

Don't Look Now, Pard—



A Case of Pre-emption

Pre-emption of local laws by state and federal governments—a recently popular ruling of California's courts—may one day strip cities of all reasons to exist as political entities.

More and more courts are holding that state laws have pre-empted those enacted by local legislative bodies such as city councils, and that actions taken on the authority of the local laws are invalid.

Such rulings have brought about a number of strange events in recent years.

Item: A Los Angeles woman arrested for violating city laws against prostitution was freed when the court ruled that state laws against such behavior should have governed the arrest.

Item: About 300 persons jailed on drunk charges were released from a Los Angeles jail recently when the court ruled that the city law pertaining to public drunks had been pre-empted by the California Penal Code.

Item: Discussion at this week's meeting of the Torrance City Council on the controversial curfew law, enacted as an urgency measure to keep the peace in picket-harassed Southwood, turned to opinions that any city laws designed to apply to areas which are covered by state laws may be subject to challenge.

Where it all ends is anybody's guess, but it is the considered opinion of many—those trained in the finer subtleties of law included—that in the lifetime of many now living in Torrance the legislative powers of local government will have been "pre-empted" by the insatiable appetites of state and federal governments for power.

As a matter for speculation, the time may be approaching more rapidly than most realize when powers of the state government to legislate on a wide range of subjects will have been pre-empted by the federal government.

When the day comes, an all-wise federal administration will call the shots on everything from curfews to pandering.

When that day comes, individual freedom as we know it today will vanish, and the citizen's voice in his government will become a whisper.

A long list of all-powerful rulers including Hitler, Stalin, and others have already proved that.

Words, Words, Words

Bureaucratic verbosity always has been legend. Consider this choice example reported by a Washington commentator:

The Declaration of Independence has 300 words; the Ten Commandments 297; Lincoln's Gettysburg Address 267; the Lord's Prayer 56.

A recent federal order on cabbage prices had 26,911.

Opinions of Others

The Communists tell the Russian people that America is the worst place in the world, that half of us are starving to death. In the very next breath they are bragging that in the next couple of years they will catch up with our standard of living.—Farmingdale (N. J.) Howell Booster.

The guy who says it can't be done is usually interrupted by someone doing it.—Blakesburg (Iowa) Excelsior.

Some of the world's best golf scores are made with lead pencils.—Skylesville (Pa.) Post Dispatch.

The only reason a great many American families don't own an elephant is that they have never been offered an elephant for \$1 down and \$1 a week.—Mebane (N. C.) Enterprise.

How would you feel if everyone in town knew how much you put in the church collection last Sunday?—Wytheville (Va.) Southwest Virginia Enterprise.

Sick pay is ill-gotten gains.—Edgewater (N. J.) Bergen County Citizen.

It may be possible to bypass all of America when the Federal Interstate Highway system is completed.—Greencastle (Ind.) Putnam County Graphic.

Millions of tax dollars that are now going into research projects to study family life of monkeys, crabs, and cockroaches might better be diverted to practicable training for young men who will be desperate for jobs next year.—Grensbury (Ind.) Times.

ROYCE BRIER

Profumo Affair Was Big In Hong Kong, He Finds

Mute, so far as concerns this column, the writer loitered in Hong Kong recently and beheld the Crown colony papers belt out the Profumo affair. It was the biggest blast since Cleopatra seduced Caesar.

True enough, Miss Keeler is not Miss Ptolemy, and Profumo doesn't remind you in the least of Caesar, but you don't need great history to flip the gin and tonic mob. It seems none of these good folk were born before Victoria was crowned, so they don't believe in call girls, which, incidentally, is a euphemism for a euphemism.

No doubt the good folk had heard of Lady Hamilton, and as some tomato who threatened to expose the Duke of Wellington, who replied, "Publ-ish and be damned!" But that was the remote past. It's like reading a Wycherley play, to be amazed the English could have been so unconventional, also a euphemism for a euphemism.

But on returning homeseid, one finds Profumo a big American flap, too. Somewhat wistfully, we also rustled up some call girls. They overran the UN, and every statehouse had to have a few spectral babes.

Over in London they say it isn't the sex that bothers them, but the security, and Johnny Profumo lying to the House of Commons, and this is a lot of blubber. The House of Commons hears a thousand lies a year, and never turns a hair.

