

## A Proud Role

"Newspapers get things done." Under that banner, newspapers of the nation this week turn the spotlight of recognition inward and review their own contributions to the communities they serve. We are glad to reflect for a moment on the role we have played in the communities we serve.

In today's complex and busy world, newspapers provide the necessary link between the people and the structures of civilization the people have built.

The thousands of people in the community cannot crowd into the city council chambers nor the board of education meetings. Reporters do, however, and the people are told what occurred.

The right of the newspaper's reporter to be at the city council or board of education meeting is based only on the right of the public to be present. He has no special privileges.

Because of their role as observers of the public business, newspapers have been leaders in the fight to keep public business out in the open. The fight goes beyond a protection of their own freedoms to report.

President Johnson, in a statement on National Newspaper Week, called newspapers "the unsleeping sentinels of all freedoms."

Without the freedom to speak, write, and comment on public affairs, other freedoms could not long endure.

We are proud of the part we have had in the protection of those individual freedoms we enjoy, and we pledge to continue our vigilance for your "right to know" and for "freedom of information."

Our success in these endeavors is all we ask.

## Super Snoops Proposed

If a nice lady comes knocking at your door along in 1970 and asks about the number of people sharing your bathrooms, what your television sets are like, and wants to know about dishwashers, garbage disposers, and swimming pools, she'll probably be taking the federal census. In this case, she'll also ask you for the normal census information: name, address, sex, age, race, and marital status.

The threat of a probing inquiry into the personal lives of the nation's residents is very real, according to the Wall Street Journal.

Commenting on plans for the 1970 census, the Journal said this week that more than 60 items are being proposed for the population survey. Congressman Jackson Betts, Republican from Ohio's 8th District, has blown the whistle on the plan, calling the long list of questions a harassment and an invasion of personal privacy.

Penalty for refusing to answer the questions could be 60 days in jail and a fine of \$100. Your Congressman should hear from you on this:

## Opinions of Others

We shall never regain control of our foreign aid program by shaving a few hundred million here and there. The only way to bring it to earth is for the Congress to rebel and reject just one foreign aid bill. Within two weeks the Administration and the State Department would come back with a bill cut down to size and, I hope, with some of the sham and secrecy torn off.—Sen. Norris Cotton, R-N.H.

If you're one of those who longs for those early days when life was "simple" better take another look. The pages of those early papers are dotted with stories of the untimely deaths of children and adults from diphtheria, smallpox, scarlet fever, hydrophobia, and lockjaw. Diphtheria, in particular, wiped out whole families. And the stories of one family losing two or more children to any one of the dread diseases that are now wiped out by inoculations were numerous. Life couldn't have been too simple when people were helpless before the threat of almost every disease and ailment that human flesh is heir to.—Antioch (Ill.) News.

Ruling by the Federal Communications Commission that radio and television stations which accept cigarette advertising must give "a significant amount of time" to opponents of cigarettes to air their views is in every sense of the word an act of stupidity. This is a dangerous ruling, and the trouble is that it represents the assumption of bureaucratic power which was never intended. If the FCC is permitted to take this stand on the advertising of cigarettes, there is no telling what it will try to do next with respect to advertising.—Scotland Neck (N.C.) Commonwealth.

## Morning Report:

The dogs of my childhood ate the same things I did — with the exception of licorice whips and ice cream — and thrived on the diet. That's why I see no reason why present-day dogs need the amazing canned delicacies of the TV commercials.

The other night, the man promised dogs a balanced diet in a certain can. My mother believed in a balanced diet for children and as a result, that's what the dogs got. Even though sometimes the dogs' dinners were a little loaded on the side of calf's liver and spinach.

I also have a theory that dogs that eat scraps — that's what they were called — are bound more closely to their masters. There's a tie between them that no mass-produced canned meal can equal. Just as most runaway husbands have been nourished on TV-dinners.

Abe Mellinkoff



HERB CAEN SAYS:

## The Truth of the Matter Demolishes Another Myth

After long minutes of arduous and painstaking investigation, we have at last struck pay dirt in our efforts to destroy the fable—printed again recently in news stories — that Sally Stanford's old headquarters at 1144 Pine Street were in a house "built around the turn of the century by the noted architect, Stanford White, for Anna Held." (If you never heard of Stanford White, Anna or, for that matter, Sally, your are excused.)

The house was built early in 1911 by Architect George A. Applegarth for a dashing playboy-promoter named Robert Gilbert Hanford. Applegarth, who will be 90 this month, still maintains offices on Sansome, and is a marvelous fellow. "Hanford," he recalls, "was a millionaire—on paper—and he gave me only one instruction. 'George,' he said, 'just remember that I love pretty girls and flowers.' He gave SOME parties at that house, but I don't remember Anna Held ever being there. As for Stanford White, he never designed anything in San Francisco." (And poor Hanford, who loved pretty girls and flowers, died in 1920, leaving less than \$1,000.)

