

## Depletion Not 'Loophole'

President Kennedy's proposal to revise existing oil depletion allowances as a "tax reform" measure, would be a serious blow to the petroleum industry, from which thousands of Torrance and Harbor area families earn their living.

This fact was documented recently by the executive vice president of the Oil Producers Agency of California, Stark Fox, in hearings at Washington.

Mr. Fox pointed out that depressed prices of oil produced in California in the past five years have cost independent producers some 86,000 barrels of daily production, have sped the demise of 370 producing companies and cost labor 5,300 jobs. If the President's proposal is adopted it will be equivalent to adding a 10 per cent tax to each barrel or another 10 per cent in prices.

Despite a loosely accepted impression by far too many Americans, oil depletion allowances are not truly a tax loophole. They are merely a means of enabling producers to replace capital lost as it is used up in the form of oil taken from the ground. Without the allowances, exploration for new sources would be highly precarious financially and would drive away the type of venturesome risk capital that has made California's petroleum industry so great.

Ask any old timer in the oil industry here in Torrance—and there are a lot of them—whether anyone should still doubt that looking for oil is an extremely hazardous enterprise and that percentage depletion, that offers income-tax inducement to producers, is an essential?

If you still are doubtful here are a few facts. The deepest well ever drilled in this country went down nearly five miles and cost about \$3 million. It was dry on a bone.

An average oil or gas well reaches about 4,000 feet into the earth and costs more than \$62,000 to drill. Wells of 15,000 feet are not uncommon today, and only about one wildcat well in nine produces any oil at all.

Offshore wells, of which we in Torrance have first hand knowledge, cost nearly \$400,000 apiece. These will become an increasingly important source of our oil.

The risks and searches aren't confined to the U. S. Subsidiaries of three American companies began the search for oil in Ireland about a year ago. Two wildcat wells were drilled were "dusters." Now plans for a third have been announced and it is hoped that some of the famed luck of the Irish will reward this effort.

## Tribute to Libraries

Last week, among other weeks noted, has been observed as National Library Week, a time for Americans to pause for a moment and give a thought to the importance of libraries and the store of real treasure within their portals.

"Never in Godde's Wourd will there be bookes enuf," wrote the forgotten Scots poet Jamie Fullerton in 1643. Untold millions of books have been published since Jamie Fullerton died and was laid to rest in Edinburgh cemetery. Many have disappeared into limbo. But innumerable others remain and have been honored by a useful place in libraries of the world.

The libraries in this and every other hamlet and city are, in the full sense of the word, a monument to civilization—to its tragedies and its triumphs, its disasters and its victories and, above all, what men have felt and managed to put down in words of prose and poetry.

A world without books would be the emptiest of worlds. And the man or woman who does not read seriously is missing, tragically and unnecessarily, one of the greatest of human pleasures. Even a greater tragedy occurs when the modern child is not taught to read and encouraged to make use of the beautiful and instructive world of books which private donors and taxpayers have provided free.

## Opinions of Others

From the Saturday Evening Post: "Somehow, we are less worried about embarrassing Mr. Khrushchev than we are about losing Latin America. . . . As long as Cuba remains an armed Communist state, it will continue to serve as the Soviets' advance base for their program of conquest in Latin America. . . . We must, by every means available to us as a leader among free nations, keep alive the hope of a future anti-Communist revolution in Cuba. Clearly, the present situation is intolerable. President Kennedy must stop merely hoping that Khrushchev will withdraw his forces. He must demand it and be prepared, as we believe the American people are prepared, to apply force if necessary to back up the demand. We don't care if it does embarrass Mr. Khrushchev."

A publication of the Montana Power Company holds that the American people are abandoning ". . . one of the mightiest weapons that could work for America's advantage in the cold war." In its words, "If we are to take that war seriously—and we certainly should, before it is too late—it seems almost axiomatic that American high schools should not graduate any boy or girl who has not at least been exposed to enough instruction on our economic system so that he or she will understand it and can explain it fully to whatever foreign citizens may be met in later years."

EVERETT, WASH., HERALD: "President Kennedy proposes to expand the experimental Peace Corps into a three-pronged offensive against domestic ills. If eager youths can do good for Nigeria they can do good for Washington. . . . But the problem of idle youth itself, or idle adults, is not going to be solved by putting them all on the government payroll. The leaf-raking jobs of the Great Depression did little in bringing back prosperity."

Writing in the Wall Street Journal Alfred L. Malabre, Jr., says that spending by state and local government has increased nearly 400 per cent since World War II—a far larger proportionate increase than in federal expenditures. The result is a steep climb in non-federal tax rates which continues unabated.

