

Major Effort Made to Change State Divorce Laws

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR

SACRAMENTO — (CNS) — Reformation of California's divorce laws, a prime issue before the 1967 legislature, and relegated to an interim committee for study for two years, is again back before the 1969 session, with the study completed and an extensive bill ready for action.

The measure was introduced by Senator Donald L. Grunsky, R-Watsonville, chairman of the senate judiciary committee, and

innovator of the move to take a lot of the sting out of divorce.

Senator Grunsky's proposal will be known as the family law act. It has attracted nationwide attention, both pro and con, as a means of eliminating the current adversary proceedings and bitter court battles between husband and wife.

He is hopeful that the measure, which contains provisions for voluntary marriage counseling, will have the ultimate effect

of reducing the high incidence of divorce in California.

Five major provisions are contained in the bill. First, it would eliminate fault grounds for divorce, and replace them with a procedure for inquiry into the marriage, and dissolution of marriage when there is no reasonable likelihood that it can be saved.

Second, fault would be eliminated for the division of community property, which would

be divided equally unless the economic conditions of either party required an unequal division.

Third, fault would also be eliminated in alimony considerations. Grunsky pointed out that under present law, the court must find one of the parties guilty of misconduct before an award is made to the other.

Fourth, award of children would be made without preference between parents, but upon a determination of the best interests of the child.

And finally, the proposed new law would establish a family division of the superior court in each county, with specialized marriage counseling staffs.

"This comprehensive reconciliation and divorce counseling procedure," Grunsky said, "will establish communication between the parties, and attempt reconciliation where possible.

"All counseling is voluntary, but an initial interview is required for parties with minor

children under 18 years of age."

He also pointed out that the counseling service would be available to marriage couples who desire help, but have not filed a court proceeding.

Under the new act, the one year waiting period for a final decree of divorce would be replaced with a minimum period of four months, whether or not counseling was undertaken.

Senator Grunsky said the purpose of the bill is to do away with the present system, under

which about 95 per cent of the divorce cases filed use "extreme cruelty" as the basis for action.

Should the act be adopted, California will become the first state to adopt such a system, although it is under study in additional states. Grunsky has received many communications seeking advice on the measure.

The senator believes the proposed law is a forward step in lessening the pain of divorces, and also in lessening the number of divorces in the state.

Your Right to Know
Is the Key to All Your Liberties

Comment and Opinion

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Cowards Be Praised

There seems to be a disease in our times that screams out in reverse of the acts of our historic heroes who wove courage and self sacrifice into the fabric that made this republic the strongest in the world.

Perhaps we should suggest some revisions of history.

It would sound better if:

John Paul Jones had said, "I am not even going to begin to fight."

That WW II chaplain had said, "Praise the Lord and throw up your hands."

That WW II pilot had radioed, "Sighted sub, surrendered."

Admiral Dewey had cried, "Damn those torpedos, a man could get hurt."

The Marines on Guam had radioed, "What do we need? Send us more white flags."

Nathan Hale had said, "I only regret that I didn't chicken out years ago."

General Grant had said, "What's the use? If we fight it out on this line it might take us all winter."

Naturally, we will have to mention those little groups of cowards who hid out at Valley Forge and the Alamo and were too yellow to come out and give up like real men.

But I think we can turn most of our historic figures into real heroes.

Paul Revere, naturally, rode through the night shouting "Give up, give up, the British are coming."

The Minutemen, of course, gave up without firing a shot — it was their whining that was "heard 'round the world."

Teddy Roosevelt, who led the famous retreat down San Juan Hill, later said, "Talk softly, but carry a white flag just in case."

General Pershing issued a communique from Kansas City saying, "Lafayette—who's he?"

FDR, the day after Pearl Harbor, told congress, "If they had wanted Hawaii, why didn't they say so? The day we would fight back would be a day that would live in infamy."

Churchill really said, "Never have so many been so ashamed of so few—the murderous ruffians."

Commodore Perry, as rewritten, is famous for his report, "We have met the enemy, and we are their's."

