

Press-Herald

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To the Flower Garden

While Torrance councilmen are blithely leading the city down that primrose path to federal aid for its local projects (not necessarily problems), they are not pioneering new territory. Many another councilman and other local officials have left a well-blazed trail to the federal trough.

The Wall Street Journal observed recently that Washington's efforts to aid local government often lead to a lot of costly confusion, and that the original purpose of the aid may be lost "in the wilderness of federal, state, and local politics and bureaucracy."

The respected Journal cited the case of Wheaton, Ill., a prosperous town near Chicago, which made an application for urban renewal funds under the aid program to smaller communities "lacking adequate planning resources." A City Council member advanced the argument that the federal assistance would let the city do the work without raising the fund through local taxes. There was no plea that Wheaton needed the aid.

In another case, the wealthy Long Island community of Garden City checked over the federal program to help educate children of economically deprived families and found that the formula of the program suggested that the community should have 91.76 economically deprived children. Although the schools could find no poor children at all, the application for \$33,551 in poverty funds was sent along to the feds.

The local philosophy in each case is the same. Whether the program is fair, or needed, or even desirable is not questioned. The only concern of such city officials is whether they can qualify for the gravy train.

Examples of such eagerness to shirk their local responsibilities and pass the onus to a federal bureaucracy can be found much closer to home. The Torrance City Council is at least chin deep in urban renewal and you can find some who will tell you they're in over their heads. They also have begun paper work to get federal money to plant flowers along Hawthorne Boulevard. Hungry eyes are being cast on a North Torrance area.

And what is happening here can and is happening all over the nation. These programs are all available to Deadwood, S. D., Enid, Okla.; Elko, Nev., and Oroville, Wash. And if their city leaders have the same spunk as Torrance's, they're busy right now with the paper work.

We will be billed for it later.

Opinions of Others

What should disturb Americans is the fact that organized minority opposition in the halls of Congress if it does exist is, for the most part, ineffective. With majorities of two thirds and more, the Democratic Party can completely dominate the legislative scene, shutting off debate almost at will, pushing through legislation without opposition and refusing to investigate charges of government inefficiency or irresponsibility.—Garrison (N. D.) *McLean County Independent*.

Birth control pills are a hazard to small children. Like aspirin, they apparently are harmless when used properly, and poisonous when too many are taken at one time. This is a fact which has not been publicized enough, despite thousands of words printed and spoken about the pill in the last few years.—Red Bluff (Calif.) *News*.

... favoritism for labor bodes danger even for the unions, with both the Administration and the National Labor Relations Board putting the interest of unions above that of the nation, the movement may grow so big that it will sink itself—from disgust in its own members, and alienation of the public and its Congress. In our opinion, the President needs very much to show awareness that there are other people in the nation besides union leaders and 'civil rights' demonstrators.—Mount Olive (N. C.) *Tribune*.

Many businessmen are beginning to wonder if it wouldn't be a wise idea to have a guaranteed annual customer before they start getting involved with a guaranteed annual wage.—Westby (Wis.) *Times*.

It's to the United States' interest to work for a paved highway link to strategically-located Alaska, a state with a vast untapped economic resources. A paved highway also will tend to unite us even more closely with . . . Canada. Canada also will benefit from a paved highway that will help develop the rich resources of her western provinces.—Shelby (Mont.) *Promoter*.

A \$50 million annual subsidy to keep domestic gold mines operating and reopen closed mines is favored in Congress. The drain on the gold is making gold mining necessary again, and government wants to encourage it.—International Falls (Minn.) *Journal*.

Citizens are shocked and alarmed over sensational killings and loss of life in the Viet Nam War, but are relatively indifferent to the daily slaughter on our highways.—Phillips (Wisc.) *Bee*

The man who rows the boat doesn't have time to rock it.—Torrance Lions Club *Bulletin*.



Battery-Power, Smogless Cars 'Around the Corner'

By CHARLES E. CHAPEL
Assemblyman, 46th District

There is a definite relationship between air pollution and transportation. On Tuesday, Sept. 27, I flew, as a passenger, on a helicopter all over five counties — San Francisco County, Marin County, Contra Costa County, Alameda County, and San Mateo County. The purpose was to observe, at low altitude, the routes already established for a mass rapid-transit system.

At one stop I boarded an electric car, operated by storage batteries, which ran back and forth on an ordinary railway track for more than five miles. The electric car is a prototype, or pilot model, for the cars which will run throughout the five counties. Engineers and experimental mechanics are constantly improving the car.

A "tube" or tunnel for the cars will run along the bottom of the bay and will connect San Francisco with Oakland. A storage-battery driven car is essential for passage through the tube for various obvious reasons but the same type of car will be used throughout the system.

