

Press-Herald

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Government-Fed Poverty

A presidential advisory commission on rural poverty reports that 14 million rural Americans live in such a state of poverty "as to be a national disgrace." According to the commission, most sections of the nation are affected. To alleviate the situation, it recommends, "Full employment, with the Government providing jobs where needed. Assurances that everyone will have adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical care and education." A nationwide food-stamp program with eligibility based upon per capita income.

Without questioning the accuracy of the commission's reports, it might be well to question its recommendations to further extend the arm of government. It may not be coincidental that poverty appears to be spreading in company with expanding government.

As government spending, deficits, and inflation reach new highs, it is inevitable that people will become poorer. There is no way for the average person to support both himself and a top heavy, bureaucratic, governmental system. It is almost axiomatic to find people poor in nations where they must support a well-fed bureaucracy.

Opinions of Others

Since the President has been unable to 'reason together' with labor and business, and wages and prices have continued to spiral, the Administration has hinted darkly that controls may be necessary. As a war measure, of course . . . Any Main Street merchant could spell chapter and verse on the idiocy of controls from Washington, and how the law-abiding merchant and the law-abiding citizens are the victims of the scheme, while blackmarketeers, buyer and sellers, flourish. However, we greatly fear that controls there will be, this being a favorite gambit of politicians who confuse better government with bigger government. — *Wimborne (L.) Franklin Sun.*

To our knowledge, no taxpayer has ever complained about the law requiring a financial accounting of public expenditures: the only opposition or complaint has come from those on the public payroll who must explain once yearly what they're doing with someone else's money. — *Shelbyville (Ky.) Sentinel.*

It is generally conceded by knowledgeable postal employees themselves, particularly the more helpful ones, that bureaucratic regulation is the cancerous affliction which destroys initiative and efficiency in the service. — *Bozette City (Mich.) Citizen.*

A Letter . . . To My Son

By Tom Rische
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce:

Will you take "pot" when you get to be a teenager?

Perhaps by then, the current fad will be something else, but marijuana today appears to be in fairly wide use among high school and college students, who proclaim, "It's groovy" or "It's no worse than alcohol and it doesn't give you a hang-over."

Despite claims of "pot" users and opponents, little actually is known about what marijuana does to people. Some interesting research on the subject was sent out by Torrance's Assemblyman Larry Townsend, compiling much of what is known about the subject.

The report points out that much silly misinformation is repeated by both opponents and proponents of marijuana. Major points of the report:

1. Nobody really knows yet what marijuana does to the mind and body. "Pot" smokers claim that "if you haven't tried it, don't knock it," however, interviewing users about what marijuana does to their bodies is about as silly as asking an average smoker whether cigarettes give him lung cancer. How can he know?

2. Habitual marijuana use, according to a Greek researcher who studied users for 20 years, seems to lead to "slowed speech, lethargy, lower inhibitions, and loss of morality." Other observers report that habitual users tend to become indifferent.

3. Comparisons of alcohol and marijuana don't mean much. Alcohol is a depressant; marijuana is a hallucinogenic, which acts both as a depressant and stimulant. Marijuana is taken to get "high"; few sensible people advocate drunkenness. The alcohol drunk passes out,

the marijuana "drunk" gains strength and may become at least temporarily "insane."

4. Marijuana is a weaker cousin of some stronger hallucinogens—hashish, bang, and others—which are poisons and do have bad effects on body and mind.

5. If the United States legalized marijuana, it would be alone among civilized countries of the earth. Drugs of the cannabinoid family (to which marijuana belongs) have recently been outlawed in India, where they were used for thousands of years, and in Nigeria, where they were legal.

6. Marijuana is not physically addicting (but neither are cigarettes). They don't necessarily lead to stronger drugs, although use of those stronger drugs has increased with the upswing in marijuana use. There is considerable evidence that people with personality difficulties have had psychological trips, with recurring "freakouts." (And all too frequently the people who feel a need to get "high" are those with personality difficulties.)

Conclusions of the report include a call for (a) large-scale study of the effects of marijuana and similar drugs;

(b) No changes in present laws about marijuana until the study is complete;

(c) Making possession of other hallucinogens—such as LSD, DMT, mescaline and similar drugs—a felony, like marijuana; and

(d) Increased education. I think the assemblyman's approach to the problem is pretty sound, Bruce. With the present lack of knowledge about marijuana, why risk messing up your mind and the rest of your life? Yours for clear thinking,
YOUR DAD



HERB CAEN SAYS:

True Stature of Martyrs Emerge Only After Death

We are the survivors: we lived through that week, a seven-day fugue of joy and despair, hope, and tragedy. One man who did not survive, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, may not have died in vain—it is still difficult to tell. As is too often the case, the true stature of the man emerged when it was too late, in the outpouring of feeling that followed the blast in the Memphis night.

