

Horse sense

By ERNEST V. JOINER



• Attorney Bob Abrams and I were discussing the energy crisis (as who isn't). I declared that if independent oil producers were turned loose without the mass of government-imposed regulations, environmental impact studies and a hundred other restrictive measures, the nation's energy problems would be resolved quickly. Which reminded Bob of a story, which goes like this: One day the Lord summoned Moses and said, "Moses, I have some good news and some bad news. I'll give you the good news first. You will go into the land of Egypt and free your people from bondage. You will lead the Israelites from the land, and when you get to the Red Sea I will command the waters to part, giving you and your people safe passage through. Then I will cause the waters to close behind you, destroying the Pharaoh and his pursuing army." Moses was delighted, and asked, "But what's the bad news?" "The bad news," the Lord replied, "is that you have to file an environmental impact study!"

• The common council has indicated a desire to raise the water rates for users outside the city limits, who now pay the regular meter rate plus \$1 per month. The proposed increase is one and one-half the city rate, which may be very low in view of the fact that city residents have just voted \$450,000 in bonds to improve the water system. Users outside the city won't share in the property tax necessary to pay off these bonds. The only way for outside users to share in the cost of the new water system is for them to pay higher water rates to compensate for not having to pay property taxes to retire the bonds. To the Gazette-Times, it seems that the proposed one and one-half rate is extremely low considering what it is going to cost the city user. The council would do well to consider something in the neighborhood of three times the city rate, at least during the years city users will be saddled with higher property taxes due to the water crisis. But one and one-half the rate is, I think, discriminatory in that despite the higher rate, outside users will be getting water at an overall cheaper rate than city users. Had the water bonds been defeated, and the city gone to revenue bonds to pay for the system, it was estimated by the city engineer that the cost of water to users would have to double, or more. Consequently, any rate to outside users less than double the present rate would, in fact, be giving them a lower rate than city users will enjoy.

• Paul Harvey, news commentator, said the other day that if we were to keep buying oil from the Arabs at the rate we have been for the next seven years (if there were no boycott), the Arabs nations would have a total of \$300 billion of our money—enough to buy control of the United States if they pressed for immediate payment. These dollars, he said, could buy up all the shares listed on the American Stock Exchange—six times over! The Arabs, by cutting off our oil supply, may have done us a great service—by saving the country! They may have done us another favor by making us realize how foolish we are to become dependent upon any foreign commodity, especially oil. The example also points up the fact that while we were basking in the reflected warmth of Arab oil we should have been increasing our own domestic explorations for oil and developing new power sources. I hate to be in the debt of a bunch of international brigands like the Arabs, but I am. Maybe they have brought us to our senses.

• A good Christmas present for your literate friends is a year's subscription to the Gazette-Times. How else can you alternately please and irritate them every week for a whole year? Each time they get a copy they remember you and how nice (or how atrocious) it was for you to remember them for Christmas every week in the year. From now through Christmas Eve we'll send a Christmas Card and gift certificate bearing your name. Who knows, they might thank you for it!

• One of the hottest retail items for area merchants is a double-duty, reinforced crying towel. The so-called energy crisis has most of them so uptight and gloom-and-doom about shortages that they've let it interfere with their normal business practices. Well, take heart. The Cadillac Division of General Motors has just announced an all-time calendar year sales record has been established this year. Glenn Walker of Comrie Cadillac in Pendleton got the telegram Dec. 6. Cadillacs aren't the cheapest or lowest-priced cars to operate, but his firm has sold every one it can get its hands on. And 269,219 of them were sold from January through November of this year. That shows the buying public has more confidence in the economy than some merchants. There ought to be a moral here. Tell the people you've got a good product, convince them, and they'll buy it. Crisis or not.

