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On Peace 'Strikers'

Because he states it so well we are using a press release from Congressman Frank Becker (R. N.Y.) to express our views on the well meaning but unrealistic efforts of such organizations as the "Ladies Strike for Peace" movement.

Irrespective of their expressed goal—Peace—the methods they advocate propose only appeasement of a character that might prompt the conclusion that there are some Americans in our midst who would prefer to accept any form of government to the risk of dying for the one we have.

Here is Congressman Becker's statement:
"A group of members of the organization called "Ladies Strike for Peace" visited me in my office here in Washington.

"They had called for an appointment and we set 3 p.m. to discuss the subject of the Nuclear Test Ban and Disarmament.

"There was, of course, a difference of opinion between their views and mine, except that we all want peace and there could be no argument about that.

"These ladies advocate more negotiations, more talks with the Kremlin and more compromise.

"Unfortunately, these ladies have one unalterable viewpoint—that under almost any conditions there must be a test ban for the survival of their children.

"I, naturally, used the argument, as I always have, that I, too, have three wonderful children and 11 of the most wonderful grandchildren any man could have. I want them to survive too. I have a lot at stake in the matter.

"HOWEVER, I not only want them to survive but I insist upon their survival in a free society and not as Communist slaves.

"I tried to impress upon these ladies that since the Soviets have broken every agreement they ever made, including a moratorium agreement on testing, we can only assume they would break a test ban agreement—or, a disarmament agreement.

"It is difficult for me to understand how these ladies can believe we should keep on compromising with the Kremlin (as has been our policy) and remain a free people.

"Believe me, I cannot be persuaded to believe anything the Soviet leaders agree to until they stand up and say: 'We are freeing the Baltic States, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary,' etc. And, then only if they proceed to do so.

"Only then, and after holding free elections for the unification of Germany, would I be willing to discuss other matters. I am sure that the great host of American people agree with this position."

On Razor's Edge

The nations and peoples of the world stand on the razor's edge.

It is now known that there has been a tremendous increase in this country's nuclear capability—which means the ability to blow up practically everything on earth. A single nuclear submarine, of the new advanced design, carries more explosive power in her warheads than was unleashed in all of World War II.

It must be assumed that the Soviets have made comparable progress—if "progress" is the proper word to apply in this connection.

Extraordinarily elaborate protections have been taken to guard against the use of ultimate weapons because of faulty intelligence, accident, or human aberration and strain. The Soviets, without doubt, have done the same thing. Yet nothing is perfect, nothing can be totally depended upon to perform as ordered and wished under any and all conditions.

The goal of disarmament looks far away. Yet, certainly, it must be the goal of all people everywhere. The money, the energy, the resources, that are spent on weapons of unbelievable destructive power, if applied to useful ends, would create and infinitely better world. And, most important of all, it would remove that terrible question: "Will someone push the wrong button?"

Opinions of Others

LOVINGTON, N. M., LEADER: "Lawyers of the CIO-AFL and UAW, the legal heavy artillery of Big Unionism, are drawn up in battle array challenging the recent decision of the Florida Supreme Court that the 'agency shop' arrangement under which unions shake down non-union members is a violation of Florida's Right to Work law. By way of blasting this ruling, they are asking the Supreme Court of the U. S. to overrule the clearly expressed intent of Congress. Labor's big guns contend that the states have no right to enact a law prohibiting the agency shop—under which workers who refuse to join a union must pay up anyway or be fired."

CLERMONT, FLA., SOUTH LAKE PRESS: "In our opinion, regimentation has gone too far already. How long are we as citizens—God-fearing citizens, if you please—going to stand by while our individual rights, privileges and obligations crumble away from under our feet? The end result is tyranny, dictatorship and stifling of all those elements on which our country was founded and which made it great."

ADEL, IOWA, DALLAS CO. NEWS: "Heard this one: 'One Man's Family' used to be on radio. Now it's in Washington."

MANHEIM, PA., SENTINEL: "Now that the rules on expense account deductions have been tightened, maybe we can get back to entertaining each other just for the fun of it."

HOWARD, S. D., MINER CO. PIONEER: "When you meet a really great man, he seems so simple and modest you gain a new faith in your own possibilities."

Gold In Them Thar Hills!



