

Horse sense

By ERNEST V. JOINER



I haven't been in Oregon long enough to assess the candidates seeking office in Tuesday's election. However, it may be assumed that there are no political Galahads among them to succor an American people being crushed by taxation and set upon by the angry dogs of government. The political parties, like the candidates, aren't of much consequence in today's pattern of government. No political party controls its leaders in office, and a party platform has no meaning. It binds neither the party's members nor its leaders in office. The two major parties are practically identical in form and purpose, a fact George Wallace recognized during the 1968 presidential campaign when he said, "There's not a dime's difference between the two." Under Democrats or Republicans, we suffer equally. It does us no credit that we continue to tolerate either; for whichever wins the gravy bowl, the results are the same for us—all taxes increase and liberty diminishes. The pattern is set for bigger and more expensive government, and both parties are committed to that philosophy. Our elected officials have a tiger by the tail, and cannot let go this side of disaster. So I shall vote this time for any third party candidates on the ballot. They won't win, but by doing so I have registered a vote against both Democrats and Republicans. This practice is growing, as witness Gov. Wallace's 10 million votes in 1968. Yes, 10 million Americans kissed off both major parties. Which is why both parties wooed Wallace so long and hard. He wound up pledging his political truth to the Democrats. But make no mistake, the Republicans were pleased, too. His wedding to the Democratic Party means that the system under which both parties share the national wealth and power has survived a third party threat. Too bad.

All is not lost. There is plenty Oregon voters can do Tuesday to strike a blow for political responsibility, by striking down most of those Ballot Measures. All but one of them raises taxes. All are couched in noble words, calculated to make you tax yourselves more in the name of worthy causes. Let's take a look at them.

Measure 1: Income, corporate tax, school support increases. This one raises the personal income tax. It raises the taxes on corporations, which means everybody will pay more for whatever the corporation sells. It raises more money for schools, but there's nothing in this ballot measure that imposes stricter controls over educational expenditures. To raise your taxes, to erase what's left of local control of schools, vote for this one! I'll vote NO.

Measure 2: Highway funds to be used for mass transit. This is the big steal. It would divert funds earmarked for highway use to provide mass transit systems in metropolitan areas like Portland and Salem. The highway department has already been raided almost to the point of extinction, with only about 26 per cent of its total income going for highway purposes. The rest goes to support the State Police, parks and bicycle path program. There isn't one-tenth enough money for highway purposes available now to build and maintain highways already built or committed. Any further dilution of the highway fund would be a disaster for state highways. Just why is it to the interest of Morrow County residents that Portland's population ride to town on fancy commuter cars? If Portland wants a transit system, let Portland pay for it. It is preposterous to expect people from Morrow County to give up more funds for the convenience of Portland shoppers. Expect this measure to carry big in metropolitan centers, where the voters are. It should be roundly defeated everywhere else. I predict that if this measure is approved by the voters, the state gasoline tax will double within a year.

