

Press-Herald

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The War Against Crime

When Congress reconvenes next week, one of its major domestic concerns will be the seeming rampant growth of vicious crime throughout the nation.

Few areas of the country have been spared the onslaught of the organized and dope-crazed criminal, and certainly none of the nation's major urban areas have escaped the criminal scourge.

In these days of 5-hour transcontinental jet flights, the job of apprehending and prosecuting agents of crime syndicates has been made nearly impossible for local authorities alone.

Congressmen are becoming acutely aware of the fear growing among their constituents and are beginning to act. Bills introduced last fall by Congressman Frank Horton of New York would put some healthy tools in the hands of the Justice Department in its war on organized crime:

- Extended prison terms would be instituted for crime bosses.
- Wiretapping would be allowed under strict controls and with specific court authorization.
- Federal immunity provisions would be extended for witnesses and informants in cases relating to organized crime.
- Rigid witness and evidence rules would be eased in perjury cases.
- Investments of the profits of criminal activity in legitimate business fronts would be curtailed.
- A joint Congressional committee on organized crime would be established and the Crime and Racketeering Sections of the Justice Department would be designated as the center of a fight against organized crime.

Congressman Horton's declared war on crime was sparked, he said, when it was pointed out that the numbers racket, narcotics, and loan sharking takes four times as much money from the urban poor as the Administration requested for its War on Poverty budget.

Based on Congressional studies that show that the urban poor are the principal victims of organized crime, an all-out war on these enemies of the people would seem as appropriate as the so-called War on poverty.

Whether all of Congressman Horton's proposals are desirable can be argued by the Congress, but we hope they don't lose sight of the very pressing need to take up arms against the thugs who are plundering those who can afford it the least.

Opinions of Others

There's the interesting note that the taxpayer never finds it so easy to raise his taxes as the State Legislature does.—Otto W. Ford in *The Princeton (Minn.) Union*.

Morning Report:

If Jim Garrison, the fast-talking district attorney in New Orleans, doesn't head the FBI's "most wanted list" this week, it won't be because he hasn't tried. After all, J. Edgar Hoover is only human and Garrison said that the FBI knew all about the Kennedy assassination before it happened. So did the CIA. And President Johnson has joined them in holding back the true story.

This is hogwash, of course. But a lot of people nonetheless will string along with Garrison.

His horror tale will be believed by all those who are sure government is a well-oiled continuing conspiracy against us, rather than our sometimes bumbling and bungling effort to run things

Abe Mellinkoff

A Letter To My Son

By Tom Rische
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce,
Lots of kids today are smarter, or at least better educated, than their parents, and that's a major problem of the so-called "generation gap."

When I started working for newspapers 20 years ago, I was told to write for the "milkman who's got an eighth grade education." But today, we also have to write for the milkman's son, who has grown up, graduated from college, and been to various parts of the world as a jet pilot.

Not too long ago, nearly everything a child learned came from his parents. If mom and dad didn't have the right facts, or if their opinions were wrong, there was no easy way to check. Mom and dad were experts.

There weren't any TVs to present other viewpoints or to correct the Old Man's mistakes. Cars weren't numerous enough to carry the kids away from the old neighborhood to see how other people lived. The neighborhood newsstand has

magazines with articles on every conceivable subject, including some that "nice" people didn't discuss.

Today's kids learn in elementary school a lot of things that they didn't use to learn until high school, if then. Parents simply can't hold back their child's sophistication unless they keep him locked in the closet.

Besides, there wasn't as much to know in the "good old days." Things weren't nearly as complicated. People didn't talk about computers, atom-splitting or travelling to outer space. Then, an educated man could know almost nothing; today, there's so much to know that we have specialists in everything.

We have concentrated on teaching kids to think, but then get upset because they think about things we don't want them to think about or because they come to conclusions other than ours.

Yours for thinking —
I think,
YOUR DAD

How About Giving Me the Right to "Hot Pursuit"?



