

GLENN W. PFEIL . . . . . Publisher  
REID L. BUNDY . . . . . Managing Editor  
Wednesday, February 9, 1966

## An Uneven Competition

President Robert P. Gerholz of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States has something worthwhile to say about federal intervention in the affairs of our communities.

As he sees it, community development is basically a competition for a greater share of national growth and prosperity, and federal help for local problems tends to make the contest unfair. So, in his words, "If the laggards in a golf tournament were allotted a few extra strokes to help them catch the leaders, what kind of a competition would that be? And how long would anybody keep trying to win?"

"Federal aid is out of place in this contest. Cities need plenty of inducements if they are to put forth their best efforts, and free competition is the best spur."

One of the worst aspects of federal aid of this type, aside from the money costs, is that it encourages local people and local organizations and institutions to sit on their hands and wait for the Great White Father in Washington to do the needed jobs. Initiative, imagination, and responsibility are undermined and in many instances destroyed. And so the trend toward a monolithic government, which decides everything and does everything, is accelerated at a tragic cost in human freedom.

## Opinions of Others

The concepts and ideas of this nation are the noblest yet conceived by man. Some may be showing signs of wear, but only because they have been tried and found true so often. We would suggest that the youth of today, and here the adult will have to lead him, if he can find the time, before striking out to find something new or more novel or more exciting, examine and re-examine those concepts and morals which have stood the rigors of time and the stresses of life.—*Shelbyville (Ky.) Sentinel.*

Poverty is not going to be eliminated by government subsidy and dole. Here in this community, in the county, state, and nation we have gone a long way in creating programs to aid the poor. Many are out of hand and people are getting help, lots of it, so that few would take a job if one was offered to them. This does not end poverty, it seals it into our social life. Let us aid the unfortunate but make certain that he or she is led out of the situation that faces him, not make certain it continues for all time.—*Lambertville (N.J.) Beacon.*

There is a lot of talk about air pollution, but you ain't seen nothing yet till the 1966 political campaign starts.—*Enid (Okla.) News.*

The average person is very courteous to others under most circumstances. Most men will hold doors for ladies (even though they don't get thanked always), assist elderly persons across the street. . . . What happens to many of these same people when they get behind the wheel of an automobile? They race through traffic, fail to allow other drivers into a lane of traffic, dash through intersections with no regard for pedestrians, and instead of "pardon me," they bellow like an angry bull at every other driver on the road.—*Liberal (Kans.) Southwest Daily Times.*

In our judgment, our community school board acted wisely in deciding not to ask for \$25,000 federal aid funds. There is a lurking suspicion that when Uncle Sam gets into a school system, he insists on keeping his fingers in the pie. In other words, he dictates to the local authorities. This isn't desirable. We can run our own school systems better than can some politician or bureaucrat at Washington.—*Storm Lake (Iowa) Pilot-Tribune.*

Our great nation was built on the principles of free enterprise and that a government which governs the least is the best government. These two great heritages are rapidly vanishing from the American scene. There is very little free enterprise today amid overwhelming government oppression.—*Barnesboro (Pa.) Star.*

In effect today is one-man price control. It has not been established by Act of Congress. It is not practiced as a war measure. Whatever else it is, it is a spectacular exercise of the vast power of the White House. It is iron-fisted notice that industry in the United States is the pawn of the government of the United States.—*Huntington (Ind.) Herald-Press.*

Senator John L. McClellan said that if the present crime rate in the United States continues through the next 25 years it will bring chaos in America. It is to be hoped that President Johnson's crime commission will make recommendations that will seek to solve this critical problem which is menacing the American public at this time. As the Arkansas Senator has emphasized the time has come to deal properly with this situation if we want to preserve law and order.—*Findley (Ohio) Republican-Courier.*

The Social Security amendments adopted last year add up to a considerable step toward the "hospital and medical care for all" advocated by the administrations of Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman. . . . Medicare, and a 7 per cent increase in benefits for 20 million Social Security recipients other than Medicare, amount to a \$5.1 billion tax boost on workers and employers, equally shared.—*Chico (Calif.) Enterprise-Record.*



STAN DELAPLANE

## Plan Stop in Honolulu To Cushion Time Shock

SAN FRANCISCO—If you fly direct from here to the Orient, the 7 and 8 hours time change will shake you up for quite a while. (It takes me three to four days.) Your whole rhythm goes out. You can beat it somewhat with two days in Hawaii. From the East, make it two days here, besides two in Hawaii. Eating lightly seems to help—hard to do in this city of great restaurants. Fly daytime and arrive at night so you can go to bed.

