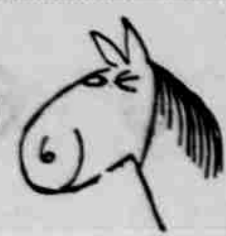


Horse sense

By

ERNEST V. JOINER



● The editor of Der Heppnerblatt was neatly skinned last week by two readers who complained we were remiss in our duty for not having published the National Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer resolution. Fathered by Sen. Mark Hatfield, the resolution set April 30 as a national day of prayer. I had several objections to the resolution. First, it came in the form of a quarter-page ad which would have consumed \$60 worth of space, and no check accompanied the "ad." Second, I believe the senate should observe the constitutional admonishment to maintain complete separation of church and state, and that the senate has other things to do with its time than to exhort the nation to humiliate itself. Third, prayer is an individual matter in which I will exercise no influence one way or the other. I am not alone in objecting. Gov. Tom McCall had this to say of the matter on April 30 in Portland: "A resolution originated in the United States Senate labeled today, April 30, as a National Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer. I have not issued a similar proclamation. I am not humiliated by America. I'm proud of it. But more importantly, prayer is an individual matter. The people of this country don't require a dictum by politicians to engage in prayer for guidance or forgiveness of national sins." Fortunately, God does not answer all prayers sent heavenward, with or without exhortation by politicians. I cannot imagine the enormity of chaos to result if they were all answered. Oscar Wilde had a comment on the subject: "When the gods wish to punish us they answer our prayers." I believe mass or public prayer to be an abomination, and offer in support this passage from the Bible: "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou has shut thy door, pray to thy Father, which is in secret; and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly." (St. Matthew, 6:6) Now let me up.

● The 1973 legislature has cured mental illness, effective July 1. That's when Senate Bill 510 goes into effect. Sec. 9 of this new law reads: "The allegedly mentally ill person shall have the right to cross-examine all witnesses, the person conducting the investigation, the examining physicians or other qualified persons recommended by the division who have examined the person. Neither the investigation report nor any part thereof shall be introduced in evidence without the express consent of the allegedly mentally ill person." Obviously some kind of a report must be made before any mentally ill person is committed. But whatever report is made cannot now be used against a mentally ill person unless he consents to have it introduced as evidence. So, come July 1, all a charged person has to do to stay out of an institution is to withhold his consent to having any investigative reports entered as evidence against him. This virtually makes commitment impossible unless the person volunteers. Why can't we have some laws like this for sane people?

