grave faults in the bill in these words: "It would lower the quality of health care, it would lead to the decline of voluntary health insurance and prepayment plans, it would take another bite out of the take-home pay of America's wage-earners to provide benefits for millions who can well afford to take care of themselves, and it would impose government control on medical practice."

It would be hard to think of a more dismal prospect than that.

Trade Follows Travel

Saturday Review recently ran a full-page editorial entitled "The New Mobility"—a mobility which is very largely the result of the jet age of international air transportation, in which one can go almost anywhere on earth in a matter of hours. In the magazine's words, "As isolationism has become untenable, so parochialism has become intolerable. We are all companions of history, caught in an age when understanding is the only alternative to catastrophe, when world trade no longer follows the flag but the traveler. . . ."

The Review magazine is far from alone in this attitude. President Kennedy, in sponsoring the establishment of government tourist bureaus, whose efforts are given to encouraging visits to our shores by peoples of other lands, said: "Travel has become one of the great forces for peace and understanding in our time. As people move throughout the world and learn to know each other, to understand each other's customs and to appreciate the qualities of the individuals of each nation, we are building a level of international understanding which can sharply improve the atmosphere for world peace. . . . The travel industry plays the key role in stimulating this flow of the world's peoples. . . . a most important activity."

The opportunity is at hand, signified by the planes that fly the international skies and the ships that ply the oceans. There has been encouraging progress—but that is only a beginning. Only a small fraction of peoples, in this or any other country, have ventured beyond their borders. All power to the current effort to increase this trickle to the stature of a river.

ST. JOHN'S, ARIZ., INDEPENDENT-NEWS: "We helped Ceylon after it gained its independence, and for that they nationalized the oil industry, largely American owned. They, according to a treaty made a few years ago, were to pay for industries so nationalized. Now they refuse to do so. 'We won't be dictated to,' they tell us."



ROYCE BRIER

Space Vehicle Enlisted In War on the Locusts

Draw a broad band, say a thousand miles, from the Strait of Gibraltar across North Africa, fanning south to Ethiopia, then east to Arabia, Persia and India, fanning again to China and Malaya.

This is the world of the seven-year locusts. Long before man was here they were making their sweeps through it from hunger. As vegetation was sparse in Africa and Arabia, lush in south Asia, their flight range varied, but a swarm can move several hundred miles.

Comparatively, the locust is no serious problem in northern latitudes, but in his world he is the most devastating pest on earth. We have all read descriptions of the swarms, billions of individuals, blacking out the sun. They can reduce a field of golden wheat to stubble in an hour. When they are visible

in the sky it is too late—the farmer is already ruined.

The insects have favorite breeding grounds, and their cycle of life is not fully understood. They are much affected in the range and direction of the migrations.

Modern man is taking to the air, and even to space to fight them, and even more extraordinary, international co-operation. Three years ago a United Nations special fund pledged \$2.5 million to the war, and 15 nations another \$1.3 million. Now 30 nations are in the fight.

In 1960 a Desert Locust Information Center was set up in London. It prepares maps from a network of ground information stations across the belt. With this service charting flights, many swarms can be headed off with air spraying and ground poisoning. Last year 826 such reports reached the Center. But meteorology is taking

an increasing role, and lately the weather satellite Tiroso has been enlisted. It is tapped almost daily for reports on cloud formations, which indicate the flow of major air currents.

For locusts, like airplane pilots, like a tailwind. Further, they are without political prejudice, and will eat anybody's fodder.

Some scientists decry the war on insects. They insist the "balance of nature" cannot be upset without resulting in evils greater than the original. But this is hard to tell a tiller of the soil who looks at the sky one day to see the plague approaching.

So the critter least likely to get human sympathy in his habitat is the seven-year locust, and whenever you can get an Egyptian and Israeli entomologist to sit down together, you've gained something right there.

FROM the MAILBOX

Bond Issue Will Not Up Tax Rate, Dr. Hull Writes

The fact that the coming bond issue will not increase the existing tax rate of the Torrance Unified School District is difficult for many to believe.

Perhaps the best way to explain the situation is that it is like a revolving charge account where the minimum monthly payment is not increased by a small addition to the balance.

The reason for this fact is that the district is paying off each year \$2,000,000 of its \$23,000,000 in outstanding bonded indebtedness. The building program requires about \$2,000,000 per year for the next four years to keep us off half sessions.

The Board of Education simply authorizes the amount needed each year to be sold. Since this is about equal to the amount paid off, the debt remains about the same and the tax rate does not increase, though it is extended a little longer.