## Tornado, Or Dust Devil?



## Bookman's Notebook

### Early Churchill Prose Foreshadowed Stature

"Frontiers and Wars" contains somewhat abridged versions of four early Churchill books. His account of the Malakand field force tells of his participation in the Frontier War of 1897, the only war he could find that year, and into which he propelled himself by requesting a six weeks' leave from his own regiment, then in another part of India.

Also brought into this book are "The River War," with some first-rate accounts of the problems of combat along the Nile; "London to Ladysmith" and "Ian Hamilton's March," which are collections of Churchill's dispatches as a correspondent during the Boer War. This includes his famous first description of his capture by the Boers and the armored train escape that made his name a household word around the world before the turn of the century.

Neither entry, however, gives anything much in the nature of a broad picture of the Boer War. "The River War," by contrast, is an exceptionally brisk history of the Sudan conflict. It contains a brilliant account of a cavalry battle—one which, as it turned out, provided the last great cavalry charge in history. Indeed, it is now hard to think of the battle of Omdurman without recalling that Churchill took part in it and wrote this stirring and historical account.

Churchill's writing in these early works foreshadows the magnificent rolling prose that the world came to know later.

Thinking of moving? Wadi Halfa, Sudan, had no rain for one period of 19 years. . . . Saw this notice in the window of a newly opened store in Valparaiso, Ind.: "Hopen for business" . . . What this country needs is someone who knows what this country needs.

"In its concern with Left and Right, the world today has forgotten that there is an Above and Below." — Fred W. Grown, Edgewater (N. J.) Bergen Citizen.

"Nowadays a businessman is judged by the company he keeps solvent." — B. J. Dahl, Chewelah (Wash.) Independent.

As of June 30, 1962 federal assets in real and personal property were valued at \$299.4 billion. The national debt on the same date was \$298.2 billion.

"Dear Congressman Morse: I hate to tell you my troubles, but I have tried everything else I know. I feel that only you can help me now."

"I have a dependent relative staying with me who has very little fiscal responsibility. He is very good natured and means well, but he keeps buying presents for my wife and me, and our two children. He charges these presents to my account. When he sees something that he thinks we need he buys it for us."

"Many of these things are not needed by us and in very few cases are they exactly what we would have bought if we had bought these things ourselves. Because he doesn't work for a living, money doesn't mean too much to him and he tends to buy the first thing he sees and doesn't shop around like I would do if I were purchasing items. He is also quite generous to the poor and needy, but often gives to those he doesn't know who feed him a soft line."

"I just received a bill for his last spending spree and it gives me a sick hopeless feeling. I keep thinking how better off I would be if I could just spend that money for the things I want and could give to the people and charities I think are needy. Honestly, he does so much of my spending that I tend not to give money to charity anymore."

"He won't listen to me, but he will listen to you because he respects you. Please use your influence to cut the spending habits of my Uncle Sam."

"Sincerely,  
"Jack A. Wilson  
"Winchester, Massachusetts."

## Strength for These Days

Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. (Matt. 6:12).  
When we forgive someone who has seemed to wrong or offend us we are the ones who gain. Let us rejoice that the forgiving love of Christ makes it possible for us to overcome personal animosities.

## Quote

"Advocates of the absurd '35-hour week' would be hard to find if it actually meant only 35 hours of work per week—with no overtime hours at premium rates." — J. D. Blizzard, Dillon (S. C.) Herald.

"Co-operating would solve most of our problems. For instance, freckles would be a nice coat of tan if they would get together." — E. M. Remsburg, Vista (Calif.) Press.

"The only money that goes as far today as it did 20 years ago is the dime that rolls under the bed." — Fred W. Grown, Edgewater (N.J.) Bergen Citizen.

"This sign was seen in a church near here: 'You can't take it with you but you can send it in ahead.'" — Dale Holdridge, Langford (S. D.) Bugle.

"When a girl is easy to look at, the fellows look that much harder." — Kenny Bennett, Greencastle (Ind.) Putnam County Graphic.

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## My Neighbors



"You're not leaving for space before you've had supper; come along now!"

## ROYCE BRIER

# President Should Be Asked Where We Head in Vietnam

A question that should be asked President Kennedy at the news conference runs: Where are we going in South Vietnam? What is the size and character of our establishment there? What are our casualties to date? What is the monthly cost?

Of course, this is a compound question, but the President is used to them. The conference is "managed" to a degree, in that Mr. Kennedy is apparently briefed on some questions likely to come up, and he handles them well, and to his advantage.

He naturally does not know precisely where we are going in this brush war, which is a little like the old Indian campaigns in magnitude and frustration. But he is better grounded than the rest of us, and he knows our goal. Even that has never been fully explained to us, beyond the general aim of preventing the Communists getting a permanent foothold in southeast Asia.

He may not choose to give us the details of our establishment, civil and military, and that is within his discretion as a security matter. But we are entitled to a general rundown on the sum of force we are employing, and what it is costing us.