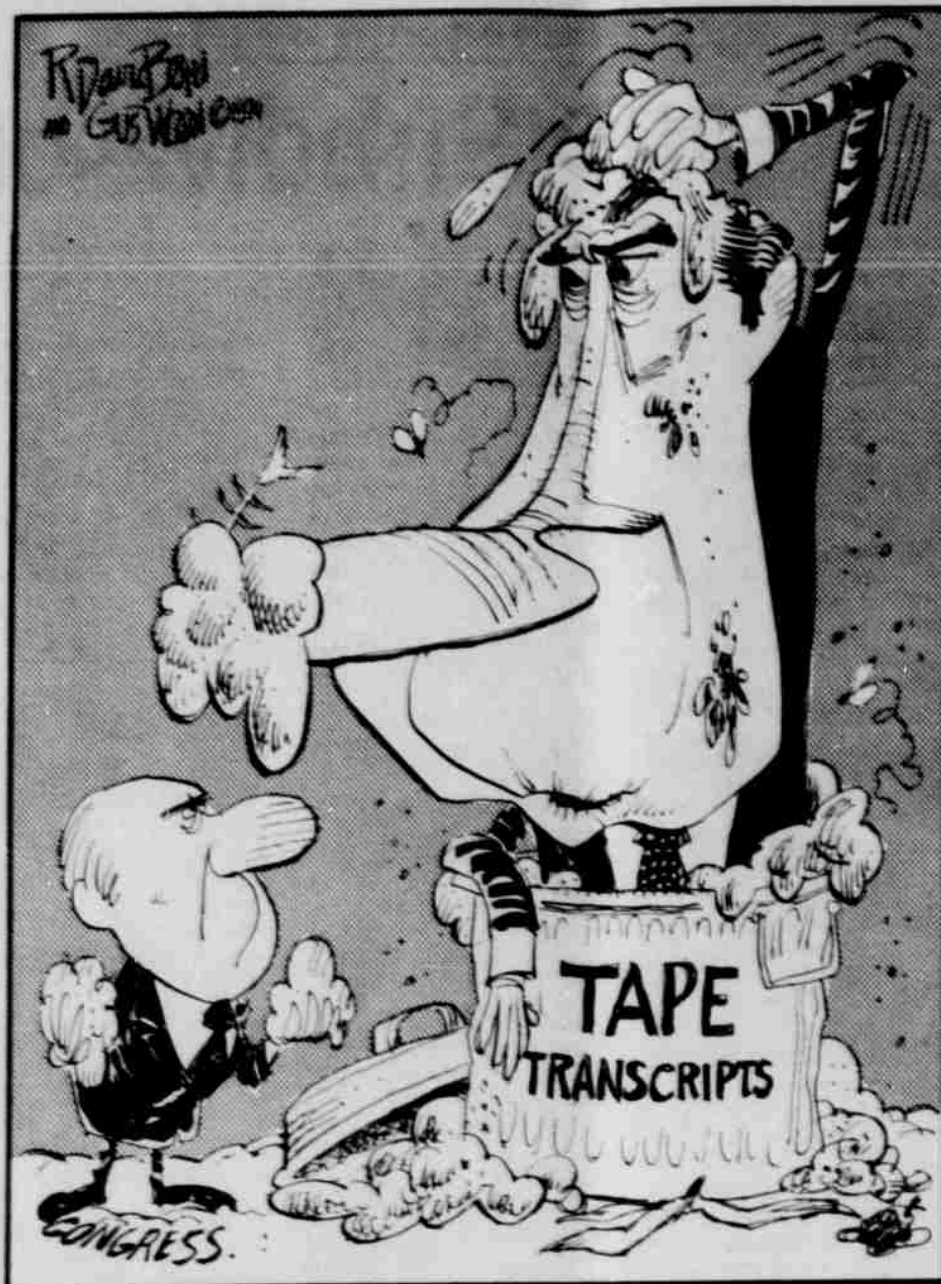
● A hundred years before the Oregon legislature met and passed this bill, Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher, said: "Insanity in individuals is something rare—but in groups, parties, nations and epochs it is the rule."

● The House Ways and Means Committee last week approved legislation that would add \$13 or \$14 billion to the oil companies' tax bill over the next five years. The legislation phases out the oil depletion allowance and imposes a graduated excise tax on crude oil prices. This is by way of punishing the oil companies for making a profit. It will not provide more oil and gasoline, however, and it will not encourage oil companies to seek more energy sources. Congress should be more concerned with an adequate supply of low-cost fuel than with oil company profits. These added financial burdens cannot do that job.

● Just who is the culprit in the oil shortage, and who is getting "excessive profits" from oil? Government and oil company officials agree on one thing, at least—oil companies make less than 2 cents a gallon on gasoline they sell. This does not seem "excessive" when gasoline sells at 60 cents a gallon locally. But out of that 2-cent profit the oil companies make modest profits considering their investment; but, which viewed as a lump sum, seems staggering in size. Congress, led by Sen. Henry Jackson of Washington, wants to punish oil companies for "profiteering." Let's see who the profiteers really are. The oil companies get 2 cents a gallon profit from gasoline; the government gets 11 cents tax profit from each gallon of gasoline sold. The government is getting 5½ times as much profit from each gallon of gasoline as do the people who produce it! If, as Henry Jackson has said, the oil companies are "thieves," then the government is 5½ times a thief. The oil companies find the oil, refine and market it and make "excessive profits" at 2 cents a gallon. The government does nothing, invests nothing, takes no risks, assumes no responsibility for either locating, producing or marketing oil—and gets 11 cents a gallon profit. Who is making "excess profits" here?

● The Chase Manhattan Bank reports that oil companies now get about 80 cents a barrel profit for oil, and if the industry is going to locate more oil and produce it, the companies must have \$1.25 per barrel profit. Thus, all that is required to encourage the industry to produce more oil (from already known deposits) is that government reduce its tax by 2 cents a gallon and be satisfied with 9 cents instead of 11 cents. This would allow the industry to provide the nation with oil products for the next 50 years. But government will not do this. If it were truly interested in meeting consumer demands, it would do so. Instead, it berates the oil industry as bandits and profiteers. It is time the American people understand the government, and government alone, is responsible for the current oil crisis.

