

Torrance Herald

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Time Running Out

Never before have the shops and department stores of Torrance offered Christmas goods in such variety making it virtually impossible for anyone to be disappointed in a quest "for just the right gift."

There are all the old standbys for practical giving and a whole new world of space age products to delight the most advanced thinkers among the small fry. All are displayed attractively with an appeal most shoppers will find difficult to resist.

Reports from most stores indicate that this will be the biggest Christmas in Torrance retailing history, unquestionably reflecting the generally prosperous situation of the average American family during 1963.

Local churches and other organizations are preparing special programs properly celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ whose lowly entrance into the life of Bethlehem unquestionably was to become the most celebrated event in the history of the world.

This is properly the season to be joyous and also alert to the inevitable fact that there are now only eight more shopping days until Christmas!

An Age of Violence

Now another President has died at the hands of an assassin. He thus joins, after many years, the tragic trinity of Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley.

What can be said of the mentality that finds its virtue and necessity in government by violence? There is no good answer. And the problem it presents is not new. But it is also true that we live in a world in which violence has become, so to speak, a way of life. We have seen it almost everywhere—in the communist nations, in Latin America, in Asia. We saw it, only a few days before John Kennedy was killed, in Vietnam, where the dethroned men of power were brutally slaughtered.

This is not an easy thing to write about, or to think about. All of us, whether or not we agreed with what the late president did and stood for, can offer, from full and grievous hearts, our profound regrets. We feel deep compassion for his wife, who was with him during that dreadful moment, and for his family. And we feel a sadness that in this state of civilization such a thing could occur. The human hand, it seems, has reached a far higher degree of development than has the human heart. And this may be the ultimate world tragedy.

The problems—world problems—created by the President's death are enormous. The mere transference of the reins of power from one man to another is a matter of the utmost complexity. But it will be done; the nation will stand and go forward as it always has. And the nation, in its sorrow, may think and reflect once more on the moral values which transcend all others.

And finally, out of that same full heart, the nation prays that the new President may have that strength and wisdom which is so sorely needed.

Retailing Careers

Are you a young person looking for a career? If so, you would do well to consider food distribution.

That's the point of a leaflet recently issued by the National Association of Food Chains. It goes on to list the jobs and training that the food industry offers. The list is a long one, including buying, merchandising, transportation, engineering, accounting, law, industrial relations, manufacturing, and so on.

On top of that, the booklet emphasizes, the industry offers excellent opportunities for advancement, good regular income, interesting work, and a high degree of job security. There's plenty of room "upstairs" for people with the right ambitions, aptitudes and skills—the manager of a modern supermarket, for instance, is one of the best paid men in the community. Regular training programs are provided to prepare employees for better jobs. Any food chain can point to top executives who started as clerks, general superintendents who began on the freight dock, and department heads who were once mail boys.

What is true of these food chains is true of the chains operating in other retail fields — drugs, variety goods, hardware, general merchandise. The typical store of today is a very different sort of operation from the store our parents knew in their young days. It must meet intense competition. It must provide goods and services and surroundings that will bring customers back and make them loyal and satisfied patrons. That requires personnel of top caliber and the demand for that kind of personnel gets greater all the time.

Opinions of Others

LAEGER, W. VA., INDUSTRIAL NEWS: "In Russia, we learn from a bulletin of the US Department of Agriculture, neglect of farm machinery has been made a criminal offense. It is not difficult to understand the need for drastic steps. When the machinery belongs to the State, and the land belongs to the State, and the crops belong to the State, who cares what happens to any of them? American farmers, however, discovered for themselves long ago, that neglecting their machinery is a crime—not against the State, but against Nature and their own welfare—despite the quick availability of parts at modest cost . . . 'In the sweat of thy brow,' says Good Book, 'shalt thou eat bread.' But the Russians wouldn't know about that."

Chain Store Age reports that shoplifters, along with retail sales, are heading for another record year. It describes annual losses due to pilferage as "staggering," and urges retailers to learn the ways and techniques commonly used by shoplifters and to keep their eyes open.

You've Got T'Get Off Enough Weight-



REG-MANNING

McNought Studios, Inc.

ROYCE BRIER

Wire-Tapping Practices In Washington Noted

Ambition in government, condoning entrapment and general chicanery, has always been a way of life of monarchs and dictators. A self-governing republic is supposed to be reasonably free of trickery, self-government itself resting on mutual respect and honor.

