

LETTER TO EDITOR

No, I definitely do not have time to deal with school matters as suggested by Mr. R. J. Horn in his letter to the Editor of this paper dated March 25, 1954.

However, due to some of the statements made by Mr. Horn, and because of the fact that I am a voter and taxpayer in this school district I cannot see fit to entirely ignore this matter, so I'M TAKING TIME OUT.

First, I shall mention the dismissal of Demos Horn, son of Mr. R. J. Horn by school principal Hampton.

Because I happen to be a firm believer in the adage: — "CONDEMNATION BEFORE INVESTIGATION IS MORONIC." I would not be in a position to form a conclusion on the Horn dismissal until I'd had been given all the details FROM BOTH SIDES. No formal charges have been made, and no one seems to be on trial, so that's just where the Horn dismissal must rest as far as I am concerned.

I can offer Mr. Horn two suggestions however for what they are worth:—

(A) Take up this matter with the Brookings Taxpayers League. If there is no such organization in Brookings—then form one.

(B) If Mr. Horn feels that a real injustice has been done, and that the school authorities of Dis-

trict 17C have acted in a prejudiced manner in the expulsion from school of his son Demos, I think he has recourse for remedy with the proper authorities of the State Dept. of Education at Salem, by simply submitting his case to them.

As for all the other items brought up by Mr. Horn in his letter, it seems to me that they all pose or suggest a particular class of problem which could or should be handled by the P.-T.A. of this district—if any,—and if not WHY NOT?

If these problems are NOT the business of the P.-T.A. then what in heaven's name is the business of the P.-T.A.?

I am in hopes that it cannot be said of the local P.-T.A. (again—if any) that it too, has succumbed to the National Trend of becoming nothing but a rubber stamp, tea pouring, back slapping, good fellow—well met, non-functional organization,—in other words; an organization in name only.

I personally have no particular urge to become a member of any P.-T.A. anywhere.

If PARENTS are not interested in the welfare and education of their own children then I say: "May Heaven help them"—the children, that is—(to blazes with the parents.)

The new, Brookings - Harbor High School building, construction of which will now be started in a matter of days will be a vast improvement over the present extremely inadequate facilities for a high school.

However this new building too, will probably show signs of inadequacy within a comparatively short time.

In the meantime, we, the TAXPAYERS, who are after all, going to foot the Bill for these facilities will expect a type of School Administration—from the chairman of the Board right on down the line to, and including the janitor, to be commensurate in quality with that of the Physical facilities that we, the TAXPAYERS provide.

In conclusion I should like to compliment and thank both Mr. Horn and the Brookings-Harbor Pilot for bringing these matters to the attention of the tax payers of School District 17C.

A. DePHIPPIPS.

To the Editor, the People of the Brookings-Harbor School District, and to Ross J. Horn:

I am one who should have nothing to say as I have lived in the area for six years and have taken no part in civic affairs. Prior to coming here I was so heavily involved in such matters that I decided never to become entangled again. However, I have been deeply conscious of all that has taken place.

I think our schools are all right as far as the teaching staff is concerned. Also that much credit should go to many members of the P.-T.A., an organization I should have joined. My sympathy is extended to the school board as I know what a thankless job they hold, but I can only disagree with them regarding the decision which has been made. There can be no justification for expelling a student to the extent that interferes with his chances for an education or a diploma, except for repeated or defiant infraction of the rules or for a felony. Unless the State law has been changed, a pupil cannot be expelled for more than three days unless for a very grievous offense.

As for smoking by pupils, I can attach no moral or religious reasons why one should or should not smoke. From the standpoint of health it is regrettable that many youth insist on not only smoking but drinking. We have laws which prohibit the sale of both tobacco and liquor to minors yet these laws do not prevent their use. I had occasion to observe five high school boys and one girl last year, all of whom smoked in spite of opposition by both the school and their parents. It is only one step from high school to college where smoking is not prohibited except in the class room. This does not apply only to the boys but the girls as well. Therefore, I think that a certain senior is being made an example to appease personal opinion. Were all the students who smoke expelled, we would have no school housing problem. This statement is not intended as a defense of smoking, as I consider it next to drinking in harmfulness. I have always advocated the "unit system" for operation of the schools as it places control in the hands of trained educators and removes many issues from local politics.

