

# Horse sense

By ERNEST V. JOHNER



By the time the Environmental Protection Agency gets through with you, you'll be calling on God to bless you with a breath of dirty air. The Clean Air Act of 1970 has already showed up the factory cost of an automobile by \$100. According to EPA's orders used car owners in 18 metropolitan centers will be required to install catalytic converters at \$185 each. This will amount to \$65 billion from the pockets of American consumers, most of whom are in the lower income brackets. \$65 billion is a sum greater than all the goods and services produced in Canada for a full year and three times the annual output of Mexico. The EPA, as soon as it ordered installation of the catalytic converters on all used cars, launched a \$1.5 million research program to find out if the things work. In short, while the EPA is forcing the spending of more than \$65 billion to clean up the air, it admits the air isn't being cleaned up, while it demands smog control devices it admits that smog control devices don't work, while it wants less oil and gasoline consumed, its emission control devices are increasing the rate of gasoline consumption by about 20 percent. The EPA has served notice on Los Angeles that by 1977 all sales of gasoline and automobile traffic is banned within the city limits. If the American people sit still for this, we will be responsible for turning the nation's second largest metropolitan district into a ghost town. The maniacs at EPA must be stopped before they ruin the country. EPA can be stopped if people bring enough pressure on the gutless Congress that created EPA in the first place. Oregon's delegation in Congress voted to create the Environmental Protection Agency and in favor of the Clean Air Act of 1970. That should give us a place to start.

A few weeks ago the Holy Joes of the Ecology Cult flayed me for suggesting that one way an American could do himself and the country a favor would be to strangle the first ecological saint—namely, me. I am not alone in my thinking that the ills of the nation, as reflected in our crisis of shortages, are primarily due to ecology nuts and a government that quails before their lamentations and chest-beating. A columnist for the Times-Herald, Burns, (re. write in the Jan. 10 edition) "I'd pack up the whole liter ecology nuts and walk-em-out tak'em-into the middle of one of their wilderness areas and leave'em, preferably when the weather is 3 degrees. And shoot 'em if they tried to leave. I have come to the carefully considered opinion that these people aren't exactly patriotic Americans." And the distinguished syndicated columnist, William A. Reuber, writing in the Arizona Republic for Jan. 1, offered this modest solution for handling the environmentalists who are bringing the nation to its knees: "If the American people are reluctant to blame their own blindness for the energy crisis, they can string up a few of the nastier environmentalists with a comparatively clear conscience." My sin wasn't in suggesting that our environmental enemies meet death by strangulation, but that I was the first to present a positive way to eradicate them.

It's dangerous to be logical these days, and nothing is more dangerous than playing around with a set of figures. We all know how statistics can be manipulated to prove a point. For example, there is a television commercial that alarms the public by disclosing that about 600 persons are killed or injured every week by drunk drivers, and that drunks should be taken off the roads. That leaves, according to somebody's figures, approximately 1500 other people who are killed or injured on the highways each week, and who are presumably "done in" by sober people. So, if 600 are killed by drunks and 1500 by sober people, could it prove that we have a 2 to 1 better chance of staying alive amid drunk drivers?



"Frankly, I've had a belluva gut ache all week, and couldn't care less."



"Hey, where is everybody?"

## EPA does it again

GUEST EDITORIAL

Since beginning its sainted crusade in the name of ecological purity, the Environmental Protection Agency's modus operandi has been more in the nature of a juggernaut. Anyone daring to challenge the methods or motives of EPA clearly was against a clean environment and for the ugly misuse of nature's blessings.

The pendulum has begun to swing, however. EPA's devastating and dictatorial decisions are under court attack, and growing public disaffection. Orders which would bring reasonable economic growth and development throughout the nation to a standstill have been exposed as capricious, and larded more in fantasy than fact.

But EPA's attack has not been against man alone. Nature also has been offended by EPA's dicta.

In the Pacific Northwest, an estimated 700,000 acres of choice forest has been systematically defoliated by a ravenous infestation of the tussock moth—brought on by EPA's ban on the use of DDT.

The Department of Agriculture estimates that upwards of \$48 million in damage and expense has been caused by the tussock moth invasion, and left the defoliated areas vulnerable to soil erosion and new fire hazards.

From a naturalist's viewpoint—and one which EPA would expect to share—the moth's attack has left some of the northwest's most spectacular 100-year-old Douglas fir trees dying. Thus, EPA's consuming addiction to the ban of DDT has done spectacular violence to nature.