A Bookman's Notebook

By WILLIAM HOGAN

Gavin Lambert is an Englishman writer and film critic who arrived in Hollywood a few years ago to become a scenarist of some repute. He did the screenplay for D. H. Lawrence's "Sons and Lovers" and is at present engaged on the script for Tennessee Williams' "Night of the Iguana."

A collection of Lambert's Southern California stories, "The Slide Area," achieved some critical success a few seasons ago. Christopher Isherwood and Kingsley Amis, among others, were generous in their praise of it. But as an old collector of Hollywood stories whose enthusiasm goes back at least to James M. Cain's "Serenade," I found "The Slide Area" a sudden and over-stated analysis of the region's mores and state of mind.

Lambert's seasoning in the sun south of the Tahachapis seems to have done wonders for his powers of observation on the Hollywood life—a peculiarly American phenomenon that has defeated some very big American writers, John O'Hara among them (witness "The Big Laugh").

In "Inside Daisy Clover," Lambert comes close to writing the most sardonic Southern California novel since Nathaniel West introduced "The Day of the Locust" in 1939. This is a sweet and sour shocker. It almost turns your stomach when you consider the society that produces the American Dream that Daisy Clover lives with, and actually achieves. Yet when you remember the American tragedies that have come out of that neon-lighted jungle, Daisy's saga is by no means improbable.

Daisy narrates her own story, with naive and unconscious humor, through a diary. She is 14 when it begins. She is a tough-talking, profane and wise blend of Lolita, Gidget and possibly Holly Golightly. She reveals a great deal of herself and the forces that spawned her as she climbs toward success as a singer, the hard way.

Daisy's mother is The Dealer—a card playing religious nut. Daisy wins a singing contest at a supermarket and drifts upward from trailer camp life into the movie milieu. What is the book about? It is about a nymph growing up, from the Flavor of the Month at Will Wright's ice cream parlor to straight vermouth over ice at the age of 15. Daisy puts it more vividly: "The night they premiered 'Little Annie Rooney,' I went and flushed my hair ribbon down the toilet in the ladies' room of the Egyptian Theater."

If there is an epilogue to Daisy's story it may be in a fan magazine's headline: "Why Did Daisy Have Her Baby in Long Beach?"

James Dorais Bracero Program Not Unpopular in Mexico

As with all controversies, there are two sides to the perennial wrangle over extension or extermination of Public Law 78, which provides for employment of Mexican farm workers in the United States for temporary periods.

The first "braceros," as the Mexican farm workers are called, came to the U. S. during World War II to harvest crops rotting in the fields because of wartime labor shortages. Since 1951, when the program was reactivated, under Public Law 78, hundreds of thousands of braceros have come to this country—more than half of them to California—to harvest fruits and vegetables.

Growers, who favor retention of the bracero program, believe it is the only practical solution to the problem of peak demand for labor for crops that must be harvested by hand. Union officials, who oppose it, argue that domestic unemployment could be cut if the program were junked.

Opponents have attempted to bolster their cause by claims that the bracero program is unpopular in Mexico; that the Mexican government frowns on it, that the Catholic Church in Mexico opposes it, and that the braceros themselves complain they are exploited by this country's farmers.

How true are these claims? The California Farmer magazine sent its associate editor, Don Taylor, to Mexico to check into the bracero program from the Mexican point of view. He interviewed the

Mexican government officials responsible for the various aspects of the program, as well as braceros themselves. His findings were that the claims were completely without foundation.

The Mexican government, he found, favors a simple extension with no changes, of the present agreement between Mexico and the United States. He discovered no evidence of opposition to the bracero program on the part of the Catholic Church. Mexicans who had participated in the program were enthusiastic about it and were concerned only with the difficulties in getting back to the U. S., since the number of braceros in use has declined.

One reason for the program's popularity south of the border is that it is an important source of income to Mexico, surpassed only by commercial exports and the tourist trade. Most of the braceros own small farms, do their spring planting, go to the U. S. while their families tend the crops, and return at harvest time.

The braceros interviewed by Taylor told him that "the average worker takes home 50 to 75 per cent of his net pay. He uses it to buy a small tractor, a mill to grind corn, or improvements on his farmstead or home."

Far from causing dislike for the U. S. in Mexico, the bracero program would seem to have developed into a really meaningful "alliance for progress" between the two countries.

ROYCE BRIER

Confused Cuban Policy; Let's Get to the Point

As has so often happened in our country, when a large and heated issue arises the protagonists exhibit a marked tendency to irrelevance, and the American people end up in a mounting confusion.

