

## Gerrymander by Computer

In this highly technical society of computers, it was only a matter of time until someone fed material into one of the blinking-light, tape-eating monsters in an effort to get some answers to the state's most complex problem of the moment—reapportionment.

Three San Francisco attorneys and a University of California math expert did just that, and the results were reported in yesterday's Los Angeles Times.

While most of us have come to have a lot of faith in computers, we think the brain machines did very little to erase objections many have voiced about reapportionment plans which have emanated from back-room caucuses of self-serving politicians.

We are particularly concerned with our own area, of course, so we took a long look at the computer proposals for the areas now comprising the 44th, 46th, 67th, and 68th Assembly Districts.

Here's what we found:

The computerized 32nd Senatorial District would put the 46th and 60th Assembly Districts together and stretch from White's Point near San Pedro to Sequit Point at the Ventura County line. It would include the three cities of the South Bay, that part of Torrance west of Hawthorne Boulevard and south of 190th Street, and the Palos Verdes Peninsula in addition to Santa Monica, Westwood, Malibu, and points west.

The 34th Senatorial District would include Assemblyman Vincent Thomas's 68th District and Assemblyman Joseph M. Kennick's 44th District, and stretch from the southeast corner of Torrance and Hawthorne boulevards to Carson Street and Los Coyotes east of Lakewood. It also would include all of the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbor areas from White's Point to the Long Beach Sports Arena.

The third Senatorial District to cut into the area, the 31st, would stretch from Torrance and Hawthorne boulevards on the southwest to the Los Angeles Sports Arena on the northeast, and would include part of Torrance, Gardena, Inglewood, and Los Angeles.

Torrance, as a matter of computer science, would wind up with three Senatorial Districts meetings at Torrance and Hawthorne boulevards.

Yesterday's announcement very carefully pointed out that the information fed to the computers did not contain data on "community interests, ethnic backgrounds, suburban patterns, etc." The programmers, said the report, "simply assumed that existing assembly districts already covered those points."

And there you have it. Statistically, the computers did their work. California's citizens have been divided up into nearly equal (but not so neat) packages on the basis of existing gerrymandered political boundaries and thereby turns out a job that is only numerically better than that done by the politicians.

For our money, the job won't be done right until someone takes notice of community interests. Mere numbers are not the answer.

## OTHERS SAY:

### An Immutable Law

The New York Times recently carried a story on New Zealand, where an all-embracing welfare state has been established. For example, unemployment and extreme poverty have been eliminated and adequate housing, health service and education are available to all.

The story then says: "Yet few visiting Americans are satisfied with what they see. They complain of poor service, of a take-it-or-leave-it attitude toward work when other jobs are readily available, of a lack of competitiveness and what they regard as an air of backwardness compared to the United States."

This caused The Wall Street Journal to observe: "The point is simply that any society deliberately fashioned in the framework of governmental gratuities for everything from planting wheat to painting water colors is bound to grow mediocre or worse. That is practically an immutable law, whether the people concerned are New Zealanders, Swedes, Russians, Britons or Americans, and it should not be particularly difficult to see why . . ."

Everyone favors the elimination of poverty and of human distress and misery in all its forms. In this endeavor, government inevitably plays a role. The problem is how to help those who truly need help without sapping the initiative, the independence and the ambition of vast masses of people. When that happens, national decadence and decline must follow, no matter how great any country's material wealth may be.—*Industrial News Review*.

"New cars are in the news once again, as the 1965 models step out to meet the public. Maybe that's why we got an extra chuckle out of a tidbit in the Daily Citizen of Beaver Dam, Wis. It read: 'An advertisement in a rural newspaper: For Sale — one Holstein cow, base price \$100. Accessories: Udder, \$75; two tone color, \$50; four split hoofs, \$10 each; extra stomach, \$35; dual horns (optional), \$5 each. Total price, \$310.'—*Waseca (Minn.) Herald*."

"People who have very little for which to be thankful very often are the ones who take especial care to thank God for His blessings."—*La Grange (Ill.) Citizen*.

