

EDITORIALS

One Apple In The Barrel

Serious charges of lax building practices which had been aired by voice and petition before the City Council during recent meetings received a measure of support last Tuesday with the reading of a State Investigator's report by the City Attorney which generalized some of the more flagrant building errors found by the officials.

The report was serious, and in addition to the inconvenience, worry, and effort the citizens living in those homes have experienced in getting their problems before the proper authorities, the reputation of the City of Torrance as an ideal residential community has been dealt a severe blow.

However, before we get carried away with the belief that Torrance is a Shanty Town, a check of some of the little told facts of the situation might be in order.

The home tract which was made the target of the recent investigation contained less than 100 homes, and last year in Torrance, permits were issued for the construction of nearly 3000 homes. During the past half a dozen years, thousands of homes have been

built in Torrance. This is the first time serious charges have been made concerning the construction practices used in the developments.

Thousands of Torrance families have moved into new homes here during the past few years, leveled off their yards, planted lawns, and settled down to pleasurable living in new surroundings.

While we hold no brief for those who are responsible for letting any questionable building practices go unchecked, we do believe that the gravity of the situation has been ballooned out of proportion to the facts.

The charges aired against one builder for the work in one tract should not be cited as a condemnation of the large corps of builders who have built hundreds of homes here without a minute of trouble.

Talk of petitioning for grand jury investigations was circulating through the North Torrance tract yesterday. We hope the backers of such a plan will think carefully before going too far. We believe the machinery has been set in motion which will clear up the situation, and that further investigations would gain nothing.

Rosy Business Outlook Seen

Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. recently conducted a survey of top management executives and reported that most of them expected business to be good in the second quarter of 1954. The credit-rating agency sought the opinion of over 1000 top executives.

The most surprising result of the poll was the fact that almost half of the executives interviewed expected business during the second quarter of this year to exceed last year's second quarter dollar sales. Another third of them expected no change in sales during the second quarter of this year and only about a fifth of those replying expected a lower dollar volume.

The result of the poll, then, is a finding of optimism among most of the more than 1300 executives contacted. Unless most of these top executives are incorrect in their appraisal of business conditions, the business future is not black, but rather a good one.

We agree with the majority opinion, as expressed in the recent Dun and Bradstreet

poll. It has been pointed out on previous occasions that accumulated savings in this country and the many other conditions which make any serious depression unlikely are generally overlooked in the pessimistic appraisals of future business. One of the major factors often overlooked is that the Government is still spending over \$40,000,000,000 a year in rearmament.

While this figure may be reduced slightly in the next fiscal year, it will not be reduced by any major percentage and will continue for some time. Considering the fact that these expenditures alone total far more than the entire U.S. budget in the 1930's, one can easily see how they play a major part in business stimulation, production and the providing of jobs for the hundreds of thousands of workers. While it is true that defense expenditures were higher at their peak, about a year ago, it is just as true that they are still very high and still a major source of business for U.S. industry.

Downward Trend in Smoking

The Fifth District Bank of the Federal Reserve System reported recently that cigarette consumption was apparently down about two per cent.

The report was something of a surprise, because cigarette consumption normally would be expected to rise.

Coming on the heels of a report from the East—revealing that tax collections on cigarette sales in that area were down recently—the report tends to confirm the belief that a trend is underway.

In this connection, it is well to note that the rate of growth of cigarette consumption slowed after both World War I and World

War II. Now that the Korean War is over, the rate of growth in the consumption of cigarettes is actually declining in some areas. This trend is not altogether a result of publicity given recently to the connection between lung cancer and cigarette smoking.

It is probably due to many things, a normal trend which usually follows the termination of a war, the introduction of longer or king-sized cigarettes, which may be reducing the number of cigarettes smoked, and the publicity concerning lung cancer.

There is no reason to believe cigarette consumption will not continue to remain high, or even increase, in coming months. If, for no other reason, the growth in the population in the United States will tend to increase cigarette consumption in the United States for a number of years to come. There is no denying the fact, however, that a very obvious trend toward lighter smoking has set in among some of the nation's smokers.

Farm Horses Expensive

Cornell University economists have come up with the real reason farmers in the United States have turned to mechanization. The economists have been studying the actual cost of keeping a horse, or horses, in operation on the farm.

According to the results of this study, it costs \$141 to maintain a horse in harness on the farm. A team of horses would, therefore, cost \$282 a year. The cost breakdown is divided into two parts, about one-half is the cost of feed and bedding. Other costs make up the other fifty per cent of the total.

One of the costs figured by the Cornell economists is the labor cost. The economists arrived at a figure of sixty-two hours, which they say represents the labor required in a year to keep up a horse. This labor is figured at \$50.

In brief, this labor item means that a farm team costs approximately 68 cents an hour for every hour of work on the farm. When one considers the low cost of tractors and figures out the hourly cost of using a tractor, he can see that it compares favorably with the cost of using a team of horses, or even mules. That, in short, is the answer to the question of why farmers have been turning from horses and mules to tractors and mechanized equipment.

