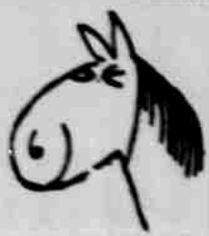


Horse sense

By ERNEST V. JOINER



● The nation and the world should take heart at the historic and unprecedented events of last week. The resignation of Richard Nixon should restore much of the faith the American people have lost in this republican form of government. The system still works, in spite of the decades of erosion of our liberties and undermining of our institutions by those in power. The last time I was filled with pride for and confidence in the leadership of this country was during World War II and its immediate aftermath. But as I watched the televised hearings of the House Judiciary Committee debating the articles of impeachment against Mr. Nixon, I was impressed with the caliber of the committee members. Their fairness and handling of the issues was heartening. They, without question, reflected the mood of the people they were elected to serve. For the first time in many years Congress stood "tall in the saddle," and America was treated to a demonstration of the goodness and soundness of the American system of government. There is not an American who has not gained from the ordeal just ended. It is like a breath of fresh air through a political stum that has too long been permitted to fester. It should give renewed faith and confidence in a system that had grown shaky because of public apathy and power hungry leaders. It should instill greater trust in the administration of American justice which has been faltering so long. Other nations must have seen how the republic was going—how it had fallen into the hands of its leaders and how it was becoming so far removed from the people—and be equally impressed by the basic soundness of the American system. People in other countries, still under the yoke of their rulers, can now be satisfied that America is still unique, still responsive to the people, and that even the highest men in government are not immune from the consequences of violating a workable Constitution.

● In no other country has the transition of national power been transferred so quickly and smoothly. Mr. Nixon resigned one day, Mr. Ford was president the next. There was no demonstrations, no sound of gunfire, no national agonizing. In government offices across the land it was business as usual. The country went about its considerable business. The stock market, that sensitive economic barometer, went up a few points. No troops were mobilized. The system was working. Contrast this amazing transfer of power to what happened in Athens a month ago, or in Portugal before that. Contrast it with what happened in Chile, Cuba, Argentina—any country in recent years where an abrupt change in leadership has come to pass. It makes me proud to be an American. We may see the day when "patriotism" will be respectable once again instead of the dirty word it has been for too long.

● Rep. Al Ullman is the new chairman of the House Budget Committee. Ullman told the Gazette-Times Thursday that the nation is desperately turning to the Congress to cope with the nation's chaotic economic situation. He said he would lead a group charged with controlling the federal budget and setting spending ceilings for each major government agency. "We must send a signal loud and clear to the people," Ullman said, "that we are totally committed to the new budget concept." If Ullman is telling us Congress is now dedicated to less federal spending, that news is received with great joy. Of one thing we can be sure, many congressmen are pushing for even more federal spending. For example, Speaker of the House Carl Albert is demanding a fourth House Office Building, even though we have just completed the Rayburn House Office Building at a cost of \$120 million. Congress wants to renovate the Dirksen Senate Office Building at a cost of \$60 million. A new Library of Congress building is now being built at a cost of \$90 million, and 230 congressmen have signed a petition favoring that building being taken over by the House of Representatives for their own use. Congress wants to spend \$18 million for an expanding U.S. Tax Court. The Department of Labor is being given a new \$95 million building. HEW is getting a \$40 million building. These are all tax dollars. Just this list alone amounts to more than one billion dollars. It is a bit difficult to see how Al Ullman and his new House Budget Committee is going to curtail federal spending when Members of Congress are hellbent on providing more and luxurious quarters from which to send out appeals for economy in government. And while this billion-dollar marble construction spree is under way in Washington, few homes are being built in Hometown, USA. Congress is taking care of itself while other American families, who can't afford \$35,000 to \$50,000 for a reasonable dwelling, are forced into trailer homes, packing crate shanties and substandard housing. Now that our spendthrift president has resigned his office, perhaps we should consider impeachment charges against an equally spendthrift congress.