The storage batteries on the car are made by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation but they could be manufactured by any company which can produce large, heavy-duty batteries. Any type of mass rapid-transit system transports people who otherwise would drive smog-producing automobiles, but when the cars are driven by storage batteries, no air pollution is caused by the cars.

The Ford Corporation recently announced that it is developing automobiles powered by storage batteries. Other automobile manufacturers are doing the same thing. Various prophecies have been made as to

when automobiles driven by storage batteries will be produced in quantities and available at reasonable prices. My best guess, based upon what automotive and electrical engineers have told me, is that they will be in relatively common use within five years.

I realize full well that automobiles, motor cycles, trucks and buses, regardless of what fuel they use,

Sacramento

do not collectively constitute the sole source of air pollution, but they are a major source of what some call "smog." For example, when any type of aircraft engines are in operation, they produce air pollution. When farmers and ranchers clear their land by burning air pollution is produced.

One person recently asked me: "Why can't atomic energy be used to drive motor vehicles, airplanes, etc.?"

My reply was: "It can be, you mean nuclear fission or nuclear fusion? There is a great difference. Nuclear fusion is also known as thermo-nuclear energy. The 'atomic bombs' dropped on Japan obtained their awful power from nuclear fission, —'splitting' the nucleus of the atom. The power of nuclear fusion comes from fusing the nuclei of atoms and is the principle of the hydrogen bomb. There are many peaceful uses for all types of nuclear energy but at present they are too powerful for conventional land transportation."

Various people in the 46th Assembly District have asked me why it is not possible to produce gasoline that will not cause air pollution when it comes out of the exhaust pipes of automobiles. One man even asked me why all the hydrocarbons, which produce air pollution, are not removed

from gasoline. The answer is that if you remove a major portion of the hydrocarbons you will have no "smog" from your car for the simple reason that without enough hydrocarbons in the gasoline the engine will not start, let alone drive the car out of the garage.

Any Boy Scout who holds the merit badge for chemistry will verify the accuracy of the above facts. If he also holds the Boy Scout merit badge for automobilizing, he is twice blessed because he has a double-barrelled answer in this somewhat technical field.

Jeremiah, the last of the great prophets of Israel before the Exile, lived and died more than 2,500 years ago. He criticized the moral and religious degradation of people in general, but he especially deplored the activities of the young people of his day. When I read and think what Jeremiah said so long ago I realize that the juvenile delinquency of today is nothing new. For every juvenile delinquent there are a thousand Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The United States of America definitely is not going to hell right now, I am glad to report.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Stars of New O'Connor Novel Not the Kennedys

Preview: Little, Brown and Co. introduces Edwin O'Connor's new novel, "All in the Family." According to publishing trade papers, book-sellers predict a best-seller. Whatever he may write in the future, O'Connor no doubt will be remembered as the author of "The Last Hurrah," that enormously popular novel of a decade or so ago about a Boston Irish-American politician of the old school, Frank Skeffington. Old Skeffington was the spit-and-ignite, as the Irish might say, of Boston's irascible Mayor James Curley, one of the most beloved professional politicians who ever went to jail.

The narrator of "All in the Family" was, we are told, once a confidential secretary to Frank Skeffington. There is an occasional reference here to the hero of "The Last Hurrah." The new book deals with a Boston Irish political clan, and there is an occasional rich and familiar O'Connor type in evidence. Yet this is essentially a family story, not a political one.

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Pat Filed That Letter Before He Even Read It

Zonk: As the scene opens, we find this bespectacled man seated at his office desk. He is going through the mail. Suddenly, with a start, he comes to a letter from the Republican National Committee in Washington. "Vote Republican!" it begins. "Contribute money!" it continues, and so on, all the way down to the distinguished signatures — Ray Bliss and Lucius Clay. The letter safely deposited in his wastebasket, Governor Edmund G. Brown goes on with his reading of the morning mail.

One of the prime examples of ratiocination in our fair land — the turning in of your neighbors to Internal Revenue, in exchange for a reward (10 per cent of the additional tax collected)—is on the way out, since computers do the job better. Oddball sidelight: Fewer than 10 per cent of the finks ever try to collect the reward, mainly because it is NOT tax-deductible! Also because their neighbors might find out?

As of now, the police are refusing a parade permit to an attorney who has been trying to organize a Good

Guys March, in Brooks Brothers' best, along Montgomery St. in the financial section, to protest U.S. policy in Viet Nam. However, never underestimate a man who walks softly and carries a big briefcase . . . Model Marryann DeLichtenberg is now dressing her noted pool, Gino, in a mini-skirt, which is odd since Gino is a he and presumably straight.

