

The News-Review

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VOICE FROM THE DOGHOUSE

By Charles V. Stanton

The gals in the business department of this establishment have pushed me into the doghouse.

A few days ago I found them irately arguing against pay television — "freevee" it is called as contrasted with "freeee" free television. Just for fun I argued the other side. You know what happens when a man tries to out-argue women. To say I was "whipped" is to put it mildly.

The "freevee" vs. "freeee" argument is sweeping the country. It has generated a lot of heat since a House committee in Congress adopted a resolution asking the Federal Communications Commission to delay an experimental test of pay television.

Applications for "freevee" have been kicking around the FCC office for approximately seven years. The FCC recently decided to permit a test, and it appeared that pay television was about to become a reality on an experimental basis. Then the committee interfered.

Advocates of pay television can't understand why the system shouldn't be given a trial. If the people like it and are willing to pay the required fees, it will be successful, say the proponents, but if the people don't like it, it will fail. They say pay television should be subjected to the test of free enterprise and free competition.

Pressure Is Heavy

On the other hand, it is claimed that pay television would be able to buy up all the good entertainment and that free television would be put out of business. The American public is entitled to free entertainment, furnished by advertisers, and shouldn't be denied programs because some people are able to pay for the same, we are told.

A good deal of pressure doubtless is being applied by various lobbies to maintain free television. I understand that the motion picture and theatre people feel it would be damaging, while advertising agencies, now profiting from creating the weird commercials used on "freeee," don't want anything to molest their opportunities for business.

But there are other factions that believe pay television will be a boost to sports, opera, educational programs, etc. With several million people narting with fifty cents or a dollar per day to see special programs, it would be possible to finance some of the finest entertainment, it is claimed.

Boxing already has gone to closed television circuits for some matches. The forthcoming championship fight between Basilio and Robinson, for example, will be seen only over closed circuits. Sports fans will pay millions of dollars to watch the battle on the video screen. This system will furnish more profits to the fighters, promoters and TV distributors than could be collected from a commercial sponsor.

Fear Program Deterioration

The gals in our office had been told that all the best entertainers would be moved from free television to pay television and that there would be a most serious deterioration in TV programs.

That's where I got in the doghouse. I said television programs couldn't get worse; that any change would be for the better.

And while I said it only to provoke an argument, I still believe (speaking from the doghouse) that nothing could hurt television programming much.

As a lad I read the exploits of our famed western badmen and the brave sheriffs and marshals who brought order to the scene. They were able to light a sulphur match with a bullet fired at thirty paces, according to the period's paper-back historians. But now I see western after western where the single-action pistol of the early West has become a double action weapon, capable of firing an unlimited number of shots without reloading, while two groups of riders at full gallop exchange hundreds of shots and not a marksman is able to hit even a horse.

And if TV lost the major part of its present day entertainers, who would care?

TV is bringing back the characters we learned to love long years ago, but who are now pitiful shadows of their old selves in their come-back efforts. It gives us a pang to see them dusted off and propped up to go through a silly routine that most of them wouldn't have touched with a ten-foot pole in years gone by.

If all except a select few of today's free television stars were to be moved to "freevee" and some fresh blood and ideas brought to "freeee," I am of the opinion that the latter would benefit most.

I can, of course, understand the opposition of politicians to pay television. If, during a campaign year, any viewer had any other program available, he certainly wouldn't be listening to the campaign propaganda by candidates.

Thinking It Over

By Robert L. Dieffenbacher, D.D.
(Written for NEA Service)

Lent must be remembered every day from Ash Wednesday until Good Friday. This season is not one to be started with fervor and forgotten until Holy Week. Each day must find everyone on his knees praying for humility, for sincerity and for the ability to bring others to the Master. This task is for everyone. It cannot be left to a selected few.

Our spiritual service is essential to the well-being of the world. It can be more powerful than hydrogen bombs and guided missiles. The love of God can do more to assure a peaceful world than can the sum total of military strength. Yet the task is for individuals. It is for people who have dedicated their lives to the One who established love and sacrifice.

Are you remembering your Lenten responsibilities?

