

Press-Herald

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Another Tragic Payoff

In its highly controversial "Morse Decision" the California Supreme Court vacated the death penalty of a youth who beat to death his mother and 12-year-old sister, "just because he felt like killing someone." The Court's reasoning was that during his trial the jury had been told that if sentenced to life imprisonment the accused could be paroled.

Now a sordid and tragic payoff has come. Returned to San Diego for a second penalty trial, the reprieved man killed a trusty in the county jail. He did it, he told police, simply because he wanted to be sure the jury gave him the death penalty again. He'd rather die, he said, than spend his life in prison.

That explanation, parenthetically, might just be a good start toward a "legally insane" verdict and another reprieve from the gas chamber.

It has never been explained satisfactorily to most of us why a jury should not be fully informed of California law affecting the enforcement of its findings. To make such informing a technical excuse for mistrial seems to many an extremely tenuous stretching of the law in the interest of the accused. This latest slaying puts a bloody question mark after the "Morse decision."

All of this is brought to mind again today by Assemblyman Charles E. Chapel whose column (see page C-4) this week contains his pointed comments on Governor Brown's appeal to his new attorney general to help him see to it that "the rule of law meets the challenge of the sixties."

Assemblyman Chapel's remarks, and the remarks of Justice Marshall McComb in a recent decision raise a point which has long concerned many people:

When are those in the positions of responsibility going to begin considering the "rights" of the millions of law-abiding, loyal citizens?

The piteous cry of the do-gooders (not to be confused with good doers) at the fate of hardened criminals being isolated from society and the eager assistance offered by judges and governmental leaders in thwarting desires of decent persons to protect themselves from criminal elements is a fearsome matter to contemplate.

We hope more people of Mr. Chapel's influence and even more of Justice McComb's persuasion will make themselves heard.

It's time the rights of decent people receive some consideration.

Opinions of Others

Following is a tale of woe which should be of interest to all of you American taxpayers. The U.S. Government has seen fit to spend a half million dollars sending a raft of modern ballet-type dancers on an extended tour of Southeast Asia. . . Throughout the tour, 85,000 came and saw, which taken at the tour cost of \$541,000, averages about \$6.30 a head or \$12.60 per couple cover charge, for our Asian brothers — which you and I footed. For those prices we should have had the Beatles! — *Livington (N. M.) Leader.*

"Senator Warren Magnuson of Washington is much concerned—as we all should be—about the practice of the Internal Revenue Service of furnishing confidential information from tax returns to other governmental agencies. . . Magnuson declares 'Tax returns were never intended for statistical purposes. Every citizen has a right to expect that his income tax return is a strictly private matter between him and his government.' He goes on to say it is 'up to Congress to put a stop to this practice before it becomes more widespread.'" — *Sandpoint (Idaho) News-Bulletin.*

"The average American would explode in righteous indignation if someone suddenly told him he didn't have the right to vote. The sad fact is, however, that far too many who have the privilege are letting it go to waste. Estimates are that unless somebody shakes them out of their apathy and indifference, some 40 million eligibles will neglect to cast ballots in November." — *Brookville (Pa.) American.*

Mailbox

Editor, Press-Herald
This is in reply to a letter written to you by Steven Platkos several weeks ago.

We, at the Hawthorne Volunteers Headquarters at 312 S. Hawthorne Blvd., read this letter with dismay and know that it did not happen at our office. There are many volunteer headquarters that have opened to try to help Senator Goldwater, and he cannot control these volunteers. They come in and work on their own time and without pay and work long hours only to improve our two party system and give voice to the rising conservative outlook.

I can only speak for our headquarters, we borrowed money to pay the rent and are raising donations to pay for expenses of telephone, literature, etc. Two of our wonderful volunteers paint-

ed our sign for which we are proud.

We are trying to stay alert to the literature and anyone is welcome in our office and will be treated with courtesy no matter what side they have taken.

We do attempt to inform them with Goldwater's books plus "None Dare Call It Treason," and "A Texan Looks at Lyndon."

We are also proud of our own Berlin Wall replica built by one of our group. If this was a highly financed campaign, persons would be paid and trained, but since it is a volunteer grass roots activity we do the best we can and pray the rest will act as Senator Goldwater would have them act on his behalf.

MRS. DON BLESSING
13821 Shopp Ave.,
Hawthorne, Calif.



HERE AND THERE by Royce Brier

Some Reflections About The Automobile and Man

The Athenians had the salt mines (hence could preserve meat), and so stood off the Spartans for decades. The Romans had the timber for ships, and ultimately bested the Carthaginians.

Henry Adams, the historian, believed coal was the measure of a nation's power and energy. He called it the dynamometer. But today the automobile is the dynamometer of a nation's power and energy.

This hypothesis is manifestly inspired by news from Detroit. There have been fears in some quarters that "disturbingly high" gains of the UAW in the Chrysler agreement may cause a chain reaction inflation. But the automobile has a way of absorbing the deficit it creates, then converting to a surplus of power and energy residing in a nation.

This came about gradually, for elders remember when the automobile was the rich man's toy, and high school boys didn't even have tin lizzies.