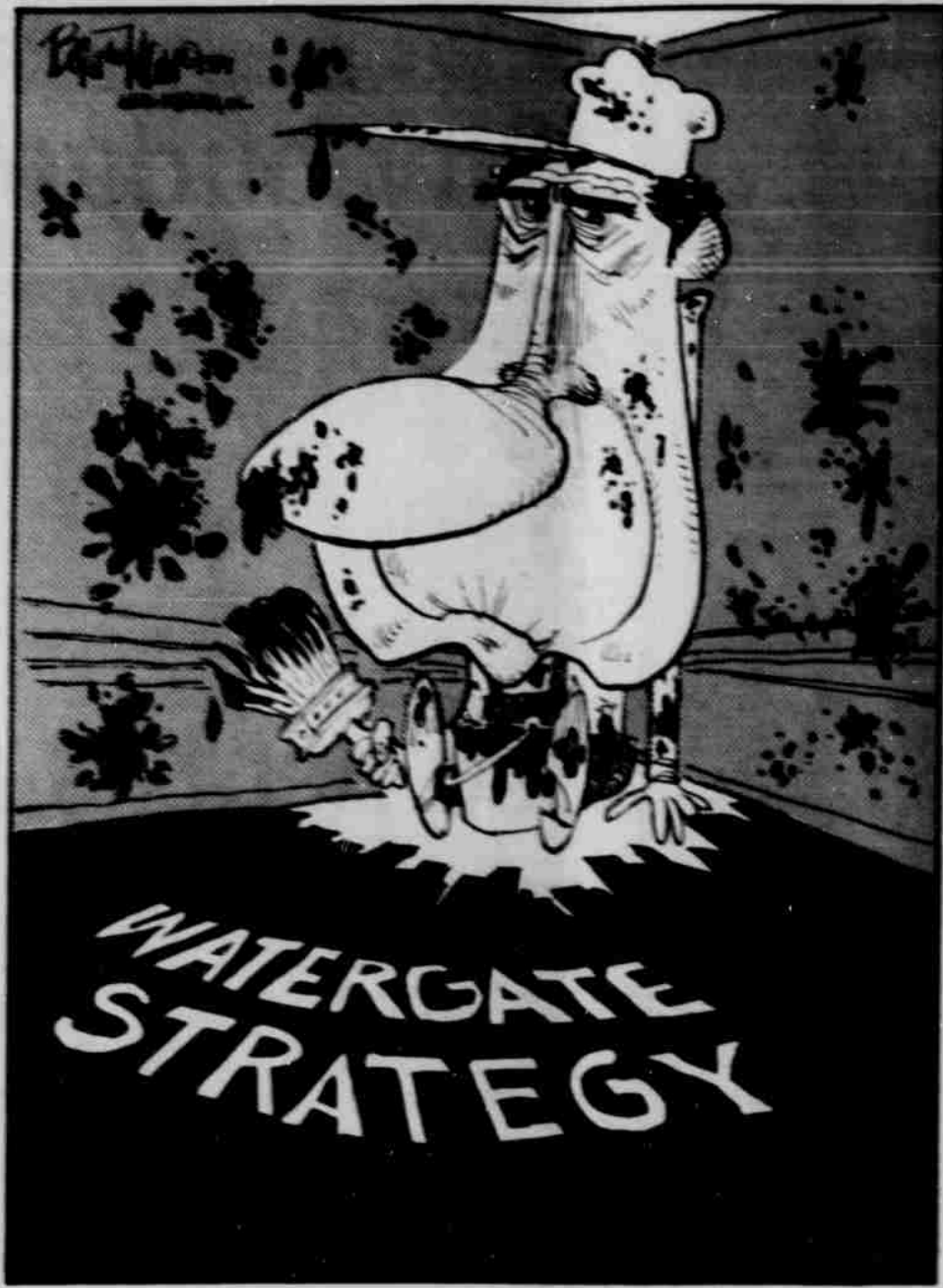
Measure 3: New school district tax base limitation. Educationists want to repeal the 6 per cent property tax limitation for school districts. Measure 3 would do this, and permit automatic increases of 5 1/2 per cent per year. School districts would no longer hold elections to exceed the 6 per cent limit, as we are now required to do. However, even with the automatic 5 1/2 per cent allowed by Measure 3, elections could still be held to provide money in excess of the 5 1/2 per cent, provided to more than two such elections could be held in any one year. The school districts already have the right to exceed the 6 per cent limit, up to any amount voters desire. Morrow County has never rejected a proposal to exceed the 6 per cent limit in effort, so why change the system? The passage of Measure 3 would deprive school district voters of their right to provide or withhold money in excess of that 6 per cent limitation. It is one of the last controls local voters have over the financial affairs of their schools. That control should not be given up lightly. I shall vote No on 3.

Measure 4: Authorize bonds for water development. This constitutional amendment authorizes the state to issue, sell and refinance bonds up to 1 1/2 per cent of true cash value of all property in the state to create a Water Development Fund. Proceeds would finance loans for construction of municipal and private irrigation and water projects—when "necessary for state security." The bonds, as I read the proposal, would be an obligation of the state. State-backed bonds for private water developments? A hundred-million dollar bureaucracy set up to do what cities and private developers should be doing for themselves? Water is a pressing problem, but in these inflationary times this proposal is too much to take. No.