Vertical-Takeoff Plane Now Undergoing Tests

SAN FRANCISCO — A vertical-takeoff aircraft that "could leave San Francisco with 35 to 40 passengers and be in Los Angeles in 48 minutes" is being tested and should be ready to fly next fall, Hiller Helicopters reported.

President Stanley Hiller Jr. said the craft will have tilt-rotors to give it 400-mile-an-hour speeds in horizontal flight. Hiller said his company is also working on a machine to create a "controlled whirlwind" to be used on a vertical takeoff plane, causing it to be "sucked rather than lifted off" the ground.

Portland Symphony Head Hired By Rochester

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Portland, Ore. Symphony director Theodore Bloomfield Tuesday was named director of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, beginning next year.

Thomas H. Hawks, president of the Civic Music Assn., said the 35-year-old conductor will have a three-year contract.

Bloomfield will direct the Portland orchestra through the 1958-59 season.

At Rochester, he will succeed Erich Leinsdorf, who resigned.

—Hal Boyle—

MOBILE, Ala. — "My God is so great. . . I am only a piece of nothing," said Joe Palughi.

But to thousands of sailors around the world modest Joe Palughi is distinctly a somebody. He is a friend at port to men at sea — men who often feel nobody cares what happens to them.

Joe does. That is why, when their ships dock here, seamen of all nationalities — English, Greek, German, Italian, Japanese — head first for "Joe's Place," a restaurant which in no way resembles the Stork Club.

Word has gone from ship to ship that there is a place where seamen can spin a yarn, eat and drink, or brood his girl and dance in peace. Nobody will rob or roll him. And if he needs help — there is Joe, an ex-seaman himself who knows the sailor's problems.

Palughi, a short dark-haired patient man whose eyes always look as if they are fixed on the horizon, is deeply religious and Pope Pius has made him a Knight of St. Gregory.

At many landlubbers the sailor ashore is a noisy troublemaker. To others he is merely someone to exploit or rob. Few bother to try to understand him.

Wonderful Fellow
A seaman actually is a wonderful fellow, insisted Joe. "His mouth may sometimes be as big as his heart. But he isn't vicious. He's lonesome. And usually he is harmless and easy to handle — if you know his ways."

Joe was born on a mountain farm in Italy and was brought to this country at the age of 2. He never has been to school. At 14 he enlisted in the Navy — by using his older brother's birth certificate. During the First World War he

served aboard a U.S. destroyer in the British Channel.

After that for several years he sailed as a common seaman. Then, while on the beach here, he got a job driving a cab. One of his tasks was to meet the merchant ships, and he became indignant at the way roistering sailors were plucked like chickens in waterfront dens.

Built Up Business
In time Joe built up a big cab business of his own, built up a big restaurant, too, as a haven ashore for seamen.

"I won't let a man be rolled, or taken over by bar girls," he said. "And if he gets in trouble, I like to try to help him."

Joe has been known to take as much as \$4,000 from a celebrating seaman, throw him in jail to sober him up and, then, when he emerged chastened, to hand him back his money and a ticket home.

No missionary but a businessman, Palughi has prospered — and is proud he's done well enough to see that his three children will get the education he didn't.

Here is his philosophy: "I am grateful to my Creator and humble toward him. I have no kicks against life, because this life was given to me. Therefore it does not belong to me."

"I do the best I can. If I deserve more, God will give it to me. He has already gone out of his way to be kind to me, and I don't deserve that. How can anyone kick against life?"

—Peter Edson—

WASHINGTON — (NEA) — The movement to set up a national citizens' organization supporting foreign aid and foreign trade policies is off to a flying start.

It has over \$100,000 raised to get going. It has acceptances from 175 big shots from all parts of the country asked to serve the cause. It has a name — "The Committee for International Economic Growth."

All this results from the one-day "White House" Conference on the Foreign Aspects of National Security held in a Washington hotel Feb. 25.

It was attended by a thousand invited volunteers who paid their own expenses to Washington for a free lunch and dinner addressed by Ex-President Harry Truman and President Dwight D. Eisenhower, respectively.

At the closing session several people — whose names nobody took the trouble to learn — suggested that a permanent organization be formed to carry on. This is it.

ERIC JOHNSTON, the movie industry czar who organized the original conference at President Eisenhower's suggestion, is continuing as temporary chairman of the new C.I.E.G.