Early in the century the fuel burned in American automobiles did not produce the major income of the oil industry. A small town had one or two garages, a large city, 39 or 40. There were no roadside eating places, no heavily populated suburbs. Steel was used in bridges and buildings, cement in warehouses. Recreation areas were few, small, and thinly visited.

Unless you were wealthy you got about a city by street car, you visited other cities by railroad, and heavy drayage and farm work was still performed by horses.

All this constituted power and energy at a low level, and what is equally important, at a slow pace. Men had not the means to do much more work than they had done half a century earlier.

Opportunity for gainful employment was pinched, and average income in factories and small business was meager.

There is little doubt the automobile has played a

major part in the inflation of this century, which we began to call the High Cost of Living in 1920.

You don't get something for nothing, and power and energy cannot be had and used without paying their fee. By the end of the Depression the automobile and truck had begun to dominate the work potential of this nation, and after the war this potential mushroomed in western Europe and Japan.

Today the motor vehicle is the foundation of our working life. The industries directly involved in producing, fueling, servicing vehicles, employ millions. But as many millions have jobs because 85 million vehicles worth \$100 billion are moving hither and yon like mad.

The ominous part of it is that we now have so many vehicles doing our work they tend to smother our cities and our highways, diminishing their own power and energy potential. But this is another story — and a sadder one.

BOOKS by William Hogan

Journalist Paints Bleak Picture of FBI, Director

The prize-winning journalist and author (of 11 books) Fred J. Cook has taken the bull by the horns, as it were. In "The FBI Nobody Knows" (Macmillan, 423 pp., \$5.95) he builds a devastating case against the Federal Bureau of Investigation and its veteran director, J. Edgar Hoover. His book is as explosive as the current "The Invisible Government," in which David Wise and Thomas B. Ross take a hard, critical look behind the expensive cloak of the Central Intelligence Agency.

This is a fully documented treatise that stretches from the rootin'-tootin' mobster era of the 1930s, when the G-Men image of the invincible Bureau was formed in the public mind, to the present. Cook attempts to give the FBI credit when credit is due. But he is mightily disturbed by what he feels is a potential nucleus of a police state in some less stable American period. His conclusions are both controversial and frightening.

Certainly the work as a whole is an antidote to Don Whitehead's laudatory and widely-read portrayal of Hoover and his agency, "The FBI Story," and to Hoover's own recent book, "Masters of Deceit."

Cook states that the defecation of the director within the organization, which

comes dangerously close to idolatry, is one of the prime flaws in the agency. He points to petty internal politics and practices within the Bureau. He paints Hoover as "Mr. Untouchable," even (perhaps especially) in the halls of Congress. Cook suggests that Hoover has never been overly anxious to go after the truly big fish in the crime industry (witness the Apalachin Mafia convention in 1957, the author urges), and indeed has

blocked every proposal that might have set up a rival Federal agency to perform this important chore.

Hoover's asserted lust for publicity comes under attack here, as does his distaste for criticism. Cook shows where Hoover has countered criticism of himself or the bureau by consigning the critic of the moment to the most convenient Communist doghouse.

The author charges, and cites evidence, that the FBI is politically oriented toward the right and that the director is almost hysterically upset by political activity on the left. Cook reaches back to the glamorous gang-busting Dillinger and Baby Face Nelson period to show that FBI successes were performed inexpertly at best.

Cook seems to have his case firmly under control, and his publisher, the conservative old house of Macmillan, obviously is backing him to the hilt in this explosive enterprise. We are liable to hear much of this during the season, pro and con.

It is Cook's general conclusion that when "one man, an institution, is enshrined on a pedestal above the law, impervious to criticism, democracy loses the fine edge of its freedom and takes a long stride toward authoritarianism."

PLEDGE YOUR PINT TODAY!

AFTER HOURS by John Morley

Some Quiet Reflections: This is What I Believe

- Please, Mr. President, I'd rather do it myself.
- Let every American do anything he pleases that's peaceful, creative and lawful. Let there be no government or pressure group restraint against anything but fraud, violence, misrepresentation. Let anyone work, educate, or preach his religion or whatever, so long as it's peaceful.
- Limit government to emergency aid, policing, and juridical functions, prescribing the do-nots and the penalties for violations.
- Defend us from our enemies within and without, reduce the bureaucracy, and leave all else to the free, uncluttered society to achieve the "pursuit of happiness." Mr. President.
- Miracles do happen — and so may this.

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- Now that we're getting close to the moon, about the only thing left to fear is man.
- Politicians have finally put peace on a wartime basis.
- The difference between United States and South American politicians is that ours start running before election.
- Socialists-radicals make their money out of free enterprise and then use it in an effort to destroy it.
- What worries the administration on its soft-policy with Khrushchev is that he keeps reminding us "that compromise is what advances Communism."

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- As the United States foreign aid billions spring the backward Negroes into 20th-century emancipation, we wonder the consequences when they suddenly discover that the whites are really the minority.
- Medicare is a political gimmick and an insult to the intelligence of the American people. For it suggests that whether a man earns \$4000 or \$40,000, he is incapable of deciding how to insure himself. It reveals a contempt for individual judgment and traditional free choice.
- It's not always hunger for food that turns people to Communism, but also hunger for power.

