

-Comment and Opinion-

TORRANCE, CALIF., SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 1968

Will the Big One Get Away?

HERB CAEN SAYS:

Some Pointed Advice

Every law abiding citizen fears and detests the sporadic violence and vandalism that have become so much a part of daily life in the U.S. They sense, and rightly so, that if not controlled, the present state of affairs can weaken the very foundations of representative government with personal liberty. Many find it hard to stand on the sidelines, so to speak, as mute witnesses to the destruction of the institution and process of a free society. Many wonder what they can do to bring back stability.

A short time ago, the nation's leading law enforcement officer, Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, long-time director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, was interviewed by the Associated Press and used the occasion to give some very pointed advice to private citizens. Mr. Hoover believes our present troubles stem primarily from our

own growing indifference to right and wrong.

He says, "A rising contempt of and disrespect for law and order lies at the heart of the growing violence in America today. This disrespect is reflected in many ways: a spiraling crime rate, riots, civic disobedience, rebellion on our campuses, and the rise of extremist racial and vigilante groups."

Mr. Hoover believes, we have been entirely too soft on the question of civil disobedience which he says is a "pernicious doctrine."

Our permissive attitude toward civil disobedience can do great damage. As the FBI chief observes, "... to break the law even 'gently' can have eventual tragic consequences." Mr. Hoover also says bluntly, "We are living in an age when too many citizens are thinking about their 'rights' and 'privileges' and too little about their 'duties' and 'responsibilities'."

Of course, many of us have heard a similar indictment of the current behavior of U. S. citizens. Implicit in them is the answer for those who still wonder what they can do to help correct the situation. In Mr. Hoover's words, "Citizens can set a personal example of obeying the law themselves and encouraging others to do likewise. Far too many adults set bad examples for others to follow. We must encourage respect for our flag, our history, our principles of free government. Young people in particular must learn the significance of the law. Respect for law is not something to be learned in 'one big bite' but is the result of living this principle day after day."

Beyond this there are specific ways in which the private citizen can aid law enforcement. The press can report facts promptly and accurately in situations of lawlessness. We can all take an interest, as business and industrial leaders are now doing, in helping to remedy the conditions such as poverty, discrimination, poor housing and so forth which help breed crime. When civil disorders occur, the private citizen can help by obeying the instructions of the police or other authorities on the scene. Encourage others to do the same. Don't circulate rumors and misinformation. Furnish relevant data promptly to the local authorities. Don't condone lawlessness, rioting, and looting.

All-Star Help

While the players probably won't be as fearsome as the pro teams who opened the season this week, next Friday will bring the fourth annual Lions All-Star Football Game, featuring the best of area high school gridgers who clash on behalf of groups dedicated to helping children with severe handicaps.

Sponsored by the West Torrance Lions Club, the All-Star Game this year will be played at El Camino College. The West Torrance club is being helped by area Lions clubs—all on a volunteer basis. More than \$18,000 has been turned over to the Southwest Association for Retarded Children as proceeds of previous games. Other charitable groups are scheduled to share proceeds this year.

Such events don't just happen. In addition to the many club members who take care of tickets, programs, publicity, and all other arrangements; the players, coaches, and managers spend two weeks of their time getting ready for the game.

Those who have organized the event, those whose work makes it possible, and the thousands who buy tickets to see the young gridgers in action are making an investment in the welfare of countless less fortunate children.

The time and effort it takes to make it all possible are contributions few of us can match.

ROYCE BRIER

Conferences and Studies Will Not Halt Pollution

The Great Lakes constitute the most remarkable, and largest, fresh-water body on the globe. They are a river, arising from springs and small streams at the west end of Lake Superior, and fed by larger streams, most of them flowing south from Canada. They reach the St. Lawrence river at the east end of Lake Ontario, then flow into the North Atlantic.

million people live on or near the lakes.

Early in this century the lakes were clear, and abounded in fish for sportsmen and commercial harvest. You could picnic on their shores and swim in summer. But in 50 years, great industries have risen in the lake ports and along their tributaries. Gradually the lakes lost their freshness. There was a steady decline of fish population, both sporting and commercial.

Opinions on Affairs of the World

Offshore the lakes turned murky, green instead of blue, became odoriferous in areas. This stagnant condition was due to algae, tiny plants which multiply rapidly in warm summer waters.

The chief fertilizer of algae is phosphorus. This is contained in sewage from the great cities like Chicago, Detroit and Cleveland, and in discharges from industrial plants.

Great Lakes pollution is only one regional part of national water pollution. It does not differ materially from that of other great waterways in populous industrial areas. Conferences, so-called, and even studies, though often necessary, are not attacked. Drifting, bumbling, controversy and indifference won't keep this country habitable.

