

Editorial Page

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Child Beatings Everyone's Business

One of the ugly byproducts in this age of stresses and strains is child beating. More and more cases, some of them in Douglas County, have been revealed where parents have apparently worked off their pent-up emotions by brutally beating their children.

A good "licking" for discipline's sake never hurt any child, but the results of some of the beatings inflicted on youngsters in recent months appear to have no relation to discipline. Whatever the other reasons are, the beatings have been barbaric. Many of the children die. Many others suffer severe and often permanent damages to their brains.

The rising incidence of this problem was the subject of discussion last week at the conference of Oregon Health Officers.

Cited during the meeting was one case in which bones were broken three times in the body of a 6-month-old baby which somehow had incurred the wrath of its parents.

The health officers went so far as to say that many helpless victims of such beatings actually become murder victims. Dr. Richard W. Olmstead, head of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Oregon said, "A considerable number of these battered children will die, and an even larger number will have permanent brain damage." He pointed out that legal action is taken in only about a third of the cases where

attention is brought to them by hospital records.

The conclusion drawn at the conference was that this is one time when a family's business can be his neighbor's business. The legislature also saw it as public business this year. It passed a law which requires reporting of suspicious injuries of children under 12 years of age. Willful failure to make such reports is a misdemeanor. Medical examiners are authorized to investigate all reports, and if they detect a crime may have been committed, they can call in the juvenile authorities and district attorney.

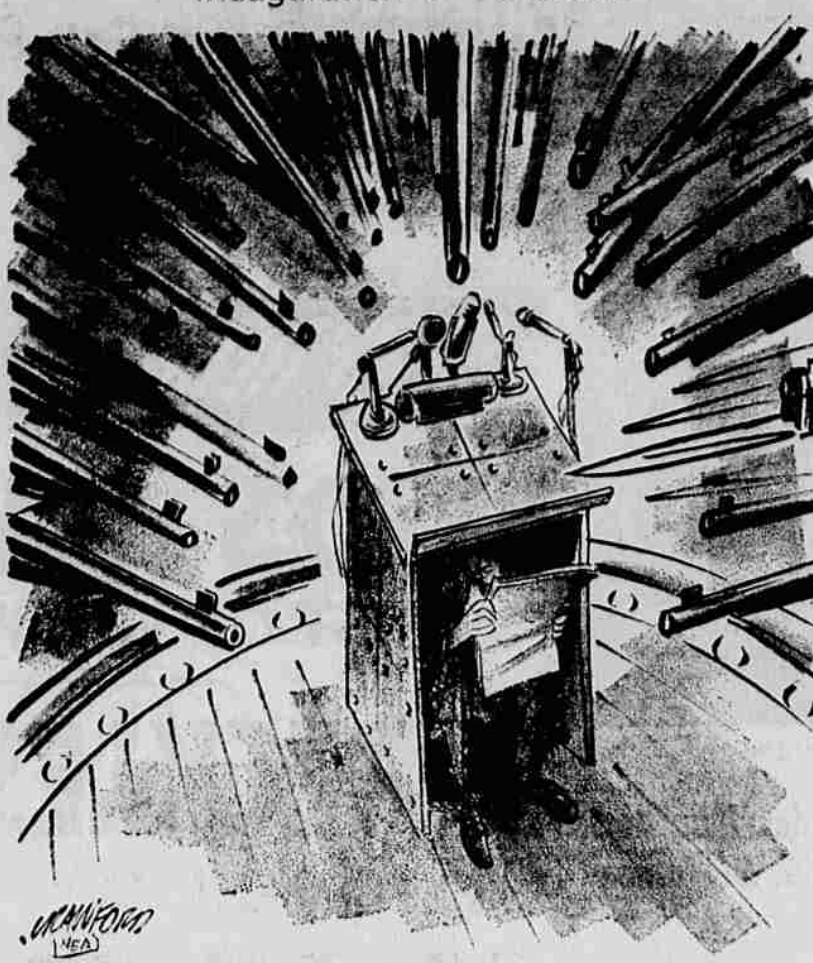
A spokesman for the Multnomah County district attorney's office called on doctors and others promptly to report suspicious cases involving children's injuries.