HERB CAEN SAYS:

His List Full of Those Things He Doesn't Need

Things I think I can do without this year: Girls who say "Goodbye now!" . . . People who expect an answer to the dumb question, "So what else is new?" . . . Those horrible little dogs with the bobbing heads in the rear window of automobiles . . . Any announcement or circular in the mail that has to be unfolded more than twice . . . Fortune cookies that contain ads, invitations, or political slogans . . . The so-called "midi" skirt that comes to the middle of the calf — the greatest threat to leg men since Dior's "New Look" . . . Signs that read "Food At It's Best" . . . Surly cable car crews (I know it's a lousy job, but the tourists don't . . . Cable car accidents (and why did they ever take those bigger, sturdier, double-ended, double-braked California St. models off the Hyde St. line?) . . . Tops of store bills that won't quite fit into the self-addressed envelope — like YOURS, Mr. I. Magnin . . . Any more jokes about Dean Martin's drinking, Sinatra's skinniness, Howard Hughes, long hair on men, and the dirtiness of hippies . . . Golden Gate Park squirrels that run away when you approach with a handout . . . Traffic tags unaccompanied by a franked envelope . . . "The Bonnie and Clyde Look" . . . People who put their feet on the

back of your rocking chair . . . Arguments about French vs. Californian wine and/or cheese . . . New restaurants called "Ye Olde" anything . . . Any book whose title begins with "How to —" . . . Ice cream parlors and health food bars that aren't absolutely spotless . . . The ugly steel tennis racquet, which looks disturbingly prosthetic . . . Old girls who order a "mar-

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

The recorded voice that says "the number you have reached is not in service at this time" when you sure as hell haven't reached it.

Shipping note: The American President Lines, points out Purser Fred Kettelman, is building ships faster than we're electing Presidents. A new President Taft has just sailed into San Francisco Bay, and that's make TWO Tafts, because the line is running out of names. Truman and Eisenhower can't be used because they're still alive, Washington is being reserved for the "superlin-squirrels" that may or may not ever get built, and John F. Kennedy is being held back (there was some talk of using his name for the OLD Tyler, but officials feel that would be unworthy). One

solution comes to mind: Change the name of the company to the American Vice-President Lines, thereby opening a whole new batch of forgotten names. The SS Richard WHO?

Offhand, it would seem that San Francisco's new Mayor Joe Alioto has accomplished more in four weeks at the door of City Hall than Jack Shelley accomplished during four years in City Hall — perhaps he is cresting too early. I mean, what is there left for him to do after he takes office?

The noted Dr. Russell V. Lee of Palos Alto, who has large holdings on the Eel River, was told by a 90-year-old who lives up there: "Doc, you're doing right, buying all those ranches. I have lived a long time and I have noticed that the Lord is making a lot more people but He ain't making no more land" . . . Enrico Banducci has a reasonable North Beach explanation for the recent miraculous holiday weather: "God is Italian!"

During his Lincoln Day address in Stockton, Rep. Gerald Ford unleashed one of the most widely-quoted boggles of the year: "I say if Lincoln were alive today he'd be turning over in his grave."

WILLIAM HOGAN

Tolstoy: A Giant Among Writers

Count Leo Tolstoy actually was several men, according to the fine biography, "Tolstoy," by the Prix Goncourt winner Henri Troyat. He was a dazzling, unpredictable enigma who, almost incidentally, became one of the world's greatest writers. The novelist-philosopher (1828-1910) appears in a variety of roles in this sweeping panorama of love, birth, death, sensuality, idealism, creative energy, revolutionary stirrings and domestic turmoil.

It is a 19th Century Russian saga of Tolstoyan dimensions which shows that the man's genius transcended his personal inadequacies and confusions. To Tolstoy, Anna Karenina, or Count Vronsky, or Natasha Rostov or his masterwork "War and Peace," were more important to him than hundreds of flesh and blood personalities, including his long-suffering over more than eight decades.

Yet all personalities here — fictional and otherwise —

take on a pulsing life in this major biography (translated from the French by Nancy Amphoux) which is both scholarly and extraordinarily readable.

