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Twinkle Little Telstar

People throughout the free world have been having a jolly time the past few days enjoying the amazing programs flipped back and forth half way around the world by way of the new Telstar, the communications satellite.

But their enthusiasm for the world's first successful communications satellite can't hold a candle to the enthusiasm several U. S. Senators are showing for the scheme to strip private enterprise of any part of the program.

The Telstar, conceived, designed, built, and launched by American Telephone and Telegraph Co. at no expense to the taxpayers, is impressive evidence of what private initiative, financed by private investments, can contribute to our national advancement and prestige.

The evidence is so impressive, in fact, that some of the more vocal advocates of federal control of every phase of American life have seen the successful Telstar venture as a threat to the ever expanding miasma of federal confusion which has been spreading out from Washington.

A Washington clique, led by such federalists as Estes Kefauver, Wayne Morris, and Ralph Yarborough, has declared war on the Administration's bill to set up a privately owned, government regulated space communications company to expand the multimillion dollar Telstar test program into a permanent global communications satellite system. The House passed the bill 354 to 9, but the Senate clique, bent on destroying any vestige of private enterprise, could scuttle the whole she-bang before many more programs are bounced back and forth between the United States and Europe.

Unfortunately, there are many persons in high places who believe only Washington in its awesome wisdom can handle such a project despite the obvious success of the privately executed Telstar program.

Headless Horseman

When the incoming administration went about setting up its corral on the New Frontier, one of its major concerns was the Galbraithian premise that the people were spending too much. Affluence was a dirty word.

Now comes the revelation from Washington that what's really wrong with our economy is that the people aren't spending enough. There's too much adherence to Ben Franklin's homily that a penny saved is a penny earned.

To correct that, President Kennedy wants to cut taxes. His advisors say that will make people buy more cars and stuff.

But his fellow Democrat, Sen. Harry Byrd, blasts the hide off the president of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce for thinking out loud along the same lines.

And here in California, Pat Brown has his Consumer Counsel going around the state implying that the people are too doggoned dumb to spend their money without government supervision, even in the corner grocery.

It's easy to get the impression that some people in government don't know whether to zig or to zag. So, like the cowboy in humorist Stephen Leacock's amiable tale, government just mounts its horse and rides off in all directions.

Opinions of Others

This country wouldn't be in such a mess today if the Indians had adopted more stringent immigration laws.—Easley (S.C.) Progress.

Industry is not something which should be tolerated—it should be wisely appreciated. That remark, made at an industrial development workshop by George Catlin of Detroit Edison Co., should be the credo of any community which enjoys industry's blessings. Today in the United States there are more than 13,000 commissions, departments, and companies representing cities, counties, states, and areas engaged in fierce competition to woo industry to their areas.—Port Huron (Mich.) Times-Herald.

ROYCE BRIER

Justice Black Strikes Out for Press Freedom

Associate Justice Hugo Black came to the Supreme Court 25 years ago accused of Southern reaction, and he fooled them. His voice has been one of reason and stubborn adherence to the principles of a free society.

His views often depart from convention. He was interviewed for an article in a law review, saying he believes suits for slander and libel are unconstitutional, violating the First Amendment, which says in part: "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech or the press."

The Court (States are under the same restraint) has increasingly diluted this clause, and defamation actions have long been familiar in our legal system. The following is almost entirely quotation from the interview: "I do not believe there is any halfway ground... I believe with Jefferson that it is

time enough for the government to step in to regulate people when they do something, not when they say something.

"It is rather old fashioned... to say that 'no law' means no law, (but) I took an obligation to support and defend the Constitution as I understand it. And being a rather backward fellow, I understand it to mean what the words say.

"I believe when our Founding Fathers with their wisdom and patriotism wrote this amendment, they wanted to ordain that Congress, elected by the people, should not tell the people what they should believe or publish, and that is about it. What was government created for, except to serve the people? Why was a constitution written for the first time in this country, except to limit the power of government, and

those who are selected to exercise it at the moment? "There have been very few individuals in the history of the world who could be trusted with... omnipotent power over their fellow men."

The reviewer asked his view of the argument that limitation of free speech is necessary to security, and Justice Black said:

"Of course, I want this country to do what will preserve it. The method I would adopt, however, is different from that of some other people. I believe it can be preserved only by leaving people with the utmost freedom to think and to hope and to talk... I do not think this government must look to force, stifling the minds and aspirations of the people. I believe in self-preservation, but I would preserve it (the country), as the Founders said, by leaving the people free."

Never Mind Duplicating It—



THIS WILD WEST by Lucius Beebe

Politicians Don't Have All the Pigheadedness

As these lyric strophes are being penned in the remote reaches of The Comstock, two major engagements are reported by pony post to be shaping up in the outer world, in each of which the battle array finds vast and perhaps predatory corporations facing a showdown with public opinion on a not inconsiderable scale.

