

The Cost of Being Alive

The cost of staying alive in California took a huge jump yesterday morning before the sun came up.

At the bewitching hour of 12:01 a.m., California's new sales tax which calls for collection of 5 cents on every \$1 spent became effective.

The need for new revenue has been attributed to many causes. Some say it was the accrual method of accounting installed by Governor Pat Brown, others say it is Governor Ronald Reagan's hand on the helm that brought it about.

What can't be refuted, however, is the realization that the new sales tax rates, the scheduled hike in income taxes, the hikes on cigarette taxes, liquor taxes, and the general upshifting of state collections is the result of one factor: the state is spending more money than it is scheduled to receive. So, unlike the working stiff who has to pay the bill, it votes itself a raise.

Somewhere along the line there must be a cut-off point to the growing percentage of personal income which is taken to meet the obligations of a growing bureaucracy.

Putting the brakes on an over-heated bureaucracy is not a simple matter of reducing the expenditures—as we are certain Governor Reagan knows well by now. However a beginning must be made on state levels, on the city, county, and national levels.

Torrance councilmen made a strong showing in this direction when they voted to cut city taxes by 10 cents for each \$100 of assessed valuation. It will be a meaningless gesture, however, if the money is merely transferred upstairs to offset increased county and state demands.

The state and federal governments could make an inroad on the tax demands by giving more than lip service to economies. Large areas of public spending might well be given over to private enterprise or abandoned altogether. It is only through less spending and not through more taxes that the solvency of government is assured.

In the meantime, we must recognize that the bite from our government has suddenly become much more severe. Our only recourse now is to dig a little deeper when we make that next purchase.

Opinions of Others

While we believe teachers and other public servants should not be excluded from participation in politics nor disqualified from holding public office, certain dangers should be recognized. . . . Education represents at the state and local level more than two-thirds of cost of government to which the taxpayer contributes. The teacher in politics will be vulnerable to charges of conflict of interest and serving the economic welfare of his or her profession as well as the public interest. It goes without saying that legislators for example as attorneys, farmers, and businessmen reflect their particular backgrounds. However, no group has the same stake in taxes as the teachers.—Beaverton (Ore.) Times.

The effectiveness of the United States shutting off all aid, monetarily and otherwise, to a nation that becomes stubbornly defiant is a question we have pondered for some time, as have many others. In observing the dismal failure of doing otherwise, we are strongly inclined to believe this may be the only means of attaining positive results. . . . We would like to see just what would happen if all United States aid were chopped off the moment a country became a party to actions of hostility toward the United States.—Warrensburg (Mo.) Star-Journal.

Police in Mainstream of Society, FBI Chief Says

By J. EDGAR HOOVER
Director FBI

Often we hear the charge that law enforcement lives in a world of its own, out of touch with reality and the mainstream of our society. This is a baseless charge and should be refuted each time it is heard.

The truth is that law enforcement, by the very nature of its responsibilities, is in much closer touch with the public than are most other professions. The officer on the beat, the patrolman in the cruiser, and the sergeant at the desk know far more about people and what they are thinking than do the sophisticated theorists who issue "authoritative" appraisals of criminality from within ivory-tower offices.

