

# Press-Herald

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## A Dubious Request

Last week \$10 million of the taxpayers' hard earned money went down the drain when an Atlas-Centaur rocket exploded on its Cape Kennedy launching pad.

The failure brought into focus once more the arguments over the need and desirability of the nation's massive efforts to explore the moon. But while the merits of the policy are debatable, what can't be questioned is that if we are determined to build moon rockets, the government is the proper agency to build them.

Not so unquestionable are the government's efforts in hundreds of other fields where the goals, if attainable, could be achieved in other ways. The United States Information Agency is a case in point. The Agency, which last year spent a little under \$100 million in its far flung efforts to "sell" the American way of life abroad, including the establishment of libraries which have become favorite targets of mob destruction, is asking for \$173 million this year.

A substantial part of the USIA's funds are spent in the dissemination of news, duplicating and competing with the work of established private news agencies. In terms of results, measured in respect for America's positions on world issues, it is difficult not to reach the melancholy conclusion that USIA's past performance argues for a cut, rather than an increase in funds spent for that purpose.

We can hope that the next moon rocket launched from Cape Kennedy will be more successful. But there's little reason to hope that in its efforts to shoot for the moon, USIA will ever get off the launching pad.

## Opinions of Others

"The proposal has advanced recently that the federal government turn back to the states, with few or no strings attached, a portion of the sum it collects in taxes . . . Now suppose the U. S. government should assign shares of its intake to the states. In the first place the round trip of its money to Washington and return would cost a sizeable bit. And the remainder, some office holders would contend, represents a saving to the local taxpayers from whose pockets, however, the federal payment originally came . . ."—*Walla Walla (Wash.) Union-Bulletin.*

"Medical people have found that one of the biggest obstacles to getting people to take preventive health measures is the apparently natural feeling that 'it can't happen to me.' And the more serious the disease and the greater the belief that it is incurable, the stronger this feeling seems to be. This was the most important fact to come out of an 18-month survey recently conducted by the University of Michigan School of Public Health."—*Odessa (Texas) American.*

"Despite the assault on poverty by the Administration, some of the programs suggested my not be effective. For instance, make-work jobs in the non-profit area are no substitute for the challenge of getting and holding a job on one's own merits. They are more likely to encourage dependency on others than the self-reliance and self-discipline which enable a young person to find his own place in the world . . . In the final analysis, youths need jobs in industry, not temporary government-generated jobs. And to employ youths, industry needs greater profit opportunities and fewer restrictive practices of government that dampen the business climate."—*Grayslake (Ill.) Times.*

"Washington has had its hand in helping the farmer, the working man, the aged, the businessman, and the poor. That help may have looked good at one point, but little by little each group—each individual—has lost a certain amount of his liberty. One example is the farmer who is 'policed' rigidly and cannot grow what and as much as he wants, even if the crop is for feed for his livestock. Another involving the aged or widows forces them to live on a specific amount of money. If one earns more than a specified amount, he loses his government benefits in proportion to the extra amount he earned."—*Coatesville (Pa.) Record.*

## NEW BOYS IN SCHOOL



ROYCE BRIER

## 'Welfare Fixation' May Lie Behind Smoking War

There is a curious emotionalism, at least in the Anglo-Saxon world, touching the habits and preferences of the people.

This is manifested in a regulation announced by the London government banning cigarette advertising on television. The government "hopes" to extend it to newspapers and magazines, but while television is subject to the decree, a general ban requires a Commons vote.

Parallel with this, of course, is our own effort to limit cigarette consumption by forcing warning labels on packages and other pressures on the cigarette manufacturers.

All this obviously results from a fixed idea, supported by some scientific data of recent years, that cigarette consumption is in part responsible for a rise in lung cancer.

The findings are naturally denied by tobacco firms, which are parties at interest, but also by some impartial medical men. But government health officers tend to accept the cigarette's guilt as proved.

The question is inescapable, however, how much of this crusade against the cigarette is grounded in a welfare fixation—the zeal to inform the people what is good for them, and to implement the zeal with laws and regulations?

The question then arises: how far will the public permit public officers to go in regulating their habits and preferences in the name of health, and in some cases, of morals? For the consumption of cigarettes, if deleterious to health, is only a part of a debatable human consumption.

Decades before cigarettes came into question, it was medically established that excessive consumption of alcohol contributed to diseases of the liver.

Yet prohibition, most monumental of all welfare fixations (and the most monumental failure in the field) was not upheld by proponents primarily as a health measure, but as a social and moral measure.

Again, we have had for two decades a sharp dispute among medical men on the role of fat intake in diseases of the heart arteries. True, you can say we have to eat and don't have to smoke, but that begs the issue.