"The job of modernizing the postal system is probably the reason that the post office department needs so many new employees. These goldarned automatic package smashing outfits are difficult to get into operation unless you have a lot of inexperienced help to get them started wrong."—*Boyer City (Mich.) Citizen*.



## ROYCE BRIER

# A Senator Kennedy and The Bomb: Stop It Now

If we can assume no Kennedy, including the last President, ever took a stand devoid of political implication, then the recent warning of Senator Robert Kennedy against nuclear proliferation deserves analysis.

It is getting a little, but in a cautious vein. Most observers felt the Senator's speech was a subtle but unmistakable disparagement of President Johnson's foreign policy preoccupations. Some thought it revealed a widening breach between the Senator and the President, which was talked in Washington when Mr. Kennedy left the Administration. The somewhat cool White House reaction to the Kennedy speech added to the surmise.

If the surmise is sound, it may be said the Senator chose a somewhat diffused field in which to make known his alienation. For nuclear anxiety does not at present carry a high and immediate political potential in the United States. Americans are not currently indifferent to the nuclear danger, but neither is it uppermost with them. The nuclear danger may be said to

be an arrested case, not appreciably reactivated by the Chinese bomb.

But if the speech was in part politically motivated, this does not detract from its effectiveness as exhortation. It is a highly lucid summation of the problem.

Five nations (it said) now have nuclear capability. This was developed at great cost over the years. But due to this pioneering, the cost and effort required today are but a fraction of what they were. Instead of the billions each nation spent, a few million will now suffice, and a few million will buy a plane for delivery. "Perhaps a score of other nations are now in a position to develop nuclear weapons within three years."

Kennedy cites Israel and India as already possessing weapons-grade fissionable material, but this implies co-under-development in Egypt and Pakistan. Australian development in fear of the Chinese bomb (which also stirs India) would inspire Indonesian development. Kennedy says such

chain reaction is a global possibility, and is at present without control.

It is not a bright thought, but Kennedy believes the United States and the Soviet Union, as the pre-eminent nuclear powers, have a critical interest in prevention of spread. It should be a "central priority of American policy." Alluding to his late brother's part in the limited nuclear test ban treaty, he said, "But we have not yet taken the second step."

He wants an American-Soviet agreement for a nuclear armament cutback, but he also wants a general proliferation treaty forbidding the nuclear powers to provide weapons to non-nuclear powers. But the non-nuclear powers must also agree, and will only do so if they have a guarantee against nuclear aggression by their neighbors.

The Senator made an oblique reference to the Gilpatrick Committee. The committee was appointed by the President to study proliferation, and is said to have reported, but the report is not released. Senator Kennedy implied it should be.

## WILLIAM HOGAN

# 'Scapegoat General' Puts Butler Under Microscope

Of the many controversial and colorful characters who played key roles in the Civil War, unquestionably the most controversial has to be General Benjamin Franklin Butler of Massachusetts. Whether he could be classed as colorful is debatable. However, it would be safe to say he was roundly detested, as readers of Richard S. West's "Lincoln's Scapegoat General"—a penetrating, thoughtful study of the New England general-politician-lawyer-labor leader-and-presidential candidate—will learn.

Butler was an able but often erratic man. He was obstinate. He was funny looking. He ranted, roared and bullied. Yet he pioneered and fought diligently for the 10-hour day in a grueling struggle to raise the lot of the oppressed workers, men and girls, in the Lowell mills.

But Ben Butler was a man of strange contrasts. During the 1860 Democratic Convention in Charleston S. C., Butler voted 50 times for Jefferson Davis and only swung over to John C. Breckinridge when Davis' cause appeared hopeless. Yet, less than two years later, Jeff Davis was demanding that General Butler, now a hated Yankee general, be hanged.

In a war which was led, on the Union side at least, almost entirely by mid-westerners — McClellan, Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Halleck, Polk, Burnside, etc.—Butler was the top New England military leader. And, other than Gettysburg's Meade, Butler was the only Easterner to attain a lofty Army ranking.

Bethel.