"If authorities are made aware of battered children's problems, they can often intervene long before those problems get to the point of murder," he said.

Dr. Olmstead said that studies indicate the cases of child battering occur more frequently than had been previously suspected.

"It is important that the battered child become everyone's business and that suspicious injuries be reported," said Dr. Cal Ashley, director of the maternal and child health section of the state Board of Health. "If people will realize their responsibility and act soon enough, many tragedies can be prevented," he concluded.

Inauguration in Venezuela



Country Lucky To Get Johnson

By ROBERT C. RUARK

The state of profound shock lasted in my house until Thanksgiving Day. I tried several times to write pieces about the President, a man whom I have kidded and criticized in print, but who I admired profoundly for his guts and humor and political shrewdness.

We were all trying to think of something to be thankful for on this gray day of turkey and fixings, and it suddenly occurred to me that we had something to be very thankful for. We had Lyndon Johnson, a man who might very well have been President himself if he had voted a lot of time to running for the nomination instead of staying on in Washington tending the senatorial store until the eve of the convention.

Record Clear There is no need to re-list Johnson's qualifications for the office. They have been apparent for a very long time. His record of liberal legislation is starkly recorded, including his vote for censure of Joe McCarthy, and his capacity for work with a rival party in government is unprecedented in the Senate. Johnson the Democrat was the wheeler who pushed Eisenhower's Republican bills through the Congress.

But what I am particularly thankful for, in retrospect, is the stature, the experience, the depth and breadth and practicality of the man. His courage is, of course, unquestioned, and his capacity to expedite legislation second to none. In this respect he will have an edge over Mr. Kennedy, who had little but the middle of the night and

trouble with this Congress.

Nothing can atone for the slaying of the President, but what every American (and most foreigners that I have encountered) have been saying and thinking is that, thanks to God, Mr. Kennedy's office has fallen into the hands of a man who quite logically could have been elected President with Mr. Kennedy as his running mate in the junior position. Mr. Johnson's courage and character are reflected in a face which has seen a tremendous number of foreign chiefs of state in the last three years, as well as a face that ran the Senate possibly more capably than it has ever been administered.

Our lists of vice presidents has not been entirely distinguished, as the second job generally was allotted cynically to "balance" the ticket or to bring in the electoral votes of recalcitrant states or areas. As often as not we have named hush-puppy veeps to run with the strong man.

Truman Rejected It is one of God's own miracles that Harry Truman emerged as the powerhouse he proved to be, because Roosevelt had practically excluded him from participation in the government and from intimate knowledge of its affairs. Harry had to start learning, actually, the nature of his job, from zero. He was literally rejected by his own party, and sat lonely in the hallway in Philadelphia before the celebrated "give 'em hell" speech which was delivered in the middle of the night and

which beat Tom Dewey.

Harry's emergence as a President in his own right was a great stroke of luck for the nation. Dick Nixon started in the second slot in an exactly opposite manner from Truman. Mr. Eisenhower included Dick in from the beginning, and Nixon was, in every sense of the word, a substitute and assistant President, who could have taken up the reins of office in easy stride if Ike's heart had quit or some crackpot had sniped him down.

Johnson Unbeatable It is not only my opinion that Johnson will be unbeatable in next year's elections. Everyone I've talked to seems to think that what small chance the Republicans had to defeat Mr. Kennedy has evaporated with the installation of Mr. Johnson in the new rocking chair.

Be that as it may I am a Republican by persuasion, but I come out now for Lyndon Johnson. If he receives the nomination and I am alive next fall, I shall risk a little ancestral tomb-tombing and vote Democrat. In my book the new President of the United States is a man for all seasons.

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Opinions From Readers

Extreme Middle Needs To Be Recognized, Too

To The Editor:

"Extreme."

Here indeed is a word worthy of reflection as applied to viewpoint. It seems to mean exaggerated, one-sided, unrelenting, irrational position, positive, dogmatic, bigoted and fanatical.

There is of late much talk of an extreme right — and talk that both should be silenced for the good of all concerned.