I asked Mr. Applegarth if he designed any other buildings of rapture or even ill-repute in San Francisco. "A few," he said modestly. Among the few (actually, some 280): the Palace of the Legion of Honor . . . (Footnote on the durability of fables: A few minutes after I finished talking with Mr. Nest" . . . Despite the headlines, pot-smoking is not confined to the Haightbury y'know. Last wkend, a prominent lawyer (not Belli) who lives on Telegraph Hill was busted for marijuana, along with his lady friend (a Nob Hill sort) but somehow their names didn't make the papers.

The nutty group whose hobby is painting wild colors on fireplugs has changed its name from the Psychedelic Raiders to the Hydrant-Headed Monsters, as of this item . . . In a rather heated discussion of the race question during a Nob Hill party the other night, John Rosekrans Jr. asked Atty. George Walker combatively: "Well, how many Negroes do you employ in YOUR business?" "Just one," smiled George. "Me" (long silence) . . . Big Bill Busick is on the waiters' side (so am I): he doesn't think tips should be taxed, since in his view, tips are not income. Every time he bestows one, he includes a card reading "The

part of the image.—Editor William Bronson in "Cry California."

When our boys are dying in the swamps and jungles of Vietnam, when many of our country are not properly clothed and are constantly hungry, have we lost all sense of direction when one federal agency intends to spend more than one-half million dollars for "Development of Dance and Theater Curriculum?" — Congressman George Gooding, Penn.

The industry is paying us fees for our business practices unit to investigate it and obtain compliance with the law. I figure we ought to utilize those fees for just that — a dollar's worth of service for every dollar in fees.—Edward J. Kirby, alcoholic beverage control chief of state.

Money I Have Left is a Gift." Bay City Beagle: The latest movie company shooting a film about the Haightbury hippies (stop yawning) is a unit headed by TV's Dick Clark and starring Susan Strasburg — but that's not the item and you can say THAT again. The item is that Clark hasn't asked the police for help to control the crowd. He is using Hell's Angels! "Their bite is worse than their bark," he observes pleasantly. . . . Frank Sadlek, who was Pres. of the Hell's Angels here for seven yrs. (aside from the ring in his nose and a purple beard, he looked like everybody else), is now living on the island of Hawaii — straight! Not only that, he has chucked his hog in favor of a bicycle, and is working as a correspondent for a Honolulu newspaper. Oh the shame of it all . . .

Carson McCuller's short novel, "Reflections in a Golden Eye" was first published in 1941, the year of Pearl Harbor and a more innocent literary time than now. Miss McCuller was 24 that year, a Georgia-born stylist who had published a previous novel, "The Heart is a Lonely Hunter," a strange, ironic parable of Fascism. She was seen as a brilliant new exponent of that curious Southern talent called "Gothic," a blend of gloom, mystery, violence and often twisted sexuality. This confuses many readers who think of such literature as "unwholesome" or "morbid." But when it is brought off by an artist of Miss McCuller's stature it can be an exquisite analysis of the dark side of the human psyche. "Golden Eye" was that.

Miss McCuller went on to write "The Member of the Wedding," a more familiar work than her earlier novels because of the dramatic film versions which followed. "The Member of the Wedding" explored the loneliness and isolation of a 12-year-old girl named Frankie who wants to go along on her brother's honeymoon.

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## Court's Reapportionment Edict Oversteps Bounds

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR

Capitol News Service  
SACRAMENTO — It may be too much to hope for, but there is always the thought that sometime in the distant future, California will have a state supreme court which reflects the will of the people and is somewhat practical in issuance of its decisions.

After thumbing its nose at the electorate by declaring Proposition 13 unconstitutional, the court now has added insult to injury by ordering a wholly unnecessary and inconsequential reapportionment of the congressional districts in California.

Taxpayers of this state, already in the throes of trying to meet a billion dollar increase in expenditures, as the result of the court's order to reapportion by Dec. 7, or else, are faced with the added expense of a legislative session.

If reapportionment carried out the precepts of the "one man, one vote" concept of the federal order for reapportionment, on which the state senate and assembly is constituted at the present time, there might be some sense to the decision.

But the fact of the matter is, it does not. The state legislature has been ordered to reapportion congressional districts on the basis of the 1960 federal census.

The legislature reapportioned in 1961, as required by the constitution. At that time, more accurate figures will be available from the 1970 census.

However now, and reapportionment on the basis of the 1960 census will be as much or more out of line than was the 1961 apportionment. In nearly eight years, the population of California has changed considerably as to the location by area, so the supreme court decision means nothing as far as providing equal representation is concerned.

Had the court ordered the reapportionment on the basis of 1967 population fig-

ures maintained by the state department of finance, there might have been some reason to the decision. But these reasonably accurate figures cannot be used in an apportionment, as the constitution directs the operation to be made on the basis of the last federal census.

Reapportionment will have to be undertaken again in 1971 in any event, and at that time, more accurate figures will be available from the 1970 census.

The legislature did not take action on Congressional reapportionment for the simple reason it figured no good purpose would be served by shuffling the Congressional district, when in a matter of about three years, it would have to perform the task again.