The \$8,000,000 bond issue is expected to keep us out of trouble for about four years and will be used only as needed.

J. H. Hull

PROTESTS SIGNS

As one doubly interested in this year's Torrance School Board election, I should like to publicly register a note of protest!

I cannot escape the impression that something is not quite accurate in the political billboard advertisements of one of the incumbents. To be more specific, the signs with which this gentleman has flooded the City read: "Re-elect Dr. Kurt Shery (empha-

sis added). Perhaps I am mistaken, but I seem to recall that Dr. Shery was appointed to the Board to fill a vacancy. Therefore, the phrase "re-elect" might be more appropriate and less misleading. If my recollection is correct, then the choice of words on these signs is most unfortunate, for they mislead the public by implying that the incumbent has been, in times past, the popular choice of the electorate, a fact which may not be true since (if my memory is accurate) the incumbent serves only because the popularly elected individual,

Mr. Clinton Cooke, found it necessary to resign.

I cannot believe that a gentleman running for a position on the School Board, with the attendant responsibility for educating our youngsters to be good citizens, would intentionally stretch the truth in order to gain an advantageous implication. On the other hand, I am surprised that a gentleman seeking a position of control in the business and policy of our school district is not able to control his own campaign slogans or to understand the ramifications thereof.

George W. Brewster

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"Better just tie it to the door and slam it... the doctor won't be in till Monday!"

• It's hard to tell which hurt Secretary of Defense McNamara most . . . dropping the Skybolt or dropping the Edsel.

• Khrushchev got his rockets and bombers back . . . and kept Cuba . . . and I still hear it said that it took courage for us to make him do it.

• May our children forgive us for our shame in the treatment of Tshombe, Katanga and its great mining company, Union Miniere du Haut. It was its president, Sir Edgar Sangier, who, upon his own initiative and without cost, sent us 1,000 tons of uranium back in the '40s, when we didn't have a shovel full available. Our thanks was to finance two wars against Katanga which destroyed an extensive amount of Miniere properties, not to mention the losses in millions when the plants were inoperative because of the UN attacks.

• The UN welfare program has now reached the astronomical figures of \$1 million per day, administered by 17,000 employees. It had reached 316 ten years ago.

• We are told that high taxes are due to increase in defense spending, which is partially true, having gone up 14 per cent. But the tax foundation released its latest figures which show that non-defense spending and "civil benefits" have increased 126 per cent.

• The New Frontier's top lecturer now, making the rounds of our military war colleges, is Mr. Roy Bottom, former assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. Not too long ago he was one of the most outspoken supporters of Fidel Castro's takeover in Cuba.

Deadwood in Government

• We saw Secretary of Commerce Hodges in Washington recently, when we shared the platform of the woman's conference on national security, denounce the "deadwood" on the federal payroll. He said that 10 per cent of the employees in his own department were no longer needed . . . after he had hired 1,600 new people since he took office in 1961.

• The so-called underpaid public officials and government workers must be doing a lot better these days. The weekly Washington, D.C. publication, "The World," reported recently that the per capita income of Washington, D.C. is higher than any of the 50 states.

• A cherished U.S. tradition provides for the separation of the powers of government into . . . executive, legislative, judicial. We take for granted that this separation is in effect always, to safeguard against a potential dictator. But few people know that federal agencies in Washington today have the power to write their own laws, prosecute offenses of these laws, and judge these same cases themselves. These are the regulatory agencies . . . Federal Communications Commission, Security Exchange Commission, etc., operating under the initials FCC, SEC, etc. While we go about our daily chores and TV, they are quietly acquiring dictatorial control over the economic life of the nation.

• In a recent supermarket clerk's strike the unions accused such big food chains as A&P, Piggly Wiggly, etc., by inuendo, rather than fact, that their net profit on food sales is around 25 cents out of every dollar taken in. The A&P, largest food chain in the U.S., reported recently that its net profit was 1.1 cents on each dollar of sales. Commentator Liked Russia

• Howard K. Smith, who staged the notoriously unpopular TV program, which included Alger Hiss in "The Political Burial of Richard Nixon," published a book called "The State of Europe," which we glanced through the other evening. In this book Mr. Smith says, "Four years of 'People's Democracy' (communism), summing up my conclusions, have probably yielded Eastern Europe a solid net gain . . . at least in the social and economic realms, an outstanding success."

• In another realm of Mr. Smith's books, "The Last Train from Berlin," we read

... "Russia looked better the longer I stayed and the more I saw."

