

# EDITORIALS

## A Pledge Renewed

This is National Newspaper Week and an occasion when all newspapers of good faith ought to reiterate their pledges to keep the press of America free.

The HERALD is the local representative of the American free press and as such feels keenly a responsibility to readers. This newspaper has one master only—the public welfare!

In endeavoring to give broad news coverage to important events of the Torrance area, The HERALD is trying to carry out the first precept of a good community newspaper. In the parlance of the newspaper business, it does not run "tight" editions. That is to say, the policy of The HERALD is to keep a sound balance of reading matter and illustrations in relation to paid advertising.

Because it is constantly striving to improve what we think is a good and honest product, The HERALD solicits constructive criticism and welcomes letters to the "Mail-box" column for readers on the editorial page.

Today's production costs are such that ever increasing support from advertisers and subscribers is essential in order for any newspaper to justify its claim to being something more than a shopper in newspaper format.

The HERALD will continue to grow with the community and in growing will not forget the ever enduring responsibility to its readers.

## An Editor's Day

A clever report on the daily routine of an editor has been set down on paper by Norman Lieberman of the Monterey Park Progress. Here, in part, is the way he presents it:

### THE MORNING AFTER:

"Hello. Is this the editor?"

Even the telephone couldn't hide the lady's disdain. "See here, last week I gave you an article on the Watch Winders Auxiliary. What do you mean by not putting it in?"

"Begging you pardon, madam, I believe that appeared. Let me see . . . oh, yes, . . . you'll find it on page 1 of section 2."

"Zat right?" Click!

It was a good three minutes before the next call.

"This is Mrs. Susan Perfluious. I'm calling about the story I sent in on the visit at my home by my third cousin from Altadena."

"I believe we ran an item on that . . ."

"Yes, but you left out so much."

"You mean his war record? It's sometimes necessary to leave out a detail or two, even as important as his tour of duty in Texas, for space reasons. You see . . ."

The lady didn't see.

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Seconds flew before the next call.

"Whaddaya mean with the tripe about flying fish? I could almost smell the cigar."

"Somebody asks the council whether they'd add to the decor of the swimming pool and you make it sound like they're spawning there already."

"There may be some mistake," I came back feebly. "No such story appeared in the Progress. Are you sure you didn't read it elsewhere?"

"Whatzat? Oh yes. Another paper? Har, har!"

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I barely had time to light a cigaret.

"Hello. I just wanted to tell you that I thought this was a wonderful issue. All the columns were interesting. There was a wealth of news and very good interpretive articles. I especially liked the cartoon and the excellent photo coverage. The editorials were thought provoking and well written. The paper was outstanding."

I waited until the lady was through.

"Thank you," I answered humbly. "What's for dinner tonight, honey?"

## You Can Recognize the Truth



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# THE MAIL BOX

(The Torrance Herald welcomes expressions from its readers which can be published on this page. The editors retain the right to edit the copy for matters of libel and good taste. Letters should be kept brief and must be signed. The writer's name will be withheld if requested. Opinions expressed in letters here published represent those of the writer and not necessarily those of The Torrance Herald.)

### Startling Disclosure

Editor Torrance Herald: Late in 1950, the North Koreans were thoroughly whipped following MacArthur's brilliant Inchon maneuver. The Korean war was rapidly drawn to an end.

If it had ended at that point, our losses, according to official records published in "U.S. News & World Report" for Sept. 30, 1955, would have been 31,000 casualties, with 5300 dead.

But the war didn't end there. Instead, the Chinese Communists, tipped off that we had adopted the policy urged on us by the British and that our commanders would be stopped at the Yalu river instead of being allowed to destroy staging areas, depots, industrial centers and lines of communication which would have annihilated them, came into the war with masses of troops.

Result: our losses rose to 142,000 casualties instead of 31,000; and our dead to 33,600 instead of 5300.

Who gave the Communists this top-secret information, and thereby caused the deaths of an additional 28,300 Americans and countless ROK and other soldiers, plus an additional 111,000 American casualties alone?

A British government "White Paper" on the Maclean-Burgess case, just released, discloses that it was these precious two, who had been actively sympathetic to Communism since their college days 20 years before and who were obviously Communist agents throughout their Foreign Office careers, who passed the word to the Chinese Communists which assured

them of the sanctuary they needed to enable them to come into the war.