San Francisco

For those who are voting for one or the other candidate for Governor as "the lesser of two evils," John Simmons of L.A. has a few words, twit: "He who votes for the lesser of two evils forgets that he is still voting for evil!"

At the moment of that big earthquake we just had here, a guy with a hangover, nursing a Bloody Mary at Sam's in Tiburon, looked up at the bartender with: "Hey, what happened — the room stopped swaying!" . . . How ingenious our kids: David Tabor of Lake St., age 10, wrote KVIP, way up in Redding, that he brings in that station loud and clear "because of my powerful antenna, made of a shopping cart and a lid of metal garbage can lid

which acts as bowl antenna." Anyway, Safeway now knows what one of its carts is doing up on that Lake St. roof . . . TV's Ed Sullivan, who confesses he's "intrigued by the name" of the Jefferson Airplane, wants the S.F. rock'n'roll group for one of his fall shows . . . Our troops in Viet Nam now have their very own jokebook, compiled and published by one Ken Melvin — the pseudonym of an Army Capt. from S.F. Typical cartoon: two Viet Cong munching away, and one saying "The trouble with these captured C rations is that an hour after you eat 'em, you're hungry again."

Barrel's Bottom: Two items tending to prove, alas, that the topless is here to stay. Yvonne deAngers was featured guest on a local television show, despite the station manager's public outcries against her silky ilk. And Carol Doda had an appointment recently at the S.F. Chamber of Commerce for photographs and an interview for an article titled "Economics of the Topless," to be published in the Chamber's magazine, S.F. Business. Miss Doda is, after all, an outstanding example of inflation.

ROYCE BRIER

'Patriotic Capitalists' Are Red Guard Targets

No Asian phenomenon of recent time has so baffled Western observers as the Red Guard intimidation. Teenagers racing about Chinese cities harassing their elders into conformity are downright weird.

A recent dispatch says the activity reflects "deep and bitter resentment of young people toward China's privileged classes . . . including former capitalists still paid interest on property seized by the state."

Modern experience with the Soviet Union does not prepare us for this situation. Russian "capitalists" were almost immediately beggared when the bolsheviks took over, excepting the kulaks, or rich peasants, who were in time liquidated. For decades only small and special areas of private property have survived in the Soviet Union, including some millions of small farmers with holdings of truck-garden size.

Though Mao claims to be a better Marxist than any

modern Russian, he has not conformed to Marx's basic principle of property ownership.

Perhaps the best exposition of this is offered by Edgar Snow, a controversial figure but certainly one of the foremost of Western Sinologists. He spent years in China, and made an extensive tour of Red China with Mao's blessing. What

World Affairs

follows is partly derived from Mr. Snow's 1962 book, "The Other Side of the River."

He says: "Owing to . . . fundamental differences in the history of the communist rise to power in China, treatment of the capitalists and managerial class generally did not follow the wasteful, wholesale class liquidation of the Soviet Russian revolution."

During a transitional period lasting at least to the present, Mao's hierarchy undertook to utroce the co-operation of a "progressive

bourgeoisie" and "patriotic capitalism."

Thus many well-to-do farmers were suffered to continue on their farms if they did not resist party decisions. In the cities, property owners were divided into a "national" bourgeoisie and a "bureaucratic" bourgeoisie.

The latter included many great landlording, banking and industrial families like the Soongs and Chens, who virtually dominated Chiang K'ai-shek's Kuomintang. Their properties were expropriated outright, and most of the family members fled.

But "nationalist" bourgeoisie included many small and medium-size firms, most of them run by well-paid managers. Mao found it prudent to retain those willing to submit to his rigid regulations. The firms then became "partners" of the state, and dependent on the state for their market. Snow quotes one estimate of 26,000 firms operating in Shanghai alone.

Meanwhile, retired capitalists, some millionaires (a Jung Hu-jen is mentioned), are permitted to collect "interest" on their former holdings. Some live in their old homes, but have no freedom of movement. One estimate is a million of them, big and little.

It is a fair guess, though only a guess, that these are the target of the Red Guard, and they may be in a slow process of liquidation.

Quote

Fifty per cent of the population is 25 years old and it may very well be that student unrest might become a way of life.—Dr. Willard B. Spalding, educator.

American women's femininity is all exterior, but inside they have a fear of acting like women. It's hard on the men.—Felix Greene, San Francisco.

It is our moral duty as a nation conceived in liberty to help free people remain free when they ask for that help.—R. D. Hudson, Hawthorne.

We must teach students that it is not idleness to sit and think or read a book which is not connected to any course they are taking.—Prof. Eric Hutchinson, Stanford.

Abe Mellinkoff