● By the time the city council meets I expect a bill of impeachment against Chief of Police Dean Gilman—for contributing to the obstruction of justice. It happened this way. Gregg Sweeney was preparing to leave for Boy Scout camp in the Wallowa Mountains last week. His father, Lord High Mayor Jerry Sweeney, was unloading Gregg's gear from the family station wagon in front of the Elks Club. After which the mayor entered a restaurant for a cup of coffee. About this time Dean began making his rounds to ticket cars at expired meters. The mayor, who must have joined the Gazette-Times' crusade to outlaw the two-headed bandits, hadn't bothered to put a coin in the parking meter. Gregg saw Dean coming and rushed out to put money in the meter to save his father a parking violation ticket (and if that isn't a Boy Scout good deed I'll ride the meanest bull at the rodeo). Gregg found himself coinless, but not without resources. He rushed up to Dean and asked to borrow a penny. Not knowing that justice was about to be prostituted, Dean loaned him a penny. Gregg hastily inserted it in the meter before Dean could get his ticket book out of his pocket. I don't know that the law has been served in this case, but justice shore has!

● Bill Collins, Heppner's leading cleaner and presser and resident raconteur, was telling with a straight face how the Democrats have let up on Nixon. In fact, he told a charmed audience at the Wagon Wheel, that the Democrats are going to give the former president a big party. "After which," Bill said, "Sen. Ted Kennedy is going to drive him home."

● A few weeks ago I commented on the rattlesnake hunts held down in Texas and proclaimed it is good for the country to get those varmints cleaned out. Howard Cornwell of Falls, Tex., who has been a regular rattlesnake roundup participant for more than 40 years, tells me that cutting down the rattler population has seriously impaired the balance of nature in places like Big Spring, Tex., where snakes have been thrived out. Cornwell said wildlife studies show that rattlers eat rats. With rattlers gone, the rats are thriving. And rats are more destructive than the snakes. He gave an example: one rat can eat or destroy more food that it takes to sustain six head of cattle. One rancher near Dickens, Tex., became alarmed because no quail appeared on his ranch. He called in a wildlife specialist who reported that the wholesale killing of rattlers has permitted rats to increase, and the rats in search of food had raided and destroyed the quail nests. So there you are. Maybe Cornwell is right in believing that all these creatures, however pesky, serve a purpose or else they wouldn't be here. That will be a hard pill to swallow the next time a mosquito does his thing on the back of my neck.



A CRYING SHAME . . .

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

The fellers at the country store studied the situation up one side and down the other Saturday night, and they was of a mind that turning gold loose on the open market is a bad move.

First off, it would wreck a Government record. Gold is the only thing the Government controls that ain't fell apart. Second, when everybody can buy and sell gold the price is certain to go so high the Government will have to step in and set the price controls on the stuff. This line of figuring put the fellers in a position to perpose a strange course of action for Government. Let well enuff alone.

But Ed Gony was strong in favor of the plan to inventory our gold reserves at Fort Knox at least twice a year. If a \$5 gold piece is worth \$20 on the open market, Ed allowed, we ought to make shore ever speck we got is accounted fer. And with all going on in Washington these days we better check ever morning to make shore Fort Knox is still there.

Actual, went on Ed, there's somepun about Government property that brings out the worst in folks. He had saw where a house in New York City had stood fer nearly 200 year without being bothered. But the state bought it as a historical site, and in three months thieves had made off with everthing in it, and had even stole the mantles, doorknobs and boards off the wall.

Personal, Mister Editor, I don't know nothing about gold standards and world money problems and I git that mixed up. The only thing I can see is that if a feller had a bit of gold it'd be heavy in his pocket and he'd feel like he had somepun. Paper money is gitting as cheap as it is light. I saw where some feller in Florida got ahold of a \$10 bill with the signature printed upside down. The wonder is that he could hold on to the bill long enuff to notice the name.

Speaking of paper, Clem Webster had this report on Government paperwork prepared by Sen. Thomas McIntyre. The senator said that ever year the federal Government files enough paper to fill Yankee Stadium "from the playing field to the top of the stands" 51 times. Exactly how the good senator figured this out wasn't said, Ed allowed, but the pile is two billion forms, 10 pieces fer every man, woman and child in the country. The senator said the cost of processing this paper is \$36 billion, or 10 per cent of the entire federal budget.