—Oh, well, what's the use, we don't fit into this golden age.

Drugs and Youth

The drug supply reaching juveniles and young adults throughout southern California has arrived at a critical point.

It seems that more concern has been shown, as of late, to problems dealing with "raw milk" than with "raw opium."

The ever-increasing flow of drugs is evident around any high school at lunchtime when students and young adults can be seen staggering around the neighborhoods.

Police department statistics show that a great percentage of crime is committed by teen-agers and the same statistics reveal that teen-agers are the main targets of the drug pushers.

There must be a correlation.

Both the police department and various city school systems have launched vigorous anti-drug programs in the schools beginning at the junior high level.

But education is not enough.

Those supplying the drugs must be dealt with in as severe a fashion as the law allows.

The Los Angeles Board of Supervisors recently heard a report by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn noting that the most effective way to stop the illicit traffic in narcotics and dangerous drugs is to cut off the supply at its source. He suggested a presidential commission between Mexico and the United States.

But the wholesale manufacture of drugs in southern California poses an equally serious problem. In fact, a Playa del Rey raid last week produced a huge supply of pills being made in a cement mixer.

We can no longer tolerate the addict's explanation of "his religious experience" with drugs. We can no longer tolerate the addict who serves as a catalyst between dangerous drugs and unassuming youth.

The time for study has ended — now it's time for action.

Naturally, It Doesn't Deter Murderers



ROYCE BRIER

Keeping Lid on Sirhan's Trial Called Wise Move

In Los Angeles last June, Senator Robert Kennedy was felled by pistol shots, and died a day later.

The Senator's friends overpowered a youth and took from him a pistol recently fired. His name is Sirhan Sirhan, and he is a Jordanian immigrant who has lived in the United States for a decade. He was charged with murder in the first degree.

Subsequently several persons, including Mayor Yorty of Los Angeles, assigned motive to the accused, saying he was avenging the Arab cause because Senator Kennedy had favored Israel. The judiciary thereupon invoked the latter-day sanction forbidding public officers to discuss the case with newsmen. A similar sanction was already in force in Memphis in the Martin Luther King assassination case.

Sirhan was effectively sequestered, and his trial recently opened in Los Angeles.

Quote

By 1975 there will be more than 200 million automobiles. If you want to cross the street, you'd better do it now.—Sign on motor vehicle bureau wall.

If at first you don't succeed, you are running about average.—Unknown.

Our neighbors abroad know what we pay in taxes... they're spending it.—Industrial News Review Digest.

Try a mink on for sighs.—Sign at furriers.

We Americans can best celebrate our inherited abundance, and remember our own beginning, by giving others the simple help they need to get started toward a better life.—Boothbay Harbor (Me.) Register.

If our car gets much older, they'll start issuing upper and lower plates — Long-suffering motorist.

es, seven months after the crime. This is about par for the American course, though slow by the standards of British justice.

In the United States, most delay in cases like that against Sirhan is occasioned by lawyers who are able to convince

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of the World

courts a client's rights will be jeopardized by salutary action. No onus for this delay, however, attaches to Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presided at the celebrated Carly Chessman trial a few years ago.

The judge is responsible for the orders forbidding public officers to discuss the Sirhan case, and for the rigid security measures at trial, in which all authorized to attend had to submit to search, and in which the jury, when chosen, will be isolated for the duration.

To one acquainted with the fanatical hatreds existing among nationals from the Mideast, the security order is not unreasonable. The court also had as precedent the Senator's brother, the President, where the primary suspect was

killed in Dallas before he could be brought to trial.

With this background, there is very good reason to observe the letter of the American judicial system in the Sirhan case. This is that the accused is entitled to a fair trial in open court, in which the prosecutor presents publicly the evidence against him, and an impartial jury decides secretly if he is guilty or innocent.

This procedure has often been transgressed by various elements, forces, and attitudes in the body politics by policemen, judges, defense and prosecuting attorneys, and by newspapers and other communications media.

The result has often been that trials have become circus, impairing the processes of strict justice. Nothing is gained in a responsible newspaper by condoning this tendency.

