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THE COURT SQUABBLE

Charles V. Stanton

The current squabble concerning the Douglas County Court is providing an interesting topic of conversation, although there appears to be more smoke than fire. It is a regrettable affair and is particularly untimely, coming as it does at a season normally devoted to tolerance and good will.

But good government is essential at all times and there should never be a closed season on valid and constructive criticism at any level. However, it is rather difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff in the current controversy. Charges need clarification and should be made specific.

Commissioner Elmer Metzger, a man of integrity and great ability, resigned from the court. He has since aired vague charges through the press and radio.

Other members of the county court are Judge Carl C. Hill and Commissioner Frank Ashley. These two also are men with enviable reputations for honesty and integrity. Each has a long record for efficient public service.

It should be evident, I believe, that none of the three men involved in the controversy would be party to any fraud, deceit or misconduct in office.

Policies Complicated

The conduct of a county government, the equivalent of a private business amounting to around five million dollars annually, is a difficult task, particularly when it involves so many services and functions spread over an area as large as the entire state of Connecticut. The conduct of such a government involves many complicated policy decisions. These decisions are made by the three members of the county court. Each has equal voice and authority.

It is not to be expected that three men, each with different background, experience and personality, would be in agreement in all matters. In fact, it would be very unfortunate to have perfect accord on every problem. It is through argument and discussion, based on honest differences of opinion, that policies are most apt to be thoroughly explored in advance to decisions.

But it would appear that, in addition to honest disagreements, personality conflicts have entered into the current controversy.

Mr. Metzger is a man who for many years operated his own business. He had wide experience in building and contracting as a private operator. In that field he could make snap decisions and take quick action. He could hire and fire at will. He had no need to consult with anyone on matters of policy, nor to postpone decisions.

Public business, however, is not normally conducted in such manner, although there is ample room for improvement in that direction.

Delays Prove Irrksome

When three men of differing personalities must reach agreement on any controversial policy, delays are certain to result. It is understandable that Metzger would be irritated by delay, a situation entirely foreign to his nature and experience.

His declarations, and those made by the members of the court in rebuttal, would indicate that the demand on one hand for immediate action, and the urge on the other to take plenty of time, provides the fundamental basis for the current misunderstanding.

It is regrettable, at least in my opinion, that Metzger chose to resign from the court. He has been an able commissioner and has given valuable service to the county. He is entitled to the utmost appreciation for his work.

But the two remaining members of the court are likewise competent and honest men, equally diligent in their work in the county's behalf, although temperamentally less precipitate in decision and action than Metzger.

I believe anyone knowing the three men who composed the court will agree that none would knowingly abuse or misuse his office or the county's interests. Conflicts between such widely differing personalities are to be expected, and differences of opinion are not only certain but preferable.

If not too late, the desirable solution, it seems to me, would be for Metzger to withdraw his resignation and return to his place on the court, with an honest effort all around to "bury the hatchet" and strive for harmonious relations.

Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP)—How effective is the military air camera today? Could you really detect a military buildup in another country through photo reconnaissance?

These questions have been raised by President Eisenhower's proposals at Geneva for the exchange of military blueprints and aerial inspection as "the gateway to a reduction in disarmament."

The issue remains very much alive. Many government figures are privately hopeful the Russians will in time agree to the proposals, perhaps supplemented by further suggestions on their part.

The President's "open skies for peace" plan is strikingly dramatized in an exhibit of aerial photography now on display in the Carnegie International Center here.

It shows concretely how effective the camera has become as an eyesight from the air. The exhibit, planned by a U.S. government interdepartmental committee, has impressed many U.N. delegates and other visitors.

Just what can photo reconnaissance do? The most impressive display is a single strip of film 200 feet long and 9 inches wide; the strip maps an area of the United States 2,500 miles long and 400 miles wide from New York to Los Angeles.

The strip was filmed in 1948 from 40,000 feet—nearly eight miles up—in less than four hours; the same job could be done today by only

Always Something Dangerous About This Embrace!



In The Day's News

(Continued from Page One)

Fourth congressional district of Oregon, asked himself this same question. Trying to answer it intelligently, he discovered that he didn't know what ought to be done. So he decided to ask the farmers of his district what they thought about it.

He asked them these questions: Which in your opinion represents the SOUNDTEST agricultural program?

1. High, rigid price supports for basic crops coupled with production controls?

2. Flexible price supports as advocated by the present administration?

3. NO price support, permitting agricultural commodities to find their own level in the market?

When the replies came in, they gave him quite a jolt of surprise. Here, percentage-wise is how the Fourth congressional district farmers who answered his questionnaire voted:

FOR No. 1 — 33.1 per cent
FOR No. 2 — 39.4 per cent
FOR No. 3 — 47.5 per cent

That is to say:

Of the FARMERS who replied to Congressman Ellsworth's questionnaire, only 33.1 per cent preferred rigid high supports for basic crops, coupled with production controls. Flexible price supports, as proposed by Secretary of Agriculture Benson and embodied in the present law, are preferred by 39.4 per cent.

NO PRICE SUPPORT, permitting agricultural commodities to find their own level in the market, is preferred by 47.5 per cent.

Here's how the city folks voted:

FOR No. 1 — 6.5 per cent
FOR No. 2 — 54.3 per cent
FOR No. 3 — 39.2 per cent

The city people, you see, are sympathetic with the farmer's plight, and are afraid he might not be able to get along without ANY support at all. But they haven't much use for the rigid high support system that produced staggering surpluses to hang over the markets of the future like a dark thundercloud. They KNOW that is bad.

