

## Free Enterprise Cited

"Free enterprise" as a way of life got a shot in the arm here Monday afternoon when business, military, and political leaders met for official dedication of the new Union Bank tower at the Del Amo Financial Center.

The history of the center was reviewed, the history of the land was noted, and the impact of free enterprise on the growing Torrance and Southwest areas was recited by several speakers.

John M. Heidt, the bank's regional vice president, set the theme for Monday's dedication when he told those at the ceremonies that the center was the product "of our wonderful system of free enterprise." He cited the system that guarantees religious and educational freedom, commercial and industrial opportunity, and representative government.

Others who spoke, including bank officials, government leaders, and ranking military officers, added to the theme.

It's a theme too easily forgotten in these days of supergovernments. In a time when far too many turn to the government to solve problems and to provide the means for development, it is heartening to see the tremendous contribution made to the area by the new regional bank headquarters and the other privately financed and operated firms which are joining in the new financial center.

We welcome this new giant of finance to the city and salute its officers for setting the theme of the dedication on free enterprise.

Free enterprise as a way of life deserves more than lip service, and Union Bank is to be commended for reminding us of it.

## Rededication Asked

Thousands of Greater Los Angeles residents are expected to again sign their names to giant enlargements of the Constitution of the United States which Boy Scouts will display at supermarkets in the area next Saturday as a highlight of the 1967 observance of Constitution Week.

Joe Crail, chairman of the Constitution Week Committee, has urged all residents to not only affix their signatures on the replicas of the Constitution, but to "rededicate themselves to the principles and responsibilities which America's founding fathers outlined when it was drawn up."

Crail called the Constitution "the most nearly perfect document ever drawn up" and said "on the 180th anniversary of its signing, the Constitution should be as inspirational and meaningful as it was when it was written."

The importance of the Constitution will be stressed during the week by schools, courts, plus fraternal, community, and governmental groups. The anniversary of the signing of the Constitution is Sunday, Sept. 17th.

## Opinions of Others

The fiscal and tax policy and manipulations of our federal government are freezing Americans in their tracks. It is getting more and more difficult for even the most ingenious and industrious to accumulate savings or capital to pursue individual enterprise. Any savings or capital acquisition that is occurring is being forced by government into being that of the government, to be dealt with as the government sees fit. If this continues, the day will fast arrive when there is no individual in the United States who is anything but an hourly wage earner, doomed to the status of merely accepting government benefits as the government "gives" them, for the rest of his natural life.—Breckenridge (Colo.) Summit County Journal.

The latest piece of mail to come across the desk has been a new government publication "Catalog of Federal Assistance Programs." It is almost identical in size to the latest Sears Roebuck catalog. This new offering has a nice cover as well as different colored pages, apparently an attempt to make all the giveaways more palatable to the taxpayer.—Faith (S.D.) Independent.

Habits are something that cannot be thrown out the window—they must be coaxed downstairs step by step.—Fred W. Grown in the Bergen (N.J.) Citizen.

## Morning Report:

Republic Aviation has 12 jobs open for men who want to escape the rat race. Goodbye to freeway traffic both ways, the sight of rollers at the breakfast table, office politics, TV dinners and TV itself, uninvited guests for bridge, children's homework, and the fight for your share of the blankets. Say goodbye to them all and get paid \$37 a day in the process.

All the applicant has to do is sit around in a simulated space capsule in Farmingdale, New York, for 270 days. In a way it's like spending the better part of a year on a deserted island without the insects.

We now have the know-how to build chambers that will sail in outer space indefinitely. Republic now needs to know if we have men to match our machines. Congress has decided the trip is necessary. Republic wants to know if it is bearable.

Abe Mellinkoff

## The Innocents



## FBI Chief Calls for Tough Gun Laws, Enforcement

By J. EDGAR HOOVER, Director, FBI

Each year thousands of businessmen look up from their work into the menacing muzzle of a gun wielded by a trigger-happy robber. In recent months, murderous snipers have waged guerrilla warfare against law enforcement officers in our streets. In 1963, our President was slain with a mail-order rifle. During the calendar year of 1966 alone, more citizens were killed or assaulted with guns in American streets and homes than were killed in battle during the entire Korean conflict.

The use of firearms in crime is indeed a serious and major problem in our country today.

A firearm continues to be the instrument of death in virtually every murder of a law enforcement officer. Last year, 55 of the 57 law enforcement victims killed in the line of duty died from gunshot wounds. These figures are in keeping with the trend since 1960 which reflects that firearms have been the murder weapons in 96 per cent of the 335 police killings.

There has been an increasing interest on the part of the public in this admitted, complex issue. I have publicly stated my view for many years that better control of firearms is not only desirable, but also necessary to public welfare. We have reached the point where the time for debate is past; the time for action is here.

I think mail-order firearm purchases should be banned, interstate transportation of firearms controlled, and local registration of weapons required and enforced.

