

The News-Review

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NEW SOCIETY QUARTERS

By Charles V. Stanton

As we told you in this column yesterday, *The News-Review* is continuing in its present quarters instead of erecting a building this year as had previously been planned. One reason we need a new building is that we have too many people working in too small a place, particularly in the business, advertising and news departments. Our mechanical department has adequate space for all present needs and can handle a considerably larger volume of business than at present in existing quarters and without much additional equipment. We have on order some cabinets to aid in the storage of type in the composing room.

We have partially relieved some of the front office congestion by moving the Society Department into its own quarters in the Carter Building which adjoins *The News-Review* building.

Society, headed by Lotus Knight Porter, with the assistance of Beverly Brooke, is now ensconced in an office all its own. To reach the office one takes the stairway at the first door north of *The News-Review* entrance on Main Street. Society is in the first office to the left at the head of the stairway.

Temporarily, Society will have a separate telephone system. All persons desiring to communicate with the Society Department, Mrs. Porter or Mrs. Brooke, are requested to make note of the phone number—OR 2-1626. Won't you people who have frequent business with Society please mark that number down now?

It should be observed that the telephone number is only temporary. We hope within the next few weeks to have installed equipment enlarging our telephone system, whereupon Society will again be called by the *News-Review's* number, OR 2-3321.

We hope these changes will not trouble our patrons too much. If you're confused, just think of the mess we're in!

IS SCHOOL BUDGET TOO LOW?

Again it is time to vote on a school budget. This annual election, in which the voters of the school district must voice a decision on something most of us know nothing about, gets to be a pain-in-the-neck after a time.

Each year we must vote on a budget outside the six per cent limitation, because of a law which permits of no flexibility.

To understand a school budget, one needs the talents and training of a certified public accountant, the understanding of an experienced school administrator, and an education in higher mathematics. Out of the thousands of people qualified by law to vote on the school budget, I would estimate it would be hard to find enough for a baseball team from the number of people qualified to say authoritatively that the budget is adequate or inadequate. Yet, according to law, those of us who have no understanding at all of the financial situation pertaining to schools must pass judgment on the proposed budget.

The tentative expenditures have been approved by a budget committee. This committee of responsible citizens has worked diligently to arrive at a suitable budget. As the members of this committee are taxpayers and are as interested as am I in keeping school expenditures as low as consistent with the demands of efficiency, I'm willing to accept the committee's findings. The committee members certainly know a lot more about the matter than I do.

In talking with some school officers and committee members, however, I'm wondering if the amount set up for school operation during the coming year is sufficient to meet possible contingencies. Although the budget is more than last year, the increase is chiefly in salaries, materials and other such costs which have been rising steadily with the inflationary spiral. The budget, as I understand it, is based on present enrollment with a very small emergency fund available in case enrollment should increase materially.

If our local economy is restored to its previous high level, as I anticipate will happen before the end of the period for which the budget is set up, our school district may find itself in a bind.

We usually complain that a budget is too high. It could be that the one now proposed is too low, should school enrollment take a sudden upward turn, as could well be the case.

In setting up a minimum budget the committee probably took a considered gamble that enrollment won't mount too rapidly. It is my opinion it could be very dangerous to cut the budget figure.

It would seem to me that common sense calls for passage of the school budget and the two improvement bond issues proposed.

—Bruce Biossat—

The catalogue of mistakes a driver can make on the open road is long. Some are so rash only the wildest ever make them. Some are so casual that few realize the trouble they can cause.

One of the most dangerous in the casual category is swinging onto a main highway from a side road or a roadside stop at an ill-fated moment.

In Baytown, Tex., that happened the other day with terrible result. The driver of a Cadillac whipped onto a main artery smack in front of a big gasoline truck.

Cut off, the truck driver jammed on his brakes, causing his tank-trailer to jackknife and skid sideways across the road.

Behind the truck drove a woman with her four children.

She, too, hit the brake pedal hard. But she couldn't stop, and plowed broadside into the truck.

THE GASOLINE EXPLODED, the truck swayed and toppled onto her car. The woman, her four children and the truck driver died in raging flames.

