

## Fido Leads the Way

County Assessor Phil Watson, who is heading a statewide initiative drive to limit property taxes to 1 per cent of market value, thinks he has stumbled across a real selling point for his campaign.

The Assembly has passed a bill to limit dog license fees to \$5.

"This reinforces my conviction that we should do something to limit people's property taxes. Certainly people deserve the same right as dogs."

Mr. Watson may be reaching a little to make a point, but he has a very sound point to make. People are ready for some limits on the heavy burden of property taxes—particularly the "average homeowner," which includes most of us.

When you consider the average taxpayer now buys his home back from the taxing agencies every few years in the form of property taxes, it doesn't take much figuring to realize that Mr. Watson's campaign has merit.

His initiative program deserves support. Find a petition and sign it. It could soon mean the difference between saving and losing your home to confiscatory taxes.

## A Double Victory

The Torrance Area Youth Band, whose inspiring marching wound up one of Torrance's most successful Armed Forces Day Parades, caught the eyes of the judges Saturday and walked off with two prized trophies—the Mayor's Trophy for the best local entry and the trophy for the best civilian music entry.

To those along the line of march, the snappy youth band, stepping off briskly under the direction of Jim Davidson was most impressive.

What many of those along the line of march and the judges may not have known at the time, however, was that many of those high stepping musicians had made the trip earlier in the day.

With the bands from each of Torrance's five high schools entered in the parade, the Torrance Youth Band would have been strained to fill out its ranks except for those hearty musicians who doubled back and made the two-mile march again.

It's the kind of spirit—and energy—which deserve recognition. The Youth Band, which has been invited to open the new California Exposition this summer, proved its worth Saturday.

## Opinions of Others

When the American Bar Association starts tampering with the free press of this nation, it is imperative that the press speak out in strong protest. Defense attorneys obviously are concerned, and should be, about the constitutional rights of their clients. They do not want anything printed that conceivably could prevent a defendant from receiving a fair trial. But then neither do the newspapers. Dedicated newsmen are just as anxious to assure a fair trial for all defendants as are their attorneys. . . . An important factor . . . is that once the Bar succeeds in telling the news media just what information it can and cannot have for the public's use, the next step could be a complete blackout of pretrial information, including the arrest of an individual. The free press of this nation has done more to achieve and preserve democracy than any other element of society. It is determined that there shall be equal justice for all with a fair trial. It is also determined to oppose those who would restrict the people's right to know what is going on at the jail or in the courtroom.—Ocala (Fla.) Star-Banner.

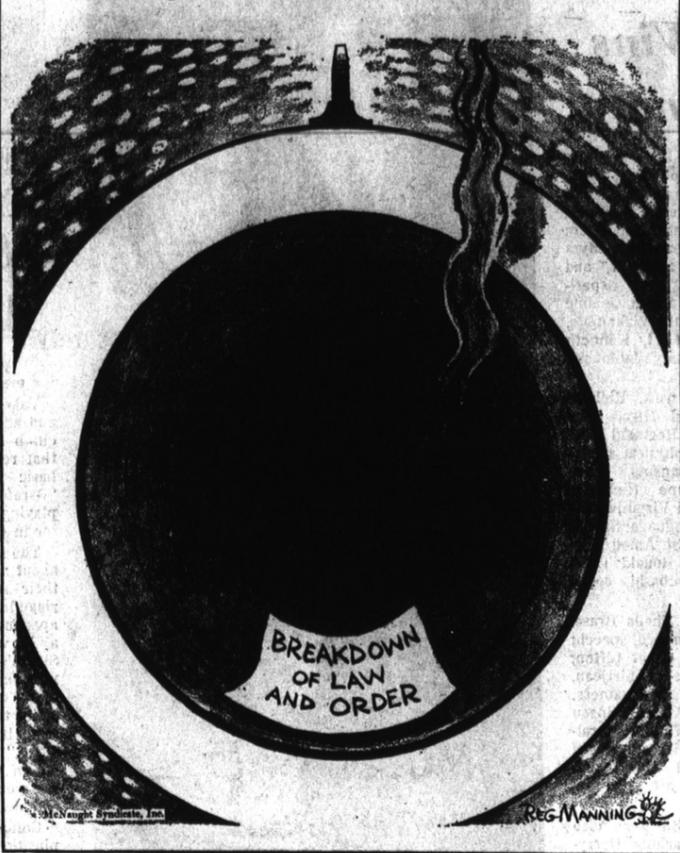
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Effective law enforcement is (a) prerequisite for an orderly society. Public officials, charged with the responsibility of maintaining law and order, have no alternative in carrying out the obligations of their office. They must act with courage and firmness.—Warrensburg (Mo.) Star-Journal.