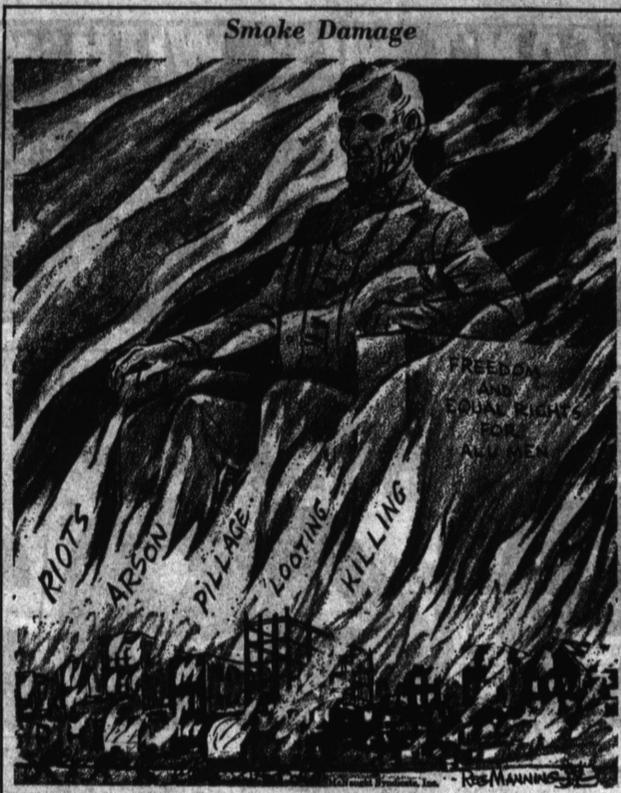
It has been suggested that law enforcement remains dormant while other professions forge ahead to new realms of achievement and growth. Some critics say that law enforcement is satisfied to mark time, insulate itself from change, and turn its back on progress. They imply that law enforcement is largely responsible for the Nation's crime problem. This may be an easy

hypothesis to accept if a person is looking for a scapegoat. However, it is an erroneous conclusion, reflects the shallow reasoning of some who have little, if any, practical experience in or knowledge of enforcing the law.

For years, responsible law enforcement leaders have been waging a relentless, although often futile battle to modernize and professionalize law enforcement. Their pleas, warnings, and exhortations for the most part have fallen on deaf ears.

Only recently has the voice of law enforcement received any appreciable recognition—and this has come about mainly because crime has reached such proportions that it can no longer be ignored if our Nation is to survive.

The annals of law enforcement are replete with examples of achievements which show that progressive, effective enforcement, keyed to human relations, has been a continuing goal of career officials. While struggling without adequate funds and without public support, law enforcement has always



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Augustus Only Spruced Up the Wealthy Section

The film version of "Ulysses" I saw is unusual for several reasons—one being the complete absence of titles. Just "Ulysses," by James Joyce, and then on to some of the most stunningly explicit scenes ever filmed. Not even "The End" at the end, but it is.

There has been some unlikely discussion here lately about Augustus Caesar's boast that "I found Rome brick and left it marble." Now comes the San Francisco Chronicle's architectural critic, Allan Temko, with a few further words:

"According to Suetonius, Augustus boasted justifiably: 'I found Rome built of sun-dried bricks; I leave her clothed in marble' (Robert Graves translation), but what did this claim amount to? . . . Only public monuments, the imperial residences and the homes of wealthy citizens were rebuilt or spruced up. The tenements of the poor, which bore some resemblance to those of today, were left unchanged. The urban proletariat was already permanently dependent on the dole, and distracted by capricious and cruel amusements (panem et circenses). The legions were manning

the distant frontiers, imposing a pax Romana which would not stay imposed.

"Imperial Rome went to pot, without the necessary ingredients. Maybe the pax Americana will fare better.

"Is there an analogy with our own time, when massive investments are made in large downtown buildings, some of which are clothed

in marble Suetonius remarks that Augustus, the prideful phrase-maker, 'studied rhetoric with great industry and eagerness.' Does the phrase 'Great Society' equally belong to the realm of rhetoric, rather than actual accomplishment?"

Ralph Kaycan of San Francisco reports he met Martin Bormann (the No. 1 "wanted" Nazi) at a cocktail party last Nov. in Lima, Peru. "Most of the people at the party seemed to know him," he recalls. "They just took him for granted. He's in his 50s, weighed about 190 and looked prosperous—expensive clothes, with a small swastika in his lapel. He drove off in a Mercedes 300 SL to the sound of distant trumpets."

Caskie Stinnett, the editor of Holiday, is a little worked up because I occasionally needle his magazine's annual restaurant awards. He writes in his usual charming style:

"Is the list that bad? I want your honest opinion. We all go into the fallout shelter every July when this list is announced because everybody finds his favorite place left off. Some guy with a gut like an incinerator who has the egg salad on white at Chock-Full-o-Nuts invariably sits down and writes an irate letter wanting to know why his spot is omitted. It turns out that he wants us to list some roadhouse in New Jersey adjacent to the motel where he takes his girls and where he's very big with the owner."