With that in mind, Ed went on, you can see what kind of panic it throwed the federal Government in to learn that we are running short of paper clips. Fer want of a clip a paper is lost, fer want of a paper a tax return is lost and so on thru our red tape kingdom. All them forms would blow out of Yankee Stadium and the country would be lost under the litter.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.



In Ireland, a peckler of 9 elderberries was once considered a cure for epilepsy.

COW POKES

By Ace Reid



"It don't look like I can keep you from throwing me off all the time, but I bet them deer hunters will do it!"

CROSSROADS REPORT

DEAR EDITOR:

I see where a law is in the works to set up another vast government agency to protect us consumers from our general stupidity.

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This new gang will be in addition to the army of \$30,000- to \$40,000-a-year political parasites already pestering the producers who make their living by making life easier for us.

+++

Apparently we are doomed to endure and pay these people to protect us, and we may have to try to make a deal with them to double their pay if they will keep their noses out of our business.

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

quote/unquote

"If it hadn't been for football and the fact that I got my leg broke and had to go into the movies to eat, why, who knows? I might have turned out to be a liberal Democrat."—John Wayne, actor.

UNLIKELY LETTERS

Director of Waterways
Province of Galilee

Honorable Sir:

I wish to respectfully call to your attention the deplorable state of contamination that exists in the Sea of Galilee. Many times we fishermen don't catch anything. In fact, the pollution is so bad that somebody could almost walk on the water.

Very truly yours,

Peter

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

This is a letter of appreciation to all those people who gave of their time, energy, and money to support our petition drive to put an initiative on the November ballot to change our new liberal marijuana law.

We feel that with more time we would have been successful in securing the necessary number of signatures. Persons passing petitions advised that 90 per cent of the people contacted were willing to sign. There seemed to be a lack of knowledge about the law and particularly about the quantity of an ounce of marijuana. When they understood that an ounce of marijuana is not an experimental amount, but an amount that can make up to 30 "joints," enough to put from 15 to 20 persons in a mind altered "high" state, and could certainly be a "pushers" amount, then there was great concern and interest in supporting our petition. Time was our main detriment.

Many comments were received that we were still too liberal in our initiative. Among those, the Portland City Police Dept. advised: "We cannot compromise and agree to any law authorized limits on any drug or narcotic. Should your organization strive to eliminate the limits and make all amounts equally illegal, we would be interested. Your efforts are in the right direction, but just not strong enough for us. We are not unaware of the attempts to legalize marijuana entirely, or of the pious liberals weeping for the users of small amounts. We realize there is a "general feeling" among the uninformed citizenry that it is "too hard" on those poor people that get arrested for "only having a couple" of marijuana cigarettes. Nonetheless, we are informed and we know of the evils of marijuana, and we will not compromise our position."

The reception and treatment accorded us on our visits with police through the state was tremendous, but for the Police Depts. of Eugene and Woodburn, who could not find time for us.

We intend to have another petition drive for the next general election. With the ground work already laid, we feel certain of success. Anyone wishing to help, contact the Committee Against Liberal Drug Law, P.O. Box 419, Hermiston, Oregon 97131.

WIVIAN KALAL, Secretary,
Committee Against Liberal Drug Laws.

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Defiant bishops produce priestesses

By LESTER KINSOLVING

National attention has been focused for some time upon California's illiterate, but ingenious ordination-by-mail magnate, the Rev. Dr. Kirby Hensley, of Modesto.

Among other intriguing activities, Dr. Hensley, founder of the Universal Life Church, has managed to ordain an estimated two million people — as well as a number of Siamese cats.

Not to be outdone in the realm of innovative liturgical adventure, three prelates of the Episcopal Church (all retired) recently staged an ordination service in North Philadelphia, which, in some respects upstaged even the Rev. Dr. Hensley's feline sacramentary.