Action of the court brings to light the dictatorial powers the judicial branch of government has over the will of the people of California. Because if the legislature fails to carry out the order by Dec. 7, then the court will effect the reapportionment itself.

All of which is an infringement on practicalities in government, as well as an added burden to the taxpayers of the state.

News and Opinions  
On Sacramento Beat

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## ROYCE BRIER

## Generals Shouldn't Make Our Political Decisions

On Jan. 26, 1863, Abraham Lincoln wrote to Major General Joseph Hooker, a corps commander, in part:

"I have placed you at the head of the Army of the Potomac. . . . I think it is best for you to know there are some things in regard to which I am not quite satisfied with you. . . . I think that during General Burnside's command of the Army you have taken counsel of your ambition. I have heard of you recently saying that both the Army and the government need a dictator. Only those generals who gain success can set up dictators. What I now ask of you is military success, and I will risk the dictatorship."

This Constitutional provision making the President commander-in-chief was eminently wise. Without it Mr. Lincoln could not have reached Gettysburg. Without it a real success, like Grant could have become a dictator.

It is perhaps natural that when a nation is in deep trouble, as in January, 1863, the idea of dictatorship should pass around among generals and some civilians.

Now the nation is in trouble, though no analogy with 1863 is intended. But take the case of General Earle G. Wheeler (not a Hooker type), chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Many think the Joint Chiefs should set up a sort of dictatorship to solve the Vietnam mess.

The General quite properly testified before a congressional committee expound-

ing his concept of military wisdom in Vietnam. But that this concept is wise in a larger political view, is another matter, and not in his domain.

He urged "unceasing" bombing of North Vietnam, and he would close the port of Haiphong. He said that without Soviet supplies, North Vietnam and the Viet Cong could not operate on any "sizeable" scale.

Now of course Soviet supply ships regularly visit Haiphong. There is no legal sea blockade. Will you then impose one? If the Russians reject your declaration, will you then bomb their vessels entering, or in, the port? But that would be a political decision.

Notwithstanding, the news story said General Wheeler and the Joint Chiefs "and others in the Administration have in the past and will again weigh the political risks involved" in a shut-down of Haiphong.

Yet the General and the Joint Chiefs are neither trained nor constitutionally competent to assay the "political risks" attending the situation posed. "Others" in the Administration may be, and the President certainly is constitutionally competent. He, not General Wheeler, must deal with the Soviet Union.

This is not a quibble or a technicality. It is a well-matured philosophy of our government when Mr. Lincoln was choosing his generals. Mr. Lincoln indeed is the foremost exemplar of the philosophy in our history.

Opinions on Affairs  
of the World

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## WILLIAM HOGAN

## Taylor, Brando to Take 'Golden Eye' Lead Roles

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One wonders how any director could make a film out of "Reflections in a

Golden Eye." This is a brief, intense psychological investigation of misfits and psychotic wrecks played as a domestic tragedy in a Southern peacetime army post. More than a quarter century later, John Huston has accepted the challenge. He cast Elizabeth Taylor (the film Martha of Albee's "Virginia Woolf") as the superb horsewoman and captain's wife, and Marlon Brando as the brooding, sexually innocent Private Elgee Williams. So anything might happen.

Bantam Books has taken advantage of all this by introducing a 75-cent paperback edition of "Golden Eye." My reaction upon re-reading it a generation later is that American literary enterprises may have become more daring, more clinically specific than anything Carson McCuller wrote, but hardly more sensitive or inventive.

"Golden Eye" remains an elaborate probing into the depths of hatred and desire. As a writer still in her early twenties, Miss McCuller showed extraordinary insight into the patterns of these American eccentrics caught up in the monotony, the insularity and the sur-

feit of leisure so prevalent in the pre-war army atmosphere she described.

The novel still does not suggest the basis of a believable film, but on this we must wait and see. The book remains a perceptive, haunting excursion into one segment of the American 1930s.

Among Southern writers of "Gothic tales," from Poe to Faulkner and beyond, there haven't been many who approach this lady's almost uncanny artistry.

"Golden Eye" is such a beautifully controlled version of hatred and desire, such an American classic, that one is almost repelled at the thought of a Huston-Taylor-Brando version.

Notes on the Margin

"Stories and Texts for Nothing" brings together three short stories by Samuel Beckett ("Waiting for Godot") plus 13 shorter pieces the author modestly labels "texts for nothing." For the collector (Grove; \$5).

New Directions announces a record sales for a book of poetry: There are now more than 260,000 copies of Lawrence Ferlinghetti's "A Coney Island of the Mind" in print. First published in 1958, this paperback is now in its sixteenth printing.

## Alan Grey Says . . .

The World Series fever . . . Has hit us all again . . . With the old eternal argument . . . On who is going to win . . . This once a year spectacular . . . Is really quite a show . . . With people either watching . . . Or by their radio . . . Just walk through any office . . . And think about the cost . . . The millions of people listening . . . And the man-hours that are lost.