

Press-Herald

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Don't Let George Do It

When there is a problem to be solved or a project to be completed, too many people have a tendency to say, "let George do it." The trouble is that today "George," all too often, turns out to be the federal government.

Assembly Speaker Jesse M. Unruh spoke of this last week when he addressed members and guests at the annual installation of the Inter-Cities Highway Committee.

In urging more support for state activities in many areas, Unruh warned against the growing tendency of cities to bypass the state and to look to the federal government for assistance with urban problems. And the federal government is always happy to accommodate them, he said.

While Mr. Unruh's suggestions were timely, he stopped short of urging those in his audience to consider solving some of their own problems. It is well enough to warn against the "big brother" federal bureaus who relish taking on local matters, but someone should, at the same time, be warning against the "big brother" state bureaus who move into local vacuums with the same relish.

The oft-repeated defense that the taxpayers are demanding the offered services might bear some close checking, too. We have not been convinced that the taxpayer has demanded anything like the amount of "services" his governments are providing him.

It's alright to let George do it, but George doesn't pay.

You do.

Why Not Try It?

A recent report of the Federal Bureau of Investigation says, "Serious crime in the United States increased 11 per cent in 1966 when compared with 1965. . . ." Newspapers are filled with crime stories all the way from purse snatching by children to murder.

Legislation has been introduced in Congress which would provide for a \$25 million program to combat juvenile crime. The \$25 million would pay for research into untried methods of controlling and preventing juvenile crime, strengthening local and state juvenile courts, treatment institutions and correctional services, and aiding communities in establishing new diagnostic and treatment programs for delinquents and "potential" delinquents.

One simple "untried method" to help correct juvenile delinquency is never mentioned, probably because it would not take a large appropriation of money. It could be applied in homes, schools and colleges. Any child old enough to talk could understand. It is the simple admonition to "Keep Your Hands Off Other People and Other People's Property."

Five minute illustrations could be given from the local newspapers showing what happens to individuals who fail to keep their hands off other people and other people's property. Much suffering could be averted by general adherence to this simple rule of conduct.

Lifesaving Blood

Twenty years ago, as anniversary articles recall, a French ship exploded causing America's greatest peacetime fire disaster at Texas City. Hospitals and community blood banks in many states rushed blood and plasma to the 3000 injured. As an example of how good can sometimes result from ill, the institutions involved later organized the American Association of Blood Banks with a view toward being better prepared for any future disasters. The Association, which now has 4,025 members in the 50 states and 25 foreign countries, maintains in Chicago a central file of rare blood donors. This file has saved the lives of many Americans and ill patients in other countries by finding rare matching blood when needed.

It has a system of regional laboratories for identifying rare blood types. It has established standards for blood banks and a voluntary inspection and accreditation system. Most important, it has organized a national clearinghouse system for the exchange of blood and blood credits in which the Red Cross cooperates. This permits blood given locally to be credited to a patient in a distant city and enables thousands to save on medical expenses.

But, before blood can be used or rushed somewhere, somebody must give it. If you are between 18 and 59 and in good health, you can give a pint of blood regularly at your blood bank or collection center. Your donation of blood may help save a life—possibly your own.

Morning Report:

Egypt is furious with the United States for sending airplanes to help Israel even though we didn't send them. But Egypt is equally — or almost equally — furious with Russia for not meeting the non-existent intervention by the United States.

This was not very friendly on Russia's part. At no cost — except the price of a mimeographed hand-out — Moscow could have proclaimed it had eliminated America's planes from Egyptian skies. But maybe this wouldn't have satisfied Cairo either.

That's the way wars go these days — the battle of words right along with the fighting. Through the wonders of modern communications, lies spread around the world as fast as truths. And it ends with non-contestants making as many enemies as those who are fighting.

Abe Mellinkoff

David and Goliath at the U.N.



HERB CAEN SAYS:

On-the-Spot Observer in Tel Aviv Has a Question

Radio station KSFO, seeking an on-the-spot news report from Tel Aviv the other day, learned that a Berkeley exec of the Cal-Farm Travel Service was there, reached him by phone and asked "Would you answer a few questions for us?" "Glad to," replied Kenneth Goy, "if you'll answer one for me — why does my name crack everybody up around here?" . . . Barney West, the Sausalito tiki sculptor, has produced what he thinks is the biggest statue of St. Francis ever made — 20 feet tall, carved from a redwood. It cost him \$500 and he wants \$2,500 for it, a sum the hippies hope to raise so they can install it at the Haight-Stanyan entrance to Golden State Park (they never heard of red tape?) . . . Joe Mullan, reporting from Philippine Air Lines flight: "Japanese stewardesses may say 'Have a nice flight' and Quantas girls may say 'Welcome aboard to-die,' but we have just been invited to 'enjoy your plight!'"

