

# Horse sense

By ERNEST V. JOINER



(Ernest Joiner is on vacation. Guest columnist this week is John Chamberlain, one of the few newspapermen who sees some sense in the actions of the Nixon administration.)

Let me say at the outset that I do not defend the methods used by Nixon administration underlings in trying to cope with those who were stealing government secrets and otherwise gumming up official government policy. Fighting fire with fire is understandable, but it should have been unnecessary in a country in which the White House could have used its own media spokesmen to support its views.

When you come right down to it, however, the administration had common sense on its side in all of the contested issues that are now collectively summed up in the single word "Watergate."

Let's begin with the ITT troubles. The International Telephone and Telegraph Corp. had a plan to enlist the help of Washington in trying to defend itself against a legalized theft. Nevertheless, common sense tells us that if ITT had managed to stop Chile's Marxist President Salvador Allende in his tracks, it would have saved the Chilean people a long drawn out agony.

Again, ITT, a "conglomerate" with no power to monopolize any part of the insurance business, was accused of trying to obstruct the workings of the law when the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice moved to invalidate its acquisition of the Hartford Fire Insurance Co. Just how such an acquisition would hurt competition in writing fire insurance is incomprehensible to anyone with a sense of logic.

ITT's Sheraton Hotel Corp. later made a payment of \$100,000 to San Diego to help stage the 1972 Republican convention. If this had any connection with the anti-trust suit, it was never proved.

Nixon was quite within his rights in opposing his own Department of Justice's interpretation of anti-trust law, and in accepting big corporation help in financing a convention. His party was only doing what each big party does every four years. Where do you think all those free Coca Colas come from at convention time?

The Ellsberg case was ITT all over again. Common sense would be enough to tell any literate person that Daniel Ellsberg went back on his word when he handed the Pentagon Papers, not his property, to the New York Times, which acted as his literary "fence." Yet Ellsberg goes free in this day while Jeb Magruder, Egil Krogh and Charles Colson have had to suffer for trying to make a second Ellsberg case an impossibility.

Then there is the supposed milk scandal. The Watergate bloodhounds are but in Nixon's trail here: they hope to prove he traded his ability to bring about an increase in milk prices for a campaign contribution. It hardly matters that practically every politician of note has received milk money, or that concern for the farm states' votes has always resulted in milk price favoritism in crucial election years. Common sense should tell both consumers and producers that the government has no business setting milk prices anyway; the market would be fairer to everybody's pocketbook.

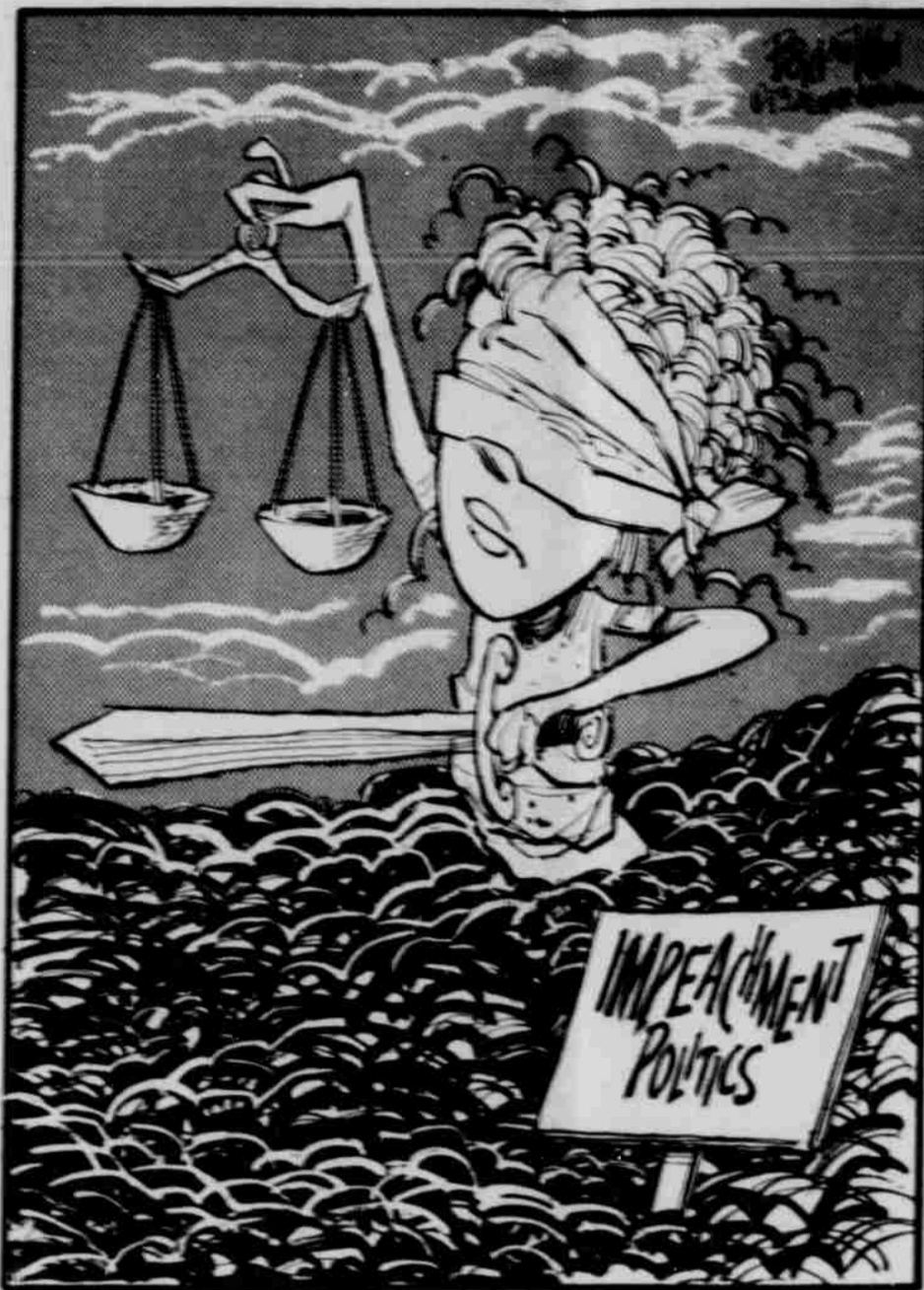
If the state is going to interfere with the dairy market, then politicians are going to get special election year consideration no matter who is sitting in the White House.