EPA has had little evidence to stand so pat on the use of DDT, an insecticide which was made a bogeyman in Rachel Carson's misguided "Silent Spring." Early last year, after 81 days of hearings at which 125 witnesses filled nearly 10,000 pages with testimony, the hearing examiner ruled that "DDT is not a carcinogenic hazard to man."

But EPA banned DDT, and wouldn't budge, despite pleas from an assortment of agricultural and forestry interests who warned of insect invasions.

The ill-fated EPA decision now has come home to roost in the forests of Washington, Oregon and northern Idaho.

The Pacific Legal Fund has joined with small forest owners and lumbering firms and filed a major lawsuit against EPA, demanding damages and a court order freeing DDT for use to stop the tussock moth's rapacious appetite for the forest.

The suit does not hang its hat on economic self-interest alone.

"The infestation of the tussock moth poses a health hazard to man himself. Larvae generate and spread fine and irritating hairs which are carried great distances. Allergic reaction to the moth's 'spun glass' causes painful welts, itching rashes, coughing, vomiting, lung congestion and eye swelling.

The suit charges that defoliated trees "cannot properly diminish the forces of wind, rain and snow. Ground cover is torn off by snowmelt and heavy rain. Dependent plant and animal life do not obtain necessary support. The result is a desert."

As the prestigious national financial newspaper Barron's, said in an editorial, "What is perhaps most alarming is EPA's ignorance which, in unholy alliance with its stragglers, has wrought untold harm." —THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC, Jan. 3

## Liquor tax to aid alcoholism

The chairman of the Eastern Oregon Community Mental Health Center, Inc., Dennis Doherty, and the staff of the Mental Health Center recently praised Governor McCall's request for an increase in liquor prices to be used as alternatives for state hospitalization with emphasis on detoxification centers and halfway houses for alcoholics.

The markup on the bottle price would be equivalent to 10 cents a fifth, generating approximately \$1.5 million a biennium for mental health alternative services.

The amount budgeted for detoxification centers and halfway houses on a 36-56 grant-in-aid match with local monies was \$1,374,000 for the 1973-75 biennium. It was the intent of the legislature that the cities' and counties' share of the liquor price increase be used for local share to underwrite alcoholism programs. The final Ways and Means Budget now states that "of the potential \$3.5 million increase, approximately \$1,000,000 would go to cities and counties, thus making it easier to match the 50 per cent level of support for detoxification center and halfway house programs."

## The mail pouch

EDITOR

The Jan. 10 issue of the Gazette-Times contained an article regarding the Jan. 7 school board meeting which stated that "the board adopted a program for providing unemployment insurance."

This statement is accurate, but does require some additional explanation to enable the public to understand exactly why the action was taken.

The 1973 legislature extended mandatory unemployment compensation, effective Jan. 1, 1974, to all political subdivisions of the State of Oregon, which includes school districts, counties and cities.

School districts were given the option of selecting one of two methods for financing the costs of the program: (1) participate under the state tax plan, or (2) participate on a direct reimbursement basis.

A careful study of experience ratings in school districts in other states where unemployment compensation has been in effect and a review of our terminated employees for the past seven years established that we could save from \$10,000 to \$12,000 by taking option No. 2. The state tax rate would have cost approximately \$17,000, and on projection under the direct reimbursement program shows a cost of \$5,000 to \$6,000.

The board therefore selected the direct reimbursement method for financing the unemployment insurance.

In addition the school board agreed to join with most Umatilla County school districts in forming an unemployment insurance pool. That is to say these school districts would make a percentage payment to a large unemployment fund from which claims would be paid. The forming of this pool would reduce the likelihood that any one district would suffer unduly if they had special circumstances which resulted in a large number of claims being filed in their respective districts.

I hope this will help clarify the action taken by the school board.

RON DANIELS, District Superintendent, Morrow County Schools.

EDITOR:

A grass roots meeting was held on Jan. 3 in Klamath Falls, and the results were the following of the Energy Action Committee. The committee believed that a number of immediate steps are essential:

