

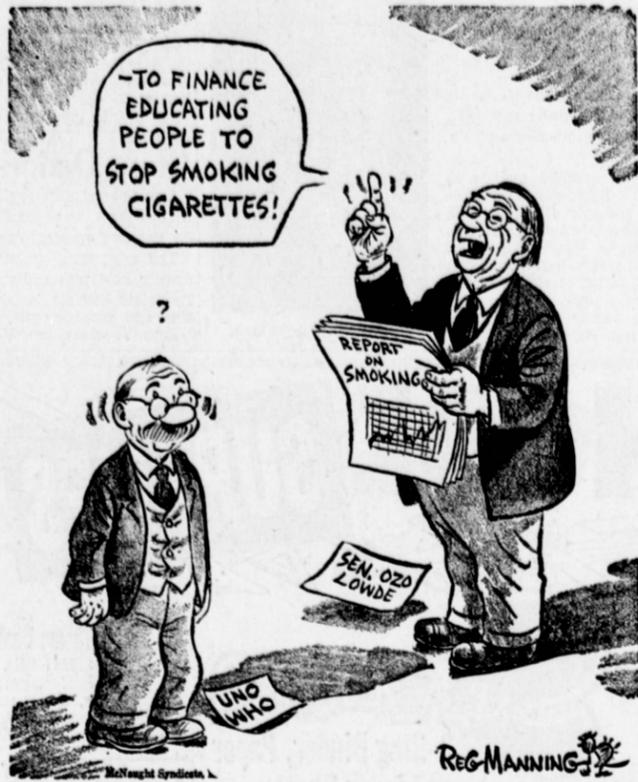
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I Propose A New Cigarette Tax—



James Dorias

'Fancy' Often Becomes 'Fact' With Pollsters

The thin line which often exists between fact and fancy is nowhere more obscured than in the arena which seems to see "fancy" turned into "facts" by no more than the wishful thinking of a bevy of pollsters and pundits self-termed as national experts.

Witness the case of presidential aspirant Barry Goldwater.

Immediately following the tragic death of President Kennedy, the hue and cry that Goldwater can't win was sounded across the land as the experts began their quadrennial prognostications.

A close look at the experts, however, shows that most were writers and politicians who for years have been looking for a way to torpedo the conservative leader's rise to leadership on the national level.

Many were Democrats to whom Goldwater's political philosophy is absolute anathema, but the flock also included supporters of other Republican contenders obviously using their expertise to block Goldwater's drive.

The succession of Lyndon Johnson to the presidency, they held, killed Goldwater's appeal in the south and would force the Republicans to field a more liberal opponent.

The real fact of the matter is, however, that the wishful thinking of the pundits does not hold up as fact.

The issues haven't changed since Goldwater's rising star as the GOP contender was broadly hailed in October. The philosophical issues between Republicans haven't shifted nor have the issues between the two parties.

It also is almost impossible to find a proclaimed Goldwater supporter who has changed his mind about backing the Arizonian.

The only real change in the political posture has been the name of the President and the state from which he hails.

So now in January as it was last October, there isn't an expert going who can really say whether the Republican nomination will go to Barry Goldwater or to John Smith from Oshkosh — any more than he can pick the ultimate winner of the presidency.

Particularly amusing is the treatment the experts are according a recent poll among Republican county chairmen throughout the county which showed Goldwater down from a similar survey in October.

Down, yes, but a long way from the out proclaimed by the experts seizing at straws to serve their own political purposes. Of 1361 respondents 601 termed Goldwater the GOP's strongest candidate against 279 for Richard Nixon while Henry Cabot Lodge and Rockefeller trailed behind. Some 446 cited Goldwater as the most likely nominee while 286 named Nixon with Lodge and Rockefeller again bringing up the rear.

In fact, it would seem that Senator Goldwater holds a rather commanding lead in his own party's sweepstakes and would make a formidable opponent for LBJ in the biggest race of all.

No Settlement Yet

Although apparently headed for the April 14 municipal ballot, the matter of procedure in hiring a new police chief or fire chief at such a time if the need arises is anything but settled.

A majority of City Council members voted last week to send the disputed measure to the voters for an answer, however, one councilman has indicated he might switch and vote with a council majority that wants to open future examinations to qualified personnel in other California cities. Five of the seven councilmen must vote to open the examinations before the regulations can be changed.

One thought concerns us—what if the councilmen finally decide to approve the change in examination procedures. Take the matter off the ballot, then have a change of heart after Feb. 20, the final day to put matters on the April 14 ballot?