Such seems to be the case of Cuban policy today (not last October), and two foremost protagonists, President Kennedy and Senator Goldwater, appear to advance irrelevant, or downright specious, arguments in the matter. True, the question is loaded with political bias with national conventions little more than a year away, and this circumstance is a burden on objectivity.

Consider the President's case first, because it is chronologically first: under a barrage of Republican criticism, he said: "I think it is unfortunate that he (Castro) was permitted to assume control in the 1950s, and perhaps it would have been easier to take an action then."

This less-than subtle thrust at the Eisenhower Administration had a fatal flaw, because in his first year, Castro had the sympathy, not the enmity, of the American people. The sympathy leaked away, starting with the wholesale executions, but Castro was still promising elections, denying communism, and his Soviet alliance had not developed. Nor can it be established that in 1959 it would have been "easier" to unseat Castro than it is today.

The President's pronouncement simply overlooked the changing public sentiment which is indispensable to an effective foreign policy.

But then came Mr. Goldwater, replying to Mr. Kennedy with a comparable ir-

relevancy. He implied, supported by other congressmen, that the President was instilling the people with a fear-of-war psychology. "If we are not willing to take risks in this world, we might as well give up. . . . The question is, are we afraid to go to war?"

But this is not the question in the minds of the American people. They have never been unwilling to take risks when the stakes were high, and they have never feared to wage war over a vital issue.

The question then is, are the stakes high enough in Cuba, the issue vital enough to risk a war with the Soviet Union over this island?

Neither Mr. Kennedy nor the people have a "yes" for that, or you would see the damndest scurrying around this country ever saw. You would see ultimatum to Moscow, blockades, amphibious landings, the works. You might or might not see nuclear bombs on America, but if you did it would have to be, for then it would be your country or oblivion.

But Mr. Goldwater and his censorious colleagues, excepting a few nuts, loudly deny they want all this. Then what on earth are they talking about? The people don't want war. Let's get to the point of what they do want.

Our Man Hoppe

Astronauts' Money Problems

Art Hoppe

Our space program, I'm glad to see, is forging ahead. Our seven astronauts are buying part of a Caribbean island. Which they'll turn into a fashionable boys camp. And they've promised to visit it often because all boys demand heroes to worship. Especially at those rates.

I assume they got the money for the island from that Cocoa Beach motel they owned. Their attorney, Mr. Leo C. De Orsey, announced it was for sale. You remember, they bought it with that \$500,000 Life gave them for their exclusive stories.

I doubt the money came from the \$3.2 million the World Book Encyclopedia offered them for their future adventures. That deal's still in the works, I think. You see, World Book's had to negotiate with both Mr. De Orsey and Mr. Harry Batten. Mr. Batten represents our nine new astronauts, who, in the tradition of the service, also want a slice. So it will be a complex contract. And I can't see why all 16 astronauts can't just form a single holding company. It would certainly simplify our space program.

As it is, I sometime worry about what the future holds

Scene: The historic landing of the first U. S. spaceship to return from the moon. As thousands cheer, the hatch creaks dramatically open and out steps our hero astronaut, Mr. Al J. Ponzi. Followed by his attorney, press agent, business manager, talent agent and bookkeeper. All six remove their space helmets and unzip their space suits. Breathless reporter: Congratulations, Mr. Ponzi. How do you feel?

Hero Astronaut: Well. . . . Attorney: I'll have to object to Mr. Ponzi answering that question. His personal feelings are covered under his contract No 702-456-A with True Confession Adventure Comics. And if you are inquiring as to his physical condition, Dr. Spock Features Syndicate has purchased his blood pressure and pulse rates.

Television announcer: For our millions of viewers, Mr. Ponzi, could you demonstrate how you. . . . Talent agent: Hold it, Al, baby. Demonstrations you can do live. We got 47 cities booked. And you know how TV uses up material.

Photographer: How about a big smile, Mr. Ponzi? Business manager: No smiles, boys. Life's got exclusive rights on all reproductions of Mr. Ponzi's smile. The Saturday Evening Post has sewn up his frowns. And Look has the looks of introspective contemplation. How's for some nice shots of the back of his head? We couldn't sell it.

Reporter (angrily): You mean no statements will be issued? Business manager: Not at all. Here's a prepared statement you may quote in full, attributing it to Mr. Ponzi: "For Immediate Release. It was with great pride and humility that I, Al Ponzi, planted on the moon our flag. The flag of Astronauts Enterprises, Inc. Choice lots are now being offered. Low down, E-Z payments. These view sites. . . ."