So it's the security? Imagine a factotum in the Russian Embassy thinking he could pry any secrets from the girl friend of a Cabinet officer. What secrets worth a farthing does this guy harbor? The British stockpile of nuclear bombs? Comrade Khrushchev doesn't care a tinker's dam. What's biting him is the American stockpile, and Profumo was about as close to that as you are. Does the Comrade look like a sucker who would revise the Russian war strategy on the say-so of some London doll who is splashing about in Lord Astor's swimming pool?

Let's grant Soviet espionage could somehow dig worthwhile secrets out of London, or even Washington. What good are they six months hence, unless in the meanwhile you have occasion to act on them?

James Dorais

Shooting From the Hip A Politician's Failing

One of the commonest failings of politicians is a tendency to shoot from the hip. All too often bullets shot this way will ricochet wildly.

The prize example of wild-shooting this season was provided by President of the State Board of Education Thomas Braden, who couldn't resist taking a pot shot at State Superintendent of Public Instruction Max Rafferty when the latter cautioned local school officials against selection of a book, "Dictionary of American Slang," for use in school libraries.

Braden could have agreed with Rafferty, which would have ended the matter. Or he could have said nothing. But ever since his election, Dr. Rafferty, a Republican, has been on the Democratic administration's hate list in Sacramento.

So the President of the State Board of Education took the Superintendent to task for advocating censorship, and the Board adopted a meaningless resolution affirming the right (which Rafferty had not challenged) of local school officials to choose the books in their libraries. Immediately, what should have been a one-day story be-

came a cause celebre. Braden supporters rallied around him, and at least one school librarian announced she was ordering the book just to show Dr. Rafferty that he couldn't tell her what to do. Rafferty supporters rallied around him, and groups of parents circulated excerpts from the book, one of which was handed to Mr. Braden's daughter.

Braden expressed himself as shocked by the distribution of the excerpts from the book, but not by the presence of the book in some school libraries.

All of this is pretty silly. No one of reasonably sound mind, not temporarily blinded by political partisanship, could examine the Dictionary of American Slang and fail to conclude that it is preposterously unsuitable in a school library, or that Dr. Rafferty exercised responsible judgment in saying so.

Unfortunately, as is usually the case in dismal controversies such as this one, probably few people on either side of the argument over the book have taken the trouble to look at it. Meanwhile, Mr. Braden and Dr. Rafferty are continuing to attempt to clarify their respective positions in news releases mailed in envelopes from the same source, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The obvious conclusions to be drawn from the whole fiasco are that politics should have no place in education, and that California's quaint method of electing a State Superintendent of Education, who is supposed to take orders from a politically oriented, appointed State Board of Education, should be changed.

A Bookman's Notebook

Booker T. Washington Classic Issued Again

William Hogan

In the midst of this new resurgence of the American Negro, Doubleday & Co. has dusted off and reintroduces a best-selling book of 1900 — "Up From Slavery," the autobiography of Booker T. Washington (\$4.50). Carrying a foreword by William O. Douglas, this is a work in which the noted educator looked back over the long, hard pull that led from a Southern slave cabin to the presidency of Tuskegee Institute.

Washington tirelessly preached the gospel of both labor's dignity and the value of the toothbrush. He emphasized the industrial education of Negroes rather, in his time, than a concentration on book learning. His life story has become a classic in the literature of the American Negro.

Justice Douglas notes in his foreword that "Up From Slavery" is as topical today as it was when it first appeared, and though written about the American Negro, it tells the story of minorities the world over who seek equality under the sun. The book remains an important document in both fields of education and race relations.

In the wake of John Campbell Bruce's vivid and critical history, "Escape From Alcatraz," follows a second run-down on The Rock — John Godwin's "Alcatraz: 1867-1953" (Doubleday; \$4.50). This is a workmanlike appraisal of the tight little island, both fortress and prison, plus accounts of some of the more familiar social outcasts who have inhabited it.

The more I hear of this depressing place, the happier I am that it will no longer be the object of morbid tourist curiosity, to say nothing of the living hell that it represented so much longer than it should have.

None of Alcatraz was funny, as both Bruce's and Godwin's records of these bars, walls, cages, and general barbarism make shockingly clear.

Paul Rink is the author of a biography of the late A. P. Giannini, "Building the Bank of America." Essentially a book for young people, it is the third in Encyclopaedia Britannica Press' "Great Lives Series," following those on Richard E. Byrd and Ernest Hemingway (\$2.95 each). A glowing and uncritical account of the colorful California banker, it certainly might interest an audience beyond the teen-age years.