But in Washington there is going on a somewhat shadowed affair, involving security files, phone-tapping, the State Department and a Senate committee which has a faint flavor of the McCarthy razzle-dazzle of the last decade, and it is disturbing enough just on the record.

The Senate body is the Internal Security Subcommittee. Some weeks ago it obtained from Otto F. Otepka, State's chief security evaluations officer, certain classified files of the department

bearing on the loyalty of employees. They were submitted without consent or knowledge of Secretary Rusk, and Otepka was dismissed.

Some subcommittee members protested, implying State was attempting a coverup of loyalty risks. But it is established procedure that the Executive branch can refuse damaging raw material in loyalty cases to congressional committees. This is part of the traditional position of the Executive that it is not subject to unlimited disclosure in security matters.

State contends Otepka violated this procedure, and he is now appealing dismissal.

It has been revealed two other State officers were involved and they have resigned: John F. Reilly, a deputy for security, and Elmer

D. Hill, technical chief in Reilly's office. Both testified before the Subcommittee, and dispatches say they were key men in Otepka's dismissal, adding their resignations were asked for and given because they first denied, then admitted trying to intercept Otepka's telephone conversations.

Right-wing organizations have been intensely interested in the Otepka case, and support him for submitting the files. The lineup then would be that the right wing would oppose Reilly and Hill for opposing Otepka, and consider their resignations a victory.

This rather labyrinthine play of forces, while interesting, is less important than the use of entrapment within a government department.

We expect phone-tapping and bugging in the underworld, and even in the detection of high crime (though its legality is dubious even there). We don't expect such snares in the non-criminal functions of a government agency. It argues desperation unbecoming public servants. We can hardly condone it, because to do so is to further mutual suspicion in the whole structure of government.

Quote

FRED E. HUNTLEY, Berkeley—"The American people hunger more for a rebirth of their national pride than they do for unbounded riches."

WILLIAM BUCKLEY, JR., political commentator on California speaking tour—"Let's not assume that all the House Un-American Activities Committee has done is correct, but let's recall they have revealed that to meet a special threat, we must find special solutions."

KIRBY CANNON, Novato construction supervisor—"If you can't think of a snappy retort, a carelessly concealed yawn often is just as good and much less dangerous."

"Don't resent growing old. A great many are denied the privilege."—Lynn H. Carpenter, Dundee (N. Y.) Observer.

"A smile adds something when a stranger takes you at face value."—B. J. Dahl, Chewelah (Wash.) Independent.

Geography may not teach us that all countries touch the United States but history does.

THIS WILD WEST by Lucius Beebe

Indiscriminate Sales Of Firearms Deplored

The melancholy events of recent memory in Dallas, quite aside from their overtones of high policy and tragedy of an almost Sophoclean or classic dimension, must suggest a more or less profound exercise of soul-searching in a field that has long been a controversial one where the holy names of the American tradition of the frontier and even basic patriotism itself have been evoked, all too often, for the most ordinary sort of commercial advantage.

This, of course, is the matter of the easy availability of firearms to, and their common and promiscuous use by persons who, by no means elastic stretch of the imagination, could be conceived as sufficiently responsible to possess lethal weapons.

The case of the assassination of President Kennedy brings this into discussion with a good deal more dramatic emphasis than it would otherwise have received, especially if the vast and influential interests involved in the manufacture and sale of firearms had any say in the matter.

It is entirely possible that a large number of people don't know just how available lethal weapons of precision have always been in the United States or with what assiduity their sales are promoted in media whose circulation can scarcely support the defense that they are advertised for sporting purposes or wholesome pursuits of recreation and instruction.

Weeklies and other periodicals whose lithographic jackets abound with sensational violence either of a sexual or murderous nature crawl with inducements to the easy and cheap procurement of military surplus weapons and handguns whose almost only conceivable purpose can be for criminal use and physical assaults upon people. They include machine guns, presumably decontaminated by the removal of essentials of their firing mechanism which can either be themselves procured by separate sale or easily improvised by amateur gunsmiths. Their entire availability is slanted toward the most irresponsible imaginable element of potential purchasers, their prices are calculated to appeal to indigent shiftlessness and their entire latent suggestion is one of easy adaptability to criminal purposes.