Probably unaware of what happened, the driver of the Cadillac drove off down the road. On him—or her—rests the responsibility for this tragedy.

It occurred because that driver, like countless others, either was too thoughtless and impatient to observe the rules or never learned

how to enter a main highway. The rules are simple, rooted in common sense. You never spin out directly in front of an oncoming car. You wait for a space big enough for you to slip into without facing the next car on the road to reduce his speed sharply.

ADMITTEDLY, these judgments can sometimes call for delicate calculations of speed and distance.

But such measurements are the very heart of good driving.

If you can't make them, any highway is a death trap for you and all the others you might injure.

To be responsible for a highway death and know it is very bad. To be responsible and not know it is almost worse.

None of us should ever drive onto a main road as if other drivers either could or should stop for us. To assume that is to invite disaster like that which struck near Baytown.

RULING ON VOTERS

SALEM, Ore.—A voter who moves out of his precinct less than 30 days before election can vote in his new precinct, Atty. Gen. Robert V. Thornton ruled Tuesday.

Such a voter, however, must get a certificate from the county clerk.

Can't See Him but You Sure Can Feel Him



—Hal Boyle—

By PIERRE LEGROS FOR HAL BOYLE

PARIS (P)—The Folies Bergere is back and nuder than ever, right from the opening curtain.

French law requires at least a G-string and the famed show complex. But the G-strings are so small the girls can take them home in a compact.

The Folies Bergere closed its doors some four months ago when 67 stagehands demanded more money. Manager Paul Derval, who spends half a million dollars on each show, said he had no more money for the stagehands. He let the impression spread that the theater might not reopen.

It was enough for the stagehands. They quickly compromised, to the relief of thousands of people around the world whose memory of "Gay Paree" most likely includes visions of leggy nudes from the lavish show.

This year's is about the most risqué show ever produced at the Folies. It gets started with a nude girl dancing by a river bank. Along comes a young boy similarly clothed for a dimly lit dance.

Follows Formula

Suddenly the lights come up, the nudes are gone and the stage is populated with richly costumed girls. This is the formula the Folies has followed since its initial success.

There are splendid costumes, dazzling illuminations, intricate and beautiful settings, beautiful girls, poor music and worse dancing.

Derval is well aware of these shortcomings. He has no intention of changing the show. He says Folies customers want a visual thrill and he may be right, judging from the crowds.

Derval invented this type show right after World War I and it made the Folies famous the world over.

"What they want," he once said, "are two or three striking effects, feathers, rhinestones and girls sumptuously costumed or gloriously undressed."

Despite all the girls and their costumes or lack of same, there is not much in the show to shock your maiden aunt, unless she is flannel-mouthed politician who doesn't hesitate to stand up in front of us and declare that black is white or that white is black.

No, he is none of these things. He is a very rich man who has turned away from the fascinating business of getting richer still and is devoting his life to public service.

Our system of government is based upon two major political parties. The two-party system is all in all the best system of popular government yet devised. Under the two-party system, one party is IN POWER. The other party is OUT OF POWER.

In the two-party system, the job of the party out of power is to VIEW WITH ALARM Governor Harriman is a Democrat. The Democratic party is out of power—that is, it is out of administrative power. So he is viewing with alarm—which is what he conceives to be his duty.

In this world, we must deal with the facts of life. Here is one of the political facts of life in a democracy: Before a statesman can BE a statesman he must GET ELECTED.

Governor Harriman may believe that.

We come now to the nub of the situation: What is OUR duty as voters?

This, I think, is the answer: Our duty as voters is to hear both sides, to listen to everything that is said and then apply to it the acid test of our own intelligence.

After all, a river can't rise above its source—and in a democracy such as ours the voters are the SOURCE of government.

Bill Goes Beyond Eisenhower Plan

WASHINGTON (P)—President Eisenhower feels that a Democratic-sponsored expansion of unemployment benefits would seriously jeopardize historic federal-state relations. Republican congressional leaders said Tuesday.

Eisenhower's opposition to a bill the House Ways and Means Committee approved Monday was set forth by Senate GOP leader Knowland of California after he and other Republican chiefs concluded their regular weekly meeting with the President.