If the welfare zealots can campaign, and successfully, against cigarettes, why can they not campaign against fats which, if deleterious, contribute to more deaths than do cigarettes? Why can they not in due time banish bacon advertising from television, or decree a warning label on an ordinary carton of butter?

In the Preamble, our Constitution resolves us to "promote the general welfare," but it could not say whether this clause shall be honored by sensible men, or by visionaries seeking to diminish our freedoms.

What's illegal in Bible teaching now? The agony that accompanies a class seating plan. The memo from the school nurse on alphabetized gym suits. Boards of Education politics. Reports in triplicate. A student answer on the Greek classics: "We study myths like 'Orpheum' and his girl friend because it takes place in the Greek Under-ground. We want to know how our civilization got that way." And another student paper on integration that reads simply and with superlative emphasis: "The trouble starts with where we live and not where we go to school. I mean crumby tenements."

Miss Kaufman carries the scars of the bureaucratic battlefield that saps much of the joy from the profession. Her satire is keen in this department. And while occasionally this verbal impressionism threatens to become tedious, the sheer honesty and amused detachment of the lady prevent it from becoming so.

While this odd and occasionally disturbing document may not show us that Knowledge is Power or Truth is Beauty, it shows us that kids are human beings, and often enormously poignant creatures. As in the note signed "Dropout" that reads: "What I like about you is that you're brainy. In a nice way. I wish I could have you always but have to quit and go to work, so must say a sincere goodbye . . ."

## Strength for These Days

(From The Bible)  
Now therefore, our God, we thank thee.  
—(I. Chron. 29:13).

If we can gather the courage to say "Thank You, God, for everything!" when we experience a trial or tribulation—and mean it—then we shall have taken the first step toward overcoming the difficulty. Every challenge is an opportunity to prove our faith in God and His goodness.

I suspect it is all less fiction than autobiography. It shows one teacher's valiant attempt to make her way up the "down" staircase of a frustrating profession. The result certainly will appeal to her long-suffering fellow

STAN DELAPLANE

## European Travel Guides, Tipping Tips Discussed

"Could you tell me a good guide book for someone planning a trip to Europe?"

Fielding in his "Travel Guide to Europe" seems most satisfactory to most people. All the information is there and the writing is lively. There must be a hundred guides of various kinds. But a lot of them are so detailed and so dull they only make you want to stay home.

"Do you have any information on student rates on boats to Europe?"

I don't. But Council of Student Travel, 179 Broadway, New York City should have this. Students also get some special rates on trains in some European countries. Look into that.

"We have been thinking of vacationing in Costa Rica (where I happened to be born). Can you tell me anything about it? Can we drive there?"

I thought San Jose de Costa Rica was a pretty small city. But I couldn't find any particular flavor to it. Lots of pre-Columbian pottery in easily found graves in the countryside and the Government lets you dig all you want.

Puntarenas on the West Coast is a very colorful tropic port and there's excellent fishing. Hot in summer. One thing: People from the capital San Jose say the volcano has been blowing fine pumice ash for nearly a year. They sweep it off

the streets. But it gets in the souces, food, etc. Residents who can afford it have been going on long trips.

You can drive it from the U.S. But El Tapon pass (Mexico-Guatemala) sometimes slides in the rainy summer—impassable for several weeks. Rest of the road is part paved, some parts gravel. Better get blow-out proof tires. And carry a couple of extras. There isn't a service station on every corner.

"For a school teacher in her early thirties, would you suggest a tour in Europe or should I go it alone? I don't like to be regimented."

I'd take the tour. Get a small one 15 to 20 people. Going alone is awfully lonesome. And if you are going for the first time, tours take care of a lot of problems that eat up your time: Tipping, baggage, lining up sightseeing.

Now, to keep from that regimented feeling. You don't HAVE to do everything. When you get that "everybody-up-at-eight-for-full-days-sightseeing" split at lunch. Find a place for yourself. Take the rest of the day and do your own sightseeing.

"On a cruise ship in the Mediterranean, how much do you tip? We were advised that it should be 10 per cent of our total fare."

That is absolute nonsense. Have you figured out how much 10 per cent of fare is?

Something like \$400 or more, I'd bet. Tipping a percentage on the fare is not figuring the service. It's like tipping the captain, the crew, and the president of the company.

Ship tipping should be figured like a resort hotel. You probably have a four week cruise. I would tip about a dollar a day per couple—maybe a dollar and a half. Split between table steward and room steward. Tip the wine steward a dollar and a half a week if you use him. Head waiter only if he makes some special effort for you.