• The state civil rights commission has reprimanded an Indianola, Iowa, newspaper for carrying a want ad, "man wanted for assistant manager" for a department store. The commission charged the ad should have stated that a "person" was wanted for the job. We are in a hazardous business. Our language, action and attitude is undergoing change by legislation. The U.S. Census Bureau has revised 52 of the 41 job titles in its Occupational Classification System, and we can be in bad trouble if we call somebody a "salesman" instead of a "salesperson" or a "cotton-picking bum" instead of a "recipient." In most cases the suffix "man" has been replaced with "worker" or "operator." I wouldn't advise you risking being thrown into the dungeon for calling a "Lauderer" a "laundress." That's not legal! And an airline stewardess is no longer a stewardess, she's a flight attendant. A clergyman is now a clergy; a credit man a credit and collection manager; salesman a salesworker; office boy an office helper; pressman a printing press operator; seamstress a dressmaker; chambermaid a lodging quarters cleaner; private maid in the home a private household cleaner; fireman a firefighter; policeman a police; busboy a waiters' assistant—and so on for 40 more such changes. Ah, women's lib! A lot of dame foolishness that is changing the vital qualities of our living.



"Nobody's going to believe this!"

Give thanks for the shortages!

By JAMES RESTON

The craziest notion that has hit this country in a long while—and we've had quite a few nutty notions lately—is that shortages of gas, beef and a lot of other things are bad for the American people.

What America really needs is more shortages. It is not our shortages but our surpluses that are hurting us. Too much gas, too much booze, too much money, talk, noise and—fire me tomorrow! — too much newsprint are our problem.

We need to cut down, slow up, stay home, run around the block, eat vegetable soup, call up old friends, and read a book once in a while. Americans have always been able to handle austerity, and even adversity. Prosperity's what's been doing us in.

For most of this century, we have been told by our leaders that it was our right and destiny to have two cars and a boat for Sundays. The more we consumed, the more the nation would prosper. The voice of America was the voice of the hawk, the prevalent melody of America was the singing commercial. Buy more, consume more, get more things, even if you can't afford them. The sky's the limit, and happiness is acquisitiveness, getting more things. Wouldn't you rather have a Buick? And if you can't believe in the latest salesman on TV, who can you believe in?

Nobody suggested that the nation's resources were finite or that our power was limited. We thought money tells and the big guns win. The biggest is the best. We are No. 1. But lately, it appears that No. 1 is running out of gas, that the big money and the big guns didn't win in Vietnam or in the Middle East, and that we might be a little cold here and there in America this winter.

The almighty dollar has been devalued twice in the last 18 months. The Japanese and the western Europeans have mastered the arts of the computer and the scientific revolution, and seem to know more about labor-management relations than we do. And last year, competing with the Japanese and European industries, America restored after the last world war, the United States had a spectacular trade deficit in the world of \$6.4 billion.

Nevertheless, it wasn't until President Nixon began talking about rationing gasoline, and jacking up the prices of furnace oil, that the people

began to wake up. You can fiddle with an American's freedom at Watergate, but if you monkey with his car, brother, you're in trouble.

Accordingly, the recent talk of shortages of gas has brought a lot of people down to reality. President Nixon has asked us all to conserve

"We may now enjoy some of the riches of living that have been lost in a sea of surplus . . ."

energy by keeping our cars to 50 miles an hour, and keeping the thermostats down at home to 68 degrees, and he has offered to set an example. He is cutting off the lights, and presumably the tape-recorders, in the White House at 10 o'clock every night. No doubt he will conserve fuel by staying home more, or will travel to Camp David, Key Biscayne and San Clemente from now on by train.

This is all to the good. The Arab nations have done us a favor by cutting off their oil and forcing us to be self-sufficient at home. Suppose everybody in America suddenly became sensible—which is quite an assumption—and kept their cars to 50 miles an hour, and their houses at 68 degrees to save energy.

Also suppose that all those advertising signs were shut off, and junior's car was sold or junked and he had to walk to the corner drug store to loaf and watch the girls in the evening, or even that the old man had to get to work in the morning on the bus or in a car

pool. Would this really destroy the republic?

The chances are that everybody would be safer and healthier, that the old man would know more about other people's problems by riding the bus, that junior's options would be limited and that, without a car, his contribution

to the population problem would probably diminish. None of these potential bounties to American life would have been possible if it had not been for the black-mail threats of the Arab oil states in the Middle East. By ourselves, we would probably never have had the common-sense or discipline to cut the speed limit to 50 miles an hour or stop steaming ourselves in our houses, or blinding ourselves with optic noise from electric signs for pills and triple edged shavers, and sexy movies in Times Square.