One of them is the arrogant determination of the Bell Telephone System to force an obnoxious, offensive and completely unworkable system of digit dialing on its subscribers who have, through a variety of agencies, indicated their violent detestation of the entire project.

The other is the announcement by the American automobile industry, already hideously scarred from a previous engagement with American public taste, of its intention to force down the consumer throat models of motor cars that are promised to be bigger, brasser, more conspicuously vulgar and meritorious than anything seen to date.

The arrogance and smugness with which the phone company and the transportation strappings underestimate the power of public opinion is something, as the phrase goes, to give one pause and perhaps to make one wonder about the mentalities which direct these two large and important investments. One,

to be sure, is a public utility presumably maintained with some regard for public convenience and necessity, but also in the end the property of a large body of investors whose securities are equally entitled to consideration.

The automobile industry is, of course, beholden to nobody but itself, but it is an industry of such important dimensions in the national economy that any gesture in the direction of its own suicide must be noted as a matter of general interest and widespread implications.

Now, I am the last person in the world to argue that public opinion when massively arrayed pro or contra anything is, per se, something holy and not to be disputed. The voice of the people, in my book, so far from being the voice of any reputable god, is often enough no more than the screams of ignorance and the surly muttering of rebellious inferiority.

Yet, in a mood of what can only be described as petulant arrogance, for a public utility to take on a not inconsiderable and extremely vocal segment of public opinion as it has done in the case of the rebellious phone subscribers does not positively reek of prudence. An unwilling public has yet to be coerced into calling The Palace Hotel anything but The Palace despite the anguished screams of its chain ownership and billboard advertising on which the name Sheraton conspicuously dominates the hotel's old established name. Say Sheraton Palace to anybody west of the Missouri river and they will ask, "What is it?"

Then there is the matter of the New York thoroughfare for many years plainly and honorably known as Sixth Avenue. It was one of the less well-advertised whims of the late Mayor Fiorella La Guardia to re-name it as "The Avenue of the Americas," certainly as meaningless, inane and pontifical an address as could be devised. The street signs at every intersection are a melancholy memorial to the Little Flower, for New Yorkers and everybody else still call it, as God probably intended, Sixth Avenue.

It is possible to flout public opinion and even get away with it to a degree, but it can be fairly costly in the end.

The motor car manufacturers of the land have been told flatly and with gestures for the past several years that their obscene and outlandish land barges, over-powered, and widely described as ostentatious expressions of vulgarity, were not altogether to the taste of

the American car buying public. Quite literally frothing at the mouth, the car designers in Detroit and Lansing told the public it could go fly a kite and kept right on building cars that resembled nothing so much as hearses for the Congo export trade.

It was a mistake that cost the industry billions of dollars and notably enriched the makers of Rolls-Royce, Bentley, Jaguar and Mercedes-Benz who, for a mere \$12,000 to \$22,500 were agreeable to supplying cars to people of taste and discernment with no fins, no chromium trim and an irreducible minimum of no more than four or six headlights. Detroit hasn't heard about it but, except amongst the vulgar, the absence of leopard skin upholstery is something of a status symbol.

The horrible examples of the phone and automobile companies is a glittering refutation of the popular belief that sheer, arrogant pigheadedness enjoys a monopoly among politicians and the military. One can only harbor a sneaking suspicion that what public opinion cannot accomplish in the abatement of this progressive disease, the stockholders of Ford, General Motors, the phone company, et al, may decide to take a hand in. There's nothing so encouraging to a belief in a just heaven as last week's \$100,000 a year executive hauling away this week's garbage.

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

CDC Resolutions May Rise to Haunt Brown

SAN FRANCISCO—Governor Brown and the Democrats are optimistic in the fall campaign, as they hold a 4-3 majority in registrations over the Republicans... and the general assumption among them is that they will win easily in November.

Probably on paper-statistics Brown should win... but there are other important considerations which theoretical calculations do not take into account.

It was proved in the 1960 campaign that the 4-3 Democrat majority did not hold up, when Nixon carried the state by 30,000 votes. In that campaign Governor Brown had predicted that "Kennedy would carry California by a million votes."

What went wrong? Nothing but the political boasting. Nixon simply was more popular in California then... and even more popular now, since he is back on his home base.

Nixon won California in 1960 because a lot of Democrats and Independents joined the Republicans to put him over.

It is far too early to predict the outcome in November between Nixon and Brown. The 4-3 Democrat majority on paper is not enough guarantee for Governor Brown... unless that majority actually reaches the polls.

The national economy... the world situation... the employment picture in California... the changing public image of the candidates by November... the showing they make in the political debates... and the many imponderables injected into the hot political trail can win or lose for either Mr. Brown or Mr. Nixon.

A continued unfavorable stock market... a drying up of capital investment... a reluctance of the business community to expand facilities could throw the Democrat majority into a cocked hat.

