

The News-Review

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THE PENNY GETS A BREAK

Charles V. Stanton

FRESNO, Calif. — California is a state in which the penny is an important piece of U.S. coinage, as everyone who has traveled this way well knows. The penny has a more important function here than feeding the parking meter or going to church on Sunday. It isn't long until you have a pocketful of copper coins. And then you begin to learn to use them properly in paying your sales tax.

When I pulled out an extra dollar bill to pay an item which had a six-cents tax, as I recall, the clerk asked, "Don't you have a penny?" And after I had drawn one from the several dozen weighing down my pocket, she said, "You must be from Oregon." I nodded assent and then she asked, "When will you people wake up? You need a sales tax."

I have found few people so far who object to the sales tax. Sure, people grumble about taxes in general, but when you start asking questions, you find that a lot of other taxes are more irksome on Californians than the sales tax.

"I pay out a penny here, a couple of pennies there, and before I'm through my shopping I may have paid out twenty-five or thirty cents," one woman told me. "I don't miss it, and it's a lot easier to pay that than to dig up a big amount at one time. And when you know of all the good that is being done with it, you don't begrudge any of it."

Help To Schools

A native of Roseburg, now living in Fresno, is Donald A. Perry, son of Deputy Sheriff and Mrs. Fred L. Perry, Beaumont Ave., Roseburg. Don is Mrs. Stanton's nephew. He has been with the Fresno school system for a number of years. We visited with him, his charming wife and their two children in the unique and stylish home which he designed and helped build while employed as a crafts teacher in Fresno. His typical California, adobe-walled home embodies many unusual and highly functional designs making for comfortable living.

Don told me that the Fresno schools have much the same problem as those in Roseburg. The district is growing very rapidly. He now heads a junior high school with more than 1,100 pupils, and expects to have another 200 next year.

As I understood his explanation, city districts support their own school systems without aid from the county. County schools are taken care of by the county. Both city and county districts get large sums of money from the state. City districts erect their own buildings. County schools, however, get up to two-thirds of their capital investment from state funds. Some of the small districts, he tells me, particularly those in industrial areas, are simply "rolling in dough." They have wonderful buildings with ornate cafeterias, spacious gymnasiums, and rows of teacherages, houses rented to teachers or included as a part of their salaries.

So, in California, as in Oregon, there is a wide disparity in the financial positions of districts.

In Fresno, however, despite the heavy load of students and demands for capital investment, operational costs have been kept within the 20-mill levy, which can be exceeded only by a vote of the people. This has been possible because of the large amount of state aid. That state aid comes principally from California's sales tax.

Our Oregon school problem, I believe, could be materially helped if we would accept the sales tax—not as an additional tax, but as a part of a balanced tax plan.

We should, of course, try to avoid some of the mistakes California has made, and endeavor to obtain a more satisfactory equalization plan.

An Idea On Salaries

Talking with Don about some of the problems of the Roseburg school district, the matter of salaries was mentioned.

Salaries in California, he said, are generally higher than in Oregon, although still not high enough, in his opinion. Inasmuch as he is a teacher, I can understand his viewpoint.

However, he puts it this way:

The next time someone starts griping about how much a teacher is paid, call his attention to the fact that the teacher spent five years in school learning to teach.

An intelligent person, with a high school education, can go into a grocery store immediately after graduation, and, within a very few months will be making as much as a teacher's starting salary. After a couple of years of experience, a union grocery clerk will be making almost as much, if not more than an experienced teacher.

In the meantime, the teacher has been attending school, paying the cost of an education while earning nothing. By the time the teacher starts earning a salary, the fellow who started out five years earlier as a grocery clerk should have earned something like \$25,000. His earnings will compare favorably, after five years of experience, with those of almost any average classroom teacher.

Thus, if the teacher is to be on the same economic plane as the grocery clerk, his pay should be at least \$1,000 per year more for the 25 or so years he will be employed as a teacher.

Maybe you don't agree with Don's analysis of the situation, but it is something to think about. I pass it along for what it's worth.

Plans To Combat Any Spring Flood

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland city officials are laying plans to cope with a major flood should one come this spring.

Mayor Fred Peterson, in a letter to all commissioners, pointed out that the mountain snows hold the potential of an even greater flood than that which destroyed Vanport in 1948.

L. G. Apperson, city engineer, said his department's role will be to protect the downtown district by sand-bagging. Much of the northern part of the district is lower than the harbor seawall.

Col. George F. Credears, Portland Air Base commander, said that if the Columbia gets to 25 feet, planes will be transferred to McChord Field. Other equipment will be moved and he asked permission to take it to University Heights, wartime city housing project.

Jack Lowe, civil defense director, said the state agency had scheduled a meeting here March 27 to co-ordinate flood control plans.

Nixon Gets Nod From Nebraska GOP Heads

LINCOLN, Neb. — Nebraska Republican leaders Monday shouted approval of a resolution urging the re-nomination of Vice President Richard Nixon.