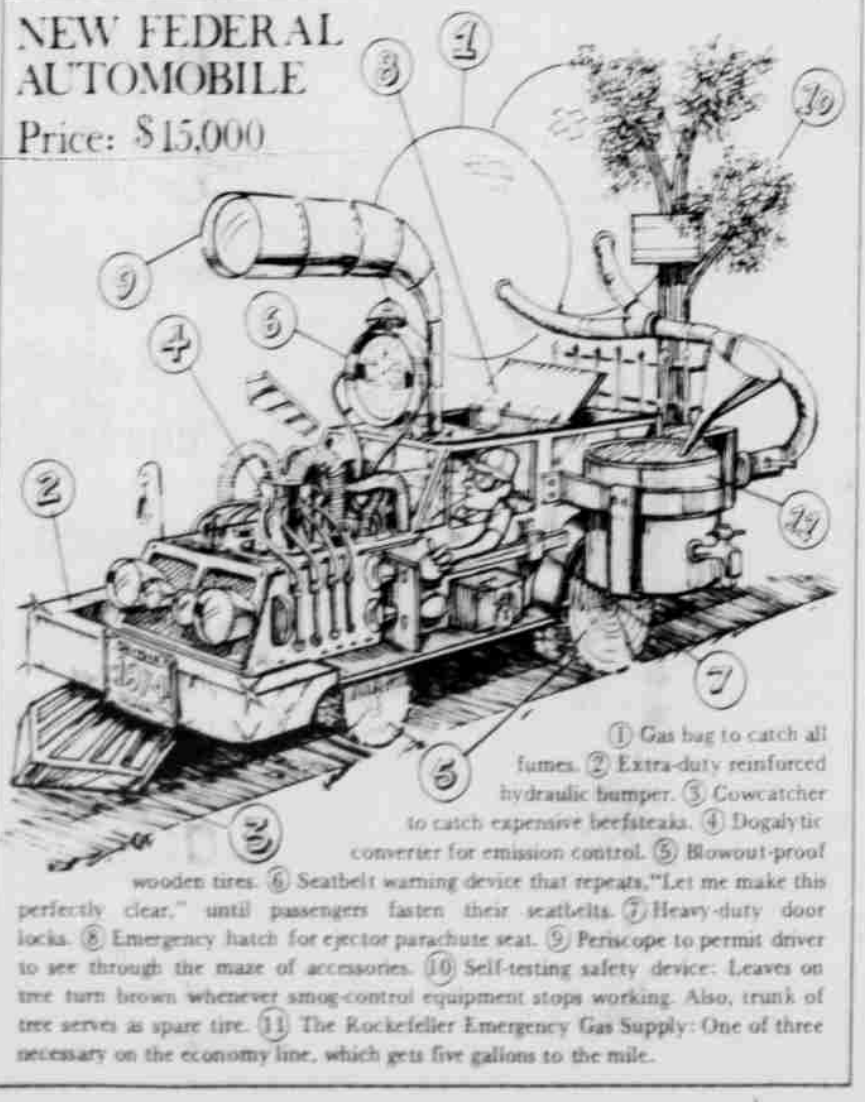
1. A complete investigation of all existing and anticipated crude reserves.
2. A halt to exportations of crude oil and products.
3. Exact figures on allocations to be received.
4. Technological research into alternative energy sources, to include a patent search and release of all devices designed to save fuel.

We believe the existing shortage is contrived, and that the solutions are available, but only if a demand for action is sounded by citizens.

Our own State Senator, Mr. Heard, who was a member on a state committee to investigate the oil companies and the oil interests, in essence said, "Go peddle your papers."

We need your support. Please write: Energy Action Committee, 2040 Huron Street, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601. We must have this information by Feb. 1.

JOE VICTOR, President, Energy Action Committee, Klamath Falls.



1 Gas bag to catch all fumes. 2 Extra-duty reinforced hydraulic bumper. 3 Cowcatcher to catch expensive beefsteaks. 4 Dogmatic converter for emission control. 5 Blowout-proof wooden tires. 6 Seatbelt warning device that repeats, "Let me make this perfectly clear," until passengers fasten their seatbelts. 7 Heavy-duty door locks. 8 Emergency hatch for ejector parachute seat. 9 Periscope to permit driver to see through the maze of accessories. 10 Self-testing safety device: Leaves on tree turn brown whenever smog-control equipment stops working. Also, trunk of tree serves as spare tire. 11 The Rockefeller Emergency Gas Supply: One of three necessary on the economy line, which gets five gallons to the mile.

# Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

All the bad mouthing the fellers has been giving this country during sessions at the country store set me to thinking.

After figuring the situation up one side and down the other, Mister Editor, I say this still is the world's greatest land of opportunity. Nowhere can big money be made so easy, and folks are staying up nights thinking up new ways.

For instant, I see where Rep. Apsin of Wisconsin is complaining cause soldiers can get \$3,500 just for signing up for another hitch. This is provided they play in one of the 143 bands that cost the armed services \$48 million last year. And mammas all over the country thought them music lessons was wasted, and neighbors that heard trombones wailing in the night give no thought to their value to national security.

And consider all that land being used to raise gords, where lighthouse lawyers declare a big loss cause there's no market fer gords.