• In Missouri I heard of more absurdities of our "Farm Relief Program." Thirty years ago the total appropriations for the department of agriculture were \$85 million a year, while we staggered under distressing surpluses in every basic crop. In 1933 a political slogan was invented, "Farm Relief," and today the same department of agriculture appropriation for 1963 stands at \$6.3 billion. This figure is \$2.3 billion more than the entire federal budget in 1932.

• Even though he is no longer secretary of labor, but a supreme court justice, Mr. Arthur Goldberg is still working behind the scenes to get the federal government to subsidize the "performing arts." In other words, those who cannot afford to buy

opera tickets . . . or don't care for opera . . . will be forced to contribute through taxes a part of the cost of the tickets of those who want to go. Those who cannot afford to go to concerts, plays, etc. . . . or don't care to go . . . will be forced to contribute to those who can, or who want to go.

• It seems to us to be fair all around if Justice Goldberg included baseball, football, basketball and golf club fees in the "performing arts." At least the less cultured among us will get a piece of the socialist pie.

• After that we can consider a federal government-built car, the "Fedtrap," to compete with Ford and Chevrolet . . . and to pacify non-drivers the government can furnish subsidized horses and riding paths, or even half soles and heels. You have to take care of everybody, you know.

Our Man Hoppe

Tough Times So— Loosen Belts

Art Hoppe

I don't know what this country's coming to. Mr. Kennedy keeps trying to give us a \$10 billion tax cut. And what happens? Nobody wants it.

Not only is Congress skittish, but polls and surveys show that we, the people, are pretty dubious about the whole thing. If not downright skeptical. And it's obvious Mr. Kennedy is face to face with a shocking, unheard-of problem in practical politics: How do you make a tax cut look attractive?

True, he's doing his best in his uphill struggle to give us more money to spend. He keeps telling us we'll like it. Because it's really good for us. Even if we don't understand why.

Maybe so. But I've sampled our mood. And, if Mr. Kennedy wants each of us to take a tax cut, he's going to have to throw in some incentive. Like maybe Green Stamps.

(Scene: The Internal Revenue Service office. Local IRS Chief J. K. Wrack is just finishing totting up the return of a nervous citizen who sits, wringing his hands, in the chair by his desk.)

Mr. Wrack (triumphantly): Just as I thought, Mr. Boynton. You've figured your tax on the basis of the old rates prior to the cut. And you're trying to overpay us—let's see—\$23.90. Here's your refund check. And don't think you can cheat IRS.

We've got computers, you know.

Mr. Boynton (pale but firm as he hands back the check): I can't accept it! It's a matter of principle.

Mr. Wrack (wheedling): Come now, Mr. Boynton. I'm sure you understand that you must accept the tax cut. So you'll have more money to spend. So you'll buy more. So you'll earn more. So you'll pay more taxes.

Mr. Boynton: That's a tax cut?

Mr. Wrack: Mr. Boynton, I appeal to your patriotism. You must accept this check for the good of the country.

Mr. Boynton: All I know is we're 300 billion bucks in the hole. I insist you keep my \$23.90.

Mr. Wrack: Look, Boynton! Need I remind you of Subsection 1532-a-903 (B): "Overpayment of Taxes, penalties proscribed." You can get 20 years in Leavenworth for willful and deliberate violations.

Mr. Boynton (rising tremblingly to his feet): I don't care! My only regret is that I have but half my life to give to the national debt.

Mr. Wrack: You're a tough case, Mr. Boynton. All right, if you'll make the sacrifice and swallow this tax cut, distasteful as it may be, we'll make it up to you politically. We'll cancel that new Federal dam, quit work on that new highway past your store and fire your brother from the local postmastership.

Mr. Boynton (wide-eyed with delight): You will!

Mr. Wrack: It's a promise. Now get out there and spend!

Well, I never did understand high finance. When it gets above \$1.98 it never seems like real money. And, oddly enough, I think Mr. Kennedy's tax plan would help the economy. If he can just force it down our throats.

And yet it delights me that we, the people, are opposed to taking a tax cut. Because while we may be wrong, it shows that collectively we have a high sense of responsibility. Of course, this may bode ill for our zany economy. But it sure bodes well for our democracy.

Morning Report:

In his continuing campaign to give the good things of American life to the Russians, Mr. Khrushchev has endorsed corn flakes and potato chips. Quick at picking up the cue, Pravda immediately added popcorn. It's all a fine boost for world peace.

Especially when I found out that sales of vodka, the Russian standby, are zooming in America. It's behind bourbon, but closing fast on gin.

With the Russians stuffing themselves on popcorn and Americans betting the vodka, both sides will soon end up belt buckle to belt buckle. Which is far better than eyeball to eyeball.

Abe Mellinkoff