## BETTER—CLOSER TO HOME



## No Light At The End of This Tunnel



HERB CAEN SAYS:

## This 14-Year-Old Spots A Genuine Mind Boggler

For today's mind boggler, Robert Solotar submits this letter, from one Fred Farley Jr., in a recent issue of Look magazine: "The trouble with kids nowadays is they worry so much about morality and kindness to others that they forget the basic teachings of Christianity that have made America great." Robert Solotar is 14 years old and I don't think there's anything wrong with HIM at all.

I like the Berkeley police, as follows . . . Chuck Herrick, a blithe spirit in the Peace & Freedom Party, was killed recently in an auto accident. Since he was a bug on ecology, environment, green belts and so on, some of his fellow PFP'ers decided on a tribute. They invaded a vacant lot in Berkeley and began planting trees and shrubs and building benches, preparatory to naming it "Chuck Herrick Memorial Park." As they were working away, two Berkeley officers drove up, and the following exchange took place: "Hey, what do you think you're doing?" "We're building a park." "Don't you need a permit for that?" "Why, no, Ladybird Johnson says we should beautify America, and that's what we're doing." Officer, sliding cap to back of head and smiling:

### Report From Our Man In San Francisco

"Aha! So you guys have finally decided to join the Establishment!" And with that, the police car moved off.

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A mess of dottage: Well, none of us is getting any younger—even Sally Stanford, the retired madame

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

By Tom Rische  
High School Teacher and Youth Worker

Dear Bruce:  
Should kids go to summer school? Boys aren't supposed to like school. The fact is, however, that most kids do like school, and many of them like to go in the summer because learning is fun for them. Toward the end of the year, many students—and teachers—tend to run down, and could stand a summer of mental recharging. Most teachers would say that the most efficient time of the year for learning is at the beginning of the year, with a drop-off after that. If students don't want to go, a summer of relaxation or work is probably good for them. If they do want to go, I'd encourage them. Yours for happy summers, YOUR DAD

## Morning Report:

For a country that has grown great on mass production, it is downright amazing what a flop we have made of our draft system, which is nothing but mass production applied to military manpower.

We have removed more and more of the individual tinkering out of manufacturing. And at the same time have made the draft process so complicated that only a 4-star general or a PhD can figure it out. And it takes a canny black-jack dealer to calculate the odds. Which are changed almost daily by proposed changes.

A young man is treated not so much as a prospective soldier as a ping-pong ball in a championship game. It may be that a lot of draft cards are burned not out of deep principle but as a result of sheer frustration.

Abe Mellinkoff

## SACRAMENTO SCENE

# Loyalty Oaths for New College Students Urged

By HENRY C. MacARTHUR  
Capitol News Service

SACRAMENTO—One method to cool off the growing fervor of militant college and university students to break down the established order of education, which so far no one has seen fit to advance, might be the requirement of some kind of agreement on the part of students before they enter the halls of higher learning.

An agreement to observe the laws of the United States, the state of California, and the rules and regulations of the college or university, plus an agreement to abstain from acts of violence while partaking of the benefits of education provided by a harassed, taxpaying public, perhaps wouldn't solve the problem, but at least, it would provide a lever for administrators to eliminate those who persist in the pursuit of nihilism and anarchy, assed, taxpaying public, for some years ago, the well-remembered loyalty oath for employees of government was debated at length, and finally written into law. The argument was used against adoption of the loyalty oath that it had little substance as a means of keeping subversives out of the government structure.

The reply was that it would, however, be the vehicle for getting rid of these same subversives if they were uncovered through legal dismissals.

Similarly, the requirement of an agreement from students, with expulsion the penalty for breaking the agreement, conceivably would have a deterrent effect on such activities as anti-draft movements, seizure of administration buildings, destruction of public property, showing of pornographic statues and paintings, and the many other activities which in recent days have indicated students are pursuing a course above and beyond what might be termed as usual college antics.

Such an agreement required from students would be little different than the loyalty oath required of government employees, although it reasonably could be stronger and cover more ground.

### Review of Major News On the Sacramento Scene

The student, while not a public employe, at least is a public charge, and the recipient of benefits paid for with tax money, which is public money contributed with considerable strain on the part of those who earn it.

It logically follows that to continue as recipients of public benefit, the student seriously addicted to obtaining an education which will strengthen his future earning power, should have no objection to agreeing to observe the laws of the land and the rules and regulations of the college or university he attends.

Were such an agreement made law, those students who did not wish to sign could seek education elsewhere, as their refusal to act in conformance with the law makes them undesirable as educated citizens anyhow. And those who signed the agreement with the avowed purpose of breaking it as soon as they were entered on the college rolls, could soon be tracked down and summarily dismissed.

Generally, the public is highly tolerant with student "antics," but the sources of revenue for public institutions cannot be expected to sit still indefinitely and condone acts of rebellion against law, and disregard of university and college rules and regulations, without demand that the law-makers and administrators get the institutions back on an even keel.

