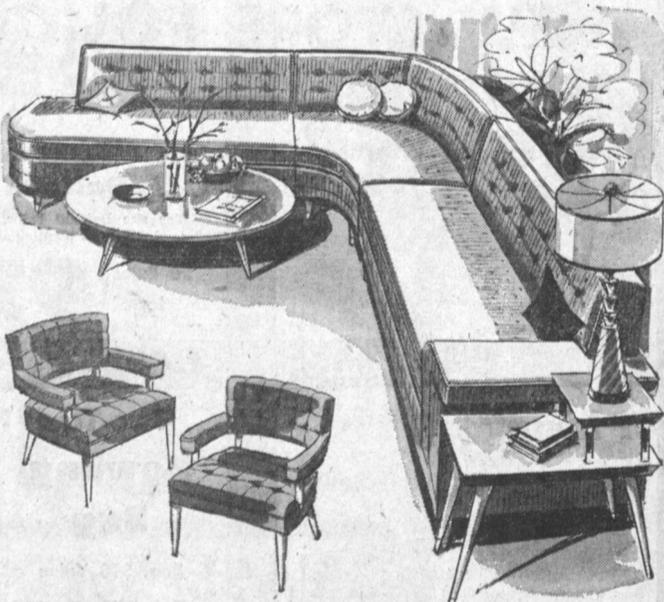


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Threats to Prosperity

Political opportunists ambitious for greater power over private citizens are seeking to make government responsible for everything from prosperity and full employment to universal old-age pensions and free medical care.

Americans, representing only 6 percent of the world's population, produce 50 percent of the world's goods. This high rate of production, supporting a standard of living undreamed of anywhere else in the world, was created by a free people working under a representative government rigidly held in check by constitutional guarantees of the individual's immunity from political control and persecution.

With the haunting fear of oppression gone after 1776, the creative energies of individuals blossomed under the incentives of private property ownership and free enterprise. They went ahead to develop as never before. The American standard of living is merely one of the benefits to be enjoyed by people alert in their observance of the principles of freedom.

J. E. Corette, president of The Montana Power Company, said recently: "I am seriously concerned about several vitally important threats to our future prosperity. They are: Foreign competition and inflation, which is causing the American dollar and American products to lose their competitive standing in the world markets. Federal and state governments becoming too large and too expensive—the government in business, tax-free business."

"As a result of too much government, too many government employees, too much government in business and too many tax-free businesses, the taxes on the tax-paying people may become so large that they adversely affect our prosperity and our standard of living.

"Many people mistakenly believe that population and tax growth go hand in hand or increase proportionately. The fact is that in the last 20 years population has increased 33 percent while the cost of federal, state and local government has increased 600 percent, or 18 times as much."

Government can never guarantee our standard of living but it has power to destroy it.

—The Tax Digest

Old 502: Gone to Glory

Being unalterably opposed to change—except to go back to when things were better—we find the most lamentable condition in elimination of old 502.

It's like bidding good-bye to a faithful railroad engine. The designation was clear and explicit. When a newspaper buddy called for bail, you could be pretty sure he'd been five-O-deuced.

The new label, which, so help us, would make the angels weep, is 23102. Now it's not easy for the victim—especially before he's been wrung out—to call and say he's been 23102ed. It's rough enough to state it sober.

The hapless driver from now on will be forced to relate: "I was picked up for drunk driving," which has a dismal hateful sound.

To say one was high, mellow, or gay carries a more stately and majestic connotation. To say he was drunk is an implication that all the worst came out.

In an age where old people are called senior citizens, the poor are termed underprivileged, and nuts are emotionally undeveloped, we need the good old 502, purely for a euphemism.

While other highway offenses are falling off in face of a brutal new policy of enforcement, drinking drivers are on the increase. Maybe it takes a few snorts to get up courage to run the gantlet of enforcement. They've sure taken the fun out of driving; removing the five-O-deuce is insupportable!

Letters

TO THE MAYOR
TORRANCE:

It certainly would not be out of order to ask you the following questions and to print the answers we have heard your council and you give.

Why is the City of Torrance interested in a practically worthless 50-year-old water company serving North Lomita? The phony answer you and your group give is that suddenly your tender solicitude for the people served by Narbonne Ranch Water No. 2 compels you to act in taking over this system—so that the people will receive proper water service at lower cost.

What is the real reason Mr. Mayor, for this propaganda?

Simply this: You are meddling in the affairs of Lomita (as usual) with the hope that you can get your foot in the door, and, having done so, take over that area into the benevolent fold of Torrance officialdom. You and some of your council profess to believe that you are popular south of the border but if so popular, why do you suggest that an "educational system" should be instituted to indoctrinate the people of Lomita? We will make a guess on the popular appeal of Torrance to Lomitans—that it runs four to one against having anything to do with Torrance or you and your avicious group of politicians.

You profess believing that Torrance can serve the people of Lomita with water cheaper than the county can do it. What makes you come to this conclusion (your rates are higher than county rates). Why is the City of Torrance always broke, if you are such efficient managers? Why are you always fighting at council meetings? We respectfully suggest that you need less responsibility—not more.

In the interest of economy, how do you justify the expensive trips you and your council take all over the country when one

council member could go and report back his findings to the full council? Such questions suggest that the people of Lomita might meddle a bit in Torrance politics if compelled to do so.

What would your answer be to the Torrance people if you should take over Narbonne Ranch Water No. 2 and find parallel lines being run to those now in existence? How are you going to explain to the people of Torrance the use of their money for the purchase of a decrepit water system?

DESSIE G. MYERS
LOMITA

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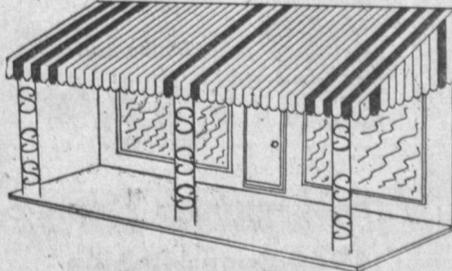
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