

Horse sense

By

ERNEST V. JOINER



● Last week our editorial cartoonist came up with President Ford jerking the rug from under the Democratic Donkey, an obvious statement that Ford's conduct in office had seized the issues upon which the Democrats relied to regain control of the country at the next general election. This week he should redraw the cartoon showing President Ford sliding that rug back under the donkey. The president's absolute pardon of former President Nixon for any and all crimes committed during the Watergate affair will no doubt give strength to the Democratic cause. Far from closing the book on Watergate, Mr. Ford has opened a totally new can of worms. If justice is to be done, all those convicted of Watergate crimes should be similarly pardoned and all those awaiting trial should have their charges dismissed. Failing that, it can be said with certainty that equal justice under the law applies to all, except presidents and vice-presidents.

● I knew we were in for trouble when President Ford, in making his statement granting pardon to Mr. Nixon before he had even been convicted of anything, prefaced his decision by repeated reference to God and Divine guidance. Any time a man begins justifying an act by invoking the Deity, piously rolling his eyes heavenward, I unconsciously button down the flap on the pocket where I keep my billfold and cross my legs, because I learned long ago that when this happens I am fixing to be swindled, or worse. Frankly, I doubt that God had anything to do with absolving Mr. Nixon in advance for his alleged crimes. I think Mr. Ford was prompted by political considerations and pressure from Mr. Nixon's friends. There may be substance to the theory that Mr. Ford agreed in advance to pardon Mr. Nixon as the price Mr. Ford had to pay for being appointed vice-president. Whatever the motive of the president, it would have been nice if Mr. Ford had taken the responsibility for his act and not attempted to put part of the blame on the Lord.

● Mr. Ford mentioned the suffering the Nixon family is undergoing, and that they had suffered enough. Charity and compassion were involved in granting the pardon. Mr. Ford could have been even more charitable and more compassionate had he emptied the jails and prisons of the country and returned the inmates thereof to the bosoms of their families, thus creating great joy and thanksgiving among so many more people. The emptied jails could be beaten into homes for the poor, and great would be the rejoicing in the land.

● Mr. Ford lied to the American people. As vice-president he said the Nixon matter would be pursued through the courts. He called upon Special Prosecutor Jaworski to do his duty; no matter who was involved. Later, as president, Mr. Ford publicly stated that the American people "would not stand" for a presidential pardon for Mr. Nixon. They just may not.

● It is established that Mr. Jaworski has drawn up criminal charges against former President Nixon, and was prepared to file them. Mr. Ford knew all this, and rushed to grant the pardon before the charges could even become public knowledge. Had Mr. Ford done the proper thing he would have let the wheels of justice grind. Then, should Mr. Nixon be found guilty, Mr. Ford could have exercised clemency. As the matter stands, however, Mr. Ford himself, by granting the pardon, interfered with and obstructed the course of American justice? What we have in President Ford, I am pained to say, is another politician with his perennial feet of clay. Better, I believe, that we should know it now.

● Americans are becoming ultra-sensitive. We have already changed the words of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn and "done in" Stephen Foster for using words that, while in current good taste at the time of writing, are forbidden words today. We can't even call a Mexican a Mexican any more; he's got to be some kind of a Latin American. I suppose I could be crucified for recalling the time when the popular word was Spick, Greaser or Pepper Belly, so I won't. Glenn Ward of the Oregon State Wildlife Commission brought up another no-no in his speech at the Chamber of Commerce Monday. During hunting season in the Heppner area we do not say what actually happened—that 1800 bucks were killed here last year. There is now official terminology. Bucks are no longer killed. They are harvested. Like a field of wheat, Ward said the reason we can't say "killed" any longer is because the word upsets people. I don't suppose it will be long now before what's good for the buck is good for the man, and this newspaper will report that "John Smith, angered in an argument in a local tavern, whipped out his .38 and harvested his old friend, Bobby Jones."

● When the Oregon Legislature passes thousands of new laws every session it should come as no surprise that I didn't know it was illegal to bring liquor into the state from outside. Nobody can digest that many laws a year. Besides, people have almost stopped obeying foolish laws—and this is a foolish law. My sympathies are with the two area justices of the peace who were arrested at Lakeview Friday and charged with smuggling liquor into the state from Nevada. As long as liquor is cheaper anywhere else there will be people (including me) who will buy it there and bring it here. Oregon spends a lot of money urging its residents to do comparative shopping—to get the most for one's money. Then it arrests and charges with smuggling those who follow that advice and buy their booze where it's cheaper! Perhaps our readers can furnish a better example of hypocrisy. If Oregon wants its people to consume only liquor purchased in Oregon, all it has to do is to price its liquor, on which it has a monopoly, competitively with other states instead of being greedy and piling tax on tax that makes it sensible as well as profitable to buy the stuff out of state. As I said, liquor is a monopoly in Oregon. The next time some state politician is heard bad-mouthing the outrageously high costs of consumer goods arbitrarily set by "greedy" corporations who can get away with it because they enjoy a monopoly, refer them to the identical practices of the liquor monopoly maintained by the State of Oregon.

● I have a letter from Mira Land of Ayreshire, Scotland, which reads in part: "I am going to kill myself if you don't help me find Mr. Michele, who shall be working on a stock farm in the Heppner area." If Mr. Michele reads this, or if anyone knows Mr. Michele, he should contact the Gazette-Times immediately for an urgent message.