Well, you can't blame our astronauts. They're braver men than I and they deserve an honest buck. Besides, they kind of symbolize our culture. For there they stand, eyes on the stars, hands on their wallets. And all that really bothers me, I guess, is that we can't seem to produce a true hero any more. Not one that's unincorporated.

But cheer up, I say. One thing's for sure in the space race: We're bound to land the first businessman on the moon.

Morning Report:

Lately it seems that the art of diplomacy has changed into the art of snubbery. In other words, if you're afraid you may say the wrong thing, just stay away.

We stayed away from Moscow's big May Day celebration. The Russians stayed away from Peking's big May Day celebration. And President Kennedy has skillfully arranged his coming European tour to circle around President de Gaulle without ever having to see him.

In the old days a diplomat could be depended upon to "remember a lady's birthday but forget her age." Now, he remembers her age, issues a proclamation reminding everybody she'll never see 40 again, and then skip her party.

Abe Mellinkoff

Mailbox

DOCTOR'S THANKS

I wish to commend your newspaper for the editorial pointing out the growing risks taken by the doctor whose first impulse when he witnesses a traffic accident is to stop and play the role of the Good Samaritan. These risks crop up later when he can be sued for damages and involved in time-consuming court procedures.

Any conscientious professional man wants to help but, until laws are passed giving him reasonable protection where help is voluntarily given, more and more doctors cannot be blamed for their apparent lack of concern. Doctors will always give help where they can. And they will remain anonymous where they can.

M.D.

Lambert probes deeper than one expects in this spooky analysis of the shabbiness of commercial entertainment, the exploitation of adolescent sex and the hollow men who promote it. Tough as nails, yet touching in her way, Daisy may have an appeal not unlike that of Holden Caulfield. This will be true.

Essay Contest Thanks

The Torrance Beautiful Commission members would like to express gratitude for the special assistance you gave in the inauguration of our annual City-wide High School Essay Contest. It was largely through the efforts of such citizens as you that this first contest was a success.

We of the Commission are delighted to realize that young adults are assuming a new sense of responsibility with respect to their city. Their continued interest and cooperation in maintaining and preserving the beauty of our city is something which should be encouraged.

Your continued interest in the Essay Contest, which we hope to make an annual event, will be welcomed.

Sincerely yours,
Mrs. Roy J. Apsey,
Chairman

I think, especially among younger readers—The Sallinger, Kasey and Heller fans. Lambert has captured the bleak areas of an American subculture expertly in this book. Daisy is likely to remain with the reader, no matter how depressed she, and Lambert, leave him.

Quote

"There's plenty of room at the top, but there's no place to sit down."—Fred W. Crown, The Bergen (N.J.) Citizen.

"The opinions a man expresses at a party are often changed when he gets home."—George B. Bowra, Aztec (N.M.) Independent Review.

"We're all set for a soft landing, you understand, but we do hope the moon doesn't turn out to be made of cheese dip."—Louis Nelson Bowman, Tri-Country (King City, Mo.) News.

"Children certainly grow up fast. Before you know it, the little girl in the frilly organdy dress is a grown woman in blue jeans."—Harold S. May, Florence (Ala.) Herald.

"A family man is exposed to the danger of fallout every day, when he opens the hall closet."—Mountain Home (Ida.) News.

"Intuition: The strange instinct that tells a woman she is right whether she is or not."—Dale Holdridge, Langford (S.D.) Bugle.

DARLIS JOAN ERWIG, L.A. burglary suspect—"People make it so easy. Five out of 10 of them leave their doors unlocked."

RALPH L. MORRIS, Vallejo—"Finally people are waking up to the realization that scholarship and the number of education courses have a negative relationship."

RENO ODLIN, bank president speaking at S.F. convention—"In 27 of the last 33 years our government has operated in the red. Balanced budgets have become another old-fashioned idea to be sneered at."

Strength for These Days

(From The Bible)

Now there are diversities of gifts.—(I Cor. 12:4)

We should always appreciate and make full use of our God-given powers and abilities. Instead of envying the talents of others we must remember that He has endowed us with many gifts; that we need only open our minds to the light of the Spirit, our hearts to the understanding of the Spirit and our lives to the power of the Spirit.