Born of a noble family at his parents' estate near Tula, Leo Tolstoy was orphaned at nine; brought up by relatives; was only a casual student at the University of Kazan where he failed to become either a diplomat or

lawyer. A womanizer and gambler (he once sold some of the family serfs to pay his gambling debts), he became an artilleryman at the Caucasus, saw action at Sebastopol, became interested in agriculture as well as art. He professed to love humanity but was nearly always at odds with the individuals around him.

He preached nonviolence, but became a quasi-revolutionary opposed to both the orthodox church and the Czarist government which, because of Tolstoy's subse-

quent reputation at home and abroad, did nothing about this eccentric nobleman. The Russian church excommunicated him however.

Details of Tolstoy's life, or series of lives, are knit to an unbelievable complexity in a definitive study by this French novelist-biographer of Russian descent whose own masterwork this no doubt is.

After reading Turgenev's "A Sportsman's Sketches," as a young man, Tolstoy noted in his diary: "It is difficult to write after him." But write he did. He published autobiographical sketches in the journal *Contemporary*; later became a member of the literary group of St. Petersburg; then began in earnest his cascade of monumental novels.

In one of the most moving passages I have read in some time, the final chapter, "Flight," documents Tolstoy's ultimate tragedy in almost cinematic style. The

SACRAMENTO FORECAST

Legislators Pick Up Same Dropped 'Hot Potatoes'

By EDWIN S. CAPPS
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO—The California legislature this week will pick up the same financial hot potatoes that it laid down when it adjourned on Dec. 8.

It might be said that the financial woes of the state treasury could not be as bad as they were a year ago because the legislature had to pass the biggest tax increase in the history of the state—almost \$1 billion a year—in order to balance the budget.

But the prospect for the 1968 legislature is that still isn't enough money to go around, even with the massive tax increase. And the budget must be balanced, even though there will be a widespread reluctance to make any increase in the tax load which already is the biggest in the nation—state and local.

Gordon P. Smith, state director of finance, pinpointed the big problem in a recent letter to all legislators. The normal general fund budget stays within an increase of 7 to 8 per cent, if proper economies are effected, Smith said. This about matches the growth in revenues.

At the beginning of 1967, Governor Ronald Reagan called on all agencies to "cut, squeeze and trim." While his first order for an across-the-board 10 per cent reduction in all operating expenses was not totally successful, it did result in the highest savings in recent years. But most of these were ordered on a one-year basis.

Hungry department directors, after a year of belt-tightening, will want to make up for lost time in 1968.

Here are some of the specific financial problems the lawmakers will face after Reagan submits his 1968-69 budget at the end of January:

1. Medi-Cal. By action of the special session which ended Dec. 8, an independent audit of the Medi-Cal

program is being made, hopefully to produce some figures on costs by Jan. 31 which both Democrats and Republicans will accept. If the study shows the program is exceeding its limits, action will be needed to find new revenues to support it or to make reductions to bring the expenditures within the budget.

2. Welfare. Finance Director Smith has said he be-

A Preview of What May Be Expected on The Sacramento Scene in 1968.

lieves welfare in recent years has gone beyond the responsibility of governor and, in fact, is serving as a force to break down the family in American society. The Reagan administration is expected to have some proposals to make sharp reductions in welfare benefits and eligibility.

Smith warned the legislators that the only way California can continue to provide sufficient funds for quality in higher education will be by reducing such programs as welfare.

3. Property tax relief. The 1967 legislature, in enacting the tax increase bill, provided that \$155 million of the new money must go for property tax relief in 1968-69, including a step toward phasing out the tax on business inventories and personal property. It would take a legislative action to remove this requirement from the law.

4. Capital outlay. The 1967 tax bill required that \$90 million a year out of the new revenues be earmarked for capital outlay construction costs. This would substitute for capital outlay financing, which has been the mode for the past 10 years or so.