Measure 5: Increases veterans' loan bonding authority. This constitutional amendment increases the amount of indebtedness which the state may incur for Oregon War Veterans Fund. Money is used for farm and home loans to veterans, from 4 per cent of true cash value of all property in the state, to 6 per cent of such value. This has been a wonderful program, and no property tax has ever been needed to keep the veterans loan fund operational and solvent. No taxes are involved. The purpose is good. I vote Yes.

Measure 6: Permits legislature to call itself into special sessions. At present the constitution permits only the governor or to call the legislature into special session. This amendment would permit the presiding officers of the legislature to call a special session within five days after receiving written requests from a majority of members of each house. However, if the legislature meets more frequently the cost of the thing will soar. Annual sessions, which is the ultimate goal of legislators, would entail huge salaries for legislators. It seems reasonable that if the only time the taxpayers get into trouble is when the legislature meets, then sessions should be curbed, not encouraged. A legislature that isn't in session doesn't hurt anybody. It's only when it meets and has the opening prayer that all the dirty work begins! I would vote for a constitutional amendment to prevent the legislature from meeting more often than once in five years. But not for one to give them more time to do me in! No on this one.

That's a funny sign on the kitchen wall at the Hardman Ory House. "Notice. We will not be responsible for accidents-by committee members."



The mail pouch

EDITOR:

In the past few weeks I have been asked many questions on the new laws and requirements for hospital and nursing homes.

One of the most frequent is, "Do you really need the additional personnel?" I personally do not feel that we do, especially in the capacity that the new rules and regulations set down as a prerequisite to be relicensed. I have suggested a plan to the Oregon State Board of Health Licensing Division as a hardship case that we secure an occupational therapist and a social director on a consulting basis as we do at the present time with a registered dietitian from Pendleton. If this is approved it will be a definite saving.

On the question of RN and LPN coverage in our nursing home area, we have been fighting this for the past two years, feeling that our coverage in the past has been entirely adequate, but the Licensing Division has informed us that our deadline is June 15, 1974 to put this coverage into effect to be relicensed for the coming fiscal year beginning July 1, 1974. This will require an additional 46-hour RN and 16 LPN coverage a week, the additional cost being \$280 a week.

The new Waiver of Liability Law states that patients may be hospitalized so many days for a certain illness and if these days are exceeded Medicare payments will be withheld. This places a great hardship not only on the hospital but the patient as well, especially where we do not have an Extended Care Facility to transfer these patients to after the acute stage of their illness is passed, but are not ready to be discharged.

State inspections for fire, sanitation and safety keep updating until you are in a continual process of making changes and adding new equipment to meet these state standards.

New state laws on retirement, unemployment compensation and minimum wages have added an additional cost of \$24,732 annually that we did not have in the past.

A low hospital census for the past year has cut our income by \$32,000 from the previous year.

Many people scoff at rules and regulations. This is all well and good until it comes to Medicare withholding payments on all Medicare patients, which amounts to 50 per cent of our patients, until these regulations are met. They would not only withhold payment but our license to operate as well.

"When are we going to get another doctor?" is almost a daily question. We have written to more than a hundred doctors who have shown some interest in family practice in a small town or rural area, and I have attended luncheons at the Oregon Medical Association to meet new doctors recently licensed to practice medicine in Oregon. Some have shown interest, but few pursue any sort of follow-up, such as a visit to our community or correspondence requesting additional information. The trend is toward more family practice physicians, but it is a slow process and may take from one to three years before enough such physicians will be licensed to really start placing them in a community such as ours.

I hope this letter will answer some of the questions that I have been asked by the citizens of Morrow County.

HELENE WYMAN,
Administrator.

EDITOR:

Thank you!

In behalf of the Hepner 4th grade students and staff I would like to thank those individuals, businesses and agencies that helped make our Outdoor School program possible. Your support of our TV fund-raising project and your cooperation in the form of enthusiasm, time and effort is greatly appreciated.

DON COLE,
Principal.

EDITOR:

It is commonly said that you can't believe everything you read in the newspapers.

Be that as it may, some of the things you read in the newspapers are totally unbelievable.