Even more important is why our estimates of progress, issuing from Washington or from the field in Saigon seldom accord with the news from the field.

Weekly for many weeks we have been variously informed the Vietcong, or Communist guerrilla forces are about played out, and that we will soon have the situation in hand. Unhappily, these pronouncements are often followed by an item of bad news that the Vietnamese have been ambushed by the Vietcong in some village near Saigon, usually an area in which they were not supposed to be operating.

It is as if General Custer issued weekly bulletins that he is about to wipe out the Sioux. Maybe he did, for he was a romantic fellow.

The latest of our bulletins comes from Washington, from what a dispatch calls "United States policy planners," and you can hardly get more anonymous than that. They assure us the Vietcong attack has now been "blunted," and the next step is a political and social effort to "convey a greater sense of progress" to the Vietnamese leaders, as the dispatch puts it.

A good many Americans on the scene, newspapermen and civilian and military aides who have been slugging it out in the councils and on the

helicopter fields, aver it will be a while before any "sense of progress" is instilled with President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam. He not only isn't given to progress, but he and his entourage display a de Gaulle's intractability, and come up with fortnightly carping about American assistance. The assistance so far \$2.4 billion, of which \$1.7 was economic.

## Around the World With DELAPLANE

"What do you pay for a nice hotel in Paris? Not fancy but comfortable and central."

I've been staying at the Crillon in the Place de la Concorde and the smaller Castiglione around the corner in Rue Faubourg-St. Honore. A single room rate is about \$11—but all French hotels tack on 15 percent for service and 9 percent more in tax.

There are smaller hotels in this area where rates are \$7 and \$8. But since I've never stayed at any of these, I couldn't really say. They looked OK from the outside. But French hotels often put rooms around an oversized light well. They can be pretty gloomy. Always ask for an outside room. Or better, always look at your room before you sign on for the duration.

"What about camping in Europe?" There are a couple of thousand camping sites all over Europe. Summer camping is a big thing and the prices are reasonable.

These camp sites are much more barbed than the ones we find in our National Parks—I suppose because there isn't as much wilderness area. Anyway, the ones I've seen looked good. The best were in Switzerland, France and Germany, all in fine vacation areas.

All national tourist offices have a list of camp sites.

"Can you suggest a summer school in Mexico?" The University of Arizona has a school running in Guadalajara from July 1 to August 9. You get the folder and application blank by writing Juan B. Rael, Box 7227, Stanford, California.

"... any information on summer camps for children in Europe?"

There's a good listing in a booklet from Globe Star, Inc., 280 Madison avenue, New York City. This is for summer camps in Switzerland. Tourist offices for other countries will have some kind of pamphlets.

"Are there any short tours where we could get a peek into Russia? Is it difficult? What do you need?" You can take a four-day bus ride out of Helsinki, Finland, over to Leningrad for \$74, so Pan American tells me. There's a Finnish steamer that goes overnight to Leningrad for \$45. You need a visa—mine took about two weeks so you'd better get it from the Embassy in Washington. The only difficulty is the language—you can't even read the signs. But there's a guide on the bus.

"How would you go about staying in the Government inns in Spain and Portugal? Do you need reservations?" I think you should have reservations. The paradors (Spain) and pousadas (Portugal) are limited in rooms—they're usually in old castles or convents. I would go to the national tourist office in Lisbon and in Madrid and ask them to reserve for me.

There's a point that if you are going from Portugal into Spain, you need paradors before you reach Madrid. But there are tourist offices in large towns who can help you. Or stop at the first parador you see and get them to fix up the rest of the run.

Both paradors and pousadas that I've stayed in were comfortable and inexpensive and much more fun than hotels. The road into Spain goes through Elvas in Portugal. And you could see if the bartender still remembers the martini lesson I gave him.

"We must take a taxi into London since we have small children. Is this far from the airport?" About half an hour. You'll need the big, square, black cab—a cheaper Minicab wouldn't be big enough. London airport cabs are allowed to make their own deals rather than the meter reading charge. So they'll probably ask 50 shillings (\$7), agree on 45 and the Englishman gets it for 40. (Ten shillings is \$1.40.)

Stan Delaplane 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.

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## Morning Report:

If audience surveys mean anything the TFX Show in the capital should be yanked at once. It has been running for weeks now, and at last count Defense Secretary McNamara had received only 722 letters. Even a return of "I Love Lucy" does better.

Yet the fight over the TFX airplane has lots of high-priced talent. McNamara, Senator McClellan, a bit player for President Kennedy and platoons of admirals and generals in full uniform.

Shows dealing with money like "The \$64,000 Question" usually do well. And the TFX deals with \$6,500,000. Trouble could be that the TFX Show started out with the "rigging" right with the very first time it got on the air.

Abe Mellinkoff

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