Many were magnificent on television—none more so than Senator Muskie of Maine, who delivered an emotional plea for understanding from the Negro people, "though we have no right to ask it"—but on CBS, a Southern Senator said incredibly, "I'm just surprised it didn't happen sooner. That man was poking his nose into other people's business, he was going places he had no right to go."

Publisher Tom Braden, listening to this, said in utter despair: "We are destroying ourselves, destroying ourselves."

Thanks to the quick intelligence of Mayor Joseph Alioto, there was no doubt about San Francisco's response—in general. He set a tone of respect and set it well. Again in general, the police here reacted with tact and restraint, but just across the Golden Gate in Marin County, an officer was not afraid to say with venomous satisfaction, "One down, two to go" (again, bitter memories of JFK). . . . And in the shock of that first night at Earthquake McGoon's, where the music of Memphis is played, the same request came over and over—for "Beale St. Blues," Beale St. in Memphis. That one line in the lyric burned in your mind: "And business never closes till somebody gets killed."

The day of the funeral was inordinately beautiful—

Report From Our Man In San Francisco

Morning Report:

You can't buy lottery tickets in New York banks any more. A new law prohibits it. But to meet this loss of outlets, that state instead will sell chances to win big money in grocery stores. This raises great moral issues.

Personally, I don't see why it is any worse to get in on a lottery at your bank than through your grocery store. After all if the gambling urge is going to hit you, it seems to me it is better all around if you are in a bank. There all you stand to lose are your savings. In a grocery store, you may miss your next meal.

The only other possible reason for stopping the lottery sale in banks is that they don't want to give the staff any wild ideas. And this would mean that grocery clerks are made of sterner stuff than bankers.

Abe Mellinkoff

SACRAMENTO SCENE

Pollution of Air, Soil Grows at Alarming Rate

By HENRY C. MACARTHUR
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO — While the subject of pollution of the air, the water and the soil is being discussed in areas where prevention is the watchword, it has not yet become a matter of general concern to the public, and is not likely to until some major disaster occurs in one portion of the country or another.

Sporadic attempts are made by the state legislature to enact a few pollution control laws, but these at the best are minor stop-gaps which will have no extensive bearing on the over-all problem, which now appears to be unsolvable.

The magnitude of the pollution problem is so vast that it is almost incomprehensible to the average citizen, to the point where it takes an expert to explain some of the angles and give the public an inkling of what it is up against in the future.

Such an expert is Dr. James P. Lodge Jr., of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, which is located in Boulder, Colo.

At a recent discussion seminar in San Francisco, he presented some frightening statistics concerning pollution.

He said that with the increase of living standards in the United States, each citizen has at his beck and call about 195 "energy slaves" which have their own waste products, even as people themselves do.

Waste from the energy slaves, however, are not like wastes from the human population, he said.

"Many of them are new on the face of the earth."

Review of Major News On the Sacramento Scene

Some are actually poisonous to all life. Very few of them have been around long enough for systems to have been developed to remove them from the environment.

"As a result," he declared, "in a very real sense we are not trying to dispose of the wastes of 200 million people in the United States, but of 39 billion equivalent people who produce a strange and inhuman kind of waste product."

He pointed out that with the population increasing, the pollution of air, water, and soil must be considered together in regard to neighborhood, community and global effects.

"We haven't yet come to

think of air pollution as an insult to total environment," he states. "A pall of pollution could in the end, will engulf the world. We must consider what we can do immediately, and what must become ultimately feasible if we are to survive on this earth."

As a starter, he suggests a rethinking of the processes of moving people from one place to another, asking pointedly, "if half of the United States is blacktopped, will it really matter where we go?"

Unfortunately, pollution in any form is a creeping disease, and this no doubt is the primary reason why the public in general has not voiced a compelling demand for its control. It is to the earth similar to cancer in the individual. Once it gets a start, progress continues until the cancer is removed by drastic operation, or the body succumbs to its ravages.

There is no doubt that pollution of air, water and soil has gotten a real head start, not only in California, but in many other parts of the nation and world, and unless drastic operations are undertaken, it will eventually fulfill its goal of destruction.

ROYCE BRIER

Billions Shaken by LBJ Decision on Nomination

It is entirely probable even Lyndon Johnson did not foresee the magnitude of the earthquake he triggered when he renounced nomination for another term.