● Did you know that up until a few years ago every gasoline pump had to carry a sign stating the amount of state and federal tax included in the cost of a gallon of gasoline? And that this breakdown of gasoline costs was declared illegal by the federal government so the public could not know how much money government is taking as tribute? Government doesn't want the people to know how much it profits from gasoline. The same thing applies to airline tickets. There used to be a special place on airline tickets for entering the amount of federal tax the purchaser pays. Now, by law, it is illegal to state the amount of federal tax, and it is illegal for a ticket agent to tell you if you ask? Try it some time and see how far you get.



"I'd Rather Do It Myself!"

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

The April 25 Horse Sense revealed the wonders of tunnel-visioned Janice Crimmins, a second-term Indiana Assemblywoman who has never introduced a bill because she sees "no reason to dream up some new law just to appear busy. Most new laws are either going to cost someone money or take away someone's liberties."

With that in mind, I commend the 1973-74 Oregon legislators for conducting their business with considerable more foresight and integrity than that. Because of legislation passed (albeit overdue) thousands of Oregonians now have equal rights and representation until now, denied them; I'm speaking in regard to our handicapped population.

Approximately 22 bills were passed by the legislature which considered the welfare of mentally handicapped and developmentally disabled (including cerebral palsied, deaf, blind, seizure disorders, deaf-blind, etc.) persons.

One of the most remarkable bills passed was HB 2444, the "right to education" act; this right, until October 1973, had been denied many school-aged handicapped children because of exclusionary policies and or practices of our public supported schools. No one, however, denied the parents of those children the "right" to pay taxes which paid for that education.

Also, as a result of HB 2444, a survey is in progress which has already identified 300-400 school-aged children not being served by any public supported agency in the state. I would suspect (although have no data to support) that the majority of the parents of these children are being taxed for the services offered by these agencies.

SB 68 and HB 2430 repealed the "relative responsibility" act. Until now, parents-relatives of mentally handicapped persons were financially discriminated against, unlike parents-relatives of a deaf or blind person. In other words, not only were (are) parents paying taxes for a local education their child was not receiving, but they were also billed for the education-training if their child was in a state institution, a privately operated school, or a school operated by the local association for retarded citizens.

In my estimation, our legislators did a fine job of relieving a lot of people of some astonishingly unjust and unequal practices. Yes, this will cost "someone" some money; but data prove that in the long run it is more feasible (economically and socially) to educate and train children to become working and contributive adults than to harbor their existence in an institution.

Now, it is up to us, the constituents, to make sure the laws which were passed do not go unheeded.

TASS BECKHAM,
Corvallis.

EDITOR:

Thank you for the April 4 issue of the paper with the story of lone's Dutch Rietmann. The article was especially interesting to me as Dutch is my

cousin and the business in lone was by father's, Paul G. Balsiger. When Dutch used to run the threshing outfit north of town, I as a small boy would ride the wheat wagon out in the morning for the day. I usually missed the late afternoon wagon to town, and had to stay an extra day with the harvest crew.

ALFRED M. BALSIGER,
The Dalles

EDITOR:

It has been a pleasure and an experience to have you visit our home every Thursday morning through the pages of the Gazette-Times, even though it often arrives to hot to handle.

I have learned many things about you—your personality, ambitions, the kind of food you eat, the beverages you enjoy and your social apprehensions.

Your editorials, the Lester Kinsolving column, Mayor of Hardman, the fair and impartial coverage of church events and other writings are an index of your soul. Your vocabulary is invaluable. You do not beat around the bush. With your style you would have been a long-line skinner that turned the air blue. But you tell it the way you believe it, do not play both ends against the middle or straddle the fence.

A few years ago I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior. I believe it, practice it, preach it and live it. But you and I have a lot in common. Our interpretations of a message or article may not coincide, but we can stand shoulder to shoulder and fight for principles, freedom of the press and work to keep this country free.

Enclosed is my subscription fee for another year. I look forward to 52 issues that represent your blood, sweat, tears, cussing and words of wisdom.