It would seem that a concerted effort soon is to be launched to silence the extreme right. Perhaps the extreme right is extreme in the desire to preserve our form of government and our Constitution. Patriotism, for example, might be construed as an extreme.

Bearing in mind the synonyms applied to an extreme viewpoint, it would seem to me that possibly we have an "extreme middle." It is to be remembered that government officials, before taking office, swear or affirm to uphold our form of government and its Constitution. This is what the extreme right contends those officials are not doing.

The extreme middle feels that the extreme right is composed of malingerers because they criticize the current theory of co-existence. The members of the extreme right feel this practice hasn't worked in behalf of the United States since World War II.

One definitely couldn't say "the extreme middle of the extreme right." Nor would it be polite to say "the extreme middle of the extreme left." All in all, it does seem to me that a well as an extreme left and an extreme right we actually should recognize an extreme middle.

Ray Parks
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Winston, Ore.

Newspaper Applauded For KOG Editorial

To The Editor:

In behalf of the Keep Oregon Green Association, I certainly want to thank you for your fine editorial, "Caution: Fashions Fine Fire Record," which appeared in the News-Review on November 29, 1963.

You are to be commended for the splendid public service your paper has rendered all season in the interest of forest fire prevention. It is a real help to those who are striving to reduce damage to the forests in Douglas County.

Albert Wiesendanger
Executive Secretary
Keep Oregon Green
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Salem, Ore.

Accidents Don't Just Happen, Says Reader

To The Editor:

These are the facts on Christmas traffic accidents — (in Oregon): Three out of four (75 per cent) fatal Christmas accidents involve driving too fast for conditions or in excess of a stated speed limit. Normal average is 35 per cent.

Drinking drivers are involved in more than half the fatal Christmas time accidents. During the balance of the year,

they are involved in one out of three. According to reliable studies, a driver's chances of getting into an accident are three to 10 times greater after more than one cocktail or one bottle of beer. The effect is there whether he feels it or not.

Fatal accidents occur early in the holiday period. During the last six hours of Christmas Eve, the hourly rate for fatal accidents is approximately five times greater than it is for the remainder of the holiday. These six hours claim an average of 12 deaths an hour compared to an average of less than five deaths an hour during the next 24-hour period.

Holiday time is danger time for pedestrians too. One out of four Christmas accidents involve pedestrians and many of these are children. Forty per cent occur between 4:00 p.m. and midnight Christmas Eve. The excitement of the season heightens a child's natural tendency to be unaware of traffic dangers.

Last year there were 1609 traffic accidents during the four-day Christmas and New Year's holiday (in Oregon). A total of 11 persons died and 706 were injured during the two holiday periods. Forty-seven persons died from traffic accidents last December.

Over 90 per cent of all accidents involve some human failure — improper attitudes, carelessness, lack of attention to rules and regulations and many others.

Accidents can be prevented. They don't just happen, they are caused!

Mrs. Shirley Bernau
Secretary, Glide PTA
Safety Committee
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Roseburg, Ore.

Socialism May Come To System By Default

To The Editor:

Now that the Studebaker Corp. has shut down its U.S. assembly line, it will mean a victory for monopoly. Where there once was 20 or more companies making automobiles, now there are perhaps a half-dozen.

Soon we may have automobiles made by automation, "untouched by human hands," with the entire production controlled by two or three companies.

Is automation good? Is monopoly good?

One automated machine will replace all the workers in a machine shop or foundry. One office computer will replace all the workers in an office. Some say that automation shifts jobs while increasing the total — and increases the workers' income, too. However, people who make automation equipment say that it eliminates 40,000 jobs a week in the U.S.

The purpose of automation is to replace labor and to lower costs. What would be the object of installing automated equipment except for this reason?

With the Studebaker plant closed, the city of South Bend, Ind., where these cars were assembled, will feel the effect of the closure. Studebaker dealers throughout the U.S. will feel the effect. Thousands of auto workers will be unemployed.

I have read many letters of complaint by our fearful and frenzied readers claiming that our welfare policy is turning our great republic into a socialist or welfare state. Perhaps they are correct. These people believe that everyone should take care of his own needs, regardless of other considerations. They seem unable to realize that public welfare is an effect and not the cause of the trouble.

