

# Torrance Herald

Established 1914

Co-Publishers  
KING WILLIAMS - GLENN W. PFEIL  
REID L. BUNDY - Managing Editor

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1964

## Johnson Impresses

It is yet too early to assess with certainty the attitudes the Johnson Administration will take, the philosophies it will stand for, and the policies it will pursue. But there are revealing signs, just as there are many informed speculations.

For instance, the President has provided an eloquent statement of a general policy. He made it at a news conference His words: "My number one priority, my number one goal, my number one objective, my number one ambition, is to try to provide the leadership for my country with vision, tolerance, patience and strength that will convince the rest of the world that we court no territory, we seek no satellites, that we are trying to live in peace and prosperity, and we would like for our fellow man everywhere to do the same thing."

This statement has to do primarily with foreign policy. And it is generally expected that in the furtherance of this policy Mr. Johnson may show great strength and adamant purpose. He means to put some long-needed vigor into the Alliance for Progress—which is the alliance that has much to do with our relations with the Latin American nations. The appointment of Thomas C. Mann as Assistant Secretary of State for inter-American affairs seems to be proof that Mr. Mann is known as a top authority on these affairs and, going by his past record of government service, is used to getting needed things done.

In domestic policy, the President has said that he supports the programs of the late President Kennedy. But it is also true that he has a mind and will of his own and, politically speaking, must create his own image. On government spending he has said, "We are going to cut out every dime of waste we can in order to have as much to spend on the unfilled needs of this nation . . ." He added that there will be ". . . programs that will deal with new situations . . ." though he has not so far specified them. And he has said that he is uncertain of the size of the coming budget. Most outside authorities are guessing at a figure in the neighborhood of \$103 billion.

And the budget problem is, beyond doubt, going to be one of the toughest nuts for Mr. Johnson to crack in his relations with the Congress which he knows so well and where, for some years, he was the most powerful single figure. It is a problem that is inextricably intertwined with the tax reduction bill which, along with civil rights, heads Mr. Johnson's domestic "must" legislation, just as it did Mr. Kennedy's. Some of the most influential Senators, Senator Byrd for one, want assurances of economy in spending, and a limitation on deficits, before they will be willing to go along with tax cuts. There is speculation now that passage of the bill—which is designed to be retroactive to January 1—may be delayed until summer, though the Administration hopes for a February passage.

No one should underestimate Mr. Johnson's talents as a strategist—his experience in government, as Congressman, Senator (and Senate majority leader) and as a very active and well-informed Vice President, has been extraordinarily wide. And those who know him best seem unanimous in saying that he will bring unusual strength of purpose and decision to his office.

## March of Dimes

What is more pitiful than a child born with some crippling defect? What is more worth while than a cause whose purpose is to prevent and to find cures for the 600 kinds of environmental and hereditary defects of the central nervous system and skeletal structure which are known to exist?

These questions, and other obvious answers, are most pertinent now. For, during January, The National Foundation—March of Dimes is conducting its annual drive for funds. The organization is still concerned with the polio problem which was the reason for its creation. But now, due to the wonders of the vaccines, that problem has been largely solved. So the emphasis has been shifted to birth defects—and its overall philosophy is found in the telling phrase "Human Rescue."

What do your dimes buy? The list is impressive. For one thing, they help to pay for research and special treatment centers, 70 in number, which are located in more than 60 of the nation's 85 medical schools—some of the schools have two. For another, the Salk Institute for Biological Studies was recently opened in San Diego and is in the process of completion. For a third, there is a very real hope that research and experiment will, perhaps fairly soon, produce an omnibus vaccine that will protect against all the viruses.

To give one more statistic, there are 11 million cases of arthritis and rheumatism, crippling and agonizing, among the people of this country. And your dimes go to help fight this scourge.

So give your dimes—give them, if you can, by the handful.

## Opinions of Others

GILLESPIE, H.L., AREA NEWS: "The United States is a wealthy nation, but even a wealthy man can dissipate his wealth and die a pauper. We have spent billions of dollars to improve the world, but what is happening in our country? . . . While bettering conditions abroad, or attempting to, our morals at home are sharply dropping, with an ever growing crime rate. These range from high levels to petty thievery. There are murders and senseless beatings and maimings, rape of women and even little girls, many of these to be found in the Capitol City, even in the shadows of the Capitol Building. City streets are unsafe by night and often by day . . . Let's consider the United States for awhile. It is a great country—let's keep it that way."