These gord farmers now can raise cotton and soybeans and make some real money. With the price of beans, Mister Editor, it would pay farmers and ranchers to draw all their land out of the farm bank and go back to work. Fer the first time in 15 year, a feller can git more fer his crop than it cost him to raise it.

If things keep looking up, all them golf courses that was made out of farms can go back to pasture and maybe even cattlemen can operate on at least a break-even base.

Saturday night, I mentioned some of these ways of making money, and the fellers got in a better frame of mind. Clem Webster said he recalled where this commuter train in California goes past a nudist camp, and it runs full ever day. That's good fer the railroad, allowed Clem, and good fer the fellers that sell their seats by the window.

Farthermore, declared Bug Hookum, he has figured out a way of his own to git in on the money boom. He had saw by the paper where pennies now cost more to make than they're worth. He plans to round up all the copper pennies he can find, and the new aluminum ones come out, hold 'em a few months, then sell 'em to the Government for two cent apiece.

Actual, went on Bug, they might as well fertig the new pennies and melt down the old, cause they won't buy anything any more. He had saw where the dollar is so cheap the Government is thinking of bringing back the \$2 bill.

Actual, said Ed Doolittle, with paper being in short supply, it won't be long afore bills under \$5 won't be worth the paper they're printed on. Ed said he was trying to look on the bright side, but running out of everthing reminded of the old pioneer that told folks in his settlement he had some bad news and some good news.

The bad news, the old feller said, is that we ain't got nothing but buffalo chips to eat this winter. The good news is, they ain't enuff of that to go around.

Yours truly, MAYOR BOY.



## Colson and St. Paul

BY LESTER KINSOLVING

"Colson's experience is like the conversion of Saul on the Road to Damascus." —Sen. Harold Hughes (Dem.-Iowa)

QUESTION: "Do you, or do you not believe, Mr. Colson, that repentance is one of the fruits of the spirit by which Jesus said his disciples would be known?"

Yes, replied Charles W. Colson, former Special Counsel to the President of the United States, during an exclusive interview with this column.

His gently pious voice suggested no possible connection with the Colson known as the White House's resident tough guy, and master of the "dirty tricks" division.

Moreover, he proceeded to manifest one fruit of repentance. For when asked if either of his grandmothers were still alive, he quickly explained:

(A) Both of his grandmothers are deceased.

(B) He has "long regretted" his having said that for the sake of Richard Nixon's campaign he "would walk over my grandmother if necessary."

Relieved indeed to learn that this former officer of the U.S. Marine Corps regretted his previously expressed willingness to trample elderly ladies, I sought for further fruits of the spirit.

"What specific things that you have done in the past do you now feel repentant about?"

I had in mind the numerous aspects of the Watergate stench with which Colson had been intimately identified. But he replied rather blithely: "I wouldn't get into that. That's between the Lord and myself."

By striking contrast to all of this confidential repentance "Convert" Colson chose the White House itself for a prayer breakfast, at which he was, predictably, spotted entering by the press to announce the details of how he had found Christ.

QUESTION: "Do you, like Sen. Hughes and St. Paul, plan a radical break with your past in order to devote yourself to the ministry?"

COLSON: "I have no plans other than to continue practicing law, perhaps also to spend some time helping people. We'll have to see how."

"Convert" Colson's new life in the Lord is apt to be far better financed than St. Paul's or Sen. Hughes', however. For in answer to my question as to whether the law firm of Shapiro and Colson is not handling legal matters for the Teamsters Union, Colson replied: "Oh, sure. A great deal of business."

"Wasn't there a writer for the Catholic-edited Commonweal magazine who estimated this 'business' to be \$200,000 worth of Teamster legal business, because it was Charlie Colson who sprang Jimmy Hoffa from Lewisburg Penitentiary?"

"That's untrue," he retorted, his voice now sounding much more like good old converted Chuck. "Mr. Hoffa's sentence was commuted by the President of the United States."

I hadn't really thought it was by the President of anywhere else. But one of the ways the White House tries to awe the working press is to say "The President of the United States" — whenever they desire particular verbal cloud.

"Is Convert Colson contemplating any evangelistic campaigning — or even classes in Christian ethics — for the Teamsters leaders who pay so much for this legal assistance?"

"I haven't discussed it with any of them," replied Colson. "Mr. Fitzimmons is a very devout man who attends his own church."

"What about Mr. Fitzimmons' Teamster 'Security Specialist' Mike Falco, a 6' 3", 300-pounder, who was arrested for breaking the nose of Father John Bank, who was assisting the United Farm Workers, (May 30, 1973, in Coachella, Calif. — two months after the beginning of Colson's conversion — along with his being retained by the Teamsters.)

"I haven't heard about that," answered "Convert" Colson.

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