"I am flying to meet my husband overseas and taking the baby. Can you tell me about baby foods on planes? Overseas? Disposable diapers? Anything else?"

I've done many an air mile with children. Here's what you do: First tell the airline you have a baby, and you'd like one of the seats where a bed clips into the bulkhead. Second, carry baby food except for milk. The airlines are supposed to have canned baby food on board but sometimes don't. Carry your own disposable diapers. Overseas you will find our brand baby foods and disposable diapers in all big cities. You have to do some searching. Some countries have food only in drugstores. Disposable diapers get scarce out in the country. So you make your own from drugstore rolls of cotton.

Milk is questionable. But formula dry milk is sold in all drugstores. Mix it with bottled water.

"We plan to get our mail overseas through American Express. Is that right?"

It's the easiest. But—American Express now asks you to show that you are using SOME of their services. American Express travelers checks, their tour

"We arrive in New York in the evening and fly to London the next day. Can you suggest a nearby hotel?"

There are several airport hotels. Very modern but rather cheerless. Just a transient place to eat and

## Morning Report:

Tax help is on its way. The new plan comes full-blown from the mathematical brain of Congressman Melvin Laird of Wisconsin. He would like to give us a credit for the time the Government holds the money it withholds from our pay checks.

All you have to do is add up your total withholding sum, multiply that by 24 per cent, (God forbid it should be an even 3), and subtract the total from your income tax due as computed in the normal, painfully agonizing method.

I'd also like to suggest an income tax change. The Government uses an electronic brain to figure out if we have cheated. It would only be fair to give us one to figure out our tax in the first place.

Abe Mellinkoff

## HERB CAEN SAYS:

# Canonization of Bogart Given Jolting Setback

THE CURRENT canonization of the late Humphrey Bogart receives a jolting setback from the tough old bird, Mme. Sally Stanford. In her recent just-published autobiography, "The Lady of the House," she describes some of the regulars at her onetime bed-a-wee ("The finest and most distinguished pleasure house in the world")—among them, the sanctified Bogie. "We found him," she writes, "to be a foul-mouthed, pug-nacious drunk who came around to badger and insult the girls. He really never got the idea. We finally had to 'eighty-six' him. No class." That number, in the parlance of the trade, means to cut off the supply. Class dismissed.

ITEMS WEST: Singer Roger Miller, headlining at Harrah's Tahoe, gets off items like this: "Folks, we don't call it Texas any more. Just Tex—the other half is in Washington." Not much of a joke, but the reaction is unexpected: laughs, cheers, whoops of joy—and not a single boo. . . . Harry Bridges has commanded his lawyers to file a \$100,000 libel suit against all kinds of notables, including Novelist Herbert Gold, as a rebuttal to their attacks on him. "But I don't want the money," adds Bridges. "I want vindication." . . . The reason Truman Capote, author of the season's hottest book ("In Cold Blood"), made so many trips to S.F. while gathering information is that the sister of one of

the two killers lives in this area. Her request for anonymity was honored by Capote. . . . I don't know whether Meg and Tony put the rap on us, or what, but the Duke of Edinburgh, who'll be in Southern Calif. in March, has absolutely NO plans to visit San Francisco. Digs smog, not fog?

CAEN DID CAMERA: Pianist Erroll Garner and Mime Marcel forming a Mutual Admiration Society in the lobby of the Mark Hopkins ("You're the greatest," "No, YOU'RE the greatest, etc."); positively sickening. . . . Painted-on car driven by a kid. "Take the Greyhound and Leave the Drive-Ins to Us!" Pat Boone, the white bucks kid: "I've never met a man in white shoes I didn't like!" . . . At Alexis, Adolph Schuman waxing sentimental about his pet poodle: "I won't go anywhere without that dog. Why, I've taken it to Europe 17 times." Matt Kelly: "If there's such a thing as reincarnation, I know what I want to be! . . . YMCA poster in a city bus: "Clean Mind, Clean Body"—under which someone had scrawled: "Take your pick."