Speaking Of Reds



Criswell Predicts

An Accurate Glimpse of the Future

Criswell will answer your questions if you will write him in care of the Torrance Herald, signing your full name and address. Only initials will be used in the answer which will appear in rotation as received and as space permits. There is no charge for his service. Write Criswell Predicts today!

WHAT PEOPLE WILL DO:

Senator McCarthy will uncover one of the largest spy rings ever in existence within the next 90 days and will be found to be headed by one of our most respected office holders of the past who will vie with Benedict Arnold for infamy. This coming revelation will come as a distinct shock to one hundred and sixty million of you Americans! . . . The ghostly hand of Andrew Carnegie will reach out of the past and make possible a huge educational project for rethelid people through his many public libraries all over our nation. . . . Ted and Dorothy Friend, who know the heart-beat of metropolitan and rural citizens, will soon publish their lifetime survey in a new book titled "Friends, Just Friends!" which will add to the coming trend in American life which is to sweep the world in 1955! . . . William Alexander, the designer and builder, will win the coveted Architect's Award for 1954 with his all glass house, which can be constructed for 25 per cent less than ordinary structures! . . . A shocking, unprintable scandal will soon be made known concerning a royal family which will bring the blush of shame to the cheek of every woman in the world! The whispered European secret which helps women to ward off the ravages of time will be revealed in Robert Martin's "Beauty, Youth and You!" . . . Jack Dempsey will soon figure in the romantic headlines with an ex-wife! . . . Somerset

Maughn's next venture will be a play based on the early adventures of Brigham Young before the age of forty, and his conversion into the Mormon faith! Vice-president Nixon will have his own Washington D. C. residence in spite of the present Congressional opposition at the present time.

COMING HUSH HUSH EVENTS:

The political pressure on Washington has been very great from small property owners to be permitted to "write-off" expenses of upkeep to a greater extent than is allowed at the present time. Prediction: This will hit the Congressional Committee fulltime within 60 days, and you property owners will be permitted to make improvements and charge them off against present income! . . . One of our largest door-to-door selling firms will quietly go out of business due to underhand methods with merchandise and fraudulent contracts! . . . The State of Kansas has been quietly earmarked by the Pentagon for a huge airport and Army base due to its central location and the ideal flat land which will be needed in case of future wars! . . . WATCH OUT FOR THIS FRAUD! . . . My desk is piled high with the pitiful letters from you readers who have been victimized by the present flood of "guessing" and "puzzle contests," who have been lured for many hundreds of dollars with the half-promise of "a home," "a trip to Europe," "a winter vacation in California" and other

enticements. The next time you are sent promotional letters on one of these contests, take it to your lawyer or your friend in the bank, and ask them their professional opinion. The only promise these contests give you is that you have a chance to compete, and they are not legally responsible for one cent that you "invest" in merchandise or books in which the answers are to be found. Your name is also given to someone who will try to sell you the answers in many cases!

Dear Criswell: Should I make this trip home in June and should I take a plane?

MRS. FR-4015

My Dear Mrs. FR 4015: You will fly home and you will stay a little longer than you first expected or planned. I sense no financial worry with you. This coming August will prove to be a banner month for you and this will clear up many of the petty troubles which have been plaguing you for the past three and one half years. I will be most happy to advise your friends if they will write me in care of the Torrance Herald, and I want to personally thank you for your kind note to me, and I know that Reid Busby, our Managing Editor, appreciates it also. Your way ahead is open and free.

Dear Criswell: I am employed with a firm and am doubtful of staying on—Should I DMM-1550

My dear DMM-1550: You will stay where you are for the present and you will remember that you in your line of work can always make a good connection, for you are always in demand. You will profit through the estate of a late friend, not a relative.

Dear Criswell: Will I be healthy enough to carry out my plans? Hattie DJ-1513, etae

My dear Hattie DJ-1513: You will be able to make this trip east as planned to visit your son and his family. He is well and happy, and you will be warmly welcomed there. Finances will improve for you but do not lend any money for it will not be returned. An invitation to coming your way during the coming week, so please accept it, as you need to go out more socially than you have. You will find that life has many treasures in store for you, and very soon! When I appear in the Torrance area I most certainly would like to have you as my guest. You are a most desiring person and you are far too unselfish for your own good.

It's Your Country

By JOHN W. BECK

THE BIG LIE!

FOR THE RECORD: widespread in press stories and headlined on page one we recently have seen what is perhaps the most specious lie ever contrived, either in ignorance or by intent. This same lie is being broadcast by incompetent or malicious commentators and newscasters all over the nation. It is so flagrant that "lie" is the only word to describe it. So let's set this record straight.

We have been hearing that the Bricker amendment, designed to protect us against the encroachment of treaty law, has been defeated. The Bricker amendment has not been defeated for the very simple reason that it never was voted upon. It was the watered-down version known as the George amendment (described by Senator George of Georgia, that was defeated, and there may be considerable significance in this.

