

Press-Herald

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A Salute to Labor

This community will join the nation tomorrow in saluting America's millions of workers in the 83rd Labor Day celebration.

Modern-day celebration of the salute to America's workers has spread to all elements of the nation.

All banks, libraries, government offices, post offices, and most business houses will be closed tomorrow. Political leaders will use the day to address gatherings of the workers, and to praise the progress made by labor.

In a statement prepared for the day, Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz spoke of some of the changes which have come during the four decades since the first Labor Day observance:

"When the tradition of this holiday began, the factory worker was a man apart," the Secretary stated. "His class in this democracy was in some ways a class apart. This no longer is true."

While looking back over the gains won through the organized labor movement, it is well at the same time to be aware of the excesses which have sprung out of that same movement—excesses which today threaten to sap the vitality of such organizations.

Leaders who have built personal empires at the expense of the working man are a menace to those workers and to America. Labor as a group should ponder the peril to the future of the movement such excesses hold. Errors compounded by the coalition of top-echelon leaders and gangland should not be tolerated by the worker whose money paves the way for these alliances.

It's food for thought this Labor Day.

OTHERS SAY:

Productivity and Value

A substantial amount of unemployment, in the midst of plenty, continues to be a national problem. According to the authorities, a prime reason is that large numbers of people simply lack the skills that are in heavy demand.

At the same time, there is grave concern that young people, particularly high school graduates who want to accumulate a little nest egg to take to college with them in the fall, will have a tough time finding seasonal employment.

The situation being what it is, it's hard to see how labor legislation now in the congressional hopper can do anything but make matters worse.

Killing right-to-work laws and imposing more costly overtime requirements would certainly stand in the way of expanded employment. Higher overtime rates will not enable unskilled workers to perform skilled jobs.

That is also true of the proposal to extend minimum wage coverage to workers now exempt. Most of them are in the service industries. Those covered would be those with minimum skills. So, if an employer had to pay unreasonably higher wages for limited abilities, he'd have little choice but to pare marginal employees.

The point is that arbitrary laws, which give little or no consideration to worker productivity and value, must darken, not brighten, the employment picture.

—Public Affairs Forum

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Suppose you work the standard eight hour day and are in an average income bracket. How much of that time goes to pay for elements that make up your cost of living?

Here are some examples: Food and tobacco cost one hour and 18 minutes; clothing and related items 30 minutes; recreation 19 minutes; transportation 39 minutes; medical expenses 21 minutes.

But there's another item that is bigger than any of these. It is taxes. They account for two hours and 20 minutes of your working time—more than a quarter of the whole.

To put it another way, it means that you must work more than three months of each year before you begin earning money you can spend as you wish. Taxes take all that you make during that three-month-plus period.

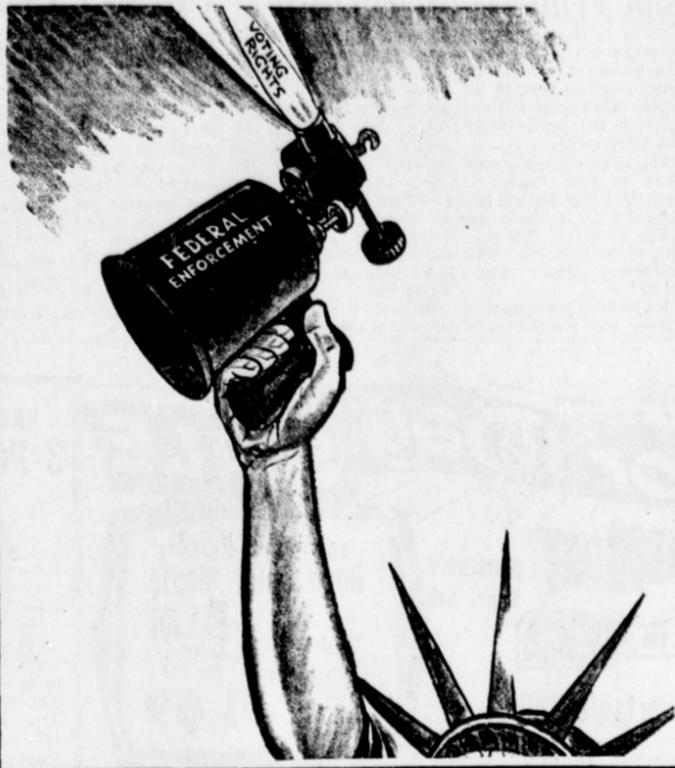
The chances are that this will come as news to great numbers of people. They have small knowledge of the size and scope of the tax bill, the primary reasons being that many taxes are hidden in the cost of the goods and services we buy and that most individual income taxes are paid through the withholding system, rather than being personally paid to the government by the earner. But, realize it or not, they are the biggest single item of expense to most of us.

