

Editorial Page

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Are Holidays Safest Time To Drive?

We are greatly disturbed by the heavy traffic toll over our Labor Day weekend. The fact that 559 people were killed during a period of 78 hours indeed is frightening. Omitted, however, in most news reports, splashed over our newspapers in bold headlines, was the fact that during the same period of time, under normal conditions, the death toll would have been around 350.

Thus, in round figures, the traffic toll for the period was less than 40 per cent above the normal figure. It is too bad we don't have statistics concerning the number of cars on the highway. However, it is safe to say that the volume of traffic during the 78-hour holiday period was considerably over 40 per cent, which would be higher than the accident rate.

Is it not possible, then, to assume that holiday driving is safer than at other times; that people, because of increased danger, public warnings, increased enforcement, etc., are more cautious than usual?

Obviously the great loss of life on our highways, the many persons maimed or hurt, should cause us much concern. The figures constantly go up. This causes us to be fearful.

Yet, the rate of increase in accidents is considerably below the increase in population and volume of traffic. The constant attention and publicity to our problem of highway fatalities obviously is paying off.

We are eliminating many accidents by building better roads. At the same time, however, the very improvement in highway construction is leading to accidents.

Our safest highways today are the freeways — multi-laned roads. The accident rate is far less than on two-way roads.

Another angle is that, contrary to a lot of public opinion, speed isn't the cause of accidents. Our freeways have

a higher rate of speed than other roads, yet they have the fewest accidents. This is because there is less congestion. Congestion and rate of exposure (the volume of traffic) are the chief factors contributing to accidents.

The speed on our freeways it would seem could be lifted to a rate more in keeping with the capabilities of modern cars and drivers. A good deal is said to the effect that a fast driver is a much safer driver than the slow driver.

But, as stated, our freeways apparently are leading to accidents on our county roads.

A person driving at a fairly high rate of speed on our freeways, tunes his reflexes to the excellent roadway. Then he leaves the freeway and turns off onto a paved county road. Because his reflexes have been accustomed to freeway speed, he fails to adjust to a safe rate of travel on the county road. As one reads of accidents off the freeway, a striking fact appears. A great number of those accidents are one-car mishaps, often failure to negotiate a curve. In most cases it may be observed that the accident happened within a fairly short distance from the freeway. The driver hasn't yet, it would appear, brought his speed down to the capabilities of the road.

Would it be well for counties to erect large, conspicuous signs along major roads turning off from the freeway, warning motorists against speed? There is some sentiment to the effect that warning signs serve only to provoke emotion, chiefly fear, among drivers and increase rather than decrease accidents.

But with Oregon leading the nation in the percentage of interstate highway construction, it might be well for the counties to be considering some method of dealing with the problem of overdriving on county roads, either by reducing speeds or improving roads.

S. Viet Nam Pagoda Sacking, Arrests Resulted In Sharp Criticism From U. S.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the following dispatch United Press International correspondent Neil Sheehan presents the background issues involved and United States attitude in the religious-political crisis in South Viet Nam.

By NEIL SHEEHAN

SAIGON, Viet Nam (UPI)—President Ngo Dinh Diem's prolonged dispute with Buddhist leaders ended in shots and screams last month when government troops and police stormed pagodas and herded thousands of Buddhists and other dissident elements to jails and detention camps.

The sacking of the pagodas and the mass arrests, engineered by Diem's brother and chief political adviser Ngo Dinh Nhu, who took the occasion to put himself in control of most of the real power here, also brought sharp criticism from the United States.

Both here and in Washington, high-ranking American officials were shocked and dismayed by the nationwide crackdown, since they had received solemn assurances from Diem and Nhu that the government's policy toward the Buddhist majority was conciliatory.

The State Department, which formerly had been lavishing praise on Diem's government, issued a statement disassociating the United States from these moves.

Forced Re-Evaluation
Diplomatic sources here say the crackdown has forced the United States to completely re-evaluate its policy toward Diem's government.

A Voice of America broadcast said officials in Washington had absolved South Viet Nam's top-ranking army leaders of any responsibility for the sacking of the pagodas and the mass arrests and put the blame squarely on the shoulders of Nhu and the secret police and special forces troops he controls.

The broadcast also said officials in Washington had warned that massive American aid to South Viet Nam might be sharply reduced if Diem did not get rid of the secret police officials responsible for the attacks.

The broadcast did not say that Diem would also have to get rid of Nhu, but this was clearly implied since the blame was pinned on him.

Although the State Department later said the V.O.A. was "in error" and denied that U.S. aid

here might be sharply reduced, reliable diplomatic sources reaffirm that the V.O.A. broadcast was a statement of a new hard-line U.S. policy here.