Superior was not much affected, due to its great bulk and lack of industries. Michigan, Huron and Ontario showed increasing pollution, and shallow Erie was the worst. For some years it has been in a deplorable condition, subject to numerous, largely unsuccessful efforts to come to grips with the crisis.

A difficulty has been that the lakes, excepting Michigan, are subject to dual jurisdictions. This has entailed numerous survey and corrective "commissions," but not much straightline progress.

The other day Secretary of the Interior Udall announced a federal-state program to attack Michigan's pollution. The states: Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. He recommended the states and any federal agencies involved engage all industries in the Michigan basin, and endeavor by 1972 to eliminate 70 per cent of the phosphorus wastes now deposited in the lake.

This of course is not yet a program under way, and can be stalled in conferences, so-called, but Udall hopes to set up a federal-state enforcement machinery.

It is perhaps the only way to do it, aided by law, because the problem has been recognized for half a century, and little has been done about it.

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SACRAMENTO REPORT

They Don't Realize Cow Has Only So Much Milk

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO—It's possible that sometime in the future, government may come to the realization that the cow has only so much milk to give, and that the calf needs some of the milk to continue the existence of the bovine breed.

This realization, however, hasn't been evident in the lengthy deliberations of the state legislature this year, nor has it been evident for some time in the past, despite the fact that government has just about reached the point at all levels, federal, state, and local, where the strippers are draining the udders for the last drop of tax money available.

While the legislature has not put the bite on the taxpayers this year for tax increases, it nevertheless has laid the groundwork for such action in the future.

Traditionally, the legislature has avoided tax increases during an election year. It had more cause than usual this year to steer clear of legislation which would result in direct outlays from the citizens' pocketbook, in view of the billion dollar increase assessed in 1967.

But this consideration for

Quote

There has been too much careless use of the word "ghetto" in the Assembly. According to the dictionary "ghetto" means "locked up... can't get out." I don't think we have many such places in the United States. — Assemblyman Richard Barnes.

Morning Report:

The trouble with allies is that they won't stay grateful forever. They take aid when they need it but when they get on their feet, they won't take advice. As the Soviet Union is finding out.

Czechoslovakia insists on going her own way, allowing her people freedoms that make Russian citizens envious and Russia fearful. To make matters worse, Romania and Yugoslavia, two other Soviet allies of sorts, wouldn't even attend a meeting the other day to discuss what to do about Czechoslovakia. Total ingratitude.

After all, it was the Soviet army that made possible the Communist regime in all of these countries. But that was better than 20 years ago. Now the allies want to know: what have you done for us lately?

Abe Mellinkoff

the public doesn't mean the public will pay less for government during the remainder of 1968, and in 1969. The 10 per cent income tax surcharge imposed by the federal government will take care of that little oversight.

And while the legislature has devoted its talents to spending, local government has not been negligent in figuring out ways ad means

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of taking bigger bites out of the paycheck.

For example, the city of Los Angeles made a sporadic attempt to add a city sales tax to the five cent on the dollar tax the citizen already pays to the state. The council adopted an ordinance to this effect, and scheduled it to become effective Aug. 1. Then later, when it was discovered that such a tax might not be legal in accordance with the state's laws, it adopted an emergency ordinance withholding the effective date until Sept. 1.

At the same time, the council levied what is known as the "tippler tax," a 5 per cent bite on drinks served over the bars in the city of the Angels.

And throughout the state, municipalities are waiting for final action of the legislature to determine not whether, but how much their tax rates are going to be bumped next year.

Tax increases by any levying government authority are blamed on many things, and countless excuses are given by politicians elected to represent the interest of the people as to the "necessity" for such increases.

Some of the reasons for tax increases may be valid,

but the fact remains, the increases are imposed, and the citizen, rather than government, is the one who suffers.

So far, the legislature has neither suggested nor considered one single matter which might in the long run result in any decrease in taxes of any consequence, and in fact, has turned down some matters which might have resulted in some small decreases.

When money was plentiful, this type of activity made but little difference in the overall scheme of taxation. But, with a half dozen different levels of government competing for the tax dollar, the taxpayer is down to the bottom of the barrel, and soon, even the strippers won't be able to get anything by the stripping process.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Old Trial Records Show Source of Conrad Tales

The later fiction of Joseph Conrad, the Polish-born seafaring author and English literary stylist, became far more than casual stories of the sea. They were investigations of moral dilemmas, isolation and the psychology of men under stress. Yet "Victory," "Lord Jim," "Chance," "The End of the Tether" and other tales were about the sea and Conrad's experiences on it. A clue to the writer's dim view of sea captains in his subsequent novels turned up in London the other day.