In sum—who pays for big and wasteful government? You do!—Industrial News Review.

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The American press, from the local level to the national scale, has in just recent years come under its heaviest attack for its coverage of crime news. More specifically, the question is . . . should more restrictive measures be placed upon the press in its pretrial reporting? We don't think so, because we believe the public's right to know is most important in a free society.—Miamisburg (Ohio) News.

The Torch



ROYCE BRIER

Viet Nam Troop Pickets Should Find Other Ways

Millions of Americans do not like the Viet Nam war. The reasons are many.

Among these views and attitudes: that the Johnson Administration lacks a true sense of history in southeast Asia; that by escalating the war it is risking an intercontinental conflict if not a world disaster; that the United States has no business waging war against any Asians, and that the Administration's apologies for being in Viet Nam range from the faulty to the evasive.

Those who hold these and related views do not constitute a majority of the American people; all polls show a majority supporting President Johnson's policy. But the majority is not so overwhelming, nor the minority so powerless, that the Administration can go to the Congress asking a declaration of war without precipitating a divisive conflict.

In our system, no President can lead a divided nation to war, if that appears to involve a national danger or to flout the national ethic.

In this circumstance of

murky warfare without sound justification, what can those who oppose it do?

They cannot physically resist it, because such resistance becomes by stages insurrection, and excepting one extraordinary case, insurrection is not in the American tradition. They are therefore confined to suasion and logic.

It may be estimated that suasion and logic have over the past year materially limited American involvement in Viet Nam. It has kept Mr. Johnson cautious and eager to extenuate his course, for no President has even been more desirous of commanding the sympathy of the whole people.

If this be roughly true, then the pickets who have been attempting to halt troop trains are contributing nothing to the solution of the Viet Nam mess. Quite the contrary. They have pursued a course which is alienating the sympathy of millions.

These pickets are mostly young people. They have a deeply passionate feeling

about the insensate nature of war, and this war in particular. This is understandable, since the young, not the old, bear the burden of war.

So as adults groping our way through a puzzling history, we should try to understand the young conviction that physical opposition to a troop movement will somehow arrest that movement. They are mistaken in this conviction. Or they think that their physical opposition will win others to their view. They are mistaken in this, too.

Supposing they halted a train—they could not board it, nor have they an inherent right to board it. The troops abroad would not look on them as brothers, but as kids making nuisances of themselves. The train would move on.

The pickets have young thoughts. We all had young thoughts once. But only mature thought has ever charted our country's destiny. The pickets should knock it off, and return to more persuasive, if less glamorous, forms of protest.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Scribner's Reintroduces 'Old Boys' in Paperback

The fine old publishing house of Scribner's lives high off its blacklist. Every time I turn around in a well-stocked paperback store there seems to be a fresh reprint edition of Edith Wharton, Henry James, C. P. Snow, Alan Paton, or F. Scott Fitzgerald on the Scribner Library List. Sure enough, this month appears Edith Wharton's short novel, "Summer" (\$1.45), designed as a companion piece to her "Ethan Frome." And the collection of 14 stories by Thomas Wolfe, originally published in 1935 as "From Death to Morning" (\$1.65).

More interesting in The Scribner Library this month is a series of three new parings from the work of Scribner's old boys. They are wide-ranging, adroitly edited collections, with introductions and prefaces: "The Hemingway Reader," edited by Charles Moore; "The Fitzgerald Reader," and "The Lardner Reader," both edited by Maxwell Geismar (each \$2.95).

There are several editions, samplers, readers or whatnot of Hemingway and Fitzgerald material—the best, I think being "The Viking Portables" on each writer. The Scribner series may be designed essentially for a college audience, although Charles Moore notes that his project is planned

for "the pleasures and rewards of reading," which presumably means it is for anybody.