The White House is but one entity in the world order, but by force of circumstances it has become the cardinal one. Its power and influence reach into the centers of power and influence around the earth, and touch all of the literate people of the earth with the emotions of fear or hope.

This is only partly due to Mr. Johnson's personal qualities, his energy and will. But it is due more to the constitutional power he wields as the elected leader of a forceful and often turbulent people, rich beyond dreams, technologically dominant.

When a man so endowed decides for whatever reason to relinquish his power and pass the leadership to another, incredible categories of powerful people across the

world are shaken up by the prospect of change and uncertainty. Let us try to enumerate a few of these groups, and the obvious or probable effect on them.

First we must note the political party Mr. Johnson has led, not only close to 40 million voters, but tens of thousands of politicians ranging from ward manipu-

lators to those holding the highest offices in the land.

These people are dependent on the party and its leader, not only for their prestige but often for their livelihood. There are more scores of millions of members and leaders of the opposition party who hope to attain power.

There are the generals and admirals to whom the President is commander-in-chief. These are trained men, usually of rigid thinking and great pride in their profession. They are now engaged in a war, not a big

one as wars go, but a most punishing one, filled with angry confusion of goals and frustrations. A few of these men are as competent as Grant or MacArthur, Farragut or Nimitz, but they can't prove it.

These men have to be shaken in their hearts and minds to find themselves facing a new order of authority, yet they must be the most silent and self-negating of all our groups.

At least half of mankind thinks of Mr. Johnson as a devil, the leader and instigator of a great human evil, menacing all good men. They have been told this by their leaders in all the mass centers of humanity like Peking.

In little Vietnam, the root of all this turmoil, they have to think their great ally has failed them, though many of them will be glad, and see a better day coming.

In Moscow, there are doubtless many questions. What does this strange political behavior mean? The Russians are in a love-hate syndrome, and their fears and longings touching Asia and their own security are now in flux.

In London, Paris, Bonn, New Delhi and many smaller capitals are our traditional friends. But they have been troubled, fearing the Americans might be madmen who would stumble into universal nuclear catastrophe. Yet they cannot know if Mr. Johnson's departure will be good.

Finally, there are the young at home. No large proportion of them want this war, or feel in the urgency of survival, as they felt in the 1950's and 1940's. No exhortation moved them; they do not feel the "old" men are on their side in the angry world.

These are the people Mr. Johnson has shaken. They must number four-fifths of the human race.

WILLIAM HOGAN

Ancient 'Busk' Gets New Lift From H. Allen Smith

To "BUSK," says the English word man Eric Partridge, "is to peddle obscene songs and books in a public house." So "Buskin' with H. Allen Smith" is a collection of jokes by the veteran humorist, many of them Rabelaisian, some slightly scatological, others just good clean personal insults, jokes urban, suburban, rural and regional, all of it sanier than standard, or Bennett, Cery-type joke book which seems to be always with us.

All right, a non-book, a motel room book, something to go to sleep by, maybe even the least important item to be published in April. Yet H. Allen's lit'ry story made me laugh:

"Nabokov's novel, Lolita, had just been published and was being discussed at a table in a fashionable New York restaurant. Present was a visiting Frenchman who had not heard of the book. 'This novel,' he said, 'What is it about?' The hero

is a middle-aged man who falls in love with a 12-year-old. Asked the Frenchman: 'A 12-year-old what?'

So, buskin', H. Allen, who describes himself as a kindergarten dropout, is the author of 30 books, beginning with "Life in a Putty Knife Factory" in 1941. He has listened to stories all his

life, beginning, he tells us, with behind the barn sniggerings in the Middle West and rising to full flower in the culture heavy city rooms of a dozen newspapers.

And more especially in the drinking dives around the corners from newspapers.

To suggest its atmosphere, I'm going to steal blindly from this collection, in which the laugh quotient is unusually high, and reproduce other shorter and cleaner examples of Smith's buskin':

"Richard Bissell's father was visiting the novelist at his Connecticut home. The elder Bissell, a businessman of some consequence, happened to pick up a copy of Proust's 'Swann's Way.' Idly he read his way through eight or ten pages. Then he put the book down firmly and said: 'Smart alec!'

"Buddy Hackett says that his wife told him one day that they ought to join a Temple. 'Why?' demanded Buddy. 'So the children will know they're Jewish.' They know they're Jewish," said Buddy. They got heartburn all the time."

Again: "An English huntsman making his way through the gorse and bracken and other stuff they've got over there came to a clearing where a beautiful young woman was standing wearing very little. 'I beg your pardon,' stammered the hunter, embarrassed, 'I'm looking for game.' The girl smiled and said, 'I'm game.' So he shot her."