His chief claim to everlasting fame stems from his rule of occupied New Orleans in 1862. Here his churlish, bullying reputation—and the nickname "Beast"—first became household words in the South. To Butler's credit, West points out that the citizens of New Orleans weren't so polite themselves and that Butler's regime, compared to later occupations, was in essence mild.

Those accustomed to think of Butler as an ogre will be astonished to find that Lincoln sounded him out for running-mate in the 1864 election, an honor which Butler turned down. After the War, Butler entered politics, serving the House as a Republican from his home State. He was knee-deep in the impeachment of Johnson, and later ran for the Presidency himself on the Greenback ticket.

Richard West throws a new and clear light in his biography, piercing into corners long forgotten. But however powerful the light, controversy will remain.

## STAN DELAPLANE

# 'Second Oldest Pub' One Of the Best in England

KAILUA, HAWAII  
What is Hawaiian poi? Can you buy it? What other Hawaiian dishes for a party?

It's the boiled root of the starchy taro plant—so full of good, digestible things that it's fed to babies, too. It looks like wall paper paste. And to me, it tastes like it. But if you were raised on it poi is apparently delicious.

I don't know where you could get it on the mainland. But Hawaii now has poi factories—they put it in plastic bags and sell it in the supermarkets. If you write the Polynesian Cultural Center at Laie, Hawaii, —make it attention the manager—they'll send you two pages of recipes. From all over the Pacific, Hawaii to the Maoris to New Zealand. Lot of it is very good.

"Would you list a few smaller places you've particularly liked?"

The Old Cott Inn in Devon, England was built in 1320. (The owners bill it as "the second oldest pub in England"—so they won't get arguments from many pubs that claim to be "the oldest pub in England.") A quiet, thatched inn with fine country food and a polished brass pub atmosphere.

Chez Mahu at Villerville on the Normandy Coast of France. Eat under the apple trees—some of the best food in France. Rooms aren't elegant but are very comfortable.

The Butler Arms at Waterville, south of Ireland. A sort of dark old place in a seacoast village. But I liked it. Good fish and game birds on the menu.

The Cockpit in Singapore. A breezy, elegant mansion in the old British colonial style. A lively bar and fine restaurant.

The parador at Pontevedra — Atlantic coast of Spain. Once belonged to Spanish counts whose arms are over the door. The food is so-so. But the cobble, Middle Ages town gets you up. And the surrounding sea coast is great.

"Do Americans abroad over tip? How do you find out the correct amount?"

Probably they tip more than the locals. But mainly because they don't know customs or money. Start finding out as soon as you land. Ask the airline ticket seller (who will speak English) the correct tipping for the porter, the taxi and the hotel porter. That gets you started. And keep asking while you're in the country. I don't know of any universal rule. You tip an English hotel waiter who brings you a drink. But you don't tip the bar maid in the country pub. But you do offer to buy her a drink. On the continent, a tip of 10 to 15 per cent is added to your bill.

## Quote

American men have ruined their women by giving in to all their whims, by letting them be dictators, bosses.—Michel Laurent, San Francisco restaurateur (and bachelor).

Age is something printed on a calendar and has little measure for the individual.—Ella Mary Walker, 90, San Francisco.

Grading gifted, accelerated, or honors students on the so-called "normal curve" is ridiculous.—Dr. Max Rafferty.

Why is it that most people want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the middle of the road?—The Rt. Rev. James Pike, Episcopal Bishop in San Francisco.

We all gain when unions are well-managed, but forced union membership leads to second-rate service and everyone suffers except the leaders.—Art Garey, Arroyo Grande.

But the locals leave a few loose coins, too. You just have to ask to learn.

"To settle an argument, I say red wine should be chilled and not served at room temperature in hot summer."

I've seen a wine waiter chill red wine in the summer in Paris. And in Tahiti, the French (and Tahitians) always drop a cube of ice in their wine—white or red. I like it better with ice in it.

"We are buying a car through an agency here for delivery in Europe. But we have heard that Europe exports their best things and what you get there is inferior. Is this true?"