It is a comprehensive and admirable winnowing, and I am happy to see that it contains a chapter from "The Green Hills of Africa." Why Scribner's has not issued "Green Hills" by itself in this format remains a mystery. "Death in the Afternoon," too, for that matter. "The Lardner Reader" is the most interesting of all to me, simply because Ring Lardner's work appears less often than his old Scribner's competitors. This generous sampling contains just about all of Lardner's best stories (in the opinion of Maxwell Geismar), plus letters, verse, articles, dramas, essays, parodies and songs that are not so well known.

There is a selection from "You Know Me, Al," the bushier's letters, still the greatest baseball fiction of all time. (Re-reading the marvelous lowbrow letters of White Sox pitcher Jack Keefe, I am impressed with what a sizable debt John O'Hara owes Lardner in "Pal Joey," the letters of a show business heel.) Lardner's ball player remains a remarkable figure of American folk poetry, but so do

many other characters in the Lardner literature. For a new generation of readers, this is a first-rate introduction to a writer who, as Geismar notes, is perhaps least well known today of all those celebrated talents of the 1920s—"one of the most savage and merciless satirists and social critics of his period . . ."

Unusual this week: "The Suspended Drawing Room," a collection of playwright S. N. Behrman's occasional prose pieces, some of which appeared in The New Yorker over the years, and a previously unpublished profile of G. B. Shaw and Gabriel Pascal, the film maker ("Pygmalion"). Personal journalism by a noted stylist (Stein & Day; \$6).

Strength for These Days (From The Bible)

Certainly I will be with thee.—(Exod. 3:12)
There is no place where God is not. Wherever we may be, God is there to guide, to safeguard, and to bless us. God's promise is, "Certainly I will be there with you." On land, sea or in the air, under all circumstances God is present. Each day we go forth in safety and in the protecting care of the Most High.

Sacramento Report

State, Every City Must Face Problems of Riots

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL
Assemblyman, 46th District

The armed insurrection in Los Angeles County has not ended and will not end until all firearms stolen, burglarized, or looted from pawnshops, hardware stores, sporting goods stores, or other sources are returned to the rightful owners or surrendered to law-enforcement officers.

There can be no civil liberties unless such liberties are accompanied by civil responsibilities, civil duties and civil conduct. Those who steal rape, murder, riot, loot and engage in armed insurrection against the people of the State of California, quite naturally seek to avoid punishment, even when tried and convicted, by crying "police brutality," "poverty," "unemployment" and other appeals to those who sympathize with criminals but not with the victims of the criminals.

Has it ever occurred to you, gentle reader, that when it is necessary to call to active duty the California National Guard to suppress armed insurrection, that the soldiers of our own California National Guard are not available for other duty?

Are you aware that one Division of the California National Guard under the command of Maj. Gen. Hudleston fought in the Korean War, sometimes called the "Korean Police Action?" Do you realize that one or more of the present Divisions of our California National Guard can be, by order of the President of the United States, called into federal service and sent to either South Viet Nam or North Viet Nam?

Have you given thought to the fact that nothing would please more the enemies of the United States, domestic and foreign, than to tie down the National Guards of the 50 states, in their own states, when they may be needed for foreign duty?

Who would this help? Would it help Communist Russia, Communist China, Communist Cuba, or Communist North Viet Nam? Certainly it would help the United States, the State of California, or Los Angeles County.

One lesson which the United States has never learned is that this nation cannot buy friendship. Not one foreign country receiving "foreign aid" is truly grateful. If one word is spoken about reducing or eliminating "foreign aid" (hand-outs across the seas), the cry goes up that unless America continues to send goods or money wrung out of all of us who pay taxes, then the "gimme" nations threaten to turn communistic. This is international blackmail.

Bring the same situation down to the armed insurrection in Los Angeles County. Only those who are entirely deaf and blind to reality can claim that pouring more money into the areas in a state of insurrection will prevent crime in the streets, and crime off the streets. This is just another form of blackmail.

If anyone gives one cent to a blackmailer, or a white-mailer, that is merely the first payment in a long series of payments until the blackmailer or whitemailer is brought to justice. It is impossible to buy friendship, loyalty, or civil behavior.

If you tell any people on earth that they are underprivileged, impoverished, mistreated, and misunderstood, and tell it to them often enough and long enough, they will believe it. This is a communistic tactic that has enabled Soviet Russia to extend its influence over large areas of the world.