Three hundred delegates gave unanimous approval to the resolution during the party's pre-primary convention here.

The convention preceded the GOP's traditional statewide party rally, at which Nixon was to have been the chief speaker. He cancelled his appearance to remain in Washington in connection with pending farm legislation.

Dollars Won't Check Reds, Graham Warns

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Evangelist Billy Graham said Monday the advance of communism in Asia has been slowed down to a walk but Red gains are still being made among young intellectuals, particularly university students.

He told a news conference that dollars alone will never meet the Communist intellectual appeal.

In The Day's News

(Continued From Page One)

a counterfeit dollar, or no dollar at all?

President Eisenhower sends to Congress his foreign aid program. He wants a shade under five billion dollars and says it will require that much to meet and counter what he terms "the new Soviet expansionism."

Agreeing generally with Ike's ideas (with occasional exceptions such as federal aid for the schools) and having complete confidence in his integrity and his sincerity, I can't help wondering about this foreign aid business.

It looks like Britain and France, as great world powers, are gone to the races. In all the world—save in our own North America and perhaps in Western Germany—there seems to be no grim determination to resist communism.

One can't help fearing that in the last final showdown—when it's a choice between fighting to the death for freedom or accepting—the bulk of the tired Old World will accept communism.

If that is true—and it may not be true—conserving our own strength becomes immensely important. If we're to use our resources to strengthen other people so that they may become dependable allies clear through to the end of the road, maybe we'd better do it in our own hemisphere.

If the world is to be split half communist and half free, we'd better keep the Western Hemisphere ALL FREE. During two world wars we've concentrated our interest in the Old World and have neglected our neighbors of the New World.

These, of course, are only thoughts.

But one can't help thinking.

Let's get too serious, let's turn in conclusion today to the guy in Miami who when he got off a commercial plane from Chicago left behind in his seat a book entitled "How To Stop Forgetting."

In its pages, as a bookmark to show where he left off reading, so that he could start in again at the right place, was a pamphlet on MENTAL CONCENTRATION.

We'd better take steps to find him and hustle the book back to him.

He NEEDS IT.

SCHOOL ENTERED

Desks in the Tenmile School offices were ransacked last week, according to the sheriff's office, but nothing of value was taken. It is believed the crime was committed by juveniles. Entry was gained by forcing a window.

Proof: Whereas five years ago

By REILMAN MORIN

For Hal Boyle

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a Sunday morning in New England, and very hushed and still. From time to time, a car with clinking chains sloshed through the little town. A freight train whistled in the distance, and another answered with a low moan. Then silence again, and the lonely quiet.

Suddenly, like a sunburst of music, the church bells began ringing.

The tones came rolling down the street, across the common, glistening with snow, bouncing between the buildings, jostling each other in a wonderful din and clangor.

One was a merry little bell, all crystal and silver. Another was sweet and serene. Still another spoke with deep-throated authority, a serious, hard-working bell.

I put down the Sunday paper—the floor of my hotel room already was knee-deep in the scattered pages—and sat there, listening. It occurred to me that you seldom hear church bells in New York, or in most busy cities, unless you listen specially for them. They have to compete with too many other sounds.

Through the window I could see people converging on the churches. I wondered what it would be like. An instant later, I was putting on my hat and coat.

The churches in New England are gems. They are usually small, usually white, always exquisite in line and proportion. They have tall, tapering spires and graceful doors. Stained glass windows gleam like jewels against the white. They are simple and beautiful churches.

And they are American. Deeply and truly American, a part of the very fabric of our tradition. It is hard to imagine a New England town without a white church on the edge of the common.

I sat well back and watched the congregation before the service began.

A woman reached around her husband, trying to smooth an unruly cowlick in her son's hair; the boy looked at her with despair. Two teen-agers, on opposite sides of the aisle, stole furtive glances at each other. The inevitable late-comer appeared, stumbling over feet, murmuring "sorry," all the way to the very middle of the pew.

On a board beside the choir, the numbers of the hymns had been posted. The organist was playing a gentle, musing French song.

Years Fall Away

Then came the first hymn, and to my immense delight, a man behind me sang counterpoint. As far back as I can remember, there was always a deep-voiced man in church who sang counterpoint—or sometimes just off-key.

The whole moment was intensely familiar. Suddenly, the years fell away and this became another church in another place and time. I thought of absent friends, but not in sorrow; they seemed closer now.

A feeling of peace that is rare these days was in that church. The minister read a passage from St. Mark.

"And he said unto them, the Sabbath was made for man, and not for the Sabbath."

Then he began his sermon. He spoke simply and with a compelling sincerity, and he had wisdom. When he finished, there was another hymn, and a moment of prayer. As the people left, he stood beside the front door shaking hands. He looked like a happy man, and some of his happiness communicated itself to them.

I went back to the hotel and the Sunday papers, feeling glad about the bells.

Thereafter the Socialists would get nothing.

