

Press-Herald

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A Question Answered

Monday night's four-hour hearing on the Meadow Park Redevelopment program may not have solved any of the pressing problems facing the city in the area but it did serve to answer at least one question:

Nobody among the many speakers heard spoke in favor of urban renewal as such—if you don't count the professionals who are paid to promote it

Urban renewal as a community program found absolutely no defenders among the citizens at its most critical moment before the renewal agency hearing.

Certainly residents of the area spoke in favor of pushing the program which has been in the planning stage for two years. They have been caught in a web of conditions and have been led to believe it can be untangled only through urban renewal.

Residents and land owners who have been under the cloud of a moratorium for years are looking for any program that will get them out of their dilemma.

The general feeling, to the contrary, was one of opposition to urban renewal as a desirable program. Many people spoke only of the accompanying housing code inspection program, others spoke out against introducing any federal funds and control into community affairs.

Several asked for alternatives—which have been mostly described by urban renewal proponents in the administration as nonexistent.

It may be too late to talk of alternative programs, but it would be less than honest with the people of Torrance to go ahead with the federal plans without giving the people a chance to be heard on other possibilities.

Such a chance may come as the result of Monday's hearing. If it does, it could be one sure gain attributable to the session.

OTHERS SAY

Student-Industry Talks

In today's changing world the student who wants to make his dreams become a reality should be made aware of how industry is doing just that for millions of Americans.

We are in an era of technological development. Industry requires young people with broad vision, great human energy and with the wisdom necessary to deal with an everchanging world. The student who is liable to contribute new ideas, new efforts, new concepts is the one industry is seeking. Industry is striving to close the communication gap, and show students the great opportunities and challenges to be found in the business world.

Dr. R. Franklin Thompson, president, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington, said recently "that industry has become more alert to the practical use of ideas . . . When photography was first discovered, it was almost a century before it became a practical industry. In contrast, recently, when the transistor was researched, within a decade it was a seven million dollar business."

Dr. Thompson continued: "American business is far from being the soulless, heartless, money-grabbing institution it is sometimes pictured to be . . . this year over seven hundred million dollars in corporate profits will be spent for the public good, over one-half of which will aid schools and colleges."

Today creation of new industries, expansion of present old industries, and the continuing parade of technological changes provide challenges the student faces as he seeks to find his place in this new age.

Industry is helping in this challenge.—*Industrial Press Service.*

Life is like a grindstone. Whether it wears a man down or polishes him up depends upon the kind of stuff he's made of.—*Charles Cunningham in the Notch-toches (La.) Times.*

A man of vision can see good in folks where nobody else can see it.—*Linda McDowell in the Scotland Neck (N.C.) Commonwealth.*

If you are willing to admit you were wrong yesterday, then you are a lot smarter today than you were yesterday.—*Dale Holdridge in the Langford (S.D.) Bugle.*

The advance of knowledge and technology isn't outdistancing just those whose jobs are threatened by it. Supposedly educated people are shocked to find themselves virtually illiterate in many fields because of the advance of knowledge.—*Riverton (Wyo.) Ranger.*

Morning Report:

Sly little Liechtenstein (or was it Andorra) has launched satellites into space. The things are up there going 'round and 'round. We are embarrassed.

Of course we are not sure it was one of those two countries. It could have been anybody. All our Government knows for sure is that there are four satellites in orbit and we don't know who sent them up, according to our Satellite Situation Report.

It's quite annoying. Here we were keeping the old eagle eye on Russia, China, and France — countries that talk about their space programs. Then while our back was turned, whoosh and four satellites are in orbit. Being the world's policeman is not easy. As any city cop on a tough beat can tell you.

Abe Mellinkoff

Remember, If Y'Get Caught—



HERB CAEN SAYS:

An Empty House, Vacant Seats, and Other Sights

Things I hate to see: A funeral cortege on a bright, sunny day — moving past a park where children are playing; an empty Victorian house, its dusty windows shattered; a row of empty seats, fourth row center, at a theater opening; an old man, still wearing his hat, eating dinner alone off a tray in a cafeteria; a hate message scrawled inside a Muni bus whose seats have been slashed by the hateful; a storekeeper standing in a forlorn slouch at the front door of his empty shop; a Silver Star medal in a pawnshop window; the smugness and self-righteousness in the President's speeches and State Dept. communiques on Vietnam (as though we had a RIGHT to be there); an elderly widow in a downtown grocery store, shopping for the lonely dinner she is about to have in her tiny room (one lamb chop, one potato, one roll, one tomato).