Take, for example, the recent action of the State Health Commission in arrogantly decreasing the fluoridation of all of Oregon's drinking water supplies. If ever there was complete contempt for the democratic process, this was it. The pronouncement of Sylvia Nemer Davidson, a member of the commission, deserves a place (you name it) in history. Her amazing utterance pinpoints the futility of going to the polls come May or November. Why bother when Big Sister is on the job deciding what's good for you?

"I'm sick of sitting around and doing nothing, and passing the buck, when we know damn well that if we send it back to the Legislature it will again be defeated," she is quoted in an interview.

Robert Payne, in his monumental book, "The Life and Death of Adolph Hitler," reminds us of another era when self-appointed saviors took over the helm of decision because "the complexities of Democracy were so painfully inefficient."

Crossroads Report

DEAR EDITOR:

I see where there has been considerable "news" commentary on how Mr. Nixon's transcripts of his top-level confabs were sanitized by leaving out the dirty words.

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Which didn't leave much in some places except opportunity for the Nixon fault-forgers to be pharisaical about his low taste in words which seems to match his penchant for (expletive deleted) assistants.

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My cussing neighbor says if Mr. Nixon hasn't deleted all of the White House tape recorders by now, he isn't smart enough to be President.

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

Quote/unquote

"From out there on the moon, international politics look so pretty. You want to grab a politician by the scruff of the neck and drag him a quarter of a million miles out and say, 'Look at that, you son of a bitch.'" — Edgar D. Mitchell, Apollo 14 Astronaut.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Zeke Grubb proved to the fellers at the country store Saturday night that even a blind hog finds a acorn once in a while.

Zeke drew on his wide experiences in life and his years of reading newspapers and farm journals to figure out that if everybody in this country worked for the Government, they wouldn't be anybody left to support the Government.

What got Zeke into research on this discovery was a piece he saw where the number of folks on Government payrolls is growing twice as fast as the United States population. The item said six out of ever 10 new jobs are in some level of Government from the courthouse to the White House. Zeke said 14 million people now are on public payrolls, and by 1980 almost 17 million Americans will be paid out of the taxes paid by the rest of us.

Zeke said he was reminded of an estimate out of Russia some years back where they figured out over there that at the rate they were going the hole adult population soon would be doing Government planning, and nobody would be left to carry out the plans.

We've got just about the same situation here, allowed Zeke, as more people demand more Government services that demand more people that demand more wages that demand more revenues that come from the folks demanding the services.

Ed Doolittle said the strain is being felt everywhere. He said he had saw where by June 30 the national debt will be up to \$480 billion, a jump of 34 per cent in five years. We have to pay \$29 billion a year on interest on the money we owe, Ed said, and this is twice what it was in 1969.

Ever man, woman and child in this country that is enjoying all the services by all them Government workers owes \$2,262 of that debt, Ed declared.

What we're going to have to do, broke in Clem Webster, is work out a system like them nuclear breeders that make more atomic fuel than they use to generate electricity. That'll be like the old deal where these fellers was going into the cat skin business. They were starting with a million cats that would eat four million rats that would eat the remains of the skinned cats, and the cats and rats would multiply happily ever after.

Actual, went on Clem, he had saw where this feller in a factory got 25 cent from 1,000 workers to buy a gift for the boss that was getting married. He bought 1,000 packs of cigarettes with the \$250, removed the coupons from the smokes and traded them for a silver service for the boss and then he gave each worker a pack of cigarettes, and got himself a fishing rod when he traded in the stamps he was given when he bought the cigarettes.

Folks set up nights thinking, Mister Editor, I saw where last year Congressmen sent back home more than 16,000 flags that had flew over the Capitol. Struck with just 365 days a year, they got a special flagpole hid where 50 flags a day is run up and right down.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY



Is profanity
as bad as
hypocrisy?

By LESTER KINSOLVING

"I can only say that I am very proud that President Eisenhower restored dignity and decency and, frankly, good language to the conduct of the presidency... and I only hope, should I win this election... that whenever any mother or father talks to his child he can look at the man in the White House and whatever he may think of his policies he will say 'Well, there's a man who maintains the kind of standards personally that I would want my child to follow'."

—Vice-President Richard M. Nixon,
Oct. 13, 1960.

"When it [profanity] is over-used, it loses its points."