Likewise, to say that even the George amendment was badly defeated needs correction, for it was defeated by one-third minority plus one vote of the senators. PRESENT at the time the vote was taken. Clearly, an amendment has majority appeal.

KILLED BY DESIGN! It would have been unfortunate indeed for those of us who want real protection against the encroachment of a centralized dictatorship if anything short of the original Bricker amendment had been passed, because then the hue and cry could have been, "We have already amended the Constitution to provide such protection," and this again would be a lie.

It has been the design of competent men, and in fact has been the tactical approach used by Senator Bricker and others, to defeat any version of the original amendment which would not accomplish the basic intent, but which might be used to deceive the people into thinking they had been given a protecting amendment. Far better the George amendment was killed than to bring the Bricker amendment to a vote at this time.

The Bricker amendment is not dead because Senator Bricker has no intention of letting it die; but even if he had, there are many others who would not permit this to happen. However, should our senate and house of representatives dillydally in this matter, there still are two more ways to force the issue of amending our Constitution provided in Article V of that instrument, which reads:

"The Congress . . . on the Application of the Legislatures of two-thirds of the several States, shall call a Convention for proposing Amendments, which . . . shall be valid to all Intent and Purpose, as a part of this Constitution, when ratified by the Legislatures of three-fourths of the several States, or by Conventions in

three-fourths thereof . . ."

STATES ON RECORD: This only two-thirds of the state legislatures can force a Constitutional Convention for the purpose of drafting an amendment; or three-fourths of the states can adopt a special amendment which, when adopted, would be final and conclusive and neither the Senate nor the House of Representatives could debate the issue.

The matter is so vital that I shall not be at all surprised to see the state legislatures soon getting together on an amendment which will be the equivalent of the original Bricker amendment, or even stronger. Such states as Texas, Mississippi, North Carolina, California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, and perhaps Georgia may lead in such action, and they will have the support of many powerful legal and law organizations throughout our country.

An organization closely associated with state legislatures, the National Association of Attorneys General, which represents the chiefs of the legal departments of all 48 states, is already on record favoring the Bricker amendment. The American Bar Association and the bar associations of 21 states are strongly behind the amendment. The great American Bar Association made a seven-year study of the needs for such an amendment, and its conclusions cannot be negated by a few internationalist politicians and weak-kneed commentators and columnists!

SUPPORTING GROUPS: Among the powerful lay organizations strongly urging passage of the genuine Bricker amendment are the American Legion (see American Legion Magazine, February, 1954), Veterans of Foreign Wars, Kiwanis International, Chamber of Commerce of the United States, National Grange, American Farm Bureau Federation, and such strongly growing women's organizations as the National Association of Pro America, the Minute Women, the American Federation of Women's Clubs, and about 80 other national organizations of like caliber.

Opposition to the Bricker amendment is found in all Communist and Communist front organizations, and the "Daily Worker" is a leader in the vicious attacks upon it. It is opposed by all pinko publications, interventionist and internationalist groups, and all captive columnists and commentators on the Washington scene from Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt to the Aloy brothers and other maledictors of the press, radio, and television media, as well as by the left-wing Americans for Democratic Action.

BATTLE LINES: In general, the battle lines are drawn as indicated above. We who stand with Senator Bricker for full protection of our Republic have not lost—indeed, we have just begun to fight! Don't be fooled by the Big Lie.

THEY SAY

- Dr. Henry Steele Commager, historian: "Professional patriots never seem to learn that we have achieved unity largely by allowing the free play of variety."
- Dr. Harold Taylor, president, Sarah Lawrence College: "The United States can trust its colleges, its students and its teachers as long as they trust each other."
- J. Howard Rainey, Jewish Rabbi: "Our nation is built upon the Gibraltar of true religion."
- Harry S. Truman, ex-President: "A good understanding of history of government is a 'must' for a public servant."
- Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, widow of late President: "Senator McCarthy is dangerous to America because he has created fear throughout the country without any enlightenment."
- H. E. Karl Gruber, new Austrian Ambassador to the United States: "My country was saved by the United States, after the war, first by food and later by Marshall Plan assistance."
- Burton K. Hickenlooper, U. S. Senator from Iowa: "The disclosure of secret (atomic) material would do nobody any good except the enemy."
- Jacques Barzun, historian, Columbia University: "The predominant fault of the bad English encountered today is not the crude vulgarity of the untaught but the blithe irresponsibility of the taught."
- Dwight D. Eisenhower: "The easiest thing to do with great power is to abuse it—to use it to excess."
- Dr. Julius Mark, Jewish Rabbi: "There is something greater than the Democratic Party or the Republican Party, and that is America."
- Dwight D. Eisenhower: "Before liberty can be truly victorious, brotherhood must be expressed among and within the free nations of the world."
- Barbara Parker, British railways beauty queen: "I haven't a boy friend. I prefer locomotives to men."

IT'S A FACT

by JERRY CAHILL



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