Against Troop Withdrawal
However, President Kennedy made it clear that he does not agree with those who advocate a withdrawal of American troops and the \$500 million yearly in U.S. aid from South Viet Nam.

"That would be a great mistake," he said this week. "I know people don't like Americans to be engaged in this kind of an effort. Forty-seven Americans have been killed in combat with the enemy, but this is a very important struggle even though it is far away."

Nevertheless, the President warned that the Diem regime's dispute with the Buddhists imperiled South Viet Nam in its fight against communism. He said the attacks on the pagodas on Aug. 21 were "very unwise."

"We are prepared to continue to assist them," Kennedy said, "but I don't think that the war can be won unless the people support the effort and, in my opinion, in the last two months, the government has gotten out of touch with the people."

"In the final analysis, it's their war. They are the ones who have to win it or lose it. We can help them, give them equipment, we can send our men out there as advisers, but they have to win it, the people of Viet Nam, against the Communists."

The sources here say the denial by the State Department was made because it was later decided that this blunt public statement of policy was premature from a tactical point of view, and it might unduly tie the hands of the new American Ambassador to South Viet Nam, Henry Cabot Lodge.

U.S. Opposes Nhu
The United States has now decided, these reliable sources say, that it can no longer afford to support a government here which includes Nhu and his beautiful but hot-tempered and outspoken wife, who has called the Buddhists "traitors" and their fiery suicides in protest against the government's religious policies "barbaric."

The Nhus always have been unpopular in this country, but it is felt that they now are hated by large segments of the population because of the crackdown. These sources say the U.S. has decided it would have no chance of winning this largely political war against the Communist guerrillas in alliance with a government which the Nhus actually control.

Although Lodge so far has merely sparred with Diem and Nhu in talks here, these sources say he will shortly demand that Diem get rid of the Nhus.

Expected To Resist
Diem is not, however, expected to give in to the American demands. He has come to depend almost totally on his family to run the government, and, as these sources point out, the present regime in South Viet Nam is not a Diem government, but a family government.

United States will have to follow through with it and threaten to sharply reduce aid here even at the expense of temporarily weakening the war effort.

It is widely believed here that only a coup by dissatisfied elements of the army could oust the Nhus.

With a new government—even a junta—the United States feels it would have more hope of winning this war, the stakes of which are the Indochinese rice bowl at a minimum, and perhaps all of Southeast Asia at the maximum.

Diplomatic sources noted that the State Department's announcement absolving the army leaders of all responsibility for the Buddhist crackdown was clearly an attempt to free their hands, and could be read as an invitation to a coup.

Becoming More Explosive
The same sources, however, feel that as the United States and the Ngo family move toward a head-and-head encounter, the situation is becoming more explosive. And uncontrolled explosions, they point out, can as easily name the man on the throwing end as the man on the catching end of the bomb.

Nhu and his wife, considered the strongest personality in the family, are not expected to give up without an intense struggle, which could easily end in violence to U.S. personnel and installations here.

According to sources, Nhu will try over the next few days to calm down the United States by making some purportedly conciliatory moves on the surface and telling the United States the Buddhist crisis is now over and things should return to normal.

Reopening Pagodas
The government is now repairing the ransacked pagodas and will release a number of priests and nuns to reopen them soon, the sources say.

The government also has released most of the students, numbering well over a thousand, who were arrested last Sunday.

Observers here believe the nationwide crackdown on Buddhists here not only has washed out U.S. chances of winning the war against the Communist guerrillas with the presently constituted Vietnamese government, but also has seriously damaged U.S. prestige in other Buddhist countries in Asia.

The crackdown may also put the U.S. in an even more embarrassing position if the Buddhist issue comes up in the United Nations General Assembly as it well may.

"I'm Never Too Busy to See an Old Friend!"



News Analysis



By PHIL NEWSOM

A political storm is blowing over West Berlin.

It arises from opposition party suspicions that Mayor Willy Brandt's Social Democratic administration is softening its stand against Communist East Germany.

The dispute could well spread beyond the confines of West Berlin and become a major issue in the 1965 parliamentary elections in which Brandt again will be his party's candidate for chancellor.

At the storm center is Brandt's crown prince, Deputy Mayor Heinrich Albertz, but politicians agree that the real target is Brandt himself.

The start of it was a speech by Albertz criticizing the "provincial anxiety" shown by the government of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer in delaying signing of the Moscow partial test ban agreement. He also expressed regret that the smallest American step to find a way out of the East-West impasse was greeted by "timidity and distrust" in West Germany.

