



COLLEGE REPORT

By ROBERT M. BERSI

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"Liberty is precious — so precious that it must be rationed." So declared Nikolai Lenin, master planner of the Soviet state. Contrast his pronouncement with Abraham Lincoln's immortal description of a free society as "of the people, by the people, for the people."

Criticize a communist for the limitations placed upon his freedoms and for the constrictions his totalitarian state imposes upon the hapless who fall within its power, and he will promptly argue that these are but temporary measures preparing the way for the classless society, for the ultimate disappearance of the state, and for the establishment of a perfect social order.

This is the wildest kind of utopianism. The Marxist who truly believes what he says about the ultimate freedoms promised in his classless society has to be recognized as a deluded idealist sunk in the fallacies of an unworkable perfectionism.

THE AMERICAN way of life, it must not be forgotten, is also a titanic adventure in idealism. Our Stars and Stripes symbolize the revolutionary spirit of our founding fathers. In matter of fact, the revolution achieved by American idealism is so much more fundamental than the Russian utopianism that the communists in every possible way conceal its tremendous triumphs from the people they control.

They conceal them because American idealism functions in the here and now and is not held in storage for some fictional future. They conceal them because they fear to have the people under their dominance see the operations and achievements of a society which, despite glaring but rapidly disappearing differences between the ideal and the reality, constitute man's most successful effort through all time to create and maintain a better world. We are fond of telling the world that the United States constitutes, among other things, a free society.

Just what do we mean by a free society? To me, it is one that is willing and able to permit its members freedom of expression concerning the management of the social order, and freedom of participation in that management.

A FREE society is free: first, because it is strong enough to be free; it has the strength to survive attacks upon it. Second, because it has faith in the soundness of its liberal system of order. Third, because it is willing and able to allow freedom of thought and action to individuals with competing conceptions of social order on the conviction, in the words of Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, that "the best test of truth is the power of thought to get itself accepted in the competition of the market." Fourth, because it believes that such "free trade in ideas" makes possible a better world than can ever be designed on the drawing board of any social architect. Fifth, because it is "of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Enemies within and without a free society take advantage of its freedom to undermine it, and thus the 864 question of a democracy is how to maintain order and at the same time continue to be a free society. In times of calm the question seldom comes into the open, but in times of stress like the present it rushes from a hundred hiding places. By definition a free society allows considerable freedom of action and almost unlimited freedom of expression to self-interest groups and to pressure groups, and some of them are bent upon destroying freedom. To suppress them would be to abandon freedom. To fail somehow to check them, however, would be to endanger the survival of free society.

This is the democratic dilemma; and it is also the dilemma of academic freedom. I believe we've laid an ample foundation at this point to discuss this vital kind of freedom in my next column.

HAHN REPORTS

Local Precinct Clerks Praised

By KENNETH HAHN
County Supervisor

I want to personally commend the citizens of my district who give of their time and effort each election year to serve on the Election Board at their local precinct.

By their service on Election Day, they are carrying out the highest tradition of our nation by guaranteeing to all citizens the right of an independent and honest election.

More than 35,000 citizens will be working in approxi-

mately 7,100 precincts throughout the county Nov. 5.

These well-trained precinct officers will be performing a highly important job as they ready the ballots cast at their polling places for counting at the computer centers.

THE EVER-increasing role the computer plays in our lives is well known to all—but computers need people. They cannot function without assistance from the human hand and mind. The dedicated citizens who work at the precinct level are still the most vital part of the election process.

At my insistence, following the June primary election when we first used the new voting device, Registrar-Recorder Ray Lee and his staff have been working to put new methods and improvements into practice which will make the job easier for Election Board workers.

Many changes have been made, forms have been simplified, and clerical work reduced.

ALL PRECINCT workers are attending training sessions being held throughout the county, and all are being shown a film produced by the county which will be a great help in learning the proper procedures to follow at the polling place.

The public service rendered by our civic-minded precinct officers demonstrates their faith in our democratic election process.

Lookinland Rally Set Saturday

State Treasurer Ivy Baker Priest will be guest speaker Saturday at a luncheon rally for Paul Lookinland, Republican candidate for the 68th Assembly District.

Lookinland has met with Mrs. Priest on several occasions to discuss fiscal responsibility and the California Assembly's role in sound financial programs.

Robert Monagan, Republican leader in the State Assembly, also will address the luncheon, subject to schedule changes.

The rally will be held at the Ports O' Call Restaurant, Port of Los Angeles, San Pedro, at noon. Tickets are available at Lookinland Headquarters, 1011 Pacific Ave., San Pedro.



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