To restrict the tendency is an exercise in restricting human nature, but all government is such an exercise, and the other side of the coin is the very archery we all abhor. If Judge Walker can keep this trial in its proper and sober course, he will earn the thanks of all who really believe in justice, instead of giving it lip-service when convenient.

Morning Report

If it works out, the Russians have a pretty slick thing going for them in Czechoslovakia. Nobody is getting hurt except the Czechs.

Russians are not in evidence in the offices of the government in Prague. Moscow is not issuing any manifestos telling the people they have to give up the liberties they had for a few months. Not at all. But Moscow is telling the Czech officials that if they don't keep those liberties from the people, then the Soviet troops will move. And they don't have far to travel as they are already in the suburbs.

A couple of young Czechs burned themselves as a protest. But it is not exactly clear who is the object of the protest. The Czech government or Moscow? Those Russians are no fools.

Abe Mellinkoff

HERB CAEN SAYS:

She Barely Made a Deal Then Couldn't Take Rap

Sightings: Over the ciggie machine at the Hippo, a sign reading "Profits From This Machine Donated to the American Cancer Society" . . . Dick Corten, watching the street-walkers at play in the Tenderloin: "Ah, the city of brotherly love!" . . . Monty Stickle, traded by the 49ers to the New Orleans Saints, confiding at the Villa Roma: "This is still my home — I can't take more than a few days of New Orleans at a time" . . . Pat and Owen Martin, who jog around Huntington Square each morning at 6:30, the key to a happy marriage: after that, who can fight? . . . Adjoining mailboxes in an apt. house on 43rd Ave: Kitchen-Sink (that would be Nurses Jean Kitchen and Jean Ann Sink, and thanks to Postal Inspector Potts for the info) . . . Tourist gazing at a row of dice boxes behind a bar on Union St. and asking Artist Sam Provenzano: "Say, what kinda drinks do they serve in those?"

Add Infinitum: Having been newly soundproofed (hi, neighbors!), the controversial Avalon Ballroom reopens Jan. 24 with the Grateful Dead, Initial Shock, and Sons of Champlin — three groups that'll put any soundproofing job to the acid test.

The Ballet on Geary is advertising for "Topless dancers, must have 2 years of college, prefer English major or humanities" — and what's that all about? "Well," says Boss Konrad Monti, "It's a communications thing. The girls should be able to rap with the customers, you dig?" Dug. First to answer the ad was a Barnard girl who quit after the first night, explaining "By midnight, I began having second thoughts." Couldn't take

the rap? . . . The latest epidemic sweeping S.F., notes Chase Webb, is known among execs as "the hanky-panky flu." That covers all the malingers who phone in sick when they aren't, the narsties.

Our town is about to lose an

Report from Our Man
in San Francisco

other of its 14-karat karakters: Astrologer Gavin Arthur, the grandson of the 21st President of the United States, is moving from San Francisco digs to Mendocino in March ("Mendocino has the cream of the hippies," he points out. "All the really talented ones are there.") The block in which Gavin lives here is being torn down soon for low-cost housing oriented to the Japanese Cultural Center . . . Screenstar Kim Novak has a new baby—a baby sea lion given to her as a present. Her steady gentleman friend, Restaurateur Joel Thomas, fashioned a "pool" for the beastie out of an old wine cask and installed it in the garden of her Carmel Highlands house. When the sea lion gets old enough to know the score (Lions 7, Abalone 0), they'll give it its freedom in the nearby ocean. The Pacific, I believe.

Dr. James Pritchard of Berkeley, the world-renowned archeologist, received a rare medal from Jordan's King Hussein — first American to receive it — in honor of the ancient treasures he unfolded on the Jordan-Israel border. You have to like a man like Dr. Pritchard, who describes himself as having "a career that lies in ruins" . . . Alex Melitoff wants to know if the next batch of graduates at S.F. State will

be known as The Clash of '69, and I guess that's a joke.