## Lots Of Scissors Clicking



AFTER HOURS By John Morley

## Herald Columnist Tells Talk With Chou En-Lai

CAIRO — It is not often that an American correspondent has such an opportunity.

Several times while in Hong Kong I have waited for State Department permission to travel into Red China, but each time our group of U. S. correspondents were turned down . . . and perhaps rightfully so. I came close to seeing Prime Minister Chou En-Lai eight years ago at the Bandung conference in Indonesia . . . but the date was changed and I missed him.

Today in Cairo the long-awaited opportunity came. Red China's Chou En-Lai was an official guest of President Nasser and the Arab Republic (Egypt) at Kubbeh palace in Cairo, President Nasser's headquarters (the equivalent of the White House, except that President Nasser does not reside there with his wife and five children).

I have seen President Gamal Abdul Nasser many times since he came to power at the overthrow of King Farouk some 10 years ago. I talked with him informally at receptions, like the opening of the Shephard's hotel in 1957 . . . several celebrations of the July revolution . . . in press conferences in Alexandria and Cairo . . . and in private interviews.

But I have never seen such security around the president, and to include his guest Chou En-Lai.

Probably the murder of President Kennedy had something to do with it . . . or the fact that Arabs in general are strongly anti-communist.

The official press conference for a small group of accredited correspondents from around the world to interview Red China's prime minister, was called at 6 p.m. in President Nasser's elaborate reception room at Kubbeh place.

I arrived at 5 p.m. and went through a thorough going-over by secret police of both the UAR and Red China. They even opened my camera to inspect it for a concealed weapon.

I was escorted by two palace police to the reception room to a seat three feet from Chou En-Lai, who was flanked by Chinese aids tape recorders and camera men who traveled with him all the way from Red China.

Chou En-Lai was dressed in the drab grey uniform, buttoned to the neck, that typifies the official Chinese reds. I saw many times in Korea, Hong Kong and Macao.

Behind him were two stiff motionless, manish-looking women, and on either side his aids and advisors from Peiping. Although he speaks English, he used an interpreter who repeated each question in Chinese and his reply in English.

The magnificent brightly lighted chandeliers above him . . . and the beautiful Persian rugs under his feet seems to engulf his austere presence. You could see he felt uncomfortable, for he rarely sees an American correspondent.

His smile and motion to me to sit somehow did not break the spell or the schism that divided our political philosophies. His handshake was soft and cold. He was correct and polite.

I asked for his reaction to President Kennedy's murder, to break the ice . . . and why Red China made no comment at the time.

It was apparent he had not expected such a question. His face tightened . . . and he replied: "Your president was an enemy to the People's Democratic Republic of China (as Red China is officially called), Mr. American Correspondent. But even so, the crime itself was shameful and horrible. Since you are a professional reporter you know that we Communists are against murders (since when?) even in the case of persons who are our enemies."

"Since we do not maintain diplomatic relations . . . and since you have the Seventh fleet menacing our shores it did not seem appropriate to comment at that time."

To the question of rumors that Red China was about to conduct nuclear tests in '64 . . . he replied:

"I am the prime minister and I know nothing of nuclear tests; ask the persons who started the rumors."

To another question Chou said: "We opposed the Moscow agreement because it did not ban all nuclear testing and destruction of all present nuclear weapons. It did not include all nations who would likely be affected by nuclear war. Also because only three of the big powers took part."

To the question of the Arab Israel dispute . . . Chou En-Lai replied: "The Chinese people always supported the Arab people's right to Palestine . . . and to Arab unity as sponsored by President Nasser."

To the question of rumors that France would recognize Red China . . . Chou said: "The time is not yet ripe to answer the question" . . . but he implied that negotiations have begun — a rather surprising admission.

"On the Sino-Indian border dispute . . . Chou said: "The UAR was one of the six Colombo conference countries that mediated between China and India and stopped hostilities. China has removed all troops from the disputed zones. We are ready to negotiate all our differences peacefully with India."

On the Russia-China rift . . . Chou commented: "China and Russia are united on the principles of Marx-Lenin. We have disagreements like the Western powers. We invited President Nasser to mediate

between us. I am confident that we will come to complete agreement."

In another column I will discuss my face-to-face conclusions of President Nasser today. But there is a strong similarity between him and Chou En-Lai.

