

Mr. King's Retirement

The announcement in Washington last week that Congressman Cecil R. King was retiring at the end of his current term heralds the end of a political career that had its beginning in the depression days of the 30s and reached a peak two years ago with the signing of the King-sponsored bill putting Medicare into operation in the country.

Congressman King has a tremendous number of friends throughout the Southwest area who will miss his helpful offices in the nation's capital.

His retirement, we are told, is catching political leaders in both parties with their candidates down. True, Torrance Councilman Ross A. Sciarrotta has announced his intention to seek the Republican nomination, but Republican officialdom hasn't made any public comment on his decision—at least not within our hearing.

The Democrats look like a sure bet to go with former Lt. Gov. Glenn Anderson.

In all events, we wish Congressman and Mrs. King happiness in their retirement. After more than 30 years in the political arena, they have earned a chance at quietude.

Some Unneeded Heroism

It took two hours of back-breaking work, expensive machinery, and lots of nerve to free 4-year-old Carlos Garnica from a potential death trap near his home last Thursday in Harbor City.

Efforts of Los Angeles city firemen and others in freeing little Carlos from a nine-foot hole in the turf at the Normont Terrace housing project deserve the commendation of all of us.

We can't escape the feeling, however, that it should never have happened.

It stirs memories of another such incident involving a Kathy Fiscus, and the subsequent "Kathy Fiscus Law" which required the closing of all such holes, wells, and other excavations which could prove death traps for our youngsters.

What precautions were taken in this case we are not sure; our reporter was told that two bags of bricks was guarding the hole.

Whatever it was, the safeguard proved inadequate. Little Carlos should have been able to follow his mother across the common green of the housing project without being subjected to the hazard of tumbling into a deep hole.

We laud those who rescued him, but it shouldn't have been necessary.

Opinions of Others

In the past few years there has been a tremendous growth in so-called consumer protection legislation. Intended to "protect the public," there is also a great danger that this is intended to strip business of all freedom to act, and to impose unreasonable requirements on business. . . . Perhaps it is well to remember that in order to set up a completely socialized system of government it is first necessary to regulate business to the point where it cannot make a profit, and then use that as an excuse for the government to take over industry. We must be careful that government does not accomplish this by a back-door method of setting up unreasonable regulations against business with such bureaus as a Consumer Protection Division. The name sounds good, but what of the motives?—Hurlock (Md.) *Dorchester News*.

Well, the government has come out with a report which says in effect that if you and your family of four aren't spending at least \$9,000 a year, you're not living moderately well. The report doesn't say what you should be MAKING to live moderately well. It just says what you should be SPENDING. But since it's a government report, you have to conclude that the folks who prepared it expect you to follow your government's example and spend more than you take in.—York (Neb.) *News-Times*.

It would seem the labor unions have neglected the most important challenge they face—the training of apprentices. We need a larger reservoir of skilled workers. This would make it possible for industry to hire many of the presently unskilled, untrained workers.—Waterville (Wash.) *Empire-Press*.

Morning Report:

Unknown to most of us, the 1968 Presidential campaign was almost called off before it really got started. The directors of the American Advertising Federation came up with a code that demanded truth in political advertising but stopped short of demanding truth-in-candidates.

The American political system—as we know it—would be doomed if some tough agency, like say the Pure Food and Drug Administration, would start checking over candidates the way they check up on cold pills. Is this candidate what he says he is? Can he cure anything? Or is he nothing but brightly colored water with a little sugaring added?

A lot of states now have horse racing boards who check on race entries to see if they have been hopped up. If we do it for animals, why not candidates? There are several around right now who call for a saliva test.

Abe Mellinkoff

The Cherry Tree Confession

(IF TODAY'S RULINGS HAD BEEN APPLIED—)



HERB CAEN SAYS:

Walt Disney Stamp Gets 'Too Commercial' Veto

Three submissions for a Walt Disney commemorative stamp have been turned down by the Post Office as "too commercial." Sticky quote from a postal exec: "We want a Disney stamp, but not one that's a capsule ad for Disneyland." Jackie Gleason will be here in March to star in an Otto Preminger flick titled "Ski-doo"—another one of those hippie - vs. - Establishment things that Hollywood keeps trying to make, with disastrous results. No, I take that back. The hippie sequence in James Coburn's "The President's Analyst" was handled with taste, style, and understanding. It didn't save the picture, but it made it sit-throughable.