The primary thrust against this serious problem must be from the local level, but Federal assistance must strongly supplement State gun legislation. While it is true a hardened criminal will obtain a gun regardless of statutes in force, most authorities agree that controls would make acquisition more difficult. With a large percentage of the murders in the United States occurring within the family or among acquaintances, the readily available lethal firearm, seven times more deadly than other murder weapons, becomes a major factor.

Enforced controls at the local level provide the possibility of investigative leads

in tracing stolen weapons and those used in crime. This possibility takes on added significance in view of the nationwide capabilities of the rapidly expanding FBI National Crime Information Center. Pertinent weapons information stored in this computer network is available to law enforcement throughout the country in a matter of seconds.

Some States and jurisdictions have laws which allow courts to impose stiffer penalties for criminals who use firearms in the commission of felonies. A realistic application of these laws by the courts, plus the passage of similar legislation in areas where none now exists, together with mandatory prohibitions against suspended sentences in cases involving firearms, would certainly be a strong deterrent to those who contemplate using firearms for violence.

There is no doubt in my mind that the easy accessibility of firearms is responsible for many killings, both impulse and premeditated. The statistics are grim and realistic. Strong measures must be taken, and promptly, to protect the public.

## A Letter . . . ... To My Son

By Tom Rische  
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce,  
One of these years, we'll probably buy you a bike, since that seems to be a part of most boys' growing up. However, your dad is already in his second childhood with his newly acquired bicycle, but he loves it.

Faced with a somewhat sagging stomach, I hit upon a bike as a method of combatting that problem. But in so doing, I've gained an entirely new perspective on the world.

I'd forgotten (since I quit riding a bike in high school because only the "squares" rode them) how much a bike rider has to be aware of the terrain—the hills and valleys; I've had to figure out that the easiest route between two points is not necessarily a straight line.

I'm noticing things I never had time to look at before when I was whizzing by in a car. As I "cruise" the beach or some residential area, there are lots of things happening that I never realized because I never had time to look at them. I'm getting the feel of the wind and the sun on my face (and a few bugs in my teeth) as I haven't

## Quote

We've had individual cases in the past but never of this magnitude. This is the first time we've gone into it this deeply.—Bion R. Gregory, deputy director of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, on current investigation of illegal entry of liquor into California.

Presently the state controller appoints over 150 individuals to be inheritance tax appraisers, at least one in each county. After making these appointments, the controller has little control over these appraisers.—Houston I. Flournoy, state controller.

## AFFAIRS OF STATE

# New Welfare Generation Standing in the Wings

SACRAMENTO — John C. Montgomery, state director of social welfare, made some pointed remarks in a recent speech to the Republican Women's Club of Thousand Oaks, Ventura County. His remarks may start a wholly different train of thinking concerning the welfare program. He said:

"The public welfare rolls stand as a monument to social as well as individual failure.

"The number of recipients is not going to diminish significantly until society begins to head them off in advance of the day they start drawing financial aid.

"The next welfare generation is standing in the wings. What are the communities going to do about them, now, before they send them to us?"

Montgomery said he is working for a shift in popular thinking about welfare, "from crying over spilt milk to remedial development."

He pointed out that it is already too late for a high proportion of those on public assistance to recover.

Approximately 300,000 welfare recipients, he told the group, or 25 per cent of the total 1,200,000 on cash as-

sistance, are aged 65 or older. He said more than 11,000 are totally disabled and over 12,000 are blind.

"Of the more than 200,000 parents in the aid to families with dependent children," he said, "it is our official estimate that not more than 90,000 can be considered employable, less than half, in other words.

"It is those 575,000 or more children presently on

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public aid that all of society must work with now, to preclude the need for their returning to welfare in future years as adults."

Montgomery is a former supervisor in Ventura County, and as such, is well acquainted with the welfare problem as it applies to the local level.

His comments touching on the future of the welfare program are highly important to citizens and taxpayers, in that unless some drastic moves are made to reduce the amount of public funds used to support the non-producers, the future is bleak indeed.

Expenditures for welfare

have grown to the point where it is second only to education in receipt of public disbursements. These expenditures have accounted for tax increases which rapidly are challenging the ability of the producers to pay.

Thus, the prospect of a new generation of welfare recipients added to those already on the rolls and the normal increases caused by the growth of population eventually will result in the state reaching the point where the demands will be greater than the ability of the citizenry to meet them.

Already, many hard-working, taxpaying families in California are denied many desirable items in the course of modern living because extra money which normally would go to purchase such items are being confiscated by government for the support of welfare recipients. No one level of government is responsible, as federal, state and local governments alike are imposing confiscatory taxes to meet welfare costs.

There is no ready answer to the problem, but it is evident some action must be taken to halt the steady drain on the economy.

## ROYCE BRIER

# One Kaiser Idea Helped To Defeat the Japanese

Among Americans who have played a role in the growth and power of this country in this century, Henry J. Kaiser, who died just recently, was not typical, except in the outward shape of achievement.