But now the threatened shortage of gas, oil, and heat has finally brought people to their senses, and the only trouble with Henry Kissinger's successful compromise diplomacy in the Middle East, is that the Arabs may agree to sell us their oil at higher prices, and encourage us to go on with our foolishness.

Of animals, man and otherwise

At its Nov. 27 meeting in the Harold Erwin home the Bookworm Club heard two reviews of very different books. Ruby Becket was a special guest of the club.

Helen Currin presented the first review of the 1971 biographical "Boss," which chronicles the life of Richard J. Daley of Chicago. Mike Royko's account of Mayor Daley's life and of Chicago and national politics has been called "The best book ever written about an American city by the best journalist of his time."

It makes Daley live and exposes his wheeling and dealing and great power which reaches to Washington, D.C. The book comes from the saloons and neighborhoods, the police stations and political backrooms. It is about lies and viciousness, about the worship of cement and the hatred toward blacks and about the troubling cowardice that hides behind religion and patriotism while the poor get clubbed and killed. The Chicago Daily News said, "This book does more written damage to a man than perhaps anything ever published. There is no place where it will not be read and quoted and kept and read again."

"Boss" came out as a Signet non-fiction paperback at \$1.25. The second reviewer, Inez Erwin, chose James Herriot's big-selling "All Creatures Great and Small," a delightful novel by a British veterinarian which will please animal lovers those who like happy, interesting, career-type stories. Many professional reviewers are predicting that this book will become a classic.

Publishers call it a "miracle," not too strong a label for a book that offers something for everyone—gusto, humor, pathos, information, romance, insight, style. "It is vicarious living with one of the happiest and most admirable of people, a veterinary surgeon in the Yorkshire Dales who can write superlatively well."

All the action occurs in and around one Yorkshire town. The identity of the region and the writer's deep affection for it is vividly projected. The time span is two years. It begins with Dr. Jim's arrival in 1937, in answer to a vet's advertisement for an assistant, and ends the day after Jim's marriage to a farmer's daughter as utterly charming as he is. Other major characters are the zany Dr. Siegfried, the senior vet, and his rather ne'er-do-well younger brother, Tristan, also a vet. The supporting cast includes some of the most memorable cows, dogs and horses that one could ever hope to meet in or out of print.

"All Creatures Great and Small" was published in 1972 and was a Book-of-The-Month Club special alternater last summer.

COW POKES

By Ace Reid



"Now ain't this ridiculous!"

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

How long has it been since you heard somebody say they wanted to git in their two cent worth?

You jest don't hear much about the penny these days. Nobody would give you his thoughts for a penny, but a heap of us will fill your ear free.

It ain't been too long back when folks would tell you a penny saved is a penny earned, but nowadays if a feller drops two or three pennies in the country store when he is paying for somepun, he won't even stoop over to pick em up.

The fellers was discussing our money situation Saturday night, and after they studied it up one side and down the other, they agreed this country is running out of everthing but money and it ain't worth nothing.

Zeke Grubb said he don't know nothing about high finance, and he gits that mixed up, but he was of a mind that it'll be good fer folks to realize they is more to the good life than writing checks and shuffling credit cards.

Fer one thing, allowed Zeke, we pack houses in them big city suburbs til the hole place looks like a honeycomb. Ever house has lifelines running to it fer heat, water, sewage, and folks that live there figger all they got to do to keep everything running smooth is pay their bills ever month. But when you run out of whatever one of them wires and pipes brings to the house or takes away from it, all the check writing in the world ain't no help.

Ed Doolittle said he has been follering this "energy crisis" in the papers, and he knows they is more to it than lazy politicians. They ain't no way, went on Ed, you can pass a law to make more oil this winter when it took nature a million years to make what we've used up in the last 50. You can blame a lot of stuff on the Republicans right now, said Ed, but we was burning a lot of gas and oil afore the Nixon Administration, and we shore ain't been putting none back in the ground.

Actual, broke in Clem Webster, it looks like trees will be the next thing to run out of.

Clem had saw where the price of firewood had jumped in town from \$20 a cord to \$60, and that folks is making \$30 a hour cutting wood with a gas-run chain saw. It used to be, Clem said, that town folks built fireplaces and burned wood cause the fire was pritty to look at. Now, they're buying wood to keep warm by. Clem said one thing about wood is, it warms you twict, when you cut it and when you burn it.