Bar stewards usually pool their tips. Couple of dollars a week into the pool—or a little more if you are using them a lot. Bellboys, 25 cents per run. Deck steward, dollar and a half a week. Tip these people by the week. Tip the others half at some port halfway through the trip. The remainder the morning you leave the ship.

In tourist class and foreign ships, cut this formula to two-thirds. And on freighters, cut it in half.

"We still have several days on an Italian tour bus. Do we tip the guide? The driver?"

Some organizer will get up a pool, you can depend on that. But keep in mind that the guide is getting 15 per cent or better on everything you buy. (That's why they make those long stops at those coral shops.) He gives the driver a small percentage. So contribute to the pool. But don't make the guide a rich man.

## SACRAMENTO REPORT

### Tax Revolt Could Cost County Billion Dollars

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL, Assemblyman, 46th District  
A political revolt may result from the creation of a new political party which is a "splinter party," that is, it is a splinter chopped off the tree of the mother party. A good illustration is the Progressive Party, popularly called the "Bull Moose Party" of 1912. Its candidate was Theodore Roosevelt, affectionately known to his followers as "Teddy" Roosevelt.

At the general election of 1912, Woodrow Wilson was the Democratic candidate for President of the United States. William Howard Taft was seeking re-election on the Republican ticket. Many newspapers owned or controlled by Republicans said that Teddy Roosevelt's Progressive Party was "in revolt against the Republican Party."

Wilson received 6,293,097 popular votes; Roosevelt received 4,119,507 votes; Taft obtained 3,484,956 votes; and Eugene V. Debs, the Socialist candidate, trailed with 901,873 votes. In the Electoral College, Woodrow Wilson won with 435 electoral votes. Theodore Roosevelt received 83 electoral votes and Taft trailed with 8 electoral votes. Apparently Socialists were not very popular then because Debs did not carry a single state and hence received no electoral votes.

That was a national political revolt. California has had several political revolts in the past and may have more in the future.

Many California retired families are trying to live on fixed incomes in homes they bought 10 years ago. Property values have gone up and so have taxes of all years. During the past 10 years the Los Angeles County tax rate alone has risen 14 per cent. Even though the Los Angeles County Tax Assessor assesses all property at 25 per cent of what his deputies regard as fair market value, the bills these retired families received from the County Tax Collector in 1964 averaged about twice what the county tax bills were 10 years ago. This sit-

uation has produced one of the many tax revolts which are always arising in California, especially in Los Angeles County.

Several bills have been introduced in the California Legislature to solve the problem by granting tax exemptions to elderly people who, to use their own words, are being "taxed out of our homes."

If a state law were enacted to grant a \$5,000 exemption for homeowners over 65 years of age, and it applied only to those with a combined income of less than \$3,000 per year, this would remove about one billion dollars (not a million dollars, but one thousand times a million dollars) from the Los Angeles County tax income.

This loss would then be shifted to the homeowners who did not get this particular exemption and each such homeowner would have to pay an additional sum of from \$40 to \$50 per year to make up the loss. These amounts are not precise but they are reasonably accurate.

One proposal to soften the burden on homeowners living on fixed incomes is to postpone the county-collected taxes on the home until the house is sold or the title to the home is transferred. The unpaid, back taxes would then come out of the selling price, plus interest. This plan is based on

the assumption that it would not operate except on the written request of each homeowner. Obviously, there would be many requests granted and the county would have less income for building recreation centers and other worthy projects for the elderly.

Several officials in counties all over California have tried to reduce their headaches by passing the buck to the State of California. They have suggested that the State Legislature enact another law whereby the State of California would go into the home-loan business by offering loans at a low rate of interest so that people can pay their property taxes each year.

This last proposal has generated more heat. Many elderly homeowners do not like it because they want to pass their property, free and clear, to their children when they eventually die. Their children, most of whom are adults ranging in age from 40 to 60, are violently opposed. Their argument is that by the time the loans and interest are paid, there may not be much to inherit. My personal suggestion is that government at all levels, from Washington down through Sacramento, the court houses, and the city halls, spend a little less. This has not aroused much enthusiasm, I am sorry to report.

## Morning Report:

In the long-standing running battle between reporters and office holders, the United States Social Security Administration has come up with a mighty breakthrough. The ultimate weapon.

To the Groversville Leader-Herald, of New York, goes an award for "following the true tradition of American journalism by publishing our program releases with a minimum of editing and without any attempt at interpretation." In other words, you take this handout, print it, and keep your mouth shut.

Actually I think this idea is too good for Social Security alone. Pressure should be put on that office to share it. The Pentagon, the State Department and even the White House would like a crack at the plan these days.

Abe Mellinkoff