Finally, there is the Watergate break-in itself. The break-in was unsuccessful, so nobody knows whether the Cubans who did the dirty work of the entry were really justified in thinking that Fidel Castro was trying to make a deal with Democratic politicians. From their own point of view, however, the Cubans were acting as patriots; they thought they had CIA—and therefore official U.S.—backing.

Considering the entirely negative results of the administration's efforts to defend itself against the leaking of policy secrets, and taking into account the routine behavior of ITT and the milk lobby in trying to defend themselves against abuses of state power carried out in the name of justice, the whole Watergate complex of issues seems incredibly trifling. True enough, the White House has been stupid when it comes to fighting its battles or to explaining its cases.

But are the administration's sins worth all the furor and the wasted time of the Watergate anguish? It's been two years now since Congress has been able to take any constructive attitude toward any of the big issues, domestic or foreign that confront us.

If you ask me, Congress itself, not the White House, is the enemy of the American people. Not every incumbent has been a villain, but there have been enough call for a rather through clean-out next November.



## The mail pouch

EDITOR:

This is an open letter to all our customers, the good people of our community who avail themselves of the accommodation provided by us and by most of the small businesses within this community.

The specific accommodation I want to talk about is credit, or our willingness to save you the inconvenience of carrying around a lot of money or of having to write a check each time you make a purchase. This credit enables you to write one check a month to each business.

Giving credit is a courtesy and privilege we extend to you based on our faith in your good will.

This privilege is so frequently abused that I'm sure a lot of you are just not aware of the hardships imposed on the businesses when you do not pay monthly.

The greatest hardship of course, is the difficulty we have in getting enough money to pay our own bills, which we must pay by the 15th of the month following purchase. This becomes very frustrating and annoying when we start going through accounts receivable and see so many accounts past due and we realize that we cannot count on them being paid that month.

Another hardship is the added expense and work of repeated mailing of statements until the original profit is gone by the time we collect the amount due.

According to experts in the merchandizing field this is what happens to the value of an uncollected dollar:

- 3 months past due—worth 90
- 6 months past due—worth 57
- 9 months past due—worth 36
- 1 year past due—worth 25
- 2 year past due—worth 13
- 4 years past due—worth 12
- 6 years past due—worth 10

With inflation already eroding the value of a dollar, it is extremely unfair to business men for customers to further devalue the money due us.

We deeply appreciate the majority of our customers, those who pay on time. With cooperation from everyone we could give better service and have adequate inventory in our stores at all times.

Bob and Aloha DeSpain  
Heppner Auto Parts

EDITOR:

The time has come to talk about the "Hells Half Acre", about the last bit of virgin forest left to us here in Morrow County. It consists of about 5,000 acres of second grade timber, and due to the use of this type of timber in the new mill, it is in potential danger. Kinzua owns 640 acres scattered throughout this tract and it is hoped that they will trade out of there, leaving a large enough acreage to qualify for a 5,000 acre wilderness area.

The Forest Service and Kinzua have been very cooperative in preserving the ground up to date. This will be that last place for game to hide after Johnson Creek is gone.