Maclean and Burgess, you will remember, disappeared from England in 1951, to the utter surprise of the entire British government. Only then did the facts of their background receive the scrutiny which our own concept of security demands be first.

Today there are influential voices in our country urging that our security measures be relaxed or even abandoned; that we adopt a policy like that of the British. These people bleed over the "injustice" done to a very rare individual (which is always reflected when the error is discovered, incidentally) under our rigid check-ups.

Well, my heart bleeds too. My heart bleeds for the mothers and fathers, wives and families of those 33,600 American boys who were killed in Korea, and for the 142,000 casualties we alone suffered there, and for the hundreds of Americans still unaccounted for and without doubt either slaughtered or still the captives of the Communists for whom Maclean and Burgess did their diabolical work.

As Bernard Baruch says, nobody in this country except the guilty have anything to fear from our security system.

When single Communist agents, such as Fuchs, and White, and Hiss, and Maclean and Burgess and others of the same ilk, can do such damage, I'm pretty sure the majority of our citizens, given the facts, would vote for more and tight-

er security measures, not less.

John C. Robb

Redondo Beach.

(Editor's Note: John C. Robb, who was raised in the Orient, served at one time as advisor on the Far East for the National Broadcasting Co., and has a broad background on world and national affairs. He is a widely read columnist whose comments to the HERALD today have their basis on personal knowledge.)

### For A Free Press

Editor Torrance HERALD: It has become traditional with the Order of Elks to join with the press in the observance of National Newspaper Week each October. It is a good tradition, because it enables our order to demonstrate its unqualified support of the free press, which is the surest guarantee of the safety of American freedom.

The theme for 1955 National Newspaper Week, Oct. 1-8, is "Your Newspaper Fights for the Right to Know."

Unless we the people, let it be known that we shall not stand for any attempt to infringe on the freedom of the press to seek the truth and inform the people.

Torrance Lodge No. 1943, B.P.O.E., joins with the rest of the order's 1744 lodges in observance of National Newspaper Week by paying tribute to the newspapers of our own community and of America.

JOSEPH E. YATES, Exalted Ruler, Torrance Lodge No. 1943, B.P.O.E.

# AFTER HOURS

BY JOHN MORLEY

HONG KONG (Special to the HERALD)—The most impressive building in Hong Kong is the Communist China bank turned over by the British to Communist China after the fall of Chiang Kai-shek in 1950 . . . and the most impressive story I heard was that the Reds were the only victors of World War II in Asia. World War II removed the old stabilizing forces of Asia . . . Japan and the colonial powers . . . and into the vacuum rushed Communism. The vacuum is being filled fast and wide through coercion, intimidation and now through the lure of Communist trade. For some 600,000,000 people on the mainland of China, plus other millions on the Communist side, from Vietnam to Indonesia, are hungry for the goods that Hong Kong can supply. The profits are high and the temptations beyond the power of the average seller to overlook. "If you don't sell the Communists, somebody else will," is the common reply all over the Territory of Hong Kong.

The stalwarts against trading with Communism are declining both in numbers and enthusiasm. Idle factories and declining bank balances have taken the steam out of the campaign of standing pat against trade with Peiping. This in a nutshell is the economic atmosphere of Hong Kong today. It was not true when I was here in 1950, 1951, 1953, while the Korean war was on and Vietnam was invading Vietnam. With both wars stopped, the traders are back in business on a big scale. The Formosa question is but a ripple in a wave of Red propaganda engineered to resume "normal trade relations" with Hong Kong. Peiping needs almost everything Hong Kong has to sell, or trade. And hungry business firms are falling for the Communist hook.

Some business men earnestly confided to me that they are selling only "non-strategic" goods to Red China. But they failed to convince me just what they mean by "non-strategic." Their contention is that anything non-military sold to Red China can do no harm. They strongly oppose selling guns and tanks and planes to Red China, but they see no harm in selling them most everything else . . . like copper, oil, gasoline or a little steel.

To our way of thinking there really is nothing "non-strategic" in the hands of an enemy in times of tension, like the present crisis on the Formosa straits. For to whatever degree a country at war is able to get so-called "non-strategic" goods from abroad, its own industrial facilities are released for the production of "strategic materials" . . . guns, tanks, planes, or a little steel. In other words, if Communism is allowed to buy "non-strategic" goods from Hong Kong, or anywhere else, they are able to devote a great part of their energy and industrial facilities to the production of weapons destined to kill more of our allies in Formosa, Korea, or Indo-China. Let the Hong Kong merchants sell the Reds shoe strings and soles and kitchen utensils . . . and the Communist world is released from making shoestrings, and soles,

and kitchen utensils. We think the question is that simple and that grim.