It happened just outside Sacramento the other day. A lady's valuable Siamese cat stranded itself atop a telephone pole, so firemen were summoned. They climbed the pole and, after 15 minutes, rescued the cat — to the applause of a large crowd of onlookers. The firemen bowed, climbed back onto their engine and roared off. Right over the cat.

Way down upon the Swami Ribber: The Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, who will be at Lake Tahoe this summer, his wonders to unfold, staged a press conference the other day under the auspices of the same public relations outfit that handles Ringling Bros. Circus (end connection). Piped up an irreverent reporter: Jesus didn't have any public relations men around him." Replied the Maharishi: "That is why he took so many hundreds of years to become known." I've always said that what press agents need is a good press agent, and I think they've found one . . . Dr. Charles Hitch, the new Pres. of the University of California, thinks big. He has hired S.F.'s internationally-known interior designer, Tony Hall, to turn his Kensington house into a work of art, or even Tony. On the other hand, UC Chancellor Roger Heys lives on campus in a house with beige carpets, beige walls and beige curtains. "This place," he explained one night, "was decorated by a committee — and the only shade a committee can agree on is beige."

Heheheh: The N.Y. Philharmonic is absolutely sizzling over the S.F. Symphony's seizure of young Seiji Ozawa as our next conductor — proving, at last, that he's the guy they really

and truly wanted as Leonard Bernstein's successor. Score one for the west. . . Don Sherwood on KSFO: "This country is a mess. New York has a garbage strike and San Francisco (with ITS strike) has nothing to wrap it in" . . . When Heavyweight Jerry Quarry decked Thad Spencer in Oakland, Atty. Nate Cohn of S.F. watched \$50,000 fly out the window. He owns 30 per cent of Spencer who, if he'd won, would have netted about \$180,000 in the eliminations for a new heavyweight champion. Now behind the Nateball is Cohn.

Meanwhile: S.F. Atty. Melvin Belli escaped the Viet Cong attack on Saigon and landed right-side-up Down Under — in Sydney, Australia. Mysterious sidelight: Retired Admiral Buzz Hoyle of San Diego, who accompanied Belli to Vietnam, returned here just recently — and died of a heart attack. Funeral was in Palm Springs . . . Chris Borea, co-

FROM THE MAILBOX

Retiring Congressman Praised

To the Editor: As a 35-year resident of the Congressional District Cecil King has so ably represented for so long, I would like to publicly express my thanks to him for his dedicated efforts. I have known Cecil since 1946, and have always considered him a good example of a fine American politician.

His work in 1951 and 1952 in investigating corruption in the Internal Revenue Service showed an ability to rise above narrow partisanship. He served the interests of all the people in pursuing his efforts to clean out the "rascals." Democrats as well as Republicans.

His successful efforts in the field of Medicare will link his name with Presidents Kennedy and Johnson in our nation's history. Elderly people in our state and nation have already benefited greatly from his efforts and will continue to for many years.

Finally, he was a great man for helping individuals with their problems in dealing with bureaucracy. He was an Ombudsman par excellence. I have met hundreds of individuals in his district who have received

his help and advice on pension checks, veteran disabilities, civil service, exams, draft status questions, and so forth. Many business interests have benefited by his advice and counsel in matters pertaining to the federal government.

He will be remembered by the voters of his district, and we sincerely wish him well in his so richly earned retirement.

HAROLD W. GARVIN
Political Science Instructor
L. A. Harbor College

She Objects to Raw Milk Ban

To the Editor: An arbitrary decision by the Los Angeles County Medical Association will eliminate the sale of certified raw milk to Los Angeles County residents, effective March 1, 1968. Apparently, this action was taken without any cause or reason and is extremely similar to actions taken by dictators and totalitarian governments.

Each day, little by little, our rights are being taken from us. Our freedom of choice is in danger and this problem should be settled

AFFAIRS OF STATE

Rumford Housing Act End Sought in Assembly Bill

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — Once again, the fat is in the fire over the Rumford Housing Act, with a measure before the state legislature designed to effect changes which would make some, if not full provision for the rights of the people of the state to manage their own property. The bill was introduced at the behest of the California Real Estate Association by Senator Lawrence E. Walsh, D-Los Angeles. It is Senate Bill 263, which would provide for conciliation in cases covered by the act, rather than forced compliance.

There is before the legislature another measure, SB 319 by Senator John G. Schmitz, R-Tustin, which would repeal the Rumford Act in its entirety. A similar bill was defeated last year in the face of overwhelming sentiment on the part of the people of the state for this action.