Well, I can see the problem. Nothing stirs up a minor league controversy faster

My Neighbors



"... Just to keep you from falling out of the chair..."

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Boards Don't Protect Public, Report Finds

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
Capital News Service

SACRAMENTO — The commission on California state government and economy, better known as the "Little Hoover Commission," has finally put in so many words what most people have suspected for a long time.

Discussing the department of professional and vocational standards after an 18-month study, the commission said:

"The report emphasizes that any licensing board is a restriction on the freedom of individuals and that far too often, a group within a business or a profession demands and obtains a licensing board from the legislature simply for the primary purpose of improving its own status or keeping out 'undesirable competition.'"

The commission found that if protection of the public is the only criterion to be used, a number of existing licensing boards should be abolished, and that none of the new groups seeking to be licensed this year meets the test.

It also recommended that any board which regulated a business should be composed of a majority of public mem-

bers who were not licensees of the business being regulated.

"At present," the commission stated, "one of the major criticisms is that most of the regulation is done by the business concerned for the benefit of a segment of that business."

The report hit another sore spot in state govern-

Sacramento

ment, and a costly one to the public. This is the matter of special funds collected and built up to regulate business.

"In this connection," the report pointed out, "one of the most important recommendations of the study is that all special funds be abolished, and license programs be financed from the general fund, and that all fees collected be deposited to the credit of that fund. This would result in a one-time general fund saving of about seven million dollars, with subsequent annual expenditures of about ten million dollars becoming more directly responsive to the will of the people as expressed through their elected representatives by being handled as normal budget items."

The report also recom-

mended that in the future, all fees be set only at the rate necessary to pay for the licensing services so as to make each program self-sustaining, but to avoid charging too high a license fee and thus building up substantial surpluses.

High license fees, the report said, eventually are paid by the public, whether directly or indirectly.

The commission recommends abolition of the board of dry cleaners, marriage, family and child counselors, certified short-hand reporters; social work examiners and yacht and ship brokers. Several mergers of other boards having related duties were recommended, among them being the barbers and cosmetologists.

Unfortunately, the recommendations of the "Little Hoover" Commission cannot be implemented without legislation carrying out its recommendations. This will be the greatest hurdle to jump in getting more efficient and effective government for California for when bills are introduced the high-powered lobbies of the licensees affected will put on a strong campaign to maintain the empire at the people's expense.

ROYCE BRIER

Mac's Ninth Asian Trip Spotlights U.S. Losses

Unhappiness is a President receiving back his Defense Secretary from his ninth trip to the war front, and learning things are not going well.

For six months Saigon reporters have been studying the casualty figures in the Vietnam war, and noting a steadfast rise of American losses against a steadfast decrease of South Vietnamese losses.

The figures and the background of the reversal are interesting. There are 465,000 American troops in Vietnam, though a large proportion of them are not engaged in combat. The Saigon government has about 640,000 troops, evenly divided between regulars and militia.

Since June 4 about 5,800 American troops have been wounded in battle, and 2,200 South Vietnamese troops. For all of 1967 so far, Saigon has lost more killed, 5,500, than the Americans, 5,000. But about May 1 this mortality record took a sharp turn against the Amer-

icans, 2,400 to 2,000 Vietnamese in two months. Last year, Vietnamese mortality was twice that of the Americans, over 11,000 to 5,000.

Sept. 2, 1963, shortly before his assassination, President Kennedy gave an inter-

World Affairs

view to Walter Cronkite in which he said: "I don't think that unless a greater effort is made by the government (Saigon) to win popular support, the war can be won out there. In the final analysis, it is their war. They are the ones who have to win it or lose it."