IMAGE: The first line in our fetching new tax forms reads: "Every year more than 60 million individuals demonstrate their faith in America by filing income tax returns." Of course, some of us are simply demonstrating our belief that if we don't we'll get arrested.

PICK UP STICKS: "If you're heading for Saigon, gentlemen, the magic word is — hairspray. In World War II, the open-sesame was nylon, chocolate or even choongum, but this war, of

## ROYCE BRIER

# Opposition Confused as LBJ Achieves Consensus

The other night one of those late gab shows, which cast about for a gimmick to fill time between guests, staged an electronic audience vote.

Some preferences offered were political, like this: If a presidential election were held tomorrow, would you vote for — or —? President Johnson won every round, but funnily, Mayor Lindsay of New York, whom you had not heard of a few months ago, did better than Richard Nixon. Even funnier, Mr. Nixon was a guest of the show, waiting backstage.

So apparently this New York audience felt that Mr. Lindsay had fought his way out of the paper bag in the subway strike. The qualities, or behavior, Americans want in their Presidents are harder to figure than a daily double. Moreover,

they change from week to week or from decade to decade, according to what is going on in the nation and world.

President Johnson takes obvious satisfaction in what he calls a consensus, and so far he is justified. At any rate his position is feeble, confused, and disorganized.

Yet a consensus in the human society is at best a frail and mercurial thing, as presidents, kings, and dictators have learned the hard way from time to time. James MacGregor-Burns, historian and chairman of the political science department of Williams College, discusses this subject at length in a new book: Presidential Government: the Crucible of Leadership.

Prof. Burns says consensus is not necessarily an expression of the nation's deepest needs and desires,

but an attempt to agree on so many small issues that great public purpose can be lost. Yet President Johnson probably would not so define it, because consensus to him plainly refers to his great public purpose in Asia.

Prof. Burns has a low opinion of "consensus politics," and in view of the growth of presidential power, he asks, "Where is there a continuous, forceful and thorough opposition?"

Hardly, one may venture, in the persons of Senator Dirksen and Representative Ford in their joint reply to the State of the Union speech.

Indeed, a large share of the opposition to the President's attitudes and actions fits unhappily Winston Churchill's wicked description of a dreary opponent in the Commons 50 years ago: "He got up not knowing what he was going to say; he spoke, not knowing what he was saying; and sat down, not knowing what he had said."

In any event, it may be that though President Johnson and other Presidents who have achieved "consensus" by force of circumstances hold that their wide acceptance is the road to greatness, this is not the reality.

Half a dozen of our greatest Presidents — you know their names — have thrived on their antagonists, and may even be said to have used them as stepping stones to immortality. This somewhat strange twist in the American experience with Presidents and their power may well be worth the meditation of any President from the day he takes the oath.

## WILLIAM HOGAN

# Grace, Power Evident in This Study of Violence

Back in 1935 a former Dallas sports editor turned film writer, Horace McCoy, produced an extraordinary short novel called "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" This was a first-person narrative of a man awaiting execution for the murder, at her insistence, of his marathon dance partner. The dance marathons of the 1930s were bleak affairs, promoted in cheap ballrooms or on amusement piers. In a weary depression culture, they vied for public attention with long-distance roller-skating, flag-pole-sitting and people who were immured in glassed-over coffins and even graves for long periods of time.

McCoy's book was a violent, sordid, beautifully brought-off bit of literary fireworks. It sold some 3,000 copies, and, beyond the memories of a coterie of admirers, disappeared. It did better in Europe, especially in France, where it was regarded as the first American "existential" novel and hailed by such writers as Camus, Sartre and de Beauvoir.

uncompromisingly negative attitude towards everything to do with life and living."

Whatever one finds in this terse and original novel, it remains an original even in this generation which has made shattering portraits of brutality, and even the "existential novel," a literary way of life.

Like Henry Roth, Horace McCoy was a one-book man, although he did write a few minor mysteries before he died in his fifties, in 1955. He was a member of what Edmund Wilson once described as "the boys in the back room." He was related in style and temperament to Nathaniel West of "Miss Lonelyhearts," O'Hara of "Butterfield 8," James M. Cain of "The Postman Always Rings Twice," the Jonathan Lattimer mysteries and, in a sense, to Hemingway, Chandler and Hammett.

"They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" is a study of violence and degradation, but written with a rare grace and power. Watch for this one.

## My Neighbors



"Open up—I saw this picture—"