★ ★ ★
In Sacramento, Henry Heydt Jr. spotted a Thunderbird bearing license plates LSD 707, indeed the only way to fly . . . And Good Old Dean Webber suggests the finest auto safety device yet — a recording that hollers "FINGERS!" every time a door is about to slam.

★ ★ ★
Popcorn for the eyes: At the opening of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown,"

Producer Frank Werber gave Charlie Schulz an Accutron watch with a Charlie Brown face, designed by Jeweler Sid Mobell. Schulz said "Good grief," as anticipated . . . John Korty, the Stinson Beach movie-maker, after being traffic-jammed on the Gate Bridge in a sea of single-passenger cars, thinks the solution is obvious. Cars containing drivers

San Francisco

ers only should be charged six-bits, cars with two people four-bits, cars with three people two-bits — and cars with four or more people, no-bits. Why not? . . . Novelist Irving Stone's 25-yr.-old son, Ken, who has been living here the past three years, is putting the finishing touches on his first novel, "The Well." It's about a colony of ants living at the bottom of a well, which, as his highly successful father could have warned him, just about knocks out any chance for a movie sale. Unless Anthony Quinn is desperate . . . Newest addition to Melvin Belli's menage: a bloodhound named Zog in honor of the former King of Albania, "whom he resembles."

★ ★ ★
Psychodelphia: A Digger picked up a discarded Army shirt on the sidewalk and, after trying it on, found this note in a pocket. "Dear Flower Kid: This shirt is a combat veteran of Vietnam. If it can survive the humidity of Southeast Asia, it can

make it through the Love Generation. I hope it turns you on."

★ ★ ★
La Triviata: Now that paper dresses are very big in the fashion news, I wish I could remember that lim-erick about the young lady from St. Paul who wore a newspaper to a fancy dress ball — when along came a fire that burned her entire front page, sporting section and all. Or something like that . . . Education note: Among the entries in the art show at the Marin County Art and Garden Show (June 30-July 4) will be a painting submitted from the Chancellor's Office at the University of California at Riverside and entitled "Saturday Night at the Sexual Freedom League." The committee awaits its arrival with nervous anticipation.

★ ★ ★
And Dr. Christopher Leggo says the official Washington pronouncements on Vietnam remind him of a friend who left his wife at a Reno slot machine with a handful of nickels while he prowled the casino. After an hour, he returned and asked, "How's it going, dear?" "Fine," she replied. "I'm winning but I need more nickels."

WILLIAM HOGAN

Man Looks to the Dolphin For Key to Animal World

"The Dolphins and the whales were fighting with one another. When their quarrel became very violent, a gudgeon swam up and tried to separate them. One of the dolphins turned to him and said, 'thanks, but we'd rather die fighting one another than have you as a mediator . . .'"

The story is attributed to Aesop. Actually, dolphin lore goes back at least 29 centuries, to Homer, who wrote of "a monstrous dolphin that swallows all he can catch." We discover this is a delightful book called "The Dolphin Smile," edited by Eleanor Devine and Martha Cirek. It is an anthologically amiable and intelligent sea-borne mammals in which as the editors say, "you meet the dolphin eye to eye, smile to smile."

★ ★ ★
What is a dolphin and what is a porpoise? All dolphins have beaks; no porpoise does. So the editors explain, most of the stories in this book are about

AFFAIRS OF STATE

The Governor Speaks Out On Crime and Punishment

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR
California News Service
SACRAMENTO — Governor Ronald Reagan, in a recent speech made before the National Institute on Crime and Delinquency, made some comments on the causes for crime increases which have been apparent for a long time, but which have not been recognized by enough of the citizenry to halt the growing crime problem.

Some of his observations follow:

"I do not hold," he said, "with the theory that society is to blame when a man commits a robbery or a murder, and therefore, we must be understanding and as sympathetic for the criminal as we are for the victim."

"Nor do I hold with the spirit of permissiveness abroad in the land that has undoubtedly added to the juvenile delinquency problem."