Other notes from the cultural vineyard: "Usage and Abuse," a comprehensive work on words by Eric Partridge, will be available this month in the Penguin Reference series of paperbacks (\$1.15). The author will probably prefer that it not be described as "interesting."

"This passe-partout adjective is to be used sparingly and, even when used, it must be only after soul-searching and intelligence-racking thought. If you mean 'puzzling,' say so; if 'dramatic,' say dramatic; if 'unusual,' then unusual; if 'important,' then important; if 'full of character or incident or implication,' then for the sake of the right word, use the right words!"

A particularly lively and informative travel guide: "Paris: An Uncommon Guide," by Lawrence and Sylvia Martin (McGraw; \$6.95). Facts plus informed comment on everything from Rodin's statue to Balzac to love-making. "There should be an Arc de Triomphe in Paris put up to Venus and Cupid where foreigners could lay a wreath before the eternal flame in recognition of the French championship of the world."

Pamela Hansford Johnson, the British author, roams about the New England scene and its peculiar grooves of academe in a new novel due from Scribner's July 22, "Night and Silence Who Is Here?"

Two short science-fiction works by Andre Maurois, both long out of print, have been reissued in one volume by Masmilian — "The Weigher of Souls" and "The Earth Dwellers." Translations by Hamish Miles.

Recently we noted that Melvin M. Bell's account of

his life in court, "Ready For the Plaintiff!" is available as a Charter Book reprint (\$2.25). Bobbs-Merrill, which distributes the Charter line, tells us that a new Belli book is due in the fall — "Belli Looks at Life and Law in Russia," an account of the barrister's observation during his recent tour.

"The Story of the Armory Show," by Milton W. Brown, professor of history at Brooklyn College, is a lively, extensively illustrated account of that explosive event in American art annals — the New York Armory Show of 1913. New York Graphic Society distributes it (\$5.50) for Joseph H. Hirshhorn Foundation.

Around the World With



"Do you advise locking suitcases in hotel rooms? And what do you do with money you don't want to carry but want kept safe?"

I don't lock suitcases in hotel rooms. I've never had anything taken but maybe I've been lucky. If I carried large amounts of cash, or had expensive jewelry, I'd put it in the hotel safe.

European hotels usually have a large chest to hang your clothes in. It has a key and a lock that any competent Boy Scout could open with a Scout knife. Irish hotels seldom bother to give you a room key. They don't lock doors.

Things you'd most likely lose would be what you leave in an unlocked car on the street. An inexpensive camera to you usually has a great deal more value in foreign currency and style of living. Don't make it tempting.

"We understand that it is wise to carry a letter of introduction from the Chief of Police in our town. . ."

No indeed except in some special countries that require it for visas. Nicaragua is one. Europeans are too sophisticated to be impressed. And in countries where people might be impressed, they usually can't read. Not English, anyway.

"We thought prices were terribly high in Paris. . ."

I did too. This is one of the world's high-priced towns. France is a high-priced country, even for the French. Austria, Portugal and Spain are the bargain countries. Cool, northern Spain right now is running me \$18 a day for two people and a child—for everything but car rental. That's food, hotels, tips, drinks, cigarettes, barber, hairdressers, drugstores, magazines, books, baby-sitters. I mean living well. You could cut corners and drop this to \$15 I'm sure.

Car rentals are the big cost. You can get a package deal—(Hertz in Madrid)—that gives you a month for \$315 with 1,800 miles free. (Otherwise cost is \$7.50 a day and about 9 cents a mile.)

You pay for your own gas. Like most of Europe, it runs about 90 cents a gallon. However, little European cars get 30 miles or better to the gallon.

"Where do you go for Mexican food in Mexico City please?"

Hosteria del Santo Domingo in the very oldest part of Mexico City, near the Church of Santo Domingo and the homes of the captains who came with Cortez.

(There's a little purse snatching in this district. Hang onto yours.)

In the stylish part of town near the Hotel Presidente, the Fonda del Refugio has excellent food from all parts of Mexico. High prices for Mexico but low for your exchange.

For lunch, the terrace on the roof at the Hotel Majestic. Overlooking the great square with the peaks of the two volcanoes rising above the Presidential palace. If they have the little crayfish in butter and a bottle of Bohemian beer, you'll live like Montezuma. (He lived right across the square from you.)

"We would like to go to a nice beach town in Mexico and possibly buy property. . ."

