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HELPFUL BACK SEAT DRIVERS

Charles V. Stanton

George Minnaugh, Oregon State Director, U. S. Savings Bonds, visited our office recently. George, of course, is very interested in promoting the sale of U. S. savings bonds. Consequently he likes to drop into our office and give us a line that may wangle a plug for his bond sales.

A keen political observer and analyst, George usually likes to swap ideas or tell us of something new he has learned in the political field.

On the occasion of his last visit, he entertained us with a report of a talk given by George Humphrey, secretary of the treasury. Minnaugh was in the audience of state directors during a briefing session by the secretary on fiscal problems and policies.

Inasmuch as we have commented in this column previously on the administration's deliberate program, and its refusal to be stampeded into hasty changes or readjustments, we were impressed by an illustration used by Humphrey as an example of policy.

Danger In Hasty Action

Humphrey said, Minnaugh reports, that the federal government is in much the same spot as the driver of a speeding automobile.

Rounding a sharp turn in the road, the car suddenly encounters a sheet of glare ice. On the road ahead the bridge across the chasm of depression has collapsed. There is only one way to avoid a plunge into the chasm. Near the bridge is a crossroad called "Sound Money." Only by negotiating that turn can disaster be avoided.

Minnaugh relates that Humphrey told his audience, "We have been criticized for not slamming on the brakes. We are told that we must check our speed abruptly. But anyone who has driven an automobile on ice knows what would happen if he hit the brake too hard. We would go into an uncontrollable skid."

"The good driver finding himself in such a spot would start applying his brake lightly. He would tap it gently, then release it. He would keep repeating that procedure, pressure and release, until he had gradually checked the car's speed without losing control. To do otherwise might be fatal."

"Our only hope is to slow down gradually, successfully negotiating the turn into Sound Money road."

We undoubtedly haven't quoted Humphrey word for word, but the illustration, as reported to us by Minnaugh, casts a good deal of light on the government's fiscal policy and explains what is happening.

It also explains all the screaming from the back seat.

Inflationary Speed Halted

The Eisenhower administration is endeavoring to check the speed of our inflationary drive. If we continue along the same road we have been following, we can end only in a financial crash. On the other hand, our economy could be thrown into a fatal skid if we attempted to stop too suddenly.

The brakes have been applied gently. The inflationary speed has been reduced. But, before the car starts skidding, pressure on the brakes will be eased. With control reestablished, the brakes again will be applied. By expert handling the car can be turned in a new direction without injury to the occupants.

And, just so we can get in the plug Minnaugh had in mind, we will point out that Humphrey is depending upon the American people to help in safely reaching Sound Money road.

The federal government has a staggering national debt. Billions of dollars must be refinanced as short term obligations fall due. The more this debt can be spread out, the safer our economy. Purchase of savings bonds not only eases immediate refinancing, but serves to spread the debt. Instead of an inflationary trend, which occurs when securities are sold to investment bankers, savings bonds act as a cushion against depression. Savings by millions of people, coming into circulation when times get a little tough, provide a financial balance and restore prosperity.

Thus, if the back seat drivers will quit screaming about a little skidding, and will give the driver some help, the turn into Sound Money road will be assured.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP)—The slaying of Maxwell Bodenheim, a futile poet and novelist, is a flamboyant epitaph to a Greenwich Village that is gone.

It is a kind of mortal farewell to a Bohemianism that died long ago, and for almost 25 years has become to the outside a Manhattan tourist attraction. The tourists still feel they have to see Greenwich Village just as they used to visit Grant's tomb.

They go to Radio City now or visit the top of the Empire State instead of calling on Gen. Grant. But time doesn't dim the magic of some names. And so they still like to beam at the bumps on the Bowery, gawk at the law-abiding chop suey dens of Chinatown that the late O. O. McIntyre pictured full of slant-eyed opium addicts, and they like to go to Greenwich Village, hoping to see the mad, bad, Bohemian artists at play.

The passing of poor Max Bodenheim is only the irony of the death of a symbol. He came here out of the Chicago literary school, as did his arch rival, Ben Hecht, who co-authored "The Front Page," with Charles MacArthur, another Chicago newspaperman.

Booze Destroys Talent

At one time they all were regarded as midwestern Bohemians. Then the roads went different ways. MacArthur married Helen Hayes after, so the legend goes, winning her heart by holding out some peanuts and saying, "I wish they were emeralds."