Realizing that the farmer's situation since the war has been a ragged one, they are willing to pay their share of the cost of flexible supports.

But nearly half of the Oregon farmers who replied to Congressman Ellsworth's questionnaire are clear in their minds on this business of subsidizing farming.

They'd rather take their chances in the open market.

That is QUITE interesting.

hanging on the line in your back yard.

"What if I had three tanks around the house camouflaged by covering them with old tree branches?" I asked.

"We could spot them with camouflaged film," he said. "The live green grass would show up red on the film. The dead tree branches would show up a dull gray-green, and they'd be easy to spot."

Isn't there any way to fool the aerial camera?

"You sometimes can fool a lens—that's true," acknowledged Col. Steakley. "But it isn't easy to fool a good photo interpretation expert."

"On a large scale it would be very hard to do. You might be able to hide a small building, sure, but not a whole complex of buildings, or a really big buildup of troops and installations."

An example of the speed of the aerial camera: A jet plane flying 300 miles an hour at low level was able to photograph and identify the cards in a poker hand laid out on an airport runway.

How long would it take the photograph of all of Russia from the air? "Ambassador Lodge said the job could be done in less than six months," answered the officer. "All I can say is the Air Force stands ready and capable of carrying out any agreement that is reached."

WASHINGTON (AP)—(NEA)—They're throwing much in the fans again.

This is the only plausible explanation for all the fuss over tiny Portuguese Goa, on India's west coast.

Secretary of State John Foster Dulles probably never intended to get smeared by it as he has. But now that he's in it, he's trying to make the best of it.

It began when Portugal's foreign minister, Dr. Paulo Cunha, was in Washington a few days ago. He made one of the most unflattering defenses of colonialism since the Victorian era.

"THE THOUGHTLESS spread of the anticommunist movement urgently requires reappraisal," said Dr. Cunha.

"Acting as an inflexible 'anti-communist' the man of the West is unconsciously rendering the greatest service to his mortal enemy, the Communist agitator," he said.

"There is good colonialism and there is bad colonialism," Dr. Cunha went on. "Let us correct the latter. But let us not act blindly, simply by opposition to all colonialism and to everything resembling colonialism."

What the Portuguese foreign minister was obviously trying to do here was defend what he considered his government's "good colonialism" in its hold on Portuguese West Africa, Mozambique, Guinea, the Azores and other Atlantic islands, Macao on the Red China coast, Timor in the Pacific, and the three tiny holdings of Damião, Diu and Goa, near Bombay.

Dr. Cunha made this unabashed defense of colonialism to whip up support in an amazed and unbelieving Washington. He did it deliberately just after Russian Premier Bulganin and Communist Secretary Khrushchev gave their support to India's efforts to get the Portuguese out of Goa.

IN SHORT, THE RUSSIAN tried not too subtly to stir up the Indians to drive the Portuguese out. When Dulles and Cunha came to issue the final communiqué on their Washington talks, they had this very much in mind:

"Various statements attributed to the Soviet rulers . . . and allegations concerning the Portuguese provinces in the Far East were discussed by the two foreign ministers," they said. "They considered that such statements do not represent a contribution to the cause of peace."

They thought they were taking a swing at "Bulge" and "Krush" in this communiqué. But that word "provinces" bounced off their hat. The Indians fielded it and cried, "Foul!"

There was no specific mention of Goa in this communiqué, though Dr. Cunha talked about it a lot while here.

The official U.S. position on Goa is that of neutrality. It wants only to see the issue settled peacefully.

THE PREVAILING OPINION among Washington officials is undoubtedly that colonialism is a dead duck and there isn't any use trying to revive it. Portugal just hasn't realized that yet.

Sooner or later, it is recognized that "Goa will have to go," as the saying is.

But if and when it does go, it should be permitted to go peacefully. There should be full recognition of the Goans' rights to express their preference. They should not be forced into union with India.

But what this souped-up excitement illustrates again is how the United States—as the leading world power—can get sucked into terrible troubles defending the self-determination of small peoples.

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Los Angeles Man Named To Probe Security Program

WASHINGTON (AP)—Lloyd Wright, Los Angeles attorney, this week was elected chairman of a special bipartisan commission created by Congress to inquire into all aspects of the government's security program.

Wright, an immediate past president of the American Bar Assn., is one of the four members of the commission appointed by Vice President Nixon.

President Eisenhower and House Speaker Rayburn (D-Tex.) also appointed four members each in accordance with a resolution adopted by Congress.

The election of Wright, a Republican, was unanimous.

Nixon, talking with newsmen, said the commission's essential responsibility is to find out and report to the people on how the government's security program can be improved to maintain what he called a delicate balance between freedom and security.

The 12 members were drawn six from public and six from private life.

The commission has the power of subpoena and is authorized to inquire into all phases of the government's security program.

14 Men Arrested At Strikebound WE Co. Plant

TRENTON, N. J. (AP)—Fourteen men were arrested Thursday at the strikebound lamp division of Westinghouse Electric Co., after 30 police broke up a picket line to permit five carloads of men and women to drive into the plant.

The 14 were arraigned before Magistrate Albert Cooper on charges of disorderly conduct.

Police said the five carloads of non-strikers wearing Halloween masks or hiding behind newspaper men made three attempts to enter the plant—at 7, 9 and 10 a.m. The line because those inside were covering their faces with masks and newspapers.

"We didn't know who they were," said Fiore. "They might have been imported labor."

Fiore, one of the pickets arrested, charged the company forced the incident in order to get an injunction.

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