Such a turn of events would send the city back to the position it now occupies: If an examination were called for a successor to Fire Chief J. J. Benner, only one man could take the examination. If an examination were called to select a chief of police, two men could take the examination.

It has been suggested that a dual list be compiled by holding an examination open to qualified personnel of other California cities, and a promotional examination open to qualified men of the department concerned.

This plan would seem to have merit and could be a way to solve the puzzle which now threatens to muddy up the important councilmanic election issues in April.

The Herald recommends that all reasonable suggestions be pursued with diligence by members of the City Council.

Voter Apathy

It has long been said that the fact that millions of eligible citizens fail to vote in our elections, all the way from the local to the federal level, constitutes a "national disgrace." And the common reason given for this failure is voter apathy.

That, no doubt, is an important element. But there is another facet to the problem as well, Alfred Balk deals with it in an article in the January issue of Today's Health. He finds that outmoded registration and election laws are to blame for keeping millions of eligible voters from the polls.

To quote him directly, "In 1960, it is estimated, at least 20 million Americans—half of all those of voting age who did not vote—were disfranchised in this manner."

"They included persons who were ill, confined to nursing homes or other institutions, were traveling on business or vacation, or were victims of racial discrimination. But the largest groups—an estimated eight million persons—had done nothing more unusual than move in the weeks and months preceding election day, and then found themselves denied an opportunity to register and vote in either their old or new places of residence."

According to Mr. Balk, a "shocking proportion" of Americans—perhaps as much as a third of the whole electorate—will not vote in the next presidential election. Past statistics bear him out. The 1960 presidential election was one of the closest in history in terms of popular vote—Mr. Kennedy's margin over Mr. Nixon was under 200,000. And only 63.9 per cent of all Americans of voting age participated in it. The record is still worse in elections in which the presidency is not involved. For instance, less than half of the electorate voted in the last off-year Congressional elections.

In his attempt to find the reasons for this sad state of affairs, Mr. Balk interviewed leaders of both the major parties, various public officials, and interested organizations and groups. What seems to be a typical view came from the executive director of the American Heritage Foundation: "Despite modern communications and active party organizations which quickly make citizens aware of the issues, 37 states still require one-year residence in the state, one demands two years and 12 call for six months. County and precinct requirements often are just as unreasonable. In Philadelphia, where our constitution was born, for instance, and in other cities you can lose your vote merely by moving across the street to a new precinct a month or so before election day. This situation, to my mind, is a national scandal!"

Mr. Balk also points the finger at horse-and-buggy registration procedures which may have made some sense long ago but do not now. By way of example, most states restrict registration to a central office in each county, at designated hours, and most close the rolls from a month to nine months in advance of the election—long before interest in a campaign has reached its peak.

The moral would seem to be that stepped-up campaigns to eliminate voter apathy and disinterest are needed—but, along with them, there must be determined movements to bring registration and election laws into line with the age we live in. As of now, in too many cases, they belong to an age which is forever gone.

Opinions of Others

WEST POINT, MISS., TIMES LEADER: "To many people, the best and easiest solution to any public problem is to get some special law, or 'benefit' from the government. The pattern normally is to . . . cry for help . . . demanding some law or regulation . . . When that phase of the action has arrived, those in authority can call for a new bureau to enforce the new laws or carry out the new benefit being enacted—which in turn calls for new taxes and new federal employees to staff the bureau. Under the above pattern, Washington bureaucracy has grown to over two million, and taxes have skyrocketed."

WALTHAM, MASS., NEWS-TRIBUNE: "We wonder if the idea of packaged food came from the lowly hen."

ROYCE BRIER

On the Use of Force In Border Disputes

A note proposing renunciation of force in all border disputes was sent from Premier Khrushchev to President Johnson, though similar notes were delivered to all countries.

Details of the proposal are not revealed in Washington, pending study.

Though the note was multilateral, it must be assumed it was directed primarily to the new Administration. Something like it was expected, and it can hardly escape being a reworking of the Soviet non-aggression pact drive of several years.

It was quickly noted in Washington that the proposal comes at a time when President Johnson is preparing a peace drive of his own, though he has not yet made a formal presentation.

On its face a renunciation of force seems a simple concept: we won't invade Cuba

without provocation and you won't seize West Berlin without provocation (not that the two cases are analogous, or subject to a trade).

But beneath this smooth surface are many jagged problems involving indirect use of force, and Great Power support for small nations with aggressive tendencies toward their neighbors.