But both MacArthur and Hecht went on to hit the literary jackpot. Bodenheim never became

popular. His life revolved itself, according to many critics, into a victory of alcoholism over a fine talent.

He settled in Greenwich Village and became a character in an out-of-date Bohemianism. He died of a .22 caliber bullet through the chest, and the saddest and perhaps the truest thing you can say of Maxwell Bodenheim is that the day who pulled the trigger picked the right size gun to measure his final stature as a writer. Max pulled the trigger on his own life long ago, or at least on the promise that his life held. And why he did it is his own secret, and our business.

John Massfield moped a bar-room floor in Greenwich Village, and later became famous. Eugene O'Neill dreamed and loved and probably drank there. So did Edna Millay. Alexander Hamilton, Edgar Allan Poe, and a very eloquent living friend of mine named John Lardner, and a hundred talented others.

My wife, and I, when young lived for seven happy years next door to the home where once had dwelt Richard Harding Davis (the Ernie Pyle of his day) and three doors from the apartment house where Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt lived for a time, too. As a matter of fact, Ernie Pyle lived in Greenwich Village briefly, and was unhappy there.

Greenwich Village today is one of the nicest residential communities for some of the most solidly



Peter Edson

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — The most serious threat that might arise in the current Berlin conference of Big Four Ministers would be a Russian attempt to woo France away from her American and British allies and win her over to opposing German rearmament.

The success of any such diplomatic maneuver on the part of the Russians is not considered likely. But it has been foreseen as a possibility. If the Russians could pull it off, it would be a disaster for the western world and a Communist world victory.

The bribes which Russia could offer France for support of these Moscow policies could be a promise of peace in Indo-China and guarantees of a neutralized and disarmed Germany. There is considerable political backing for both of these objectives inside France.

Should France vote with the Russians on these projects, it might well wreck the European Defense Community and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. It would split France away from Germany, an ally now regarded as the keystone of western European defense.

A split between France and Western Germany at this time might give the Russians a temporary advantage in delaying any counter moves for the unification of Germany.

Over the long haul, however, a French-German split could only lead to an eventual World War III. The threat is regarded as fully that serious in Washington. In opposing it, the Senate committee down, the principal hope is in bringing France and Germany closer together.

Secretary of the Navy Robert Anderson isn't as shy about using the private yacht Sequoia, which goes with the job as President Eisenhower was about using the Williamsburg for short cruises in the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay.

President Eisenhower gave up his yacht after trying it out, as an economy move. But since April 1, 1953, when the Sequoia came out of overhaul, it has left its Washington Navy Yard berth for cruises 51 times. The ship has become a sort of community pleasure craft for members of the cabinet, however. Other top government officials have used the Sequoia more than Secretary Anderson's. The yacht carries a crew of 25 enlisted men and one officer.

Three newspaper photographers showed up the other day at a respectable people in America. It has a few of the finest restaurants in the land, and also has a few cheap taxiway night clubs that are a disgrace to it and the people who come there looking for "atmosphere."

They are tearing down Mark Twain's old home to put up a big apartment house. New York University, where Thomas Wolfe taught English by day and dreamed and wrote by night, is gradually ringing Washington Square, the heart of Greenwich Village, and some oldtimers fear, turning it into a campus.

Real estate men say that one out of three young, eager, ambitious people who come to New York want to settle first in Greenwich Village. They seek inspiration and atmosphere, and being young, they think they can find it where other people they have heard of found these things before them.

But, accepting Greenwich Village as a symbol, did Maxwell Bodenheim ever find it, although he came here, lived here and died here? He became a Greenwich Village character for the tourists while the real Bohemians were entering Park Avenue.

The lesson of Bodenheim, certainly, is that the best address for a man's inspiration is his own mind, and that the home of any true artist is always his heart, where he really lives.

Can you become another Abraham Lincoln merely by moving to Springfield, Ill.?