Gitting back to money, Bug Hookum said he had saw where in Iran the currency is backed by jewels. Bug was wondering what we git in this country to back up our money, and he decided them gas coupon books we'll be gitting next year is about as solid a investment as we got. A feller willing to park his car and walk can git a steady income selling his coupons. And if they pass a law agin it, he can git rich selling em.

Yours truly,

MAYOR ROY.



Politely rebellious Bishops

BY LESTER KINSOLVING

Just five years ago, Pope Paul VI issued his explosively controversial anti-contraceptive encyclical, Humanae Vitae.

Primarily on the basis of the immediate denunciation of this encyclical by some 800 U.S. Catholic theologians (not to mention what has been shown as a massive disregard for it by most U.S. laity) this column made a prediction. I suggested that within one decade the status of the Papacy might well diminish to the same kind of powerless respect held by Elizabeth II in Australia.

For the key to the real power of the Papacy is the right to appoint all bishops. And in view of reported clergy rebellions in the Dioceses of Fribourg (Switzerland) and Bocatucu (Brazil), it seemed as if Catholic laity world-wide might be in the process of insisting upon the right to local election of their bishops.

Papal investiture in both cases seems to have weathered the storm, and the Holy Father appears to have retained this key to international ecclesiastical power.

But another problem has arisen. For the bishops themselves have begun, politely, but quite definitely, to defy the Pope on birth control.

The Catholic Bishops of Mexico, for example, recently issued a public statement which should provide considerable moral relief to devout Catholics—even as it raised eyebrows and fevers in the Vatican:

"This decision of husband and wife—to have another child or not—implies the right and responsibility to decide upon the means. The decision they take regarding the means, following with sincerity the dictates of their conscience, must leave them with peace of mind, since they have no reason to feel that they are drifting apart from divine friendship."

The Catholic Bishops of Indonesia have further stated that: "Catholic medical institutions do not perform evil if they responsibly advise and aid the requests of parents who desire to avoid a new pregnancy by employing other methods than total or periodical sexual abstinence."

The daring of these groups of bishops may well have been inspired by one of their fellow prelates who dared to speak out on this subject a year before the Pope's encyclical.

The most Rev. Thomas Roberts, retired Archbishop of Bombay, has charged that the arguments for Humanae Vitae were "quite unconvincing," and a form of what he called "Papal fundamentalism." He continued to say: "that the Pope would lose credibility if he permitted what other Popes did not."

A year before the encyclical, Archbishop Roberts told a Cambridge University Catholic audience that individual conscience should dictate a Catholic's conduct regarding contraception, as well as celibacy and abortion.

The university's acting Catholic Chaplain, a rash fellow Jesuit named Joseph Christie, actually disrupted the Archbishop's lecture, because, in his words:

"The Archbishop was preaching heresy under my roof, and I wasn't going to stand for it!"

This reaction and the Archbishop's trenchant response was heard around the world by Catholics who noted that Roberts was ahead of his peer in both ecclesiastical rank and his ability to reason.

Hence for most Catholics it seems that the Pontiff's denunciation of contraception on the grounds that it is artificial is regarded with all the enthusiasm of an encyclical condemning artificial respiration.

This opposition includes the inventor of "the pill," Dr. John Rock, a Catholic, who recently predicted that the next Pope will approve of both birth control and abortion.

An alert reader in Pocatello, Idaho, Rudolph Grimm, has noted quite correctly that it was Napoleon rather than Charlemagne who snatched his crown from the Pope's hands, as mentioned in this column's recent description of a White House worship service.

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

I see that the state's investment in pension funds and other trust funds in common stocks has lost many millions. Jim George, investment manager, says its going to be "very bad." We pay several money managers to throw these fiduciary funds down the common stock "rat holes."

These mature in years "juveniles" claim it's just a paper loss, because the state, like most institutions, does not sell stock at the "low point." No one has ever been able to tell the "low point," it may be many tens of millions additional loss down the road. How much better to keep these funds out of the "Sucker Snatcher Common Stock Market" and into good mortgages in Oregon to build up the state.

LOU WILHELM, Portland.

P.S. It's difficult to think of a governor, treasurer and legislature silly enough to promote and allow this; but, such is the case.

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