It would, for instance, be quixotic to expect Red China to renounce the kind of indirect force it exerts by support of Communist guerrillas in South Vietnam. It would be equally quixotic to expect the Soviet Union could force Red China to cease and desist there.

President Nasser is using force in Yemen. He holds it involves the security of the United Arab Republic, but it is nonetheless force.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union have given indirect support to national elements in the Mideast. In some cases a border dispute is not involved, but sometimes it is, for example the three-way border trouble long existing between Jordan, Israel and Syria.

In North Borneo, Indonesia is fomenting border trouble for the new nation, Malaysia, and asking for Soviet help. Are we going to permit Castro's agents to thwart, by force, installation of a new, duly-elected government in Venezuela?

These are all small quarrels, indeed, quasi-warfare, but they all have high potential for upsetting the world peace.

Around the World With

DELAPLANE

"We are planning a few weeks along the west coast of Mexico and have heard San Blas is an interesting town. Or do you know of others?"

I was in San Blas once. You reach it off the main Highway 15 south of Mazatlan, turning toward the coast along a tropical river. The hotels were just fair. If there's any town, I didn't find it. Couple of thatched stands opening coconuts for you. And a small, biting sand fly that chewed the ankles off me.

I like Mazatlan much better. Couple of good hotels on the north beach. Few fair restaurants. Sort of interesting town . . . the French held the fort on the hill for many years. And so many revolutionaries have been shot up there that the wall is marked with bullet holes. (Lot of bad shots.)

Further north, I've been hearing good things about the beach at Topolobampo near Los Mochis. Supposed to be one good hotel.

In this same area north, turning inland off the Highway 15 about Navajoa—but check this with your map, I haven't one with me now—is Los Alamos. Very old, gone-to-seed mining town. Crumbling mansions. One excellent hotel with a fine shop—probably best all-round selection of Mexican crafts in Mexico. Hotel closed in summer.)

"Are there any duty-free airport shops such as Shannon in other parts of Europe?"

The airport at Amsterdam has a fair selection. Orly at Paris is pretty good. None compare with the big selection at Shannon, Ireland.

No matter what airline you fly on, you can arrange to stop at Shannon at no extra cost enroute to or from the U. S. They have a special lay-over that is attractive: Afternoon sightseeing. Old style dinner in Bunratty Castle. Overnight hotel. Morning for shopping. Cost \$15.

"We are taking two very small children with us to Mexico. But we understand that hotels and restaurants give you safe water to drink. Is that so?"

In the corridor of your hotel, or in a nearby closet, there's a 5-gallon bottle of water marked "agua purificada" — or something like that. Your room maid is supposed to fill your room bottle with this. But changes are she hasn't changed in since the room was last occupied. Empty your room bottle and fill it yourself.

In restaurants, order Teaucan water in bottles. And if you say "sin gas," it will not be carbonated.

... a very English hotel in London.

I guess Brown's in Mayfair, off Piccadilly is your home. Paneled walls. No ice in the whiskey-soda. Starched waiters from the days of Queen Victoria and the doorman has World War I ribbons on his chest. Comfortable. Plumbing by Thomas Crapper of Chelsea (who did the same for Buckingham Palace and George V). Wine list favoring hock and very good food. Country squire clientele.

"Not long ago, I went to one of those so-called night clubs in Rio de Janeiro. I had two beers and ordered a drink for a girl who sat down with me. They gave me a bill for \$20. What do you think of that?"

That happened to me too. In Rio once. On Bourbon Street in New Orleans once. In Hong Kong twice. In Paris, three or four times. I forgot the other places and I want to. Did you think those places give you door prizes?

"An interesting and different sort of vacation with children during the summer months? We would like to plan now."

A few years ago I rode the "Delta Queen" down the Mississippi and I thought it was just great. Probably more so for kids. The last paddle wheel passenger steamer on the rivers. Write for a folder to Greene Line, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Quote

E. D. MERWIN, San Marino — "If it is illegal for children to say grace when they eat cookies and milk in school, how does the Post Office Department get away with stamping 'Pray for Peace' all over our mail?"

BILL CROSS, Brea — "Every one is against poverty, but we have learned through many social experiments that subsidizing laziness does not cure the problem."

J. L. JOHNSTONE, 74, Auburn motorist, on limiting age of drivers — "Oldsters, I say, have more right on our highways than the gripers. They are the ones who built these roads in the first place."

CHARLES H. BLOCK, S.F., navy man, on ideal women — "I like a little meat on the bones, then when you get close you can't get bruised."