They are cut from the same revolutionary cloth. They are both fanatically nationalistic and proudly. They are dedicated to their goals. They both rose from similar political backgrounds.

But Chou En-Lai is an intellectual, die-hard Communist. He is cunning, cagey and deceptive. He is without religious influence.

He is a Communist that bears watching. He could well emerge to challenge the leadership of any Red in the Kremlin.

His ambitions reach far beyond the borders of Red China. He needs fertile real estate to raise rice for his hungry millions, hence his drive to Vietnam and South East Asia.

Unlike Khrushchev, he will gamble with war against the U.S. But first he is offering customers and trade to the West and to unaligned nations (on credit of course); France, for example.

If he succeeds in dividing France from the U.S. and other Western powers and secures recognition, Chou En-Lai will undoubtedly muster enough votes for a United Nations seat soon after.

If this occurs . . . and unfortunately it appears likely . . . the flood gates will have been cracked . . . and the U.S. will face the most ominous decision of modern time . . . between recognition and isolation.

Recognition of Red China in the UN, would destroy the last beachhead of all free Chinese in Formosa and overseas . . . and give communism in the Far East and all the world its greatest political victory since the revolution.

The man to watch from now on out is Chou En-Lai as he travels into Europe, Africa, Middle East and South America in the ensuing months. For Red China could well prove a far more dangerous enemy than the worst of the Kremlin.

The wife always has the last word in an argument. Anything a husband says after that is the beginning of another argument."—Fred W. Grown, Edgewater, N.J.

If you get clobbered, you'll look for a chance to even the score — that's the vision and

ROYCE BRIER

## The Decline in Southeast Asia and the Causes

For two or three years the magnitude and character of foreign aid appropriations have been under constant attack. The days of the \$6 billion aid bill are long past.

President Kennedy asked for \$4.5 billion, and knew he couldn't get it. Last year the Lucius Clay commission criticized foreign aid, but warned against deep cuts. When President Johnson took office the tentative figure was \$3.6 billion.

The foremost House foe of foreign aid has been Congressman Passman of Louisiana. President Johnson pleaded with him for moderation. But the House adopted a \$2.8 appropriation bill, 249 to 185. A Senate committee added \$500 million, and \$3 billion was the final figure to come from a Senate-House agreement.

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A feature of the House bill, not contained in the Senate bill, was a ban on Federal guarantees of export to a Communist nation, which would kill the sale of wheat to the Soviet Union.

(It is notable that simultaneously in Paris Secretary of State Rusk addressing the Atlantic Alliance advocated seeking further useful agreements with Moscow in view of Red Chinese militancy.)

President Johnson called the House bill "a policy of weakness and retreat," and particularly inveighed against restrictions such as the export ban. He finally won out only after a harrowing struggle.

Mr. Johnson of course is reaping the harvest of criticism, mounting over several years, of the way foreign aid has been administered. Some conspicuous failures to cut off aid to nations demonstrating

## TALK OF THE WORLD

JERUSALEM — Inmates of the debtors' prison at Massiyahu have threatened to go on a hunger strike, "to the end," if they are kept in gaol without a chance of being free of doors which lock only from the outside.

They are in prison for not paying the alimony ordered by the courts for former wives and for failing to meet maintenance payments to their wives.

They complain their fate is as bad—and without solution—as in the infamous debtors' prisons in England at the time of Dickens.

As civil prisoners they frequently serve longer prison terms than criminals in another section of the gaol. One man has been in prison for three weeks of every month since 1947 for his failure to pay maintenance to his wife.

By law a man refusing to pay maintenance or alimony can be sent to prison for not longer than 21 days. On release, should his wife or divorced wife again claim that he has not paid, he is sent back to prison for another 21 days.

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Israel's prison's commissioner, Arye Nir, has come to the aid of the "alimony rebels." After saying that putting a man in prison for these reasons is no solution, Nir stressed that "another solution must be sought."

"We did not see many cases where imprisonment has changed the views of a person who owes alimony," he said. Nir stressed that jailing the errant husband does not bring the family closer and "only postpones the solution of the personal problems indefinitely."

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hostility to the United States and free nations in general, have furthered a bear market on aid, so to speak.

A glaring example is Indonesia. Here is a country carrying on open aggressions on Paqua and on the borders of the new Malaysia, yet the aggregate of aid jumped from \$670 million at the close of 1962, to over \$800 million today.