All my friends are high on Puerto Vallarta on the West Coast—reachable only by air from Guadalajara, Mazatlan, and Los Angeles at present. I think Mazatlan a little further north is a nice beach town.

However, Mexican law is tough on foreigners owning property. If you buy within 15 miles of the sea coast, your property reverts to the state when you die. Any buying in Mexico should be checked with a Mexico City lawyer.

"All the Pacific cruises seem too long (two months) or too short (five days to Hawaii). We were looking for something like two or three weeks."

Why don't you put off the vacation and take a Matson Line Christmas cruise? This is a special de luxe cruise from Frisco on Dec. 20 and Los Angeles on Dec. 21. Back Jan. 4 and 5. Calls for two days in Honolulu and Outer Island ports like Lahaina and Nawiliwili. Matson, 215 Market St., San Francisco—attention Mr. Regal. He sends the folders.

Morning Report:

New income tax regulations have breathed some life into expense account living. Commissioner Mortimer Caplin has ruled that you can deduct the expense of entertaining a business prospect but not if you take him to a "major distraction."

Any leg show is out. Who can talk business with all that skin showing?

So the only safe thing to do is take your prospect to a dull show. I can see the ads now. Don't miss this one. Panned by all critics. Positively no distraction on stage. A tax man's delight.

Abe Mellinkoff

STAR GAZER
By CLAY R. POLLAN
Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars

To develop message for Sunday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

<p>ARIES MAR. 21-31 APR. 30 1-14-29-39 2-14-29-39 3-14-29-39</p>	<p>Taurus APR. 21-30 MAY 1-31 4-14-29-39 5-14-29-39 6-14-29-39</p>	<p>GEMINI MAY 21-31 JUN 1-31 7-14-29-39 8-14-29-39 9-14-29-39</p>	<p>CANCER JUN 21-30 JUL 1-31 10-14-29-39 11-14-29-39 12-14-29-39</p>	<p>LEO JUL 21-31 AUG 1-31 13-14-29-39 14-14-29-39 15-14-29-39</p>	<p>VIRGO AUG 21-31 SEPT. 1-31 16-14-29-39 17-14-29-39 18-14-29-39</p>	<p>LIBRA SEPT. 23-30 OCT. 1-31 19-14-29-39 20-14-29-39 21-14-29-39</p>	<p>SCORPIO OCT. 23-31 NOV. 22-31 22-14-29-39 23-14-29-39 24-14-29-39</p>	<p>SAGITTARIUS NOV. 23-31 DEC. 22-31 25-14-29-39 26-14-29-39 27-14-29-39</p>	<p>CAPRICORN DEC. 23-31 JAN. 20-31 28-14-29-39 29-14-29-39 30-14-29-39</p>	<p>AQUARIUS JAN. 21-31 FEB. 19-31 31-14-29-39 32-14-29-39 33-14-29-39</p>	<p>PISCES FEB. 20-31 MAR. 21-31 34-14-29-39 35-14-29-39 36-14-29-39</p>
--	--	---	--	---	---	--	--	--	--	---	---

1 Especially 31 Or 61 Parties
2 Excellent 32 Ill-timber 62 Loved
3 Bright 33 An 63 Encouraging
4 Bright 34 Study 64 You
5 Smiling 35 Move 65 Friend
6 Time 36 Club 66 Or
7 Stay 37 Shell 67 Invisage
8 Someone 38 Love 68 Hastly
9 Outdoor 39 Spirits 69 Spirits
10 Marriage 40 Short 70 Happiness
11 Flighly 41 Year 71 Relax
12 Both 42 Lover 72 And
13 Pleasant 43 Can 73 Sweetheart
14 Faces 44 Year 74 Word
15 Out 45 And 75 May
16 Day 46 Cause 76 And
17 Activities 47 Brightens 77 Assistance
18 Partner 48 Meditate 78 Repair
19 In 49 Or 79 Repair
20 Day 50 Meetings 80 Will
21 Judgment 51 Brings 81 Arguments
22 Needs 52 Works 82 Church
23 Or 53 From 83 Ones
24 Year 54 Old 84 Personal
25 To 55 Habits 85 Personal
26 For 56 Sociability 86 Wardrobe
27 Harmony 57 World 87 Indicated
28 Gardening 58 Year 88 Socials
29 Surprise 59 And 89 Devere
30 For 60 Mand 90 Now
31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100

Good Adverse Neutral