San Francisco

there was a truck and trailer at least half a block long. At the rear, a cop on a tricycle was writing out a tag. At the front, completely oblivious, stood another cop, likewise writing a tag! . . . Now then, we have Mrs. Fannie Graham, doughty principal of Cleveland Elementary School. Yesterday morning she glanced out of her office window and — rounds — her car had been stolen. Commandeering a friend with a car, they cruised the streets toward

nearby Balboa High, and sure enough, along came two kids in her car, smoking up a storm, playing the radio at top volume. Jumping out in front of the oncoming car and hollered "That's MINE and GET OUT!" They ran like hell . . . You read where the Friends of ACT (American Conservatory Theater) are cleaning up the old Geary Theater on a volunteer basis? Well, among those who showed up was a Little Old Man, not a member of the group, who brought his own pail and sponge and began scouring a wall, humming happily. "I've been coming to this filthy theater for 25 years," he explained, "and I've been ITCHING to get my hands on it since the very first time!"

We Quote . . .

I don't see how anyone can call recognizing the fact that we're spending one million dollars a day more than we're taking in a retreat from reality. — Governor Ronald Reagan on his budget.

He has hoisted the banner of "economy" and expected us all to salute without noticing that its supporting flagpole is a tissue of campaign promises made in the absence of responsibility and continued in the absence of understanding. — Sen. George Miller Jr., D-Martinez, on Reagan's budget.

I deeply regret that it may be necessary to make some cut in allocations for the University of California, but the Golden Bear is not a sacred cow, and it should be remembered that the temporary budget cuts proposed for the university

were necessitated by profligate spending in less important agencies of state government. — Sen. John F. McCarthy, R-San Rafael.

I don't expect the budget to be large — in fact, I've already slashed it by 10 per cent. — Assemblyman Charles Warren, D-Los Angeles, about new Democratic Advisory Committee financing.

At the University of California, 20 per cent of the \$245 fee goes to capital outlay and debt service on such items as stadiums and student centers. Such a fee portion should be looked at by itself and not as a part of mandatory charges for supporting the university. — California Taxpayers Association.

I think it is obvious that big consumer protection programs are neither desirable nor necessary, that such programs would increase the cost of products for the consumer, that consumer protection bureaucracies would make it more difficult for the small firms to operate or even stay in business, and that cost of these huge government bureaucracies would represent another burden for the consumer and the taxpayer. — Lloyd E. Skinner, president of the Skinner Macaroni Co.

Today the interest on the federal debt is more than four times the entire cost of government 34 years ago. — Sen. Everett McKinley Dirksen (R-Ill).

My Neighbors



Funny old town: This

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Civil Service Didn't End The Whole Spoils System

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — When the people of California voted establishment of a civil service system in the early 1930's, they probably were unaware of the problems the system would create, as well as the abuses which would crop up later directed toward the protections of a bureaucracy rather than to the advantages of tenure system for the benefit of the people.

Originally, civil service was sold to the public on the basis of protection to certain state workers against the probabilities of getting fired when the people changed a state administration.

The theory was that it was all right to keep thousands of state workers on the payroll, but the top administrative officials had to be changed once in awhile to maintain the establishment of democracy.

Thus, a crushing blow was lodged against the so-called "spoils system," which enabled incoming governors to make a clean sweep, have anyone fired who didn't belong to the right party, regardless of ability, and put their own political hacks in office as reward for belonging to the party.

As things have worked out over the past 35 years, the constitution has been found to fall short in spelling out what jobs should be and what jobs should not be protected by the basic law of the state.

Interpretation of the constitutional provision goes above and beyond the original

Sacramento

intent of the civil service laws. This intent was to protect the people who did what's known as the "dog work," and leave the appointment of the individuals who make policy to the administration as a reflection of the will of the people.

As it has worked out, some of the policy makers bask under the protection of civil service. The Brown administration proceeded on the theory that civil service workers should be selected as policy makers and department heads.

While there is nothing wrong in selecting a good civil service worker as a department head, there also exists the possibility that the next administration may not want the same worker around. But under the law

the worker stays on the job, in his old civil service classification of course, but still on the job.

A bill which would partially correct this situation has been introduced in the legislature by Assemblyman James A. Hayes, R-Long Beach. His bill would require consent of the director of a state department or agency before such an employee can be returned to his original civil service position in that department.

Assemblyman Hayes' bill is a beginning in the correction of a situation which in effect, thwarts the will of the people. If it went far enough, it would provide that when civil service employees take state employment as political employees, they relinquish their rights to the benefits of civil service. After all, the state's little Hatch act prevents them from campaign participation, and who can say that their political appointment might not be a surreptitious reward for violating the act?

Present provisions of the law take a part of government out of the hands of the people through their elected representatives, and the Hayes measure is at least a partial step to correct this situation.