This tendency of aid to expand automatically regardless of circumstances, has been a millstone for advocates of aid in the Congress and

among the people. Moreover, huge aid expenditures in beleaguered countries like Vietnam have not paid off in visible gains for the free idea, or in regional economic and social stability.

Yet nations genuinely struggling to remain free and to advance economically and socially still exist in many areas of the world. Further, to make aid work at all, some executive flexibility is indispensable, and "rigid restrictions in a world of rapid change," as President Johnson put it, is short-sighted, if not fatal to a program.

Our Man Hoppe

## Elbie Jay Meets Newsman

Art Hoppe

Howdy there, folks. How's things with you'all tonight? Welcome to "Heaps o' Horse Sense," the rib-tickling teevue adventures of that rootin'-tootin' Jay family—starring ol' Elbie Jay, the friendliest wrangler ever to wrangle his way out of Texas.

As we join Elbie, his pretty wife, Birdie Bird, and their two cute tads, L'il Bird and Bye-bye Bird, they've struck it rich and they've a-moved into this big white house back East. That's Elbie there now, a-pokin' through the East Room with his faithful sidekick, Sancho Pierre.

ELBIE: Right fine place. Soon's I get my initials branded on these fixings it's going to seem just like home. SANCHO PIERRE (worriedly): Chief, the newspapermen are demanding a press conference and you've got to build your public image. Only you know them. They'll try to skin you alive.

ELBIE: Well now, Pierre, any friends of yours are friends of mine. The varmints. You tell 'em we'll have one of them there ol' press conferences right now.

SANCHO PIERRE: Okay, Chief. I'll set up the State Department Auditorium. Let's see, Kleig lights, coaxial cables, Nielsen surveys . . .

ELBIE: No sense a-goin' to all that fuss. Just open that there door and herd 'em in.

SANCHO PIERRE (horrified): In here! But, Chief, that's unheard of. You can't build a public image in here.

ELBIE: As my granddaddy used to say, "A hole down a gopher hole is worth six crows in the schoolmarm's toolshed." Just you leave it to me.

(Sancho Pierre hesitantly opens the door. One hundred and sixty-two slick Eastern newsmen rush in, eager for blood.)

ELBIE (cool as a mushmelon): Howdy there, boys. Glad you-all could come chat a spell. Have a souvenir ballpoint pen and a souvenir ashtray. Had a little trouble getting my picture on them pens. Lucky I'm tall and lean.

ACE NEWSMAN: Sir, what are your plans for increased monododium glutinate exports to the Common Market in view of EFTA's opposition to the GATT agreements on . . .

ELBIE: That's a right fine question you asked there, son. (Pierre, unscrew a souvenir doornob for the lad). And I want you-all to know we're working on that problem mighty hard. Now, boys, have you-all seen around this place? This here's my office and that there's the Blue Room. Skee-daddle along now. And this here's Birdie Bird's bedroom . . .

BIRDIE BIRD: Elbie! You've just got to learn to knock.

ELBIE: Now don't get your feathers ruffled, Birdie Bird. Our dear friends here have seen ladies in pin curlers before. And this here's our L'il Bird's bath. Oops, excuse us, L'il Bird. And this here's the back yard and that there's my horse on which I'm about to ride off into the sunset while you boys go write your mighty fine stories about my warm, lovable family and how I'm working hard on any problems you got on your minds. And, Pierre, cut down a nice souvenir chandelier for each of the boys on their way out.

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Is This Any Way to Build a Public Image? Do You Think for a Moment These Smart Eastern Newsmen Will Be Influenced by Folksy Charm and Personal Attention? As Usual?

So come and visit with us again, friends. And meanwhile, as you mosey on down life's long trail, remember: All it takes to build a public image is a heap o' horse sense.

(Distributed by Chronicle Features)

## Morning Report:

Reading the papers, nobody would ever guess wheat is something to eat. For years it was a domestic political issue. We learned to live with that. But now, with our first sale to Russia, wheat has become a financial operation with world-wide complications.

As the experts tell it to me, the sale means a subsidy of \$7.1 million to wheat farmers, a \$2 million subsidy to American shipping companies, extra profits to railroads, extra wages to longshoremen, a decrease in our balance-of-payments deficit of \$78 million and a \$5 million savings to the Government in storage costs of surplus wheat.

I know I'll never enjoy a simple piece of whole-wheat toast again in my life.

Abe Mellinkoff

## We Quote . . .

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