We have a welfare policy that states that able-bodied, single men are ineligible for welfare assistance, regardless of need.

Must we accept a partnership between government and the free enterprise system? Should we have a Youth Conservation Corps and a National Works Corps for both young and old as specific government programs to the above end?

Our government has no means of creating wealth. It can only take from some and give to others. Every new subsidy, every increase in an old subsidy, must be paid for by higher taxes. All of these "let-the-government-save-me" programs run contrary to the American spirit of individual initiative and responsibility.

The only people with economic freedom are those who own property or control the means of production. They employ as many as they need to keep the economy in operation. Those not needed then are kept alive in idleness by some small subsidy paid for by the majority of taxpayers.

Now, if you can imagine a society where all the property and the means of production are controlled by the officers of the state who, at their discretion, employ or dole out to each from the production, then you have the communist state. In the communist state all men are slaves of government. The government provides everyone with a job, whether they like the job or not. It provides everyone with housing, whether they like the housing or not. It provides everyone with medical care, whether they like the doctors or not. It provides them with black bread and cabbage soup. Still, however, the people are slaves.

The reason they are slaves is because they are denied the right to own property. Property and freedom are inseparable. There cannot be freedom without a widespread ownership of property. A man living in his own cabin has more personal freedom than the one living in a government housing project. Men do not have personal or economic freedom under state ownership.

Yet, ownership of property certainly is not the object of most men. Increase of income and not ownership is the object of most men. If men were interested in property they would have protested against the wage system long ago.

We live in the 20th century and will have to make the most of it. We may have a dual economy in this country — an economy of the people who work and pay taxes and another of people living in idleness and kept alive by public welfare assistance.

Monopoly, capitalism, and socialism are not the same things, but they are related. They are products of a false philosophy. If we are to have socialism it is not because we want it. We will get it by default.

Frank Leining
Camas Valley Route
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Winston, Ore.

Daily Bible Reading

By Roseburg

Ministerial Association

Scripture: Hebrews 4:11-16
The writer of the Book of Hebrews was convinced that the Christian faith had meaning for the life which men shared. We do not live in a vacuum. We live with neighbors and friends and families. We work together on our common tasks. We share in community enterprises. So our Christian living must be done in the midst of activities which claim our attention and demand the use of our time. Someone has said: No man is an island.

The Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Monday, Dec 16, the 350th day of 1963 with 15 to follow.

The moon is new.
The evening stars are Jupiter, Saturn and Venus.

On this day in history:
In 1773, the Boston Tea Party was held by American colonists protesting the British tax on tea.

In 1835, fire broke out in New York City, sweeping whole city blocks and causing more than \$20-million damage.

In 1944, the Germans launched a great counter offensive in the battle of the Bulge in Belgium.

In 1950, President Harry Truman proclaimed a state of emergency calling for a united effort against Communist aggression in Korea.

A thought for the day — English literary critic John Collins said: "Truth is always the object of philosophy, but not always the object of philosophers."

God, in Christ, in the Bible. But just believing does not make us responsible Christians. The church needs our attention and concern if it is going to continue to present God's work and call for Christian commitment. Too often we think of the church as merely a training ground for children but without any value for adults. But children come to mirror the faith of their parents.

"The word of God is alive and active," says the writer. It is stirring us to action and to serve the Kingdom. Great movements dealing with human welfare are led by men of God. The Christian faith is continually challenging us to live God's life in man's world. "Be ye perfect even as God is perfect," said Jesus.

When we find our place of mission in the world in which we live, we are assured of the support of "Jesus the Son of God." He has shared life with us and thus can understand our weaknesses and be merciful with our failures and give us grace in time of need. "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast words of eternal life."

Everett H. Gardner,
Pastor Dillard-Winston
Methodist Church

Medford First Citizen Speaks To Underwriters

The Umpqua Valley Life Underwriter's Association at its monthly meeting this week at the Elks Club heard Terry Green of Medford speak on the civic responsibilities of life underwriters in the community. Green is the current junior first citizen of Medford, a Jaycee and prominent in other civic activities in that city.

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