The letter of Ross J. Horn appeared on page 3 of The Pilot and on page 10 appeared an item saying that some one had been appointed by the board to see that all eligible for school under the should attend.

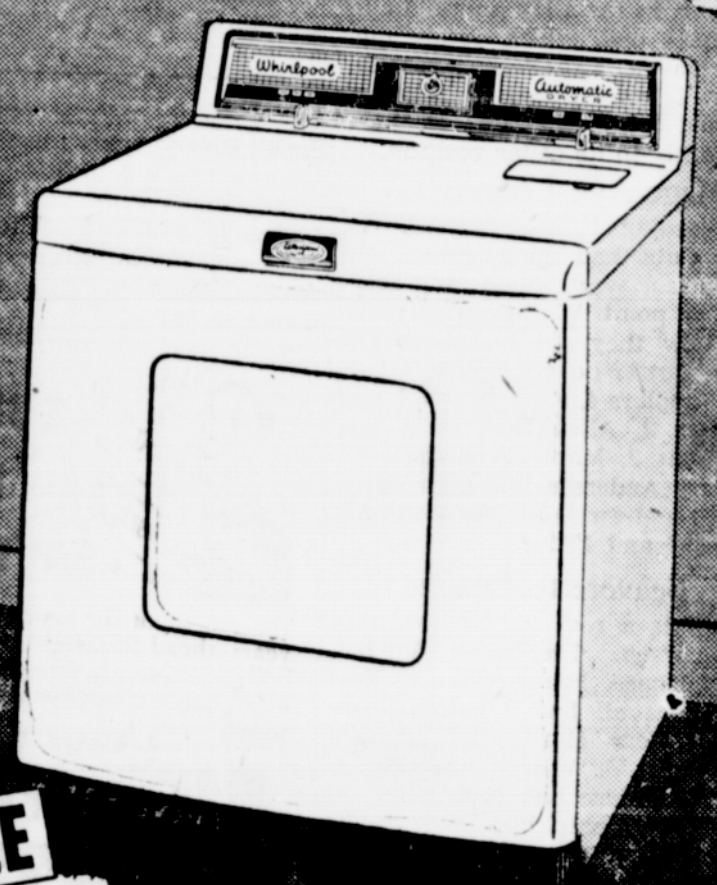
Any youth so expelled will be a very bitter individual as regards school discipline and law in general. My sympathy to him and his parents. Once more, such a decision should be condemned.

Sincerely,
A. L. TRAVIS.

IN KLAMATH FALLS

Mrs. Berger Dahlstrom left Monday to attend services for her father, Peter Strid on Wednesday in Klamath Falls.

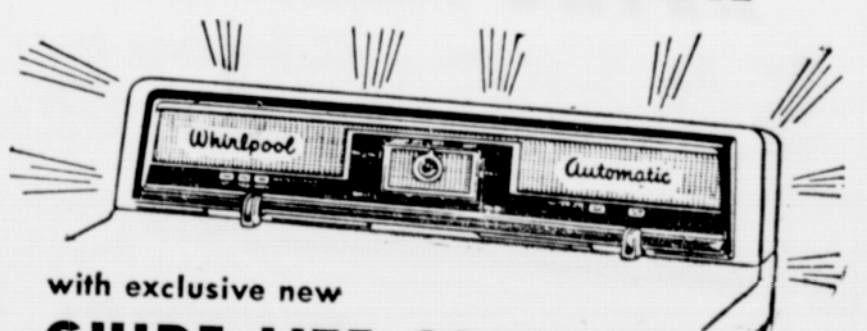
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