The masses vote with their stomachs, not with party labels. As with all elections, the road to Sacramento will once again be paved by the third force of the Independents.

There is a wider split in the Democrat party in California... miles wider than the controversy between the liberal and conservative Republicans. The split is between the radical, liberal and conservative Democrats.

One of the major splits the Republicans will expose is the California Democratic Council's 12 resolutions voted in the Fresno 1961 conference, which candidate Brown will either have to publicly accept or reject.

Either way he is in trouble. To reject them will offend the 500 California Democrat clubs which comprise the CDC... to accept them will lose the conservative Democrats and Independents who will not touch them with a 10-foot pole.

The California Democratic Council in the 1961 Fresno conference passed the following 12 resolutions, on which so far Governor Brown has remained non-committal:

- 1. "Demand that the United

States disarm... even if negotiations to achieve world disarmament fail... even if the Soviet Union does not disarm."

2. "Include Red China in negotiations to halt nuclear tests."

3. "Abolish the House Un-American Activities committee."

4. "Abolish all loyalty oaths, state and federal."

5. "Oppose all legislation which would inhibit the powers of the U. S. Supreme court."

6. "Outlaw all secret congressional committee hearings" (thus making top secret testimony available to our enemies).

7. "Strip the postmaster general of powers to halt the use of the U.S. mails by the purveyors of pornographic materials."

8. "Extend the right to organize and the right to strike to all public employees, including policemen, firemen and others."

9. "Extend all-out federal aid to education... including funds for teachers' salaries."

10. "Request President Kennedy to review the Morton Sobel treason conviction to secure ultimate justice."

11. "Increase economic aid to underdeveloped nations and reduce military assistance abroad."

12. "Remold the United

Nations into a world organization that can enact, interpret and enforce world law upon individuals and governments alike."

Brown has accepted Nixon's challenge to a TV debate and either could win or lose a lot of votes pending the outcome. In professional debate Nixon is far superior to Brown, Nixon has made it known that the CDC resolutions will be laid on the table for Brown to approve or refuse.

This is the major Brown dilemma in the coming campaign. The CDC handed the Republicans the biggest sledge hammer in California politics.



Our Man Hoppe

Cold War Vets Seek Benefits

—Art Hoppe

It is with pardonable pride that I hereby announce the formation of a much-needed organization: The Cold War Veterans of America. I am the National Commander because it's my idea. You, of course, are eligible.

As you know, we've been fighting the Cold War for 15 years, the longest war in American history. Day after day, each of us has gamely performed his duties under the noses of the enemy's thermonuclear rockets. Day after day, each of us has faced odds as adverse, certainly, as those on any doughboy at Chateau Thierry or any GI at the Bulge.

Not that I'm complaining. I'm willing as the next to give my all on this Field of Honor. No more, no less. But what about the benefits?

After World War I, the four million veterans organized, wangled numerous rewards from a Grateful Nation and lived happily ever after. After World War II, the 15 million new veterans did likewise. All through organization.

But what about us 180 million veterans of the Cold War? What has a Grateful Nation done for us? Nothing. It's because we aren't organized.

But now that we're all Buddies in the Cold War Vets of America, things are going to be different. What a pressure group. Would any Congressman vote against a bill giving free mandolin lessons to every single one of his constituents? Nonsense.

That's only the beginning. A Grateful Nation will, of course, automatically extend to us all the benefits won at no little cost by those fighting veterans' organizations of previous conflicts. This is traditional.

We new veterans, thanks to the battles waged in Congress by our predecessors, will be born free and we will die free. In between, we will be educated free and medicated free. We will receive free non-service-connected dentures and free non-service-connected money. Best of all, we 180 million vets will be granted tax exemptions so we won't have to pay for all this.

But these are only the crass material benefits. And none of us enlisted in the Cold War—or, more accurately, failed to dodge the draft—merely for crass material benefits. On the spiritual side, we'll have National Conventions. Think how this will meet the need of the millions of Americans who love to go to conventions, but don't belong to any organization that holds conventions for them to go to.

As a new benefit, we'll demand that a Grateful Nation supply each of us Cold War Vets with a free Convention Kit, containing a free electric cane, a free seltzer bottle and a free piano to throw out of the hotel room window. I can't understand how this reward was overlooked by our predecessors.

So it's going to be a grand, huge organization, loved by all. Of course, a few may argue that a man should fight for his country because he loves it. And that he should demand no special treatment in return unless he is disabled in combat. But that idea will never go over. Not so long as we have the American Legion, it won't.

No sir. The only rational objection to the formation of the Cold War Vets at this time is that survivors aren't supposed to organize until after the war is over. True. But we want this to be a BIG organization.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"Thank Heavens the Pipers are coming over... I'd hate to have to eat this mess by ourselves."