Tell any people on earth that they should get into the streets and demonstrate, that they should sit-in and

sit-down on other persons' property, and they will do it. The next step is rioting, then comes looting, and then comes armed insurrection.

The phrase "armed insurrection" is not of my invention. This was the way that Lt. Gen. Roderic L. Hill, Adjutant General of the State, described the situation.

This is not a criticism of Gen. Hill. I have the utmost respect for Gen. Hill, both as a gentleman and as an officer.

The armed insurrection in Los Angeles County is not

merely a Los Angeles problem or a Long Beach problem. It is a problem facing the California State Legislature; the Supervisors of Los Angeles County; the Mayor and City Council of Los Angeles; and the mayors and councilmen of every city in California. The magistrates of California have their duty, too; and the Governor of the State has his duties to all the people of California. I have no quick, easy, and inexpensive answer to the problems facing California, but I am giving all these things my prayers, my time, and my thoughts.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Are Beatles on The Way Out?

CAENFUCIUS SAY: What a person who asks for your candid opinion really wants is your candied opinion . . . Things that don't seem to matter all that much any more: Getting a good table in a bad restaurant or vice versa; seeing the third-string road company of a second-rate musical; Frank and Mia, Liz and Dick; whatever happens to be No. 1 at the moment on the Top 40, a list apparently indistinguishable from the Bottom 40 . . . Wondering muse: Do the people who used to say nuclear testing was responsible for our peculiar weather have any explanation for what has been happening lately? . . . Now that the Beatles have been accepted by square adults, squarer jazz critics and even drama reviewers, their days at the top of the hip are numbered; their followers can accept anything except acceptance . . . Inscrutable line in the Imperial Cookery Book of the Mongol Dynasty: "If you see in your wine the deflection of a person not in your range of vision, don't drink it" . . . I thought "Dr. Strangelove" was far out, and then we began sending B-52s thousands of miles to bomb a few miles of jungle; how did Peter Sellers get into the Defense Dept.? . . . Are there really more bad paintings of madadors and bulls in local restaurants than of any other subject, or does it just seem that way? . . . People who postscript "No need to answer this letter" are hurt when you don't.

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PROGRESS: If you're flying from S.F. to L.A. the cab fare here and there is more than the fare from here to there. On the other hand, if you prefer to take your own car, you spend more time finding it or waiting for it than you spend in the air . . . A line that sums up almost everybody anybody knows: "I don't think he's crazy enough to be put in a mental institution, but if he were already in one, I don't believe they would let him out."

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WHEEL, THE PEOPLE: Miz' Judy Garland was semi-incognita at the Hillsdale Inn on the Peninsula while she checked out the acoustics at the Circle Star, where she opens this week. Couple of 2 p.m.s ago, she stole into the Hillsdale's coffee shop, where the waitress blurted: "Judy, I won't tell anybody you're here." Judy: "Bring me a hamburger and you can tell the world!" . . . At \$1500 a week, Sally Rand, the Senior Citizen of the Strippers, is still a bargain; doing so well here she's being held over two more weeks . . . A traveler fresh back from N'York, reports on the water shortage there: "It's critical till you order a Scotch or bourbon highball—then they've got PLENTY of water!" . . . Singer Glenn Yarbrough did such amazing business at the hungry i that he asked Enrico Banducci for a raise and got it; from \$3000 a wk. to \$3500, a tidy sum to pay a man who is nine-tenths vibrato . . . Alas. Remember when the Watts section of L.A. was famous only for the Simon Radia Towers, . . . In a recent Sunday's "Peanuts" strip, puckish Charles Schultz had Charlie Brown using a certain phone number—which turned out to be a legitimate one: it belongs to his producer, Lee Mendelson, who got over 200 calls that day. He ans'd the phone with "Charlie speaking." Sentiment most often expressed: "Punch Lucy in the nose."

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Morning Report:

Unlike baseball, which has a rule for everything, a President may use as many pens as he wants to sign a bill. George Washington used one duck quill pen signature and as far as I know, never gave one to anybody.

But nowadays a President figures out beforehand how many people he wants to favor and then uses that number of pens to write his name. Again unlike baseball, there are no official records, but Washington observers feel Mr. Johnson is clearly the champion pen-giver and may have already established an all-time mark.

If LBJ can improve his halting writing style, and if Congress will pass enough bills, I figure every registered voter will have at least one pen by the election of '68.

Abe Mellinkoff