PEERY MEDICALS

BY W.K. PEERY

Visitors from the United States who enjoyed the hospitality of Dr. John McLoughlin, were not particularly concerned over the status of the company servants. Most of the latter carried Indian blood, and few Americans of that period were concerned over the welfare of the natives. Under the banner of manifest destiny, or its equivalent, the Americans had been starving, cheating and killing Indians to get their furs for a song, or their land for the taking. There were rare exceptions when some spokesman from the states remarked on the low estate of poor Lo, but these were frowned upon by their compatriots, as was Jackson Hall Kelley, The Methodist missionary. Reverend Jason Lee was cold toward this fellow American who McLoughlin for good reasons perhaps, had given lodgings outside the fort, not including him among the guests at the gentlemen's dining hall. Among other indiscretions, had criticized the English company for neglecting the Indians.

Reader Opinions

McGee States Reasons For Not Seeking Post

CANYONVILLE — I have been asked so many times if I intend to seek the nomination of county commissioner, that I am taking this opportunity in the Reader's Opinions, to answer the inquiries. No, I am not going to seek the nomination this year. My reason for seeking the nomination previously, unsuccessfully, was the south part of the county had no representative on the county court. The present county judge, Carl Hill, is from the south end of the county, and we should be satisfied. I am sure we are well represented, and he is doing a good job. I hope no one from down this way seeks the nomination this year.

The central part of a commissioner and should be satisfied with his work. I am, Mr. Beckley also has done a good job, and I think will continue to do so.

The county should, I think, have three districts, and a commissioner from each, elected by the voters of the respective districts, the south, central and northern districts of the county. By this method each section would have a commissioner on the court.

The county judge has no place or duty on the commission. The county has grown so much in population in recent years, and will continue to do so in the future, that the special duties of a county judge have increased many times. We would be more than amply repaid by having a county judge whose time was not taken up by the duties of commissioner. Let the county judge be elected by a vote of the county as a whole, as at present, and not as a member of the county court.

I do hope those whom we send to Salem to represent the county in the State Legislature will consider his idea of having the county in three districts as mentioned above. Every section of the county is definitely entitled to representation on the county court. By this district method they would always be represented.

This is no reflection on any past, present or future members of the county court, or any person seeking the position as a member of the court.

I wish to thank those who have asked me to try for the nomination in three districts for the votes given me in the previous elections. Perhaps two years from now, if circumstances justify or permit, I will throw my hat in the ring. This year is not the turn for a person from the south Douglas area on the county court. Let's be fair to the section you think should be represented.

GUY MCGEE
Canyonville, Ore.

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Sec. Benson Says Nation Needs New Farm Program

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Secretary of Agriculture Benson said Tuesday the nation needs a new farm program because "the resentment of 140 million non-farm consumers is mounting against the expensive, wasteful and ineffective program of rigid price supports."

He urged farmer backing for a new farm plan featuring variable price supports which was advanced last month by President Eisenhower.

"The surest way for any group in this country to commit suicide is to forget the ultimate consumer," Benson said in a speech prepared for an agricultural day program at Oklahoma A and M College. A successful farm program, he added, must be one that both urban and rural people can understand, approve and support. He said the present program has resulted in the piling up of costly surpluses.

"Farm programs cannot be legislated by congressmen from rural areas alone," he said. "They must be supported by legislators representing urban areas as well."

"The program recommended by President Eisenhower is not based on political expediency. It represents the best thinking of the nation's farmers."

Benson said the administration program "won't be killed, because it's right—and more and more the people of this country are convinced it's right."

Benson said that under the administration program these things would happen: food would fill stomachs; not government storage; foreign markets would be expanded; farm prices would be protected against serious declines; farmers would have more freedom to adjust production in line with good management practices; the need for production controls would decrease; consumers would be able to buy farm products at prices which more nearly reflect available supplies; and more attention would be given to the needs of the small farmer.

These people were never treated as other than inferior servants by the English. If the half breeds resented their low estate, they never seemed to show it. When they were at the different forts between trapping seasons, they were free to get drunk, fight, or beat their squaws as the mood dictated. They loved doing all three. The company never interfered, nor was the company concerned about the education of their young. From its viewpoint the broadened understanding that came with education would blunt their enthusiasm for the white waters and the trap line. The English wanted none of that.

The ponation of Douglas County is well represented in descendants of Dr. John McLoughlin's servants. When the British moved out, hundreds of these families settled in the Willamette Valley, to move southward to the isolated places along the Umpqua, Klamath and other rivers of southwest Oregon. A few have remained Indians. But for the most part you will find their ranks well represented among our business and professional people. These married away from their Indian blood and have crossed the color line.

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