Indeed, they might suffer a worse fate than a country's conservatives. Communists view the Socialist philosophy as too closely competitive with their own.

By our standards Socialists may be "radicals," but as seen from the left they are relatively moderate. They want no part of dictatorship or other Red extremism.

Often the Socialist parties of Europe have taken policy positions which we regard as unsound and perhaps unwittingly serving the Communist aims. They may indeed be shunted aside at times by the judgment of Western needs.

But in most cases the differences are honest, and they lie within the framework of Western freedom. Cooperation with the Kremlin does not. Whatever the Socialists may desire that differs from the goals of more conservative parties, they know the enemy well enough not to embark on a course of collaboration that could lead to slow suicide for the Socialist movement.

Embracing Moscow is like cuddling up to a cobra.

REINFORCING THE AIR FORCE

By Glenn Kittler

A few years ago, there was a military base commander who greeted his newly assigned chaplain with a curt, "All I want you to do, Padre, is marry my men and bury them."

The startled chaplain controlled his sudden temper. "Is that all, sir?"

Offhandish, the commander added: "You might see what you can do about our rising AWOL rate."

"That will be quite a job," the chaplain said. "Most of your men are already spiritually AWOL."

The commander looked at the chaplain pointedly. "You worry about that, if you like," he said. "I just don't want to worry about you. Remember, I run the show here. The Miracle-Age-for-Chaplains is over."

A REAL NEED

Actually, no age needed miracle chaplains more. World War II had been over five years; Korea was still a mere threat. Entering the Armed Forces were 17-year-olds who had been born during the poverty of a depression and raised during the extravagance of a war. Seething inside youth was the instability of both periods.

Youthful occupation forces sent to Germany and Japan, for example, often needed more policing than the defeated countries. The two traditional yardsticks of Armed Forces behavior—AWOL and venereal diseases—were astonishingly uncontrollable. At home and abroad, petty crimes rampaged on military bases and in surrounding towns.

Reports of the critical problem reached President Truman, who immediately established a board of civilian advisors to seek a solution.

SKEPTICAL

When the new committee recommended that a program of religious training be initiated in the Armed Forces, some military men strongly objected. They claimed the Armed Forces had no right to invade a man's religious attitudes.

Committee members replied that freedom of religion did not imply freedom from it. Out of these discussions came the Character Guidance Program.

The men now receive at least one hour of moral instruction a month. To many, it is a revelation. The great void in their lives is now being filled with an understanding of moral principles, and at an hour when they need it most.

Proof: Whereas five years ago

Richard L. Neuberger, United States senator from Oregon, is the subject of a feature story in the current issue of "Tracks," a monthly publication of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway. In an article entitled "Senator . . . Writer . . . Railfan," writer Frank P. Donovan Jr., says Neuberger is "a good friend of the industry and is highly sympathetic to its problems."

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LENTEN GUIDEPOSTS

only 33 per cent of all servicemen ever attended church, 91 per cent now attend services regularly. And they are doing it of their own free choice.

All this is achieved during their first weeks in uniform. The Air Force takes religion to recruits in their first hour.

ON HIS FIRST DAY

An Air Force Recruit meets his chaplain on his first day in camp. Within three days, the recruit has a personal interview with the chaplain of his faith, if he professes one, or any chaplain he chooses. Here the chaplain learns the man's immediate spiritual problems and establishes the friendship out of which solutions will grow. (The Army and Navy have similar programs.)

At his first Sunday, the recruit must attend chapel. He must also attend a denominational service on his first Wednesday night. Afterwards, attendance at both services is voluntary, and records show that more than 80 per cent are going regularly by their fifth week in camp.

On Tuesday nights, chaplains of different faiths hold religious instruction classes, for which recruits volunteer. At Sampson Air Force Base, New York, where some 15,000 men are always in training, approximately 1,000 take the instructions.

Also, each recruit receives, with fellow trainees, a weekly moral instruction on topics like marriage, clean speech, clean thinking, self-discipline, and character development.

GETS RESULTS

Unexpected world wide results are already beginning to show. The Templehof Choir in Germany is now comprised principally of servicemen who sing each Sunday in different Berlin churches. In Tripoli, the Air Force taught basketball to young men in church groups and parochial schools, and out of tournaments have come greater American activities in church circles.

To measure the success of the Character Guidance Program, the Air Force looks at both its credit and debit ledgers. The Air Force, whose personnel and their dependents total a population about the size of Detroit, now has a crime rate that would be the envy of a country village.

AWOL, the yardstick of any military organization, has dropped phenomenally. In 1949, seven out

of every 1000 men were AWOL. Today the figure is down to two. Venerable disease, the boomerang, that so often strikes a morally rebellious man, has decreased proportionately, until the Provost Marshal was able to report that V.D. was no longer a major Air Force problem.

TOMORROW — Ralph Wheelwright tells the poignant story of the day he and his small son flew a kite. It may not have been a miracle, but it did renew his faith.

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