REV. ROBERT E. ALLSTOTT,
Hermiston.

EDITOR:

Hours, days and weeks went into the play, "Barefoot in the Park," put on by the drama department of Heppner High School. It was an excellent production with a fine cast, and much credit should be given to the director. It was given three nights so everyone would have a chance to go.

Yet enough did not go in even pay for the cost of putting the play on. The students are supposed to support the community, but the community lacks the effort to support a school activity.

Much credit should be given to those backstage as well as those setting up chairs and taking them down and the sweeping and cleaning up as well. The drama department did it all, and it was very disappointing to them all, to realize so few cared.

They are now over a hundred dollars in the red, so perhaps the next time a play is put on we will all do our part and support the Heppner High Drama Department.

MRS. ROBERT DAVIDSON,
Lexington.

Tax break for owners of damaged property

Residents of Morrow County whose property has suffered damage by fire, flood, or act of God between Jan. 1 and July 1 may now file for a property tax adjustment under provisions of a law passed by the special session of the Oregon legislature.

Joyce Bergstrom, assessor, says applications are avail-

able in her office located at the courthouse.

Mrs. Bergstrom expressed concern for people who had already filed for adjustments under the old law for residential damage from the January 1974 floods. "The legislature repealed the old law," she said, "so any

property owner who already submitted a claim form must now submit a new one."

The new law extends assistance to more property owners. Adjustments are now available to owners of nonresidential real property that suffered damage totaling \$5,000 or more, to people who

own residential property although they do not live on it, and to people who live in mobile homes that are assessed as personal property.

Property owners who want to learn more about the new law may come to the office between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., weekdays, or call 676-9421.

BOYD and WOOD



Morrow out

Unofficial returns indicate that Dorothy Krebs of lone, candidate for director of Blue Mountain Community College District, Position No. 2, has been defeated by 46 votes.

The election of James L. Whitney, Pendleton, to the post traditionally held by a Morrow County resident, puts the entire control of the college into the hands of Umatilla County directors.

Heppner election results on page 5

Crossroads Report

I see where a gaggle of lawmakers in Washington are whooping it up for a federal tax cut, but don't say anything about cutting down on federal spending.

+++
The Washington wasters have spent us into a corner and are still working on the theory that more spending and bigger debt will get us out of it.

+++
My debt-addict neighbor says if this works for government, he may try it. Like demanding a wage cut to get him out of the financial fix he is in without requiring him to give up his high-living habit.

D. E. SCOTT,
Crossroads, U.S.A.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

I see by the papers where the U.S. Forest Service is thinking of suing the folks of that boy they say started a woods fire in New Mexico last month.

The Forest Service figures it was the parents fault that the youngun was playing with matches and set the fire that burned over \$38 million worth of timber, homes and other buildings.

In another item I see where no-fault car insurance ain't catching on with the states for some reason. It ain't no wonder, Mister Editor. The way folks figure things nowadays, everthing has got to be somebody's fault, and if it ain't it ought to be.

Actual, I don't know nothing about insurance and I git that mixed up, but I know folks will slap a lawsuit on you quicker than they'll say good morning. Some people set up nights working on ways to sue somebody. If we got insurance that pays whuther you or the other feller is at fault in a car wreck, this idee might spread to forest fires and even politics.

The way these things work is, the Forest Service will sue to recover the \$38 million in damages caused by the fire. The parents of the boy will see that some kind of case can be made agin them, and they will see it would take them at least 380 year to pay off the claim. They're git them a lawyer that will show they were showing "adequate parental guidance and control" and over their youngun, ipso facto a pluribus unum. The Government will agree to settle for \$38,000 and the lawyer for the defendants will git 25 per cent of the difference between what his clients was sued fer and what they had to pay, and the green grass will keep growing round and round.

General speaking, at least two thirds of the laws in this country is wrote by lawyers and passed by lawyers, and 100 per cent of the lawyers use the laws in their daily work. No fault insurance would cut down on a lawyer's work, it looks like to me, so I ain't surprised that all the states has took up the matter at least onct, 20 state legislatures has made at least three tries at gutting no-fault passed, but they ain't but 12 that has passed laws that don't allow lawsuits in traffic accidents until the damage gits to a certain level.