Ever since passage of the original Rumford Act in 1963, the law has been one of great controversy between the people of California who believe the rights of citizens extend to control of the property they own and the ultra-liberal class of individuals who are of the opinion that property is subject to autocratic control by government.

When the people adopted Proposition 13, in 1964 by a two-to-one majority, they not only nullified the Rumford Act, but also served conclusive notice they were not interested in the acts of a pressured legislature showing an unpopular law down their throats.

However, the United States supreme court continued the shoving by holding Proposition 13 unconstitutional, so the situation reverted to the place where it started, with the expressed will of the people relegated to the ash heap.

Last year, desultory efforts were made to repeal the law, which was the only means whereby the intent of the voters could be carried out. But the legislature, again yielding to the minority pressures, failed to take action.

The Walsh bill, while not as desirable as complete repeal of the Rumford Act, at least would constitute a step in the right direction. It would create a California Fair Housing Authority, which would have power to investigate alleged discrimination and conciliate disputes. Under the present law, the fair employment

practices commission, which administers the Rumford Act, has the authority to punish landlords and home owners in cases of alleged discrimination decided by bureaucratic state employees rather than the courts. And the punishment, even if unjust, cannot be escaped without lengthy and expensive legal process which is beyond the reach of most small home owners.

Minority groups, too, are protected under the Walsh

bill, which calls for civil court action in cases of discrimination, coercion or harassment against tenants, buyers, or owners of property.

The new proposed law likewise provides that real estate brokers or salesmen cannot evade responsibility under civil code provisions which generally seek to eliminate discrimination in the buying, selling, renting or leasing of property. It also requires that real estate brokers must offer services to persons of any race, color or creed, and that brokers possess the right to serve their clients.

News and Opinions

On Sacramento Beat

Dear Bruce: Should 18-year-olds vote? Why not? They're at least as well qualified as most adults, and probably more so. I agree with those who say, "If you're old enough to die for your country, you are old enough to vote for the men whose votes send you to war. (Or as some put it: "Wars are planned by old men for young men to fight.")

Having just completed U. S. Government classes in high school, most 18-year-olds probably have more current facts about their government and leaders than they ever will again.

How many adults can name their Congressman or City Councilman? How many have any idea the size of their city or school or federal budgets? How many can accurately describe how their tax rate is set? (A poll several years ago showed that 7 per cent of the American people couldn't name the President, and 40 per cent didn't know who was Vice-President.

I'd be willing to bet the average 18-year-old would beat the average adult in a current events quiz. Some adults claim young people are too easily swayed by emotional factors. Maybe, but most teenagers probably would vote as intelligently as the 40-year-old woman who told me she wasn't going to vote for one candidate because he had funny-looking teeth.

How many people vote blindly for candidates who promise more services, lower taxes, less smog, and fewer criminals? How many vote a straight party ticket

just because they always have? Yours for intelligent voting.

YOUR DAD

A Letter . . .

. . . To My Son

By Tom Rische
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce: Should 18-year-olds vote? Why not? They're at least as well qualified as most adults, and probably more so. I agree with those who say, "If you're old enough to die for your country, you are old enough to vote for the men whose votes send you to war. (Or as some put it: "Wars are planned by old men for young men to fight.")

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Quote

Destructive public policy can snuff out private pension plans through over-regulation and runaway Social Security; it can also erode private and public pensions by inflation. Constructive public policy will seek to avoid inflation and will recognize and safeguard the dual nature of our private and public retirement system. Thus I would hope that the role of Government would be limited to fostering a climate for the fulfillment of private pension promises made and not to specifying what those promises should be nor how they should be fulfilled.—Robert C. Tyson, chairman finance committee, United States Steel.

Alan Grey Says . . .

If Washington were alive today . . . He'd come to one conclusion . . . Was it really worth the effort . . . To fight the revolution . . . The war was over taxes . . . And duties they must pay . . . But they were just a pittance . . . To what we have today . . . To see the current world . . . Would likely be a blow . . . Thus for his lasting memory . . . It's well he doesn't know.

Foster Profile Wins Plaudits

To the Editor: Thank you for the excellent Profile on Lester Foster which appeared in last Wednesday's Press-Herald. The story was written with sensitivity and keen perception of the educational job Torrance schools are trying to do with the youngsters at Columbia School.

Sincerely,
J. H. HULL
Superintendent

MRS. P. H. FAUCETT, Torrance.