ROYCE BRIER

Comrade Mao, Red Guards End Reign of Confucius

It is an interesting and possibly significant phenomenon that from 400 to 600 years before the Christian era, there was a rise in the intellectual level of mankind.

We are acquainted with Plato and Socrates, but we often forget that their peers in thought also flourished on the other side of the world — Confucius and Buddha, preceded by Lao-tzu.

These five men, to whom may be added Aristotle later, revolutionized man's philosophy about himself and his environment. Lao-tzu was a shadowy figure (circa 600 B.C.), whose thoughts came down as Taoism, but Socrates, though active in Greek life, never wrote down his thoughts, and is known to us only through Plato.

Probably no man, except Jesus of Nazareth, influenced the thinking of more people numerically than Confucius. He taught human love and good will, forgiveness, self-respect and the cultivation of the mind.

The Chinese people and

millions of other Asians, not to mention many Western thinkers, have revered him for 2,500 years.

Such a figure is a success as Man, somewhat more of a success than conquerors, and he and his thoughts are quite likely to survive an

World Affairs

other 2,500 years, even though his thoughts may not accord with some being offered to us today.

Recently there came to this office a little red book published in Peking last year called "Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung." It is largely a political tract somewhat in the style and feeling of Marx's 1848 Manifesto. Mostly excerpts from Mao's speeches, it is neither pointless (if you are a Chinese Communist in good standing at the moment) nor particularly sharp in aphorism. It is commonplace advice to the lover, who may be wondering if they really love Mao.

A good many Chinese seem to be wondering about it, because Comrade Mao

has on his hands a savage dissension which has thrown his hierarchic dictatorship into a turmoil. We don't know how this upheaval is going.

But possibly not too well, for there is an unconfirmed report that the Red Guard, which has been ranging the land looking for dissenters to purge, has ransacked the legendary birthplace of Confucius in Shantung province south of Peking. They destroyed or carried away relics, and wrecked a temple dedicated to him many centuries ago.

The news story says this shoddy vandalism was committed because the teachings of Confucius do not conform to those of Mao. Thus the Mao hierarchic cult enters a state of pathology, quite proof against the ordinary terms of repression, or even ridicule.

Perhaps Mao himself said it best in an early (1941) speech, now quoted from the little red book: "The masses are the real heroes, while we ourselves (the leaders) are often childish and ignorant . . ."

WILLIAM HOGAN

W. C. Fields: Pilferer, Jailbird, and Juggler

Repeat performance: On Aug. 10, 1912, the San Francisco Chronicle's vaudeville critic wrote a review of an act at the old Orpheum. "It isn't often one has a chance to enthuse, let alone rave, over a juggling act, but everybody's doing it. Yesterday's audience cheered W. C. Fields until the noise of their enthusiasm reached O'Farrell street and carried off the fence opposite."

The anecdote turns up in Robert Lewis Taylor's classic biography of 1949, "W. C. Fields: His Follies and Fortunes." It will reappear this month as a 60-cent Crest paperback. I have been browsing in it, enchanted all over again by the incredibly funny flow of anecdotes about this son of a London cockney who migrated to Philadelphia in the late 1870s, became a pilferer, jailbird and juggler, and later one of the great comic geniuses in the annals of show business.

anecdotes here, to help spread the word: Fields wrote a script for the movie "Never Give a Sucker an Even Break" under his pen name, Otis Cribblecobbs. The brief script was turned in

on the back of a grocery bill, for which he successfully demanded \$25,000 from Universal Studio. It was probably worth it for a single scene:

Gloria Jean, Fields' niece in the story, found him drinking a whitish fluid in a saloon, his famous bulging nose not far from the slender fire of a cigar lighter. "What kind of goat's milk is it, Uncle Bill?" the child asked. "Nanny goat's milk, my dear," replied Fields—and, as he breathed into the lighter, a two-foot blue flame leaped out across the bar.

Another: When he was approached about the straight part of Wilkins Micawber in "David Copper-

field," Fields assured MGM that he would speak with an English accent. Also, as Micawber, he believed he could do some juggling. "Dickens made no mention of juggling in 'Copperfield,'" a studio executive explained. "He probably forgot it." Fields replied, and suggested a happy alternative—he would substitute an act in which he performed at a pool table.

Metro, to Fields' indignation, still preferred the Dickens version, and he sulked for weeks. When the shooting began, Taylor relates, his English accent turned out to be pure Fields, a high nasal mutter loaded with pretentious articulation. The studio railed in vain. "My father was an Englishman, and I got this accent from him," he kept saying. "Are you trying to go against nature?" Fields of course, played the part his way, and it was one of the great screen performances of the era.