I reckon doctors has got the best system of perfecting agin lawsuits, and probably they need it the most. Them fancy specialists has got other doctors to do the cutting open and the sewing up, and they jest do the fixing, and some of em even have "stand-ins" fer the fixing, but you can bet yore bottom dollar the feller under the knife will sue the hole lot of em if he thinks he's got a case.

The way I figger, Mister Editor, no fault insurance would be a dangerous example. We got to have somebody to blame in this country, or else what is elections all about?

Yours truly,

MAYOR ROY



Episcopal
hush
money

By LESTER KINSOLVING

"The Minister is ordered from time to time to advise the people whilst they are in good health... to leave bequests for religious and charitable purposes." — Episcopal Book of Common Prayer

This admonition, to all Episcopal clergy, appears (somewhat morbidly) at the close of the service called Unction For The Sick.

It is a recognition of an important source of ecclesiastical revenue. But this admonition ought also to direct the clergy to advise their parishioners to be very, very careful to be specific when remembering such purposes.

Take for example, the late Kodak heiress, Margaret Woodbury Strong of Rochester, N.Y. Mrs. Strong left more than \$10 million to the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester — "for its general purposes."

She did not reckon with the advent of a new, and strongly liberal bishop named Robert Spears, who used all of his Episcopal influence, plus the general adherence to almost anything a new bishop asks, to persuade the Diocese that its "general purposes" included \$750,000 worth of bailing out of the near-bankrupt Episcopal Church national headquarters (in Manhattan, not Rochester).

Spears was subsequently nominated for the 3 million-member denomination's top post of Presiding Bishop. And a grateful national hierarchy designated \$337,500 of this money for "retraining and redeployment" for more than one half of the national staff which had been laid off.

This catastrophe was due mainly to the effects of a minority group funding program of more than \$7 million — headed by a Brooklyn black militant named Leon Modeste. Instead of concentrating on legitimate minority groups needs, Modeste arrogantly specialized in financing racially segregated and violent hate groups, a number of which are no longer in existence.

Finally, last fall, Modeste and most of his staff were fired. But now Mrs. Strong's gift to the Diocese of Rochester is being used as hush money to keep Modeste (relatively) quiet.

Without any consent from the denomination's Executive Council or General Convention, Bishop Roger Blanchard has retained Modeste as a "consultant" — in order for Modeste to write a report of all six years of his disastrous (although personally lucrative) program. Until July 1, Modeste will receive his full salary (\$27,000 per annum, plus fringes) plus \$1,000 per month for "expenses."

West Virginia's Bishop Wilburn Campbell, who had the unenviable Executive Council job of trying to keep an eye on Modeste's operations, was so appalled that he compared the project to Richard Nixon being commissioned to write an objective analysis of the White House "Plumbers."

This column asked Bishop Blanchard if Modeste is really so competent a writer as to be paid on a scale of \$750 per week.

"I can't answer. I have no way of knowing," replied Blanchard. "We are providing Leon a copy editor to help during the final week."

How much is the \$750-per-week Modeste's editor being paid? Blanchard: "\$280."

Bishop Blanchard was subsequently present at the headquarters of the National Council of Churches when President Sterling Cary was asked if a similar financing might be applied to the Rev. Robert Chapman, whose termination has evoked repeated demonstrations and office occupations by Chapman's friends in Harlem.

Replied Dr. Cary, a black who was militant enough to have signed the Black Manifesto:

"That would be hypocrisy. Father Chapman wouldn't accept such money."

Mr. Modeste would. And Bishop Blanchard, when asked about Dr. Cary's charge of hypocrisy replied: "No comment."

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

Address: Box 237, Heppner, Ore. 97641, Ph. 474-9228

The Heppner Gazette was established March 26, 1863. The Heppner Times established Nov. 18, 1897. Consolidated Feb. 15, 1912. MEMBER: National Newspaper Assn., Oregon Newspaper Publishers Assn.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$5 per year in Oregon, \$4 elsewhere. Single copy, 15c. Mailed single copy, 25c. Minimum billing, 11.

Ernest V. Joiner, Publisher

The Gazette-Times assumes no financial responsibility for errors in advertisements. It will, however, reprint without charge or cancel the charge for the portion of an advertisement which is in error if The Gazette-Times is at fault.