He was not typical because most of his colleagues in empire building became hard customers, who let money and ambition dominate them at the expense of their humanity. Henry Kaiser was never that way in his 85 years.

Another foremost trait of Kaiser was an unremitting curiosity in technology, and his application of it to problems in his career. A minor example of this was not mentioned in extended newspaper biographies, and a major example was mentioned in passing. But the latter had a direct bearing on history a quarter-century since, and it may be worth discussion.

Early in the century Kai-

ser was a small-time highway contractor north of Seattle, and you can see a five-mile stretch of his paying there yet. Shortly afterward the great California highway boom started.

There is a cinder cone spur west of Mount Shasta, and Kaiser decided the lava would make good road bal-

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last, and it was cheap to mine. So he outbid other contractors on the roads in the Yreka area.

He was indefatigable in looking for something to do, and he was already a big public works contractor and metals processor when the Pacific war came along. He plunged into shipbuilding, and he talked a beleaguered government into hundreds of millions in loans. It proved to be a vital government investment.

He built a quarter of the merchant ships launched during the war. In time he had 58 shipways in seven yards. Before the war a 10,000-ton cargo vessel took 24 days from keel to launching. Kaiser was launching them in under five days.

Then occurred the odd historical episode. The Japanese thought they could win that war. They had adapted all the Western civilization's technology (they thought), and they would paralyze the civilization at Pearl Harbor. They would dominate the Pacific, staving off American air power because it took three years to build a carrier.

So something funny happened, and the Japanese hadn't dreamed it. American planes began zooming around where they shouldn't be, messing up their ocean supply system from no visible bases. Soon the Japanese began spotting small carriers, hardly bigger than a freighter, called baby flat tops. They were slow, but they packed 30 planes.

They poked around everywhere. Loss of one was not disastrous, because Kaiser was building one a month, as fast as crews could be trained. He built fifty. The battles they fought were not famous-name engagements, like Midway. But these, and not the big carriers, began that island attrition which proved in time fatal to the Japanese vainglorious dream.

It was just a Kaiser idea, but it was the biggest one he ever had, if you grant we had to win that war.

## Alan Grey Says . . .

A group of dissident prisoners . . . Without the proper ball . . . Took a hurried leave of absence . . . From the LA county jail . . . They found an open air vent . . . Through which they all could crawl . . . From there the job was easy . . . To scale down the wall . . . While there's surely better methods . . . This could be one solution . . . To ease the overcrowding . . . At this public institution.

## WILLIAM HOGAN

# Walter Lord Retells the Story of Midway Battle

Samuel Eliot Morison's 15-volume "History of the United States Naval Operations in World War II" more than adequately covered major sea engagements during that period. As official Navy historian, Morison did consider the action at Midway, in June, 1942, in some depth—the unit titled "Coral Sea, Midway and Submarine Actions," which appeared in 1949.

As a coolly professional historian Morison saw no reason, in his analysis, to consider the minutiae, the often absurd details of that particular engagement. That is the special province of Walter Lord, a "popular" historian and story-teller, who in "Incredible Victory" presents a vivid, dramatic, even cinematic version of the Midway story.

In Lord's detailed recapitulation, for example, the role of a mess boy in attendance to the brooding admiral Isokuro Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the Imperial Japanese Navy's Combined Fleet, becomes a part of the background; or pre-battle rituals at Shinto shrines below a flight deck. These lend an operatic ef-

fect to Lord's work, an element studiously avoided, for the most part, in more classic histories. Yet Lord's narrative drive, the research and zeal that has gone into his version of this affair—often called America's Battle of Britain—is quite breathtaking.

Lord is a specialist in this sort of treatment of historic

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events—the sinking of the Titanic in "A Night to Remember," or the attack on Pearl Harbor in "Day of Infamy."

Tracked down several hundred participants in the Midway drama, Japanese as well as American (Cornelius Ryan uses this jigsaw-puzzle approach to history, too, most notably in the story of Berlin's collapse in the spring of 1945, "The Last Battle"). When performed well, this blending of personal anecdote and on-the-record data makes for high drama of the kind professional historians resent as

superficial, if not artificial highlighting. I feel that Lord's handling of Midway (as in Ryan's handling of the Berlin story) does not prove the professional historians wrong so much as it presents the average reader with another point of view, and by doing so makes the event more meaningful.

American naval forces were outclassed in this action—three aircraft carriers against eight Japanese. It was essentially Yamamoto versus Nimitz, with the stakes the domination of the Pacific and very probably the turning point of the war. The fact this remains a "popular" history takes nothing from Admiral Morison's former-record version. Lord's book is an especially colorful, thoroughly masculine tale of a naval action as obsolete as that at Trafalgar, and in its special vitality a complete success.

Notes on the Margin . . . "The Short Novels of Jack Shafer" ("Shane") whose Westerns are considered by many critics to compare with the work of Owen Wister, Stephen Crane and Sherwood Anderson, have been issued by Houghton Mifflin (\$6.95).