

Press-Herald

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On Paying the Piper

You've got to take your hat off to the tenacity and cunning of our city councilmen.

Soundly defeated two years ago in an attempt to get a \$200 a month pay boost for councilmen and \$300 a month for the mayor, they came right back last year and tried to slip a pay hike proposal on a special ballot attached to a school election.

Public pressure forced the councilmen to withdraw their bid for a pay hike, but the spark wasn't killed. Like a Phoenix, it arose again last week, this time in a simple little proposal to tie the matter of councilmanic pay onto the state law governing general law cities.

If the voters are willing to go along with this, they need never bother themselves again with the problems of council pay. It will all be taken care of in Sacramento.

While we don't necessarily quarrel with the \$300 price tag our current councilmen put on the worth of their dedication, we do think their proposal to shuck off the local decision on their rate of pay and leave it all to the whims of Sacramento and its lobbyists is fraught with peril.

As we said, we admire their tenacity and cunning. However, other considerations are pressing. Before our councilmen—all anxious volunteers for the job, and presumably all anxious for another round—can claim genuine sympathy for the terrible plight they are in as public servants, they should add up the transcontinental and international jet trips, the almost unlimited credit card privileges for "necessary" expenses, and for a hundred and one benefits which accrue to the offices.

The Press-Herald will not oppose a flat bid to raise the pay from \$100 a month to \$300 a month, if the councilmen will make a firm effort to cut the free-wheeling spending for so-called junkets which cost us thousands of dollars in original outlays and hundreds of thousands in the schemes which come out of the international conferences on how to stick it to the taxpayer.

If the councilmen want to set some sensible guidelines for expenses along with their bid for pay hikes, we'll help them. But we can not use our resources to add to a shameful record of junketeering.

The Educated Man

U.S. Census Bureau statistics indicate that a college education is one of the best "investments" that a young man can make. For example, between the ages of 22 and 65, a person with an eighth-grade education can expect to earn a total of \$445,000. Four years of to earn \$1.125 million by retirement. Earning capability those with four or more years of college may expect to earn \$1.125 million by retirement. Earning capability has long been used as an inducement for a college education—but statistics do not tell the whole story.

For more than earning ability is required today. Business leaders all over the country are warning that private citizens and business executives in particular must participate to a greater extent in public affairs, and must exert more initiative in helping to solve the social and economic problems of our time. The alternative is gradual submergence of our liberties in a seat of governmental bureaucracy and centralized authority.

A college degree looked upon solely as a source of superior earning ability often becomes no more than a license to exploit fellow citizens. The horizon of the truly educated man includes deep concern for the political and economic system under which he is privileged to live.

A Letter To My Son

By Tom Rische
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce,
Will tomorrow be better than today? Will the year 2068 be better than 1968? I hope so, but not automatically so. You and I and all of us are going to have to work hard to make tomorrow better than today (or perhaps, as some say, to insure that there is a tomorrow at all). For instance:

Doctors have progressed to the point where they have virtually wiped out certain diseases and can save millions of people who in former years would have died. (They have even transplanted a human heart and soon may transplant the brain). At the same time, the saving of life has contributed to a population explosion. If uncontrolled, this could cause the world to become so overcrowded that nobody would have a good life.

Science has created automobiles which at the same time take us everywhere and poison the air with their exhausts. Industries pour out products which make our lives better and easier and, at the same time, pour out products which pollute the air

and water we breathe and drink.

At the same time that we have created gadgets which make our lives more pleasant and give us more time to pursue the "finer things," we have created weapons which might destroy all we have created.

The same education which is necessary for us to understand our increasingly complex world also makes us unhappier when we see the injustices and unhappinesses in the world. It makes us sad when we see how much better things might be.

You and I and everybody will have to work to see that the "good guys" win. That's the challenge of the future.

YOUR DAD

(Based on his experience in working with high school youth and adults, Rische will teach an adult course, "Modern Sociology: Family Problems of the 20th and 21st Centuries," at South High, Torrance, on Mondays at 7 p.m., starting Jan. 29. For further information, call Torrance Adult School, FA 8-8080.)

McCarthy? McCarthy? Never Heard of Him!



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Brain Bogglers Starting The New Year With Gusto

Prof. S. I. (Don) Hayakawa, the Mill Valley semanticist, tangled hotly with the sainted Marshall McLuhan at Grinnell College in Iowa. In fact, Don won a standing ovation when he snapped at McLuhan: "You thoroughly confuse people by taking ordinary words and shifting their definitions to your own use." From Grinnell, Don went to the White House where he met Julia Child, researching a book of the relationship between cuisine and diplomacy. Don: "Is Texas food the reason our policy is in such bad shape?" A question Julia ducked.