Conrad was fired as second mate of a cargo vessel at Madras, India, in 1884. We find he used the episode as the basis of several scenes in his future work. Transcripts have been released of official testimony given after the ship Riverdale, under the command of a Captain Lawrence Brown McDonald, ran aground off Madras. Under British law these records have been kept secret for 84 years.

Witnesses said Captain McDonald had been ill on the voyage out from England. The captain sent his second officer to fetch a doctor in Madras. The doctor asked Conrad what he thought was wrong with the Old Man. Conrad replied he thought the captain was suffering from "the effects of

drink." When McDonald heard about that he promptly fired the young officer. It remained for The Times Literary Supplement to perform a little detective work, drawing comparisons between the real episode and Conrad's later fiction. In "Mirror of the Sea," The Times reminds us, Conrad wrote of the skipper who "permitted no interference

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by his officers nor dared they make any suggestions." In "Chance," Conrad drew on McDonald's testimony in which the skipper said he had his wife and family on board and did not have to cultivate the mate's acquaintance. In "The End of the Tether," Conrad made reference to a captain's sore and weak eyes, and similar testimony at Madras.

This, by the way, sent me back into an old "Viking Portable Conrad" I kept at hand where I chanced upon another Conradian point of view: "Goodbye, brothers. You were a good crowd. As good a crowd as ever fisted with wild cries the beating canvas of a heavy foresail; or tossing aloft, invisible in the night, gave back yell for yell to a westerly gale..." Marsh Maslin of Berkeley

All Those Eggs Down the Drain

Clicks from the cables: It keeps sticking in my craw—the scene Comedian Woody Allen and his "Take the Money and Run" crew were shooting at the venerable Kentucky Club on Third nr. Market. As the camera ground away in a through-the-window shot, Cook Jimmy Yee cracked and scrambled seven dozen eggs—which, at the end, he threw out. Mind-scrambler: the mob of hungry winos and down'n'outers, clustered around to watch this scene. . . . Incontestably funnier was the scene on Mission nr. 30th Friday—a crew hard at work placing samples of Ajax and Palmolive soap door-to-door, oblivious to a determined lady in a station wagon who followed hard on their heels, scooping up the goodies almost as fast as they were set down. . . . That so-called "Interracial Love Dance" at Gomans' Gay 60s has inspired a protest from Dave Jenkins, the ILWU's legislative counsel, on behalf of the Negro membership who told the Gomans: "It makes us look like studs, and you like bigots."

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Religious note (tourist division): Herbert the Furrier yesterday morn saw an out-of-state station wagon pause for a second at the crest of the California-Mason hill — while all seven occupants, including the driver, crossed themselves before plunging down. . . . And on a Geary street corner, Alden Long saw a sharp-looking guy (high on something) crash his car into a parked jalopy. After glancing around furtively, he jumped out and hid in a doorway around the corner. When the police arrived, he stepped-jolly, did a champion doubletake, and gasped: "Holey-moley somebody stole my car and wrecked it!" A performance worthy of an Oscar. . . . J. L. Leland of Carmichael feels he has seen everything: on K St. in Sacramento, a well-groomed lady driving a Cad — and next to her, a well-groomed poodle in an infant's seat. . . . As for B. J. Mues, he found this in the Calif. Vehicle Code Summary — "When you have to stop on the highway be sure to park with all four wheels off the pavement if possible" — and inquires: "What if your car doesn't have vertical lift rockets?" So much for cars.

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Margaret Thornley is the first to point out that the new Alcoa Bldg. resembles the mysterious monolith in "2001: A Space Odyssey," especially, she adds, "when the sun is coming over the top of it." When she's riding an elevator in that building, and it goes past the floor she punched, she baffles fellow passengers by cautioning: "Watch it, Hal!" (If you haven't seen the movie, ignore the foregoing, but what are you waiting for?)

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Astronaut Scott Carpenter's next voyage will be to the bottom of the sea. He's now at Hunters Point as part of the team that will descend to the floor of the Pacific in Sea Lab III — the successor to Sea Lab II, which had such a balance problem its aquanauts called it "The Tiltin' Hilton": the new one is steady enough to be The Sheraton Balance. . . . Go top a cocktail waitress: Pam Am's Jay Gordon, who's 26, was asked for his ID in a bar the other night, and snapped irritably to the waitress: "Will my death certificate do?" "Only," she replied, "if accompanied by an embalmer's receipt."