To those of you who are not familiar with the qualifications of these grounds, these lands consist of the greater part of the head waters of Willow Creek, namely Shaw, Herron, Hour Creeks and the south fork of Willow Creek, all permanent streams. Willow Creek now runs clear, but if these lands are logged the stream will run muddy and present a silt problem in the new proposed Heppner dam, and it would ruin the water supply for the Cutsforth Park.

There are four major mountains in this area, Arbuckle, Kelly, Big and Little Baldy Mountains. This area is surrounded by several recreation sites, Arbuckle Ski Run on the East, a proposed Forest Service park on the North at the Shaw Creek Cox site, the present Cutsforth Park on the West and the new Penland Lake three miles to the South.

There are factors of interest within this area too. A great earth fault runs entirely across the tract, the remnant of the old coal mine. Two gold mine prospects, also about 1000 acres of fossils, or more fossils that there are at Fossil. Hiking trails are pioneered through this tract and it is hoped

that the Forest Service will survey these trails so they won't be so steep for an old man to lead various groups over them.

While only about 20 percent of the people of Morrow County are interested in logging, I've made the statement I can get 80 percent on a petition to preserve these lands for our children.

I have hunted in this locality for 21 years and have never been able to kill anything in the North slopes of the "Hells Half Acre."

O.W. Cutsforth

EDITOR:

It seems in your style of reporting you try to get the feel of the person you are writing about so as to be able to describe that person with a good deal of accuracy. I'm sure your readers appreciate this very much. However, I'm afraid you smack out completely last week in the Horse Sense column when you tried to describe Jesus. The following lines are very accurate and descriptive of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In all fairness to Him and to the many of us who read the Gazette-Times and are dedicated followers I would appreciate it if you would print them.

Of Jesus' accomplishments, I know no better lines than these (the Authorship of which is uncertain):

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30. Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He never went to college. He never traveled over 200 miles from the place he was born.

He never did one of those things that usually accompanies greatness. He had no credentials but himself. He was only 33 when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the central figure of the human race, and leader to the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, PUT TOGETHER, have not affected the life of man on earth as has that One Solitary Life.

You were right when you wrote they crucified Him. The thing you neglected to say is that He rose again on the third day and is coming again to gather up those who believe and have faith in that day.

I sincerely hope that my writing has given you a better insight as to the kind of man Jesus was and still is.

MRS. VERN NOLAN,  
LEXINGTON.

## Light voter turnout approves charter

One of the lightest turnouts for a special election in the City of Heppner, went on record Monday as 78 voters turned out to cast their ballots for the adoption of a revised city charter.

The voters were unanimous in their decision, with 77 voters in favor of the proposed charter and only one vote against the charter.

Adoption of the new charter, drafted from a model charter used by the League of Oregon Cities, with some of the sections of the old charter held in retention by the City, can now be correlated with many of the State statutes.

Passage of the new charter is just a starting point from which the council will be able to meet new problems in the future without being hindered by antiquated ordinances.

The ordinances presently in effect will remain so, until a careful study can be made to determine which ones are outdated and should be revised.

The old ordinances could not have been changed under

terms of the old charter.

One of the benefits of the new charter will allow the council to adopt the State Motor Vehicle code, so the city police may enforce State laws. If the council approves this, many of the cases now appearing in Justice Court could be tried in the City's Municipal Court.



"Oh, it's you again, Mr. Nader."

## CROSSROADS REPORT

DEAR EDITOR:

I see where one very large organization representing the Lord here on earth religiously and piously battles against any move to legalize gambling.

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But the same group's national overseers have made hundreds of millions of dollars on investments in the stock market in recent years.

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Probably it is just plain dumbness that keeps a questionably-saved citizen from seeing why it is not gambling to bet on some stock going up, but is gambling to bet you can roll a seven the first try in a craps game, where the odds are better.

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

### quote/unquote

"It is difficult for a layman like me to understand why drug-abuse is rampant mostly in countries that have the highest standard of living. In these countries, religion is being freely practiced and the communication gap rarely exists. There must be something wrong somewhere."—Khair Johari, Malaysian Ambassador to the United States.

## Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Ever once in a long while someone comes along to renew all our faith in the human race, past, present and future. Recent, one of them somebuns happened to me and my old lady.

The old lady got her leg cat scratched back in the spring. Mister Editor, and she's had a devil of a time getting the sore to heal. It pained to she had to take her weight off that leg and, much as I hate to remind myself, I've been doing a few extra chores around the house. She's coming along nice now, but the time she had with that scratch caused me to appreciate her a heap more around meal times, and it let us both get a fresh look at our neighbors.