Some models for local sale don't have as much chrome and bumper guards as the export cars. But if you buy your car here, they will deliver you an export model overseas. If you buy overseas, you should specify you want the export model. (Very important in England or you'll get a right-hand drive.)

"Is the gasoline all right in Mexico? Can you get it everywhere?"

The transport problem on gas seems to be fixed now. No shortage I've heard of. Buy Gasolmex of Supermex. The plain white Mexolina will make your car ring like a firebell. Just goes right on firing after you turn the key off. I blew off a piston head using the stuff.

## HERB CAEN SAYS:

# No Insurance For Spacemen

SPACE NOTE: Most accident insurance policies now contain this exclusive clause: "Does not cover loss resulting from navigation beyond the earth's atmosphere." I mean, man, those insurance companies think AHEAD . . . I would be delighted to render a negative report on the Beaujolais wine now being imported from France in beer cans, but the truth is, it's pretty dambgood—every bit as Beaujolais as you'll find in bottles; chill well, lower the Tricolor to half-staff . . . I must say I wasn't surprised that Soprano Marie Collier, who subbed for Maria Callas in Europe, made a tremendous hit. These stories are built in at the factory. Ever see a headline reading, "Unknown Subs for Star, Flops"? Nevva hoppen.

BREATH OF Tskandal: One of the national TV networks recently aired a long interview with several politically active Cal students—boys and girls alike. Before the program was shown, one of the girls, a member of a rich and socially prominent Eastern clan, alerted her family to be sure and watch.

Well, it so happened that the night of the interview, her parents were hosting an elegant party, with dozens of guests. The proud father had extra TV sets installed, and, at the appointed time, a hush fell over the group as the guests gathered around to look and listen.

Well, as the interview progressed, it developed that the Easterners' UC daughter is LIVING with one of the young men who was on the program. She discussed the situation quite coolly: "No, we haven't decided whether we'll get married" . . . "Don't want to rush into things" . . . "Depends on whether we want children," and so on. The party broke up in embarrassed confusion. The father, a member of a big firm, resigned. The mother has had a breakdown. A United States Senator, a close friend of the family, is looking into the mess, and all in all, it's a fair-sized disaster.

SUPERJET SET: Desmond Guinness, England's stout fellow, is laying on a splendid party in September—a cruise to Russia aboard a Soviet freighter—and among those invited is Matthew Kelly, S.F.'s ranking (and perhaps only) man-about-town, country, and the world. The other day, Guinness dispatched a list of necessities for the trip, including "a marble Easter egg or a non-floating golf ball." Matthew, naturally, wondered why. "Because, dear boy," came the patient reply, "it is well known that most bathtubs in the USSR don't have stoppers." Oh.

IN ONE EAR: Gardner Cowles, publisher of Look magazine (he's just back from Southeast Asia), commented at lunch: "I'm in favor of what we're doing in Viet Nam—but if a secret, completely honest election were held in South Viet Nam tomorrow, I have no doubt that the Viet Cong would win by a great majority." Let's see now, "the self-determination of peoples." Is that what we're fighting for. Or against? . . . The transpacific phones have been buzzing between here and Tokyo, as a result of which Atty. Mel Belli has filed an \$8 million libel suit against Time magazine on behalf of the publishers of Tokyo's big Asahi Shimbun newspaper; the publisher's wife, claiming "loss of face," is especially burned at Time's cracks about her "meddling" . . . Frank Granat, the ex-S.F. jewelry heir-turned-B-way producer, is winging to Montreux, Switzerland, there to grab Noel Coward's new play hot off his typewriter for its N.Y. presentation . . . If you knew it all along, why didn't you say so? As for me, I just found out that LBJ sometimes wears contact lenses . . . Dick Gregory to Folksinger Bill Forshay, over a hot dog at Clown Alley: "The Chicago police are getting nervous. The other day, half a block from where we were going limp, a man collapsed in a crosswalk with a heart attack—and the cops arrested him."

## Morning Report:

(Abe Mellinkoff is on vacation. His Morning Report feature will be resumed on his return.)

Abe Mellinkoff