Earle Cocke, Jr., of Atlanta and Mrs. James Ramsey Harris of Denver are also continuing as vice chairmen.

Joseph P. Slag, board chairman of Gillette Razor, is chairman

In The Day's News

(Continued from Page 1)

During the war, our whole effort was concentrated on military production. We DID WITHOUT new civilian products and made our old ones do. We came out of the war hungry for goods and quite well supplied with saved-up money with which to buy them.

A tremendous boom ensued, which was followed in 1949 by a slowdown period during which we were catching up with ourselves. We're now going through another slowdown period.

But, at what we hope is near the bottom of our present catching-up period WERE 30 PER CENT ABOVE the base reached in the years from 1947 to 1949.

In Soviet Russia a political campaign has just ended. At its conclusion the Moscow radio announced with a straight face that the Communist Party candidates had won a complete and indisputable victory.

The broadcast added: "A total of 153 million Russians voted — a turnout of 99.98 per cent of the eligible electorate." That is a truly remarkable example of unanimity of opinion.

Comment? Well, it will have to be conceded that it was a LANDSLIDE for the Communist Party. But a footnote should be added.

There was only ONE ticket in the field. There was only ONE candidate for each office. And the candidates were ALL communists. I think it must be conceded that under these circumstances an election bet on a Communist party victory would have been a fairly safe gamble.

In conclusion: There are times when the clapnet and the hogwash and the bushwah that are loosed on the public in our campaign years become a little nauseating.

But, with all their shortcomings, I prefer AMERICAN elections.

Dynamite Explosion Damages Negroes Home

ATLANTA — A dynamite explosion Monday damaged an unoccupied house recently sold to Negroes in a predominantly white Atlanta neighborhood.

Police said someone apparently entered the six-room frame structure through the back door and set off the charge in a hallway between the living room and the kitchen.

Lenten Devotions

Message By

Roseburg Ministerial Assn.

Luke 12:1-34

Together! let us consider two thoughts in this passage that are only loosely connected. The basis for the first is to be found in verses 4-7. We are living in a busy world where the things of importance are military might, Sputniks, financial gain, scientific advance, speed, etc.

In this process man is seemingly a small cog in a great wheel. His place is relatively insignificant and not really too important. Speaking of today's society, Reuel Howe, in "Man's Need and God's Action," indicates that we have twisted our sense of values and that instead of using things and valuing persons, we are using persons and valuing things. Here in this passage Jesus calls us back again to the real seal of value: the person, who is the author and center of life.

In today's world we are busy moving from one club or society to another seeking to find one which will want us for what we are as individuals and one in which we can find some key to the meaning of life. But, we have forgotten God. In a busy world this can happen easily unless we are constantly drawn back to Him who is the author and center of life.

Yet, paradoxical as it may seem, the more we get away from Him, the more futile our search for meaning and acceptance becomes. Do you really want to find acceptance for yourself and meaning for your life? If you do, then you can. Turn to Him who is the giver of life. But remember, you must take Him on His terms, not your own.

The second section of the passage that I would have you consider is in verses 13-34. I feel the reason many of us are unwilling to turn control of our lives over to Him is that we have not yet learned to trust Him.

Our great affirmations of the stability and dependability of God are still only phrases that we speak with our lips and not our hearts. We are still quite certain that we, rather than God, know what is really best for our lives. Here, in this passage, Jesus calls to our attention the real futility of materialism and then moves on to picture some of the oft quoted examples of real faith.

Someone has well defined faith as, "trust put into action." The focus of your faith is easily seen by the direction of your striving. Jesus here tells us to, "let go and let God." And you know, it really works. If we will give God a real chance, He will make our lives more meaningful and purposeful than we ever thought possible.

Will you give Him a chance? Start right now, right where you are sitting. Let Him take charge of your life. Seek his kingdom, and these things shall be

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Warehouse Locals Vote To Assess Selves \$1

SAN FRANCISCO — Warehouse locals of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union have voted to assess themselves \$1 a month for four months to support striking ILWU sugar workers in the Hawaiian Islands.

ILWU officials said the assessment should yield around \$36,000. The action was taken during the warehousemen's annual convention at ILWU headquarters.

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