When he spoke the United States had 16,000 advisers and technicians in Vietnam, but had not entered combat, though we were sporadically losing a few men. The current U.S. News & World Report carried a four-year chart disclosing the extraordinary decline of Vietnamese combat activity. The figures are South Vietnamese battle deaths to one

American death, as follows: 1964 - 50; 1965 - 8; 1966 - 2; 1967 to date - 1.

Saigon government spokesmen are attributing the decline in the casualty ratio to detachment of large bodies of government troops to pacification duty, removing them from heavy combat sectors.

But this is mere glossing. The reality, known to Saigon reporters, is that the government military forces and the Ky junta ruling it, are disorganized. Most of the ranking generals are bogged in politics and can't be bothered with field command. When asked why South Vietnam did not mobilize and commit more troops to combat, General Thieu, candidate for president in the September election, said it would disrupt the Vietnam economy. The solution, he said, was more American troops, echoing Premier Ky.

This accords with General Westmoreland's request of Defense Secretary McNamara of the latter's recent visit to Vietnam. But President Johnson and McNamara turned hesitant on further increase of manpower and did not grant Westmoreland's full request.

Last October, after a Vietnam mission, Mr. McNamara said he saw no reason why "deployment of U.S. forces will change significantly in the future." At the time there were 330,000 American troops in Vietnam.

Quote

The elimination of the two California Army National Guard divisions seems to be strategically unwise and would give encouragement to unfriendly foreign powers and comfort to the elements of strife and disorder at home.—Assemblyman Geo. W. Milias (R-Gilroy), on Pentagon plan to replace the California National Guard divisions with three brigades.

One of our highway patrolmen called my attention to the fact that most of the unhappy trailer operators one sees signaling citations by the side of the highway were not even aware of the law for which they are cited.—State Sen. Lewis F. Sherman (R-Berkeley), on standardizing requirements for trailer equipment.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Author Talks About His Findings in Watts Study

Things are just as bal in Watts today as they were before the riots of 1965—perhaps a little worse—according to Robert Conot, author of a masterful psychological reconstruction of the tragedy, "Rivers of Blood, Years of Darkness" (which we reviewed recently). There is the same apathy in Watts today; the familiar lack of motivation; massive unemployment (as of last February 41 per cent of the males in Watts were unemployed). It remains "a slum of the spirit."

A Stanford graduate (52), a Caucasian and a Southern California journalist, Conot talked with us about his book. He was in Watts immediately after the riots broke out, not on a journalistic assignment, but on his own. He did not see a book in the affair at the time. But he sensed there should be some kind of documentation on what was happening, some impartial history. He stayed with the story, often in police cross-fire and frequently with a tape recorder at the ready.

Conot was appalled and

frightened by what he saw. He felt he must risk his own time to accomplish what he wanted to do. This was to present a report on the Southern California racial situation, specifically a minute by minute reconstruction

back original (Bantam, 95 cents) is becoming one of the most talked-about documents since Truman Capote's "In Cold Blood."

The tendency in the white community (Los Angeles, or any other large urban center) is, Conot believes, to put off until tomorrow what you might do today to correct an ugly situation. The Negro ghetto, he feels, is like Vietnam was 10 or 12 years ago. There is no strategy, no plan for an over-all solution to a problem, no deep analysis of the situation. So the American people get mired, and ever more frustrated, in the tensions of "the two Americas."

Conot cannot agree with Senator George Murphy, for example, who saw the riots as a planned operation. (Senator Murphy's quote: "... the looting (in Watts) was so expert that there are grounds for belief that there may have been 'rehearsals' for the incident.") No rehearsals, the author emphasized. "This was the hate that hate produced."

Books

Conot interviewed nearly 1,000 persons who, in one way or another, were involved in the riots. This included Marquette Frye, whose traffic arrest sparked the chain reaction of violence in the Negro community. (He sees the Frye family, farm workers turned miners before drifting to California during the mid-1950s as the urban ghetto story in microcosm.) He presented his story not in statistical terms, but, impartially, in dramatic terms, almost as a novelist might reconstruct it. He brought it off in superb reportorial style. The result is that this paper-