Brain-bogglers of 1968 (first session): From Calif. Assemblyman Walter W. Powers' monthly mimeographed report to his constituents: "Because of printing delays, I am forced to write this letter sooner than planned" . . . On KQED (Our NET station) Music Director Bill Triest to Frank Houser, associate concertmaster of the C.F. Symphony: "As near as I can recall, Frank, you've been doing programs here as long as I can remember" . . . KNEW's Ron Fell, completely carried away: "I say let's get out of Vietnam and throw away the key!"

Busy - busy - busy: That would be Senator Robert F. Kennedy, here for two days to address the Commonwealth Club, look into Indian Education (he's chairman of that subcommittee), and plug his new book, "To Seek a Newer World," for which Doubleday paid him a mild advance of \$150,000. In his role as friend of the Indian, I hope he will look into Sam Sayad's report that the Navajos were polled on the war in Vietnam: five per cent voted that we should withdraw from that country; 95 per cent voted that we should withdraw from THIS country.

Bearded Peter Bowen, who's a bartender at the great No Name Bar in Sausalito when he isn't folksinging, walked into the German-style Mountain Home Inn on the slopes of Mt. Tamalpais, "and the guy says I'm sorry I can't serve you. I think he's too

That Joe Alioto is a wonder, all right. Just recently, Producer Phil D'Antoni of Warner Brothers, in charge of the Steve McQueen movie to be shot here next month, asked the Mayor-elect for permission to film scenes at S.F. Airport. "Certainly," replied Joe. "If in return Warner Brothers will build a swimming pool at Hunters Point and provide 4,000

Report From Our Man
In San Francisco
man-hours of work on the film for minority groups. It's a deal!

The employees of one of the Bay Area's bigger transportation outfits were given an interesting choice of Christmas gifts by the boss. From a large box in the office, they were allowed to select either a can of tuna or a can of dogfood. (Don't stand there all day, Sam, make up your mind!) . . . If you own an Austin-Cooper S — one of those ultra-fast British minicars — you may very well have a collector's item. After the '67 model has run out, no more will be allowed into the U.S. because they're eight inches too short to meet the new Naderized safety standards. . . . Those new traffic signs on Bridgeway in Sausalito — "No Parking 4 a.m. to 7 a.m." — are not a gag, nor do they suggest that Sausalito has traffic jams at that ungodly hour. They're there so the streetsweepers can do their duty.

John Raymond agrees with me that "Mission: Impossible" does refer to parking on San Francisco's Mission St. He cruised for half an hour the other day, finally found a spot, and then discovered on the parking meter: "This space will self-destruct in five seconds."

Morning Report:

I don't like to see anybody taken as when a bartender is slipped a phony sawbuck in the pleasant gloom of a friendly saloon. But the recent rash of so-called art fakes is something different.

Two come to mind. That bronze "Greek horse" that the Metropolitan Museum bought years ago and considered genuine and great art until a few weeks ago. Then there was that copy of a Giacometti statue that fooled a Beverly Hills art dealer, who laid out \$7,600 for it.

If a statue is enjoyed by thousands and approved by scores of experts, it's a slander to call it a fake. It can't be an "art fraud" if it has artistic merit. At the very worst, it's merely a financial fraud—like that sawbuck.

Abe Mellinkoff

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Building Bee Could Take Place of Dole Payments

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — While the plan of Assemblyman Robert T. Monagan, R-Tracy, for "self-help" in eliminating sub-standard housing and slum conditions throughout the state sounds like a winner for the recipients of poverty aid, there are nonetheless, a few questions that will have to be answered concerning the half-billion dollar proposal before its gets under way, if it ever does.

Assemblyman Monagan is introducing legislation which will be known as the California Home Ownership Construction and Rehabilitation Act of 1968, which he says is a vehicle for providing up to 50,000 home construction and improvement loans to low-income families.

The act would require families receiving the loans to agree to contribute a minimum of 30 hours of labor a week in constructing or renovating their homes. It also would provide for mutual help groups in various communities, made up of from 15 to 20 families, which would pool labor and purchasing power to make construction more economical.

Monagan says the self-help

approach has proved itself on a small scale in Visalia, where a non-profit corporation has been successful in assisting families through a program similar to what Monagan proposes.

His bill would establish a self-help housing commission, which would be authorized to grant loans up to \$10,000 for new construction, and \$5,000 for home improvements, as well as to sell up to \$500 million in revenue bonds to finance the program over a six-year period.

He said the loans would go to families in the lower income bracket, which are willing to work their way out of "the city slum or the rural shanty town." He claims the program "is not a hand-out," but merely an opening to the door by the state where poverty stricken families could build and pay for their residences.

The loans, he said, would be amortized over a period of 30 years and a 5 per cent down payment would go to the commission to cover technical assistance costs.

The idea of financing through the state is not new to California, which has had a system for underwriting

homes and farms for veterans for nearly 50 years.

The Monagan program, however, is somewhat different, in that the whole economy benefits from the veteran financing program, while only a partial benefit would accrue under the under the Monagan plan. This results from the fact that "self-help" would cut out much of the labor that goes into the building of homes, and there would be a tremendous loss in payment of wages if the full complement of 50,000 homes were constructed.