The plan, going well beyond proposals sponsored by the administration, is to have the federal treasury foot the bill for a 15-week extension of jobless pay benefits and take into the program workers not covered by existing plans under state-fixed standards.

The signers called on the United States to "declare a moratorium on all testing of weapons of mass destruction in the hope that others will do the same."

The signers said they "deem it morally indefensible and politically dangerous to hold these tests outside American territory in international waters where people of other nations, who have not agreed and are indeed protesting, have to bear the consequences."

TOKYO (P)—The upper house of Japan's Parliament today adopted unanimously a resolution calling for immediate cessation of nuclear weapon tests.

The resolution urged all powers having atomic and hydrogen weapons to conclude a treaty also banning their production, storage and use.

NLRB Ruling Says Employer Acted Wrongly

WASHINGTON (P)—The National Labor Relations Board ruled Monday that a Portland employer acted in bad faith in laying off 10 workers within three hours of the time the International Assn. of Machinists presented a bargaining request.

The firm is E. V. Prentice Machine Works, Inc. It was ordered to offer reinstatement and back wages to those laid off in February, 1957.

The NLRB said the firm had selected for layoff men it had learned "by unlawful interrogation earlier in the day" favored the union.

The board said economic developments since then might make some of the men non-essential to the company. It said that if so, the firm should distribute available jobs among them and put the others on a preferential hiring list.

The NLRB ruled that anyone employed since their layoff should be released to make places for them.

It said back pay due will be established after deciding whether some of the workers might not have been laid off later because of economic conditions.

Clerics, College Heads Urge Halt On Nuclear Tests

NEW YORK (P)—A Raymond Grand Methodist bishop of Portland is among 140 signers of an appeal to the U.S. government to halt nuclear testing.

Eight other Protestant bishops signed the document. Other signers include presidents and deans of large theological seminaries, educators from major universities and colleges and clergymen from Protestant churches in major cities.

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—Peter Edson—

WASHINGTON (NEA)—President Eisenhower's press conference statement that it's more normal than abnormal for the cost of living to go up while business levels down isn't borne out by the economists' statistics and graphs.

The situation today is that gross national product of goods and services, or GNP, dropped from an annual rate of 440 billion dollars in the third quarter of 1957 to 432 billion in the fourth quarter. First quarter 1958 figures are not yet available. Informed guesses are that they will show an annual rate of 425 billion dollars.

FEDERAL RESERVE BOARD'S index of industrial production has dropped from its high of 145. June to August 1957, to 139 for February 1958.

In this period, the consumers' price index, or cost of living, has risen steadily. It was 129 last June and July, 1957, being the 1947-49 average. It is 123 in February.

It takes a book to explain what has happened in full. But Ewen Clague, the Commissioner of Labor Statistics who supervises the consumers' price index, explains it by breaking the cost of living into its three main elements.

These are foods, commodities other than foods like clothing and automobiles, and finally, consumers' services like utilities, health, entertainment and rent.

Consumer services have been rising steadily for 30 years. They will probably keep on rising, whether general business levels go up or down.

Recent rises in the costs of fruits and vegetables are blamed on bad weather in Florida, Texas and California. Crops have been ruined. Supplies have gone down, prices up.

Meat prices reached bottom in 1955 when there was heavy marketing of beef and hogs. Prices went so low that farmers cut their herds. This reduced supply. Prices started rising through the normal short-supply winter season.

SO FOOD PRICES have had little to do with general business levels. On commodities other than foods there are seasonal fluctuations just as on foods.

Clothing and other soft goods prices usually rise in the fall and winter for Christmas trade. Prices on hard goods like automobiles also go up in the fall when new models are introduced.

This time, all these increases happened to coincide with the general business decline. This is abnormal.

The United States has been through one major depression and five lesser recessions in the last 30 years.

Out of those six dips in the economy in 30 years, prices have declined with business three times—1929, 1937 and 1949. Prices held steady while business declined in 1954. Prices have advanced twice, abnormally, during the business declines of 1945 and 1958.

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