"This is an era, not only of permissiveness, but also of affluence. As a result, many young people often have time on their hands. Many who might otherwise find jobs have no need to work. May I point out respectfully that we should question perhaps that part

of the president's crime report that lays such emphasis on curing crime by eliminating poverty. This is a worthy goal in itself but it is interesting to note that during the great depression we had an all-time low in crime.

"I believe that goods or privileges carelessly given or lightly earned are lightly regarded."

"A boy who works for money to buy a car and keep it in gasoline is much

Sacramento

more likely to appreciate it and care for it than the youth whose car has been given to him and whose gas is purchased on his father's credit card.

★ ★ ★
"Likewise the boy or girl who can go out at night only if he or she behaves is more apt to behave than those who have no set rules to follow and no responsibilities to accept."

"This brings me down to two points. First, are we doing enough for our children by doing too much for them? Aren't they really better off if they are taught to accept responsibility and to learn that in the long run we all must earn what we

get and that we usually get what we earn?"

"The second point is, haven't we made it almost impossible for many of our young people to earn legitimately the things they need and want?"

"Haven't our laws, aimed with the best intentions at preventing exploitation of children and providing old age security and of insuring meaningful wages put many kids to loitering on street corners because they couldn't get jobs after school or during the summer?"

★ ★ ★
"I suggest that if exceptions were made in some of our laws regarding social security and minimum wages, and if some of our unions would co-operate by recognizing that a boy seeking a part-time job should fall in a little different category than the full-time skilled or semi-skilled adult, that we would take a lot of our young people off the streets and out of trouble."

"You know, there are a lot of old maxims that are still true today and it is not corny to note that it is idle hands that do the devil's work, and as a result, there is often the devil to pay, and it is you and I who usually do the paying."

ROYCE BRIER

A Few Questions, Ma'am, About the Phone Service

C. Northcote Parkinson, author of Parkinson's Law dealing with make-work in modern procedures, addressed the Commonwealth in San Francisco last week.

The Law works something like this: If the managerial section of an office, government or private, wants to know something, it designates somebody to make a study and report. This inevitably blows up like a balloon, involving more and more employees, with collateral reports suggesting themselves, culminating in a choked file-cabinet representing thousands of man-hours.

Has this touched you in the home yet?

In a suburban home, the teenage boy was given a telephone in his room, a matter of simple self-defense. The housewife telephoned the Telephone Company, and the man was out in a jiffy. No complaints.

★ ★ ★
In a week came a form letter from the Company, thrown away. So in a fortnight came another, saying

"A short time ago we sent you a questionnaire asking your opinion about the telephone work we did for you recently."

Now the housewife, who has opinions on Vietnam, let us say, had no opinion in this matter. The phone sits there and sometimes rings. Or you dial it, and it rings. As a phone should.

But somebody is aching to

World Affairs

know about it. On the form letter is a code, consisting of 19 letters and digits and 9 dashes. Open the letter and there is a three-page questionnaire, comprising 19 questions, 11 under "Contact with the Business Office" and 8 under "The Installation Work."

★ ★ ★
Like Question 2: "After you dialed the Telephone Company, did you have any trouble getting your call through?" You answer, "Yes, line was busy," or "Yes, slow answer," or "Had no trouble," or "No, personally visited business office." There are four little squares for you to check your an-

swer. Under Installation, the Company wants to know if the man arrived at the appointed time, things like that.

★ ★ ★
On most of the questions, if you check the square for dissatisfaction, you are allotted tow lines to explain. There are 29 such lines. Altogether there are 89 squares to check. That makes 118 times you can put pen to paper if you're that fascinated with telling the Company you are enchanted with it, or something less than enchanted.

Householders who have nothing else to do around a house should complete the questionnaire in an hour. How many thousands of installations a month beget the questionnaire, one wouldn't know.

Nor would one know what they do with those completed, though they must go into some maw. That is, they must be Xeroxed and run into a computer, where they are broken down into categories, permutations and trends. The trends would naturally lead to a study and report, requiring a trends staff. The original filing and mailing staff wouldn't be out of work, though, as installations are perpetual, one fondly hopes.

The learned folk are now calling these collective processes cipherization of the people. The form letter ends "THANK YOU!" Thank you, chums.

Quote

No matter how cars are built and equipped, they never will be safe as long as they are driven by people.—Olin Miller.

★ ★ ★
It's nice to have the grass turn green if only it wouldn't grow.—Louis Nelson Bowman.

My Neighbors



"Now, no loose talk about teacher—these sodas could be bugged..."