Democrats Demand Vote

The local branch of Adenauer's Christian Democrats promptly demanded a no-confidence vote against Albertz who further aroused their ire by a slighting

11-Day State Fair Planned

SALEM (UPI)—Plans for an 11-day State Fair next year were tentatively adopted at a meeting of the State Fair Board Wednesday.

The 11-day fair, instead of the nine-day event approved last week by the board, will get a final stamp of approval "if it harmonizes with county fairs, 4-H and Future Farmer dates" fair officials said.

At a commission meeting last week a nine-day fair Sept. 4-12 was scheduled for next year.

Fair Manager Howard Maple said several school districts pointed out the dates would conflict with opening of school.

Proposed new dates for the 1964 fair are Aug. 28 through Sept. 7. Attendance at this year's fair is running ahead of last year. As of Wednesday night 225,505 had attended the fair, compared with 210,123 for the same period last year.

Today was Kiddies' Day, with free admission for youngsters and reduced prices on gateway concessions. Also slated today is the annual Needle in the Haystack Hunt for youngsters 12 and under.

Glide School Attendance Total Reported At 963

Total attendance in the Glide school system reported by superintendent of Schools Donald Fluke Thursday was 963.

Fluke said he is expecting more late registrations and will issue another report next week, correspondent Mrs. Arthur Selby reported.

The break-down of attendance shows 265 in the Glide High School, 93 at the Upper Elementary, 374 at Glide Elementary, 190 at Deer Creek and 41 at Tokete.

Brandt In Center Of Political Storm

reference to the West German Federal Republic as a "Rhine State."

The issue will be debated next month but has no chance of passage because of the Socialists having a large majority in the city government.

It will, however, put new emphasis on charges which have been leveled before against the Adenauer regime by its political opponents.

Chiefly they are that the aged chancellor has been too rigid in his approach to reunification of Germany with his all-or-nothing demands for free elections.

Brandt's press chief stirred wide attention with a speech in which he said the Russians were not simply going to stand aside in East Germany and that the Adenauer policy "is not only hopelessly antiquated and unreal but meaningless in a strategy of peace."

Brandt Clearly Discontented
For the most part Brandt has kept to the background and permitted his aides to do the talking.

THE LIGHTER SIDE:



By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The adhesive quality of the human brain is altogether marvelous. In some respects it functions even better than flypaper.

Take this item that I ran across the other day in Clothing Care News, a publication of the National Institute of Drycleaning. It told about a lady in Florida who bought a pair of slacks and found attached to them the following instructions:

"To maintain perfect shape put in cold oven and bake for eight minutes at 250 degrees."

There was no particular reason why that item should have stuck in my brain, but I haven't had a moment's peace since I read it.

Couldn't Forget Slacks
No matter how hard I try to get my mind on something else, all I can think about is baked slacks.

Does baking really preserve their shape? If so, what kind of pan should you bake them in? And how often should you bake them? And which is better, a gas oven or an electric one?

In desperation, I took the item home and showed it to my wife, who wears the slacks in our family.

"Oh, that's ridiculous," she said.

"For something like that the oven should be pre-heated to 300 degrees."

That was my wife's idea of a joke. The truth is, she never baked a pair of slacks in her life. And if she did she probably could burn them.

Lousy Fabric Cook
My wife makes good pastries but she's a lousy fabric cook. One night, when I could stand it no longer, I got out of bed, took a pair of slacks from my wife's closet and carried them into the kitchen. Then I folded them neatly into a pie pan and placed them in the oven.

The Editor's Corner

By Charles V. Stanton

Mark's Order To Board For 'Stand' Is Inconsistent

Gov. Mark Hatfield at a meeting in Salem, Sept. 4, is reported to have demanded that the Oregon Game Commission take a stand on the issue being promoted by the Oregon Division of the Izaak Walton League to close the Columbia River to commercial fishing. The Game Commission, however, remained neutral.

The governor's insistence that the Game Commission enter into the controversy is in direct opposition to the commission's policy of long standing. Furthermore, it violates the governor's own instructions several months ago when the commission was ordered to keep hands off the initiative proposal to close all coastal streams other than the Columbia.

Furthermore the governor's reported criticism of the Game Commission for its continued neutrality is, in my opinion, an excellent example of what could happen under the proposal Hatfield made for a state Department of Natural Resources. The governor's pet project would have provided a virtual dictatorship over the state's natural resources. Presently we have commissions and advisory boards and committees to consider controversial matters. It is true we do lack a central authority.

But to place power in the hands of one person to act on controversial matters without regard to public opinion is, I believe, foreign to good resources management.