Those who may say that trade with Red China is diminishing are perpetrating a falsehood. It just is not so. For instance, I learned in Hong Kong that during 1951 some 1,188 non-Communist ships went in and out of Red Chinese ports with a gross tonnage of almost one million tons. Of all our allies only one . . . Panama . . . placed serious restrictions on this blood trade. The ambassador of Panama in Hong Kong, Mr. Mario Guillen, gave me the undisputed facts of his country's contribution to the allied cause.

When I talked with him in 1951, 1953 and today, "Panama has been losing millions of dollars in income by this curtailment of trade," Mr. Guillen told me, both in Hong Kong and Taipei, where I talked with him in recent weeks. With the single exception of Panama, most of our allies are not only continuing the blood trade, but increasing it.

Getting back to the 1,188 ships . . . of these 50% were British, 12% Japanese and Italian, 10% Norwegian, Finnish, French, Danish, 9% from South America, and the balance of various nations from the Near East, India and Holland.

In 1952 the number of trips into Red ports by these ships dropped to 950 . . . by 1953, Panmunjon, they jumped to 1300 trips . . . and today it is well over 3,000 trips. The tonnage is increasing at the rate of 10% per month of Western goods directly or indirectly ending up in Red Chinese ports to help in the build-up against the Nationalist on Formosa.

The exposure of the case of the Finnish tanker "Aruba," carrying jet fuel to Red China and prevented from doing so by the sheer pressure of world public opinion, is a case in point. The Finnish government disclaiming any responsibility because they said the Finnish vessel was chartered by a company outside of its control. That company was the Far Eastern Enterprises Ltd. of Hong Kong. Far Eastern Enterprises is a Communist-Chinese company operating in Hong Kong under the sanction of the British government. It operated during the war and operates now. The "Aruba" case is only one of hundreds . . . but dramatizes the blood trade going on between our friends and enemies and the price we are paying for the protection the British Crown colony of Hong Kong is giving these companies, and the failure of the U. S. government to do something about this disgraceful situation.

I learned in Hong Kong that the British practice is to assign a few destroyers and light naval vessels to patrol duty around the waters of Hong Kong, as well as the Formosa straits. These vessels have been known to escort ships flying the British flag into Communist ports, thus preventing capture and confiscation by Nationalist China. In this way the goods are not

only sold on British soil, but British ships practically guarantee delivery to Red China.

So long as Hong Kong can be used for this purpose of bringing western goods into the empty industrial bins of Red China, so long will the Reds allow the British to hold on to Hong Kong. For Hong Kong in British hand is worth more to Mao Tse-tung and Chou En-lai than in the hands of Communist China. A Communist Hong Kong would become a ghost port in 30 days. At least that's the general idea that prevents any present effort of the Reds to demand the return of Hong Kong.

From the figures of the Call-



"A sign of a free government, a free press is a primary source of that government's strength."—Dwight D. Eisenhower.

"The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right. Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."—Thomas Jefferson.

"The country editor is more than a journalist . . . he is an educator . . ."—Roy E. Larson, president of Time, Inc.

ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914

Torrance Herald



Published Semi-Weekly at Torrance, California, Thursday and Monday. Entered as second class matter Jan. 30, 1914, at Post Office, Torrance, California, under act of March 3, 1879.

1619 Gramercy Ave.

FA 8-4000

KING WILLIAMS, Publisher

GLENN W. PFEL, General Mgr.

REID L. BUNDY, Managing Editor

Adjudicated a legal Newspaper by Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Adjudicated Decree No. 218470, March 23, 1927.

MEMBER CALIFORNIA

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS

ASSOCIATION

MEMBER NATIONAL

EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Subscription Rates:

By Carrier, 30c a Month.

Mail Subscriptions \$3.60 per year. Circulation office FAI-fax 8-4004.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE MEMBER

Advertisement for 'The American Press' featuring a man at a typewriter and various headlines like 'NEWS OF THE DAY-NATIONAL, REGIONAL, LOCAL' and 'VIGOROUS EDITORIALS AND NOTED COLUMNISTS'.

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