Bishops Daniel Corrigan, Robert DeWitt and Edward Welles, formerly of dioceses in Denver, Philadelphia and Kansas City, on July 29 carried out their announced-in-advance intent to defy an impressive segment of the very same church law which they once swore to uphold — and to disregard the earnest pleadings of their fellow bishops (unretired) — by conducting a service of ordination to the priesthood for 11 eager-eyed ladies.

The three bishops announced piously that their action in this regard was "obedience to the Lordship of Christ," — which terminology, under the circumstances, constitutes what might be called a holy mystery.

For it is indeed mysterious that Christ allegedly waited until all three of these particular bishops were safely retired on guaranteed pensions before issuing what they announced was "His command" — to produce priestesses.

It is indeed remarkable, for example, that prior to his retirement just 10 months ago, Bishop DeWitt, while in charge of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, declined the repeated requests of Deacon Suzanne Hiatt for ordination to the priesthood.

But things were very different then. For such an ordination would have caused trouble in DeWitt's own diocese—not to mention a national crisis for DeWitt's close friend John E. Hines, who recently retired as the ranking prelate, or Presiding Bishop, of the 3.2 million-member denomination. Such an ordination would have been a major problem and embarrassment for Hines.

But now Hines has been succeeded by a much less liberally way-out bishop named John Allin. While Hines and DeWitt are busy trying to resurrect a defunct church magazine called "The Witness" which (dare we say it) will undoubtedly become known as "The Witless." And what better way to attract national attention and publicity for a revived but liberal sheet than to drop the female ordination hand grenade in the new Presiding Bishop's lap? — even if this year's denomination apart, as it probably will unless Allin takes a firm hand.

The ordination service at the enormous Church of the Advocate in the heart of Philadelphia's black community was opened with a sermon by layman Charles Willie, vice-president of the denomination's House of Deputies, a professor and black militant abrasion-artist from Syracuse University. As the climax of what seemed like a 30-minute non-stop bellow, Dr. Willie cried:

"I stand ready to suffer the consequences of my action, for I know, like Dr. King, that unearned suffering is redemptive!"

The idea that Dr. Willie's Syracuse U. salary will "suffer" by as much as even one dime is almost as comic as this thinly-veiled comparison of Charles Willie and Martin Luther King Jr. But even this chutzpah was exceeded by one of the Episcopal far left who were present, and ready with hisses and boos, when five clergy dared to offer unshouted protest when it was called for in the service.

For the Rev. David Gracie of Philadelphia, the Episcopal edition of Abbe Hoffman — as one of this occasion's marshals — threatened to evict UPI photographer Michael Feldman from the church. ("Graceless Davie" has a ministry which runs the gamut from refusing to pay his income taxes to shrieking his negative comments with obscenities in public.)

Then, shortly after this encounter, the lady clergy were asked the question from the Ordinal of the Book of Common Prayer: "Will you reverently obey your bishop . . ." — an interesting question indeed, because at that very hour most of them were disobeying their bishops who had asked them not to participate in this travesty.

But at the precise instant that this embarrassing question was asked by one of the rebel bishops, someone — or something — fell on the organ keyboard, which caused a bass blast.

The unscheduled music was brief. But it was ominous enough to suggest the possibility that the Holy Spirit might have been present — and not pleased.

Lexington Flood . . .

(Continued from page 1)

\$10,000, was borne by the National Weather Service.

Sabin, who has installed the alarm systems all over the nation, said he had never encountered the hospitality, friendliness and cooperation that was shown him during his week's stay in Heppner. "I knew this hospitality when I was a child and lived in small towns," he said, "but I thought it had disappeared." He was impressed by the cooperation received from the hospital staff, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Buschke, city and county officials. "It's fantastic," he said, "and if I spent another week here I'd probably settle down."

Lexington residents went to the polls Tuesday and approved a \$205,000 general obligation bond issue, 50-20, to upgrade the water system.

The city plans to build a new reservoir to approximately 300,000 gallon capacity, install a new pump and nearly one mile of distribution line within the city.

It is expected that the Farm Home Administration will purchase the bonds.