The issue to close the Columbia River is but the continuation of a controversy that has been raging for several years. The Game Commission in the early '30s adopted a policy of neutrality, a policy it has observed for more than 30 years. Now to set aside this policy

upon demand of one who only a few months ago insisted upon neutrality is, it seems to me, most inconsistent.

The hands-off policy of the Game Commission was inaugurated by a Roseburg resident. It is a policy with which I, personally, have never been in full agreement, yet it has been faithfully practiced by each succeeding commission since it first was adopted.

The Game Commission took its stand as the result of a presentation by the late Dexter Rice, a member and chairman of the commission. Mr. Rice was a very ardent sportsman. He was a Roseburg attorney. As a sportsman, he was opposed to continued commercial fishing. The controversy between sports and commercial interests was beginning to wax warm. The Fish Commission and the Game Commission were being called upon to take sides. But, under the guidance of Dexter Rice, and contrary to his personal desires, the Game Commission withdrew from controversial issues, devoting itself strictly to the matter of resource development, while preserving full neutrality in the clash between user factions.

The Oregon Fish Commission has recognized no such neutrality. It has been very active in preserving the industry. It has been one of my most vigorous criticisms of the Fish Commission that it has worked for the welfare of the industry rather than for the welfare of the resource which, under the policies of the last few years, has decreased most dangerously.

In former years I have urged the Game Commission to take sides on issues pertaining to use of the fishery resource unless, and until, the Fish Commission also becomes neutral. My efforts were futile.

But I feel the Fish Commission not only has lent itself to the industry, instead of protecting the resource, but it also has given support to gillnetters rather than to trollers. Just why the Fish Commission has made this distinction between the two elements of commercial fishing I haven't been able to determine. Yet it seems obvious to me that the whole effort of the commercial fishery is directed toward the protection of the gillnetters.

During the last session of the legislature, bills were introduced, with the approval of the Fish Commission, that would have emasculated the Oregon Game Commission insofar as migratory fish was concerned. When Gov. Hatfield couldn't get the state's sports groups to go along with his plan to set up a dictator over the state's fishery resource, he seemingly turned to the commercial interests. They wrote a bill which the governor himself termed "barely acceptable," but which he was willing to accept for the purpose of getting his hands on the state's natural resources.

Could it be that he is seeking "cause" to get rid of the present Game Commission and set up one that will permit dictation?

And—

He added—
It would free parents from trying to help children with material they never studied themselves. Thus, he intimated, not only would the children be helped but the parents would be saved from a lot of humiliation.

Professor Allen might have gone a little farther.

He could have added that a longer school day, a longer school week and a much shorter vacation period might put an end to shocking incidents such as the rioting that for the second year in a row accompanied the Labor Day weekend at Seaside, and a somewhat similar ruckus at Ocean Park, in Maryland, clear across the nation from Seaside.

The fact that these incidents occurred so far apart seems to indicate that the problem is not local to Seaside, or to Oregon. They are apparently a problem of our modern world, with its growing abundance of idle time.

Why these outbursts of rowdyism?

Well, some two centuries ago, Isaac Watts, one of the great preachers of his day, put it like this:

"For Satan finds some mischief still

"For idle hands to do."

This relationship between mischief and idle hands was noted even earlier than Isaac Watts' day.

Some 1800 years ago, Dio Chrysostom said in his Tenth Discourse: "Idleness and lack of occupation are the best things in the world to ruin the foolish."

Why this dangerous idleness? Well, it isn't the fault of the youngsters.

It is the fault of the times they live in.

In earlier days, there was little idleness for the youngsters.

Throughout the year, there were CHORES to do. There was wood to be cut and carried in. There were cows to be milked — even in the towns. There was water to be carried. In every household, more or less, there were TASKS for the children to do — especially in the small towns and the farm country.

That is one reason for the relative shortness of the school day and the school week and the school year. But those days are gone where the woodbine twined.

The problem of today is to find enough for the younger generation to do to keep its members out of the mischief that comes with idleness. The problem is intensified by the SHORTNESS of the school day, the school week and the school year.

Hear 'Heart to Heart'
Sat. 11:35 am KRNR
Christian Guidance For
Every Homemaker

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Corner of Lane and Jackson

The Rev. John E. Adams, Pastor

The Rev. Robert H. Rigstad,
Assistant Pastor

PROMOTION SUNDAY

9:30 A.M. - Church School

9:30 and 11:00 A.M.

MORNING WORSHIP

"The Filial Son"

Dr. Edward Adams,
Retired Missionary
from Korea,
guest speaker

11:00 o'clock service
broadcast - KYES

Nursery Care, 9:30-11:00

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LITTLE LIZ



Most women could do a better
job of playing second base than
second fiddle.