5. Legislative Analyst A. Alan Post said there could be enough money for property tax relief or capital outlay, but not both. Indications are that the administration or legislature may go for another \$200 million bond issue to finance capital outlay construction for the next two years, thus delay-

ing the return to pay-as-you-go financing for at least that long.

6. Payroll withholding of state personal income tax. Many prominent Democratic legislators and a few Republicans believe withholding tax is the answer to the state's financial woes. They claim up to \$90 million a year is being lost from cheaters or from those who do not work a full year in the state and are not on hand to file income tax returns at the year's end.

Governor Reagan, who admits he has "set my feet in concrete on this," claims there is no proof that much money would be gained. In addition, Reagan said withholding would collect \$20 to \$30 million a year which was not due the state but which would be refunded because taxpayers were unaware of the overpayment.

7. Tuition. The question of tuition at the University of California and state colleges—whether it goes by that name or by the title of increased fees—will be much in the legislative debate. The University of California regents refused to approve a tuition bid did vote for higher fees. A committee is to report soon on how much fees should be boosted.

8. Education. The 1967 legislature voted a \$145 million increase in state support to public schools, with normal increases in that amount expected for 1968-69. The legislature alphas already corrected one error in the bill which could have cost the state \$50 million but the California Taxpayers' Association said reports from districts indicate the new building fund plan will cost more than \$200 million a year, rather than the \$145 million. Such an increase would carry over into at least a \$60 million increase for 1968-69.

9. State salary increase. The state personnel board has recommended a \$67 million state pay raise, providing for a 5 per cent raise, with higher raises for certain categories.

AFFAIRS OF STATE

New Mineral King Road Will Open Vast Project

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — It was nearly three years ago that the state legislature gave approval to the new road into Mineral King, where a recreation project is planned by the Walt Disney Productions. The project is of major magnitude.

The legislature adopted the 21 mile route into the

state highway system in 1965. But it was not until last September that the California Highway Commission provided \$800,000 in right-of-way acquisition funds for the highway, which when completed will cost approximately \$25 million.

Development of the project, of course, hinges on construction of the highway,

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On Sacramento Beat

which hinged on permission of the U. S. department of the interior to cross a six-mile arm of Sequoia national park.

Why the long delay in securing approval of the federal department has held up the project has not been explained, but apparently was caused in part by department of the interior dalliance in approving projects which are financed for the most part with private rather than government funds.

In any event, the department finally has condescended permission for the highway to be constructed in part on federal park lands, so everyone is happy, except possibly the people who expected jobs when the project was first announced.

It is apparent that the state's participation in the project through the building of the access road is more than justified.

The highway will cost, of this sum, the federal office of economic development will provide \$3 million, making the total cost to the California taxpayers some \$22 million.

The original cost appears to be minimal in comparison with the business it is anticipated the highway will generate.

Gordon Luce, administrator of the business and transportation agency, said some two million visitors per year are expected to visit the recreational area when it is completed in 1976.

Luce also said the project will generate an overall investment of some \$57 million in 10 years, and will result in annual payrolls of approximately \$13 million per year thereafter. New business generated will not be all in the project itself, as it's expected developments of various nature will take place along the 21-mile route.

Further, the highway is planned as an all-weather route, which means the economy will benefit for 12 months of the year. All types of sports will be available, so the project will have a universal appeal, rather than playing to only one segment of the population.

The highway geographically is more or less centrally located for Californians, being in the high Sierra east of Fresno. It will begin at Three Rivers, as a 26-foot roadbed highway, with passing lanes at selected intervals. This will make it a modern mountain road.

Developers of the project anticipate a total of two million visitors annually when the area is finally completed, and the road is ready for use. The highway is slated to be completed in 1973, and the entire project in 1976.

Alan Grey Says . . .

It's getting more expensive . . . To now communicate . . . With all the new increases . . . On domestic postal rate . . . While the rates are going higher . . . To mail a single letter . . . The mail won't be faster . . . Or the service any better . . . With all the rate increases . . . For this governmental scheme . . . Makes the old time penny postcard . . . A fond yet hazy dream.