## ROYCE BRIER

# The 'Domino Theory' Has Some Very Obvious Flaws

The other day Senator Kennedy said in effect he did not subscribe to the "domino theory."

President Kennedy, however, did subscribe to it, and in several public pronouncements used it to support his deployment of advisory troops in Vietnam. President Eisenhower originated the advisory system, and his Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, first gave modern currency to the domino theory.

The theory means that if one nation is taken over by communists, several contiguous nations will soon succumb.

The hypothesis is vague and superficial in its logic and practical content. There may be a tendency for a national state to follow the course of a nearby national state, especially as it is convenient to agitators from

the first to infiltrate the second.

But in modern experience, other and more powerful factors are likely to determine the politico-social form of a nation. Further, in our experience, communist "infection" of a nation by example is most capricious. Often it doesn't work at all, but on the contrary incites a contrary politico-social form, non-communist, rightist or military dictatorship.

### Opinions on Affairs of the World

It didn't work in its most massive field, Europe. Lenin was confident his communist revolution would straightway infect Germany, and then all Europe. Indeed, Marx invented the domino theory without using the image of standing dominoes

topping each other in sequence. (The Soviet satellites are not an example; these states were overrun by the Red Army, which could set up communist states by force. These states are now slowly establishing a domino theory in reverse.)

Consider Latin America: these states resemble those of southeast Asia in providing good soil for a communist takeover. But one communist state, Cuba, has been unable to forge similar politico-social forms in 24 other states of similar Iberian derivation. Most thoughtful students of world politics believe that nations "go" communist for deep economic and social reasons having little to do with example.

A poor nation, with social classes out of balance and primitive technology, is unable or unwilling to give its people a better life. Ostensibly it is bourgeois, but it is seized by strongmen, and ruled by an insensible upper class. It oppresses the weak and mucks them of whatever freedoms they have painfully acquired. It keeps them impoverished and uneducated, and the ruling class flaunts its well-being.

But above all it keeps them in a hopeless state, and this is a nation ripe for communist takeover out of desperation. Examples: Russia, hopeless in the grip of a stupid imperial rule; China, in the grip of insensate warlords; all the little communist states, atrociously managed by their former rulers.

It is possible a communist triumph in all Vietnam could mean a takeover in Thailand, for instance. But it is not assured. It didn't work in Indonesia, which escaped by its own effort. It hasn't worked in India, though the soil is there.

Such formulas as the domino theory cannot be applied in history with any confidence. History has always been too varied, almost kaleidoscopic, to accept such sovereign answers for what is wrong with all the social orders she has seen.

This is a book that humiliates, enrages and finally depresses a reader, yet it is a brave, informed and important criticism which should be read and widely discussed. A bitter lesson, citizens. Read it.

## WILLIAM HOGAN

# Lederer's Angriest Book Catalogues Our Disasters

A little more than 1,000 years ago the Vietnamese defeated and threw the Chinese out of their territory. Later, in 1278, they threw out the Mongols, and around 1400 the gave the boot to the Ming Chinese. Ultimately the Vietnamese won all their struggles against domination by foreigners, and by using much the same kind guerrilla tactics that the modern Vietnamese used against the French and now use against the United States.

This we learn in an informed account of Vietnamese history and traditions. It serves as background material for William J. Lederer's angriest book, "Our Own Worst Enemy," which is a catalogue of American military and diplomatic disasters in Vietnam.

At first glance, the timing of the book may seem unfortunate, as Lederer cites chapter and verse on incompetence, corruption, military naivete, official double-talk and slick public relations tactics which have tried to hide the beatings we have sustained there, military and diplomatic. On a second look, Lederer's book is both timely and time-less—one of the roughest, toughest reminders yet that Americans can be wrong and, worse, stupid in their attitudes towards the dealings with the rest of the world, and that the Vietnam experience can teach us an enormous and historic lesson if we have sense and dignity to listen.

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to realize that a catastrophe has been exploding beneath them. In a chapter titled "Deaf and Dumb Americans" he suggests that most translators who work for us there (and the U.S. is dependent upon interpreters for everything, even infantry patrols) either work for the Viet Cong or simply tell Americans what they think Americans want to hear. "For the price of ten airplanes," he seems to sigh, "we could train a thousand people to be fluent in the language." But there has been "neither time nor funds" for that.

### Browsing Through the World of Books

Co-author of "The Ugly American," Lederer is not simply another "dove," "pacenik" or whatever snide label you wish to apply to him. A veteran of 28 years in the Navy and a keen student of Asian affairs, he recently returned from a 34th trip to Asia and a ninth tour of Vietnam. He has taken the trouble to look up and list the optimistic and not infrequently false statements by military and diplomatic spokesmen over the years and states: "It would appear that many U.S. officials are either idiots or liars . . . sometimes both." He is embarrassed by U.S. officials who have failed