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- It has been proved time and again in all history, and it is proving again now in Communist controlled countries, that the more you persecute people with faith in God, the more they grow in that faith.
- A free society is a critical society, a dissatisfied society, a creative society, and a generous society.
- The greed of individual voters is often reflected in those they vote for.
- The whole theory of "equality" insults the uncommon man.
- It's easy to learn our his-

tory in Korea, but difficult to apply its lessons in Vietnam.

- Each time I see the ocean, the mountains and the big trees in front of my window, they have a way of humiliating my puny existence.
- Leisure time is no problem in Los Angeles. Residents use it all up going to and from work.

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- All men are equal before God and politicians . . . for different reasons.
- Sometimes it's better to live with some existing evils than to replace them with the greater evil of government bureaucracy.
- Before I discard anything tried and proved for 100

years, I want to see the new model work for just ten.

- It's always the fault of the last generation, or the last administration.
- Fuzzy-minded social planners would discard an imperfect social order upon the more imperfect illusion of heaven on earth.
- There's nothing wrong with the younger generation that paying the bills later won't cure — if free-enterprise can wait that long.
- Modern art leaves me cold, I can't figure out either the painting or the painter.
- Truth is sometimes complicated because we try to determine it mainly by reason instead of including the force of faith.

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Our Man Hoppe

Make Believe Summit Talks

By Arthur Hoppe

I was sitting here, fresh out of up-to-the-minute issues, when in came a musty old archive from Mr. Edward F. Newman, a Hayward attorney and a writer of musty old archives.

On the theory it may be of some interest to students of Dead Sea Scrolls and the like, I'll pass it on to you, pretty much the way Mr. Newman wrote it.

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Mount Sinai, 1491 B.C. And it came to pass on the third day in the morning that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and a voice of the trumpet exceedingly loud; so that all the people trembled. And Moses went up to the top of the mount.

MOSES: You called, Lord?

THE LORD: That's right, Moses. Frankly, I'm a little perturbed by the way the people are behaving down there.

MOSES: Well, you know how people are, Lord. They mostly mean well, but . . .

THE LORD: But me no buts, Moses. You tell them they better start keeping my commandments.

MOSES: Commandments? What did you have in mind, Lord?

THE LORD: I've jotted them down on these stone tablets, plain and simple. Now, I don't want any more killing, stealing, adultery or perjury. And I don't want anybody coveting his neighbor's house nor anything that's his neighbor's. And so forth.

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MOSES: Well now, Lord, those are certainly mighty fine sentiments. And I'm sure every decent person agrees with them 100 per cent. In theory. But do you think the people are ready for this sort of thing?

THE LORD: Ready? What do you mean, ready?

MOSES: No offense, Lord, but you can pass all the laws you want to, requiring that people love their neighbors. But it's just not going to do a whit of good. No sir, that's something they've got to feel in their hearts.

THE LORD: Well, it won't do any harm.

MOSES: Now, that's where you're wrong, Lord. You take that tenth one there, about not coveting your neighbor's property. Why, our whole economy's based on coveting. A fellow doesn't covet his neighbor's house and he won't offer a fair price for it. You try to enforce a law like that, Lord, and you'll knock the bottom clean out of the whole real estate market. It's a clear violation of property rights. It's divisive. It'll just cause bitterness and violence in the streets.

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THE LORD: Then how are we going to get people to love their neighbors, Moses?

MOSES: Well, Lord, as I see it, it's really an educational problem. We've just got to gradually educate all these neighbors to be decent and proper. Like us. So that they're deserving of being loved. Of course, you can't change human nature overnight.

THE LORD (sighing): I suppose you're right, Moses. Hand me the tablets and I'll repeal them over this rock here. Seems a shame, though. They were such nice, simple laws.

MOSES: Sure, Lord, sure. Very basic. But there's one thing you've got to keep in mind in this business.

THE LORD: What's that, Moses?

MOSES: You just can't legislate morality.

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Is President Johnson guilty of revealing military secrets? No doubt about it, he is. And nobody knows this better now than Senator Goldwater.

After all, it was the Senator who accused this Administration of not developing any new military systems. Now he knows, the Russians know and the voters know that we have learned to bend radar sightings and shoot enemy satellites out of the sky.

The armed forces are full of necessary secrets—secrets even from a major general in the reserve. The only safe military issues to bring up in campaigning are old, simple things—like the Springfield rifle. It's no damn good.

Abe Mellinkoff

Quote

"Our grand business undoubtedly is, not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand." — Thomas Carlyle.

At 50 is the first time you really fall in love. The pain is gone . . . the sharp edges and the fizzle gone.—Playwright Leonard Spigelgass.

Our children are well adjusted. Out of 300 students, only one went to see the Beatles. — Jim Kirchanski, San Rafael educator.

Truth always wins in the end. Anyone can plant radishes; it takes courage to plant acorns and wait for the oaks.—Mary Jane Root.



"The general complaint about cars is that the motors won't start and the payments won't stop."