The Portland, Oregon, Traffic Safety Commission warns that many lives are tragically lost each winter as the result of undetected carbon monoxide fumes in an automobile. To avoid a lethal concentration of this odorless and colorless gas, never start a car motor with the garage doors closed — always have at least one window open part way when the car is in use — and have the exhaust system checked regularly by a competent mechanic.

From the Mailbox

CHRISTMAS SEAL THANKS

Your generous support of the Christmas Seal campaign, in both your news and editorial columns, is the occasion for this letter of gratitude.

Please let me express my appreciation and that of the Tuberculosis and Health Association of Los Angeles County for your cooperation. Your help, it seemed, exceeded that of previous years.

This help was of particular importance this year because our traditional campaign began at a time when the nation's attention was focused on the most tragic event of our time. Without your consistent help, the campaign would have had little success.

You might like to know that we are now \$70,000 short of the goal. May we thank the contributors who have already responded to their Christmas Seal letters? And may we also take a few lines to ask those who put aside their Christmas Seal letter to get it out and mail it today? If the return envelope was lost in the Christmas shuffle, address your contribution to "Christmas Seals, 1670 Beverly Blvd.,

Los Angeles 90026." As you know the protection we need from TB, the knowledge and research that shelters the health of each community is made available through these Seals.

Again, thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,
WILLIAM H. SOADY
Regional Chairman, 1963
Christmas Seal Campaign
Beach Cities Area
1511 West 249th St.
Harbor City, Calif.

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Our Man Hoppe

The Vaterland Makes Marks

Art Hoppe

Good news. The German armaments industry, to which the world is indebted for the military rocket, is at long last manufacturing missiles again. But, the Germans hasten to say, "exclusively for export—especially to under-developed countries."

"We see nothing wrong with it," says Herr Joachim Boegner, chairman of the Weapons and Aviation Armament Corporation of Hamburg. "Why should German industry not use opportunities opening up in these countries?"

Why not indeed? And I certainly don't see why the Germans should be so defensive about it. A much more constructive attitude is taken by Baron Himmel von Kreep of nearby South Vaterland. Which, as you may recall, is that Central European Republic & Marching Society.

Q—Baron von Kreep?
A—I have been a lifelong foe of fascism-how-do-you-do.
Q—As chairman of the Von Kreep Peace-loving Munitions Cartel, could you explain your policy of selling missiles to under-developed countries?

A—Jawohl! It is the duty of all we advanced, prosperous nations to help civilize our poor backward brethren by bringing them the benefits of our modern technology. If the price is right.

Q—Very praiseworthy.
A—Ach, true. And every prosperous nation should help the poor in the field in which it excels. You supply them with food, which you produce in surplus. Russia supplies them with Communist dialectics, which it's got too much of. And we supply them with our excellent Vaterland missiles. We will make this a team effort, ja?

Q—Wouldn't schools or hospitals be better?
A—Himmel, you idealists! The Vaterland Missiles for Progress program is a practical project. It is the only aid program specifically designed to surmount the one insurmountable problem these poverty-stricken nations all face today.

Q—What's that?
A—Overpopulation.
Q—A noble goal. And I'm sure you could get a better price for your missiles if you sold them to rich nations instead.

A—Well, frankly, with them we often run into a little sales resistance. Take England. Just last week we offered to send 47 fine Vaterland missiles a day to London. And all we got back was a two-word cablegram: "NOT AGAIN!"

Q—Yes, I suppose some people will be a bit nervous to hear you Vaterlanders are manufacturing military missiles once more. No offense.

A—But our missiles are exclusively for export.
Q—Exclusively?
A—Exclusively! On my honor as a Vaterlander, I can guarantee that every single rocket we make will be sent outside the border of our beloved Vaterland. Look out the window. Our Shipping Department is getting ready to export one now.

Q—A very impressive sight.
A—Isn't it? Achtung! Ten . . . nine . . . eight . . .

Morning Report:

If you didn't know it before, which is unlikely, you know it now—officially. Cigarettes are not exactly bod-builders.

I heard it first from my grandfather a few weeks before he died at 86. At least I was told it was my grandfather. I couldn't be sure, because his cigarette smoke was so thick in the study. A few years before that, in 1604, James I wrote that smoking was bad for the lungs.

So all the Government has done for us 70 million smokers is add an irritant to our smoke. But the Administration that will use its scientists to remove the irritants from tobacco will be re-elected forever.

Abe Mellinkoff