—President Richard M. Nixon,
Jan. 23, 1971

"(expletive deleted)... (expletive deleted)... (expletive deleted)..."

—The White House Tape Transcripts, 1973.

Almost all Americans use profane or obscene terminology on occasion—although rarely do they do so in public speaking or in the presence of those they think might be offended.

So did Saint Peter. And while the Bible does not specify which purple prose was used by this Galilean fisherman when for the third time he denied knowing Jesus Christ (Saint Matthew 26:74), the Bible includes a number of four-letter words.

Neither the Gospel writers nor Jesus seem to have been anywhere nearly as concerned with Peter's salty language as they were with his hypocrisy in pretending that he had never met Jesus.

In like manner what the people of America really despise is not profanity—but hypocrisy.

Both Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson sounded on occasion as if they prepared for the presidency by skinning mules. But neither of these men was renowned for the pious anti-profanity posturings of the Honorable Richard Nixon.

From ranking religious leaders throughout the nation have come public expressions of acute revulsion concerning what the White House tape transcripts reveal our President to be really like. But Leaders like John Hines (Episcopal), William Thompson (Presbyterian) and Timothy Manning (Catholic) were not half so concerned about the expletives as with the conversations which made the White House sound like a rendezvous for Mafia attorneys.

When America's best known clergyman, the Rev. Billy Graham, was asked for his comment on the tape transcripts (one week after they were released), he explained that he was so busy with his Phoenix, Arizona "crusade" that he had not found time to read these widely published transcripts. Some crusader. Some crusader.

But resourceful Billy still had a remedy—which is hardly calculated to disturb his standing invitation to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue or his national status as the ecclesiastical Bebe Rebozo.

"We ought to pray for the Judiciary Committee that God will give it wisdom. We ought to pray for the President that he will be given the wisdom to do what God wants him to do."

Not only is this a thoroughly safe proposal—but who can oppose prayer?

Who? All citizens who have enough insight to resent prayer being used as either a political cop-out or a sacerdotal tranquilizer.

Certainly Jesus Christ commanded his followers to pray for their enemies—which he no doubt did, even as he was laying a whip to the backs of several of his enemies who were dishonest money changers in the government-operated temple.

This fact stimulates the hypothetical question as to how Graham would have reacted had he been the ancient equivalent of White House Chaplain and been asked for a commentary in the case of "Money Changers versus Jesus."

(Asking this question might well have been the writer of the Book of Revelation in whose third chapter there is the observation: "I know thy works that thou art neither hot nor cold. So then because thou art lukewarm and neither hot nor cold I will spue thee out of my mouth.")

JOHNNIE E. HILL,
Hepner.

EDITOR:

I have a complaint to make about our city government. To bring you up to date I will explain this way.

I have a hay field rented from Mrs. Clair Cox. This field is located within the city limits. Because so many were using my field for play fields and crossing back and forth, we put up No Trespass signs. Last year I borrowed a hayrack. When I was finished with it, I pulled it over in the corner of my field.

Last week one of our city employees went in, hooked onto the rake and pulled it out. He knocked down about a quarter of an acre of hay and went on his way. When I found out who did it, I called Mr. Corbin, who is the culprit in this case. I told him I was very unhappy with his actions. He told me he was in a big hurry, and didn't have time to contact me. I asked him about the No Trespass signs. He said they were not legal because they were not 16 feet back in the field. I had them nailed on my fence posts.

Now, Mr. Editor, I suppose the ranchers up Willow Creek who have their signs on the fence posts aren't legal either, according to Mr. Corbin.

I called our mayor about this matter. He was to call me back. He never called. Maybe he gently slapped Mr. Corbin's fingers and told him how naughty he was. Well, for my hay that was trampled down and my pipe (which he ran over; I didn't even get an "I'm sorry."

You know, we've got a chance to get rid of Mr. Nixon and some of his gangsters. But as for Mr. Corbin, no chance. He has had his nose into something in city government ever since I've been here.

Now, Mr. Editor, I know you have a paper to run and don't have time for petty complaints, but when city officials flaunt the rights of city taxpayers isn't it time for those city officials to be replaced, or at least reprimanded?

JOHNNIE E. HILL,
Hepner.