Harriet MacLean, scanning the TV log, found this description of an old movie called "The Redhead from Wyoming": "A double dealing dance hall queen has difficult time choosing between law and order." Decisions, decisions! . . .

"A general semanticist," says Dr. Richard P. Marsh, "is someone who, upon encountering a person with a beard, would say it was probably a man, but would hold open the possibility that it might be a bearded lady" . . . I read that in the current issue of The Map, monthly newsletter of the S.F. Chapter of the Society for General Semantics, which, under "Chapterites in the News," reports: "Don Hayakawa, who became acting president of S.F. State after student rioting forced two predecessors out in less than a year, is drawing an unprecedented response." There's a conclusion you can't argue with, bearded or otherwise.

Hank Grant, reading that one out of two California marriages now ends in divorce, is launching Marriage Anonymous: "You feel like getting married again, we send over a dame in a frumpy housecoat with her hair up in curlers" . . . The American Cancer Society may want to retrieve the trophy it gave Don Sherwood for kicking the cigarette habit. At Kimbo's the other night, he was back on the puffers, but Ronnie Schell makes a lot of people nervous . . . I decided to take a pill to stop smoking but it didn't work; every time I tried to light it, I burned my nose (awright, who said that).

WILLIAM HOGAN

Navy Buffs Given Chance To Bone Up on Old Ships

Not long ago, we examined what is perhaps the winter season's most specialized book, "Warships of the Imperial Russian Navy," first of a projected illustrated series by V. M. Tomitch, the initial unit devoted entirely to Czar Nicholas's battleships.

At first glance, a rival for this degree of editorial specialization is a facsimile edition, printed in England, of "Jane's Fighting Ships, 1914." "Jane's," of course, is that British institution and ultimate authority on the world's navies instituted and edited by Fred T. Jane. At second glance, the 1914 edition seems to me the most intriguing compendium since "1897: Sears Roebuck Catalogue," an astonishing bundle of only yesterday Americana, which became a surprise best-seller in the pre-holiday season.

Jane's 1914 edition is a fascinating book if for no other reason than it appeared the year Europe exploded in war and when most of these mighty dread-naughts, ominous submarines, torpedo craft, gunboats, converted yachts and all the rest were at each other's throats.

Pre-1914 navies, of course, were symbolic of the wealth, power and prestige of the nations which supported them including the Imperial Jap-

anese and Imperial Austro-Hungarian. It was a period in which the German Kaiser's fleet, with such ferocious craft as Deutschland, Friedrich der Grosse and their sisters were challenging Britannia's rule, and even the unwieldy giants of Czar Nicholas's navy looked pretty good on paper.

While much of this suggests

Browsing Through the
World of Books

the lineup for an unhappy game of toy sailors, the book is a collector's item of great curiosity value, a delight for naval historians, students of esoteric marine and engineering lore and just plain history buffs. For these were the naval chesspieces of the first World War, United States ships included.

There is the old battleship Arkansas (1911) spewing smoke like a Mississippi river steamer; torpedo boats such as Faragut (1898), submarines and oilers that look like oversized bathtub toys. Statistics on all appear to be inexhaustible, a tribute to research and international resources of Jane's; there are some 2000 photographs, silhouettes and diagrams.

Beyond the navies of the great powers, we find those of lesser powers, such as Turkey,

Romania, Argentina, on down to Sarawak and Siam (the Siamese navy was made up of Japanese vessel types). Many of the 19th Century craft, still prevalent on the eve of that war, present absurd profiles, such as the Ecuadorian steam and sail cruiser Papin, originally built for the French navy in 1880.

Interesting, too, are 117 pages of institutional advertising—ads for everything, explosives, projectiles, diesel engines, gyroscopes, armor plate, shipyard facilities — ironically including those of German heavy in dustries and munitions firms (Fried. Krupp, A.G., Kiel - Gaarden, builders for the navies of Argentina, Austria, Brazil, China, etc.) This highly specialized book may have a surprisingly large appeal. I find it an absorbing, incredible business. Arco Publishing Co. will distribute a limited number of copies beginning in February (\$19.95).

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