On account of her sore leg, she couldn't tend her garden like she allus has, and what little digging I done didn't amount to much. Our garden just kind of dried up and blowed away fer want of her attention. This worried her more than some, cause she says with groceries costing what they are and going to, ever bite we can raise is a bite we ain't got to buy.

One morning about two weeks ago, I had to run the old lady over to church to check on flowers fer Sunday, and when we got home we found a big cardboard box on the back porch. It was chock full of everything you can think of that grows to eat. Fresh dug potatoes, corn, tomatoes, beans fer snapping and shelling. There was some beets that I figger the Lord lets live jest to hold the world together. And there was a note. It said "The good Lord, the good earth and the Rufus Webbers."

Mister Editor, you can't beat a team like that. The Webbers live down the road a ways from us, and they've got growing youngsters to feed. We got to thinking about their kindness and we started feeling good about everything and everybody. And their sharing was just a start. In the past two weeks we've got garden stuff from everybody out our way that could think of things we didn't already have plenty of.

Actual, we weren't down and out. We had plenty to eat, and we wouldn't of gone hungry without the fresh garden vegetables. But it was the idea of the thing, that folks would be thoughtful enuff to do that fer us.

The old lady perked up, and she's been scooting around in her kitchen like that cat scratched leg never was hurt. She's been canning, preserving and freezing and feeding me the leftovers. And she's been labeling all the stuff with the name of the folks that give it.

This way we get a bonus. When she opens a jar or thaws a package this winter, we can enjoy all over agin that warm feeling that comes from having friends. In a time when so much of what we read and hear is about folks doing unto others afore they get a chance to do unto them, it does a body good to stop and look on the bright side. It's good to know it's still there.

Yours truly,  
Mayor Roy



## Nixon's ordained Agnews

By LESTER KINSOLVING

WASHINGTON — Neither Rabbi Baruch Korff nor the Rev. John McLaughlin, S.J., are felonious like the ex-vice president. But these two reverend gentlemen have managed the absolutely spectacular achievement of making Spiro Agnew's heyday speeches sound downright restrained.

Also restrained by comparison to these two gentlemen of the cloth are the toughest among the President's elite guard of press professionals, such as Ken Clawson (formerly of the Washington Post) and Patrick Buchanan (formerly of the St. Louis Globe Democrat).

For while these purportedly heavy word merchants have, rather clumsily, launched an attack upon the entire House Judiciary Committee as an alleged lynching party lusting for the Nixon neck, the president's Jesuit and his pet rabbi have made this verbal barrage look tame.

For this Presidential Chaplains Corps has used the strategy divide-and-conquer — by a double-barreled zeroing in upon the first member of the House Judiciary Committee ever to offer an impeachment resolution.

Father McLaughlin has compared this congressman, the Rev. Robert Drinan, S.J. (Dem. Mass.) to the Sanehedrin ( ) — even though Fathers McLaughlin and Drinan attended the very same Jesuit seminary.

Rabbi Korff, who is Father Drinan's fellow citizen of Massachusetts, went Father McLaughlin one better — by describing the Congressman as "A mad monk — like Rasputin."

Gregory Efimovich Rasputin (1871-1916) was an immensely charismatic Siberian monk who became involved with a sect called "Khlysty." The leading idea of this group was that salvation is attainable through repentance alone.

Rasputin applied one of history's most enormous human energies to giving a novel twist to this idea.

"Sin in order that you may be forgiven!" he preached—adding that his gigantic body contained "a particle of the Supreme Being."

"The manner of your salvation is thus: you must be united with me in soul — and body!"

This intriguing idea, combined with an almost superhuman alcoholic capacity, enabled Rasputin to conduct — for serfs and Czar's Court alike — some of the most spectacular sex orgies in the history of the Eastern Hemisphere.

Hence, during a White House press briefing, I asked:

"Since the president has repeatedly been closely identified and photographed with Rabbi Korff (founder of the "National Citizens Committee for Fairness To the Presidency") does he agree with the rabbi's clear implication that Father Drinan is a gigantic boogier and a sexual athlete — or will the president disassociate himself from this statement by the rabbi?"

But Deputy White House Press Secretary Gerald Warren cried "Next question!" — loudly and angrily, rather than to disassociate the president from this notable statement by his pet rabbi.

Most of the nation's rabbis seem to be trying to ignore Korff. But this rabbi's growing national fame appears quite likely to be destined to cultivate even more outstanding pronouncements than his "Father Rasputin" bit. (his latest: requesting Vice President Ford to threaten not to succeed to the White House if Nixon is impeached — which astounding suggestion Ford wisely disdained.)

Rabbi Korff, after all, is something of a late starter compared to Father McLaughlin, whom the highly respected Catholic magazine Commonwealth finally felt obliged to describe as:

"Nixon's hired collar . . . the greatest living embarrassment to the American Jesuits."



"I wish the networks would give ME equal time!"

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