Further, it probably would be necessary for various counties to overlook some of their building code restrictions in the event amateur workmen were turned loose on home-building, or at least add to their costs of inspection to see that requirements were maintained.

Obviously, the plan would be good for the economy of the building supply dealers, and the manufacturing concerns which supply the suppliers. But whether it would be good for the economy of the carpenter, the plumber, the roofer, the cement contractor, and others who make their livings from new home construction, is another question.

ROYCE BRIER

Ban on Travel to Europe An Exercise in Futility

In the 1930s, an aged Vancouver millionaire and his wife habitually spent three winter months in Pasadena at a cost of \$10,000. They stopped off a day and visited a wealthy San Francisco widow, an old friend.

With the war, Canadian currency regulations limited them to taking no more than a few hundred dollars out of the country. So they made it to San Francisco, where the old gent executed a \$10,000 note to the widow, receiving crisp \$100 bills, good in Pasadena and elsewhere. Returning to Vancouver in the spring, he paid off the note.

If President Johnson and his whizz kids in the Treasury think, by such currency restriction, to hang up the rich who want to visit Europe, they are mistaken. There are only a few thousand American rich in this category. But there are a quarter-million college kids who go abroad for a fortnight in summer on \$500 and \$1,000 budgets.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Beebe Buffs Given a New Sampling of His Writing

It's like old times: another book by Lucius Beebe, or at least a recombining of the late stylist's voluminous literary journalism, and a good one. "The Lucius Beebe Reader" (Doubleday; \$7.95) has been selected and edited by Beebe's literary executor, Charles Clegg, and Duncan Emrich, an old friend of the essayist-boulevardier, who is identified as the "former chief of the Folklore Section of the Library of Congress." This seems fitting, as much of Beebe's beliefs, legends, sayings, outrage and customs as displayed in this hefty sample are akin of high style folklore, just as Beebe himself, less than three years after his untimely death, has become a rather mythical figure, like Lohengrin, or Edward VII, or the Maharajah of Mysore.

Whereas the last posthumous collection, "The Provocative Pen of Lucius Beebe, Esq." was a winnowing of his San Francisco Chronicle pieces, the present book

digs far back into the Beebe literature; reminiscences of his New England youth; the Herald-Tribune period of the '30s; his magazine journalism and the railroad books. The prejudices of this 19th century gentleman are stated loudly and deliberately — Colchester oysters and Southdown mutton to the delights of the year 1905

There are 393 pages of this sore of thing; for Beebe connoisseurs a must.

The University of New Mexico Press and the Cortes Society have published "The Life and Writings of Bartolome de las Casas," by the late Henry Raup Wagner, with the collaboration of Helen Rand Parish (\$12.50). The Bancroft Library held a special exhibit in December to mark the appearance of this posthumous work by the noted historian. Wagner's works on the Southwest, Spanish explorations of the Pacific Coast, Drake, Cortes and others are regarded as classics.

Mr. Johnson and his men can hang up these young folk, all right, if they can get away with an act of Congress imposing any or all of several restrictions.

One is the currency block, a commonplace in Europe.

Opinions on Affairs
of the World

which has kept British and other tourists at home (and away from America) for years. Another Washington proposal is for a tax on foreign travel of up to \$6 a day.

One columnist notes the jet set people can always go to Canada and hop a foreign plane. James Reston suggests it will be difficult to discriminate between emptied business trips and pleasure trips. He's so right. The bookkeeping alone should cost us a billion. The sharp practice such law invites will cost us how much in character.

Whatever happens, it will

be like Prohibition—it will not work, because the people won't suffer unreasonable restrictions they can't understand.

Did you hear those Treasury graybeards explaining the balance of payments stuff on television the other night? Did you understand it? Of course not! You are expected merely to accept it, like the equations worked on blackboards by physicists.

Of course, you do understand that if you can't be an ordinary tourist, the Europeans are going to think up devices to recover the \$2 billion you spend abroad, and if restrictions are also put on foreign investments, it should offset the whole \$3.5 billion balance of payments deficit with another deficit.

One of the latter-day strengths of this nation is that we are gradually learning about the world we inhabit with others. We acquire this mostly through our young and dedicated, because the jet set isn't interested. But we not only learn about our world, but about the world we came from, which survives mostly in Europe. To strangle this growth for the measly cost of a month in Vietnam is a conspicuous exercise in historical futility. Mr. Johnson and all his wisecracks can't get something for nothing, either.

Alan Grey Says . . .

The field of medical science . . . Has got a running start . . . In the field of geriatrics . . . With replacement of a heart . . . These historic operations . . . As many of you know . . . Were considered near impossible . . . Not so many years ago . . . Some time in the future . . . In addition to the hearts . . . You may shop for any organ . . . As you would for auto parts.