Allied to this shady traffic in disused military materiel is the only slightly more responsible advertising of weapons of precision by large scale manufacturers or allegedly

"sporting" firearms and the ammunition they consume and the merchandising of these perilous artifacts by retail dealers everywhere. The destruction of innocent wildlife and the wholesale destruction of public and private property by delinquent juveniles whose mentalities taken in connection with a weapon of precision are enough to congeal the marrow, are encouraged in the holy name of the old American tradition of patriotism and "self-defense."

Well, the Western frontier disappeared by official estimate, in 1890. The Minute Man who brought his own military armament to town muster at the sound of the tocsin disappeared even earlier. A million patriots springing to the defense of home and fatherland with a trained knowledge of firearms as their qualification, a vision invoked as recently as the 1914 war, is fairly hilarious today.

The collection of fine and ornamental antique firearms has about it no more menace than the admiration of antique automobiles or streetcar transfers, but the maintenance of arsenals of modern military weapons of precision in full readiness for violent use by private citizens may well be viewed as suspect.

The murder of another President of the United States, in this case by an iden-

tified communicant of the radical left whose political affiliations may well bear exploration even on a post mortem basis, is the supreme example of the misplaced power of casual life and death in the hands of a seedy punk whose possession of a pair of pruning shears should have been grounds for apprehension.

The mere enactment of mildly corrective statutes inhibiting the mail order purchase of firearms that may be acceptable to the arms manufacturers or a closer scrutiny of pistol and rifle sales than now exists is not in any appreciable way going to abate the peril of instant death at the hands of psychopaths of the sort who have accomplished the assassination of every head of state in recent record.

A sweeping Federal enactment making it a capital offense to own or be in possession of a concealable weapon of precision whose ownership is not registered and approved by suitable authority might be open to abuse but would be a step in the right direction. The difference between owning such a weapon and its fatal use is merely a matter of opportunity, and the elimination at once of its owner as a potential assassin and his weapon from circulation would grieve nobody but the firearms trade of Hartford, Connecticut.

Bill of Rights

172 Years Young Today

- I am 172 years young this December 15, 1963.
- I am not perfect nor complete, for no work of man can be.
- I was born out of centuries of suffering by millions from denial to them of those freedoms I provide.
- I recognize neither majority nor minority, race, creed or color—only the dignity of individual man.
- I am suspicious of government and the desires for power of those who hold its reins.
- I am unique, for I make of government, a servant of man—not his master.
- I provide that certain unalienable rights and freedoms shall not be denied to any citizen by the Federal Government, as such freedoms are of God—not man.
- I, by prohibiting government from interfering with man's freedom, provide the opportunity for man to achieve what he will, limited only by his abilities.
- I am often taken advantage of by those I protect, who would destroy me to their own detriment and the detriment of all.
- I have been copied in part, but not successfully, for those who have tried to secure my protection for themselves and others have been unable or unwilling to assume the responsibilities essential to my survival.
- I am a jealous and demanding—yet fragile—instrument.
- I am of the past, the present and the future, for my ideals are eternal; yet I shall survive only so long as those I benefit recognize and assume the hard and tedious task of keeping my provisions alive for all posterity.
- I can be destroyed only through the apathy of those I protect.
- I am of the essence of the God of the Universe.
- I am the Bill of Rights, the First Ten Amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

George E. Ross, Secretary
Bill of Rights
Commemoration Committee

Morning Report:

It's pretty tough sledding for the Washington experts these days. They naturally must keep busy forecasting all the changes that are going to take place under the new President. When clearly Mr. Johnson is heaven-bent on making as few changes as he possibly can.

Arthur Schlesinger, one of Mr. Kennedy's writers, for one, has been reported out of the White House and back in again, almost as often as the milkman.

Not only in personnel but in policy as well President Johnson wants to keep things going as they were before. If the Republicans are going to have a hard time knocking the policies of a martyred President, you can imagine how much harder it is for a fellow Democrat.

Abe Mellinkoff

Strength for These Days (From The Bible)

As we have opportunity, let us work that which is good. —(Gal. 6:10).

We should seize every challenge in our lives as an opportunity to grow. As in climbing a mountain, each successful effort in coping with the problem facing us brings to a higher point than ever before — until we reach the summit.



"A grouch is a guy who has himself sized up and is sore about it."