The Romans believed that if one of their leaders drove a nail in the Capitol on September 15th, a pestilence could be stopped or a calamity averted.



Opening Scene Ends...Second Scene Begins...

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

Now that President Ford has brought up the subject of amnesty and made his point that he is the real "good guy," I find that impossible to believe after his choosing one of the No. 1 warlords as his vice-president. No, Mr. Ford, I'll never buy that warmed over baloney. Mr. Editor, with your permission, I would like to express my opinion on amnesty. Amnesty should be granted now, not tomorrow, and with no strings attached. They should have their complete freedom as true Americans without any type of restrictions imposed by the muscle brains in the U.S. government or the brass brains in the Pentagon. With all due respect for the young men who were drafted, who fought and were killed and crippled; and for those who returned—they have my highest respect, for in their hearts they felt their government surely knew what it was doing. They'll never be more wrong, for the government's only concern was to slaughter (or murder) thousands of these kids while slaughtering millions of defenseless human beings halfway around the world who wanted to be our friends. But the Chamber of Commerce, which made God only knows how many millionaires, destroyed this friendship.

I feel any government or any people that would send kids 10,000 miles from home, drop them in a jungle with a gun and an order to kill or be killed (half a million men fighting Communism—at least that's what the bird brains in Washington, D.C., said) while the other side probably has 25 or 30 million combat ready soldiers, is stupid and rotten. Amnesty now, with no restrictions.

OTTO H. JORGENSEN JR.
Scappoose.

EDITOR:

As secretary of the Medical Services Committee which is actively involved in recruiting a doctor for this area, I would like to thank you for your support, excellent news coverage, and printing of our doctor search certificates.

Your interest in our various activities is greatly appreciated and I'm sure will bring results.

PAT WRIGHT, Secretary,
Medical Services Committee.

UNLIKELY LETTERS

Vienna Public Employment Service
15 Frederick
Vienna, Austria

Gentlemen:

I respectfully request a replacement for the young lady whom you sent to me as a secretary. While she is very able, all she talks about -- and I am embarrassed to say this -- is sex. After all I must give some thought to my reputation in society.

Yours nervously,
Sigmund Freud

— by Williams —

the SOVEREIGN STATE of AFFAIRS



CROSSROADS REPORT

DEAR EDITOR:

News is that a Florida citizen has sued a church group for return of \$800 in tithes he says the preacher got from him with promises that the Lord would give him blessings.

+++

But he claims the money was obtained with false promises, because he hasn't yet got any blessings he can spend.

+++

And if this fellow wins his case, my bamboozled neighbor is going to sue his Congressman who promised that his \$10 campaign contribution would get him vast blessings from Washington.

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

quote/unquote

"There is an almost universal human desire to believe that peace is the natural condition of man, that armies are temporary nuisances, that conflicts of interest can be dissolved by a policy of goodwill. None of these things is true, but people like to believe they are; and one of the differences between democracies and the other sort of political system is that in democracies people elect politicians who can form governments which behave as if wishes were facts."—The Economist, London.

EDITOR:

I saw the article about the book on Lexington written by Sam McMillan. I would like to know how much this book costs, as I would like to have one—if it isn't too expensive.

I thoroughly enjoy your Horse Sense column and the Mayor of Hardman. The mail service has been very slow lately and I've had problems getting the paper, but better late than never, I guess. It seems to be a national problem.

MRS. FRED A. KING,
Bellevue, Wa.
Bellevue, Wa.

(ED. NOTE:—The book, The Bunchgrassers, is \$7.50. As for the slow mail, I suggest there is no solution as long as the government runs it. One of Joiner's Laws is that when postal employees get a raise, service goes down. They had a raise recently. One more and we can start the carrier pigeons! Be brave. As soon as President Ford gives me full, free and absolute pardon in advance, I am going to strangle the people who run the U.S. Postal Service.)

EDITOR:

Citizens worked hard to build Pioneer Memorial Hospital and over the years have generously voted increased tax dollars to continue to run the hospital. Once more citizens are being asked to help. This time to finance a campaign to locate a doctor or doctors in Heppner.

We have a well-equipped, well-staffed hospital. We have two doctors in our community, one of whom would like to retire. But this is not enough to put our hospital in the black and keep it there. Heppner needs more doctors.

The doctors and hospital administrator have tried their best to recruit doctors to Heppner. This summer a citizens' committee, now titled the Doctors' Search Committee, was organized by Inter-Agency and the County Court to intensify the campaign.

Since its formation, our committee has been faced with three hard facts: (1) There is a critical shortage of doctors who wish to locate in small towns; (2) Communities, such as ours, who do get doctors, have personally gone out and aggressively campaigned for doctors, thus putting our kind of community into a highly competitive category; and (3) It takes money to run this kind of campaign.

We have begun a money-raising campaign to raise \$3,000 to recruit doctors to locate in Heppner. If we can raise \$1,000 in the next two weeks we hope to hire a recruiter to work for us who has brought doctors into other small communities. We have personally met with Mrs. Helen Chenoweth and received high recommendations on her capabilities. Recruiting is done in October, so she needs to know our intentions in the near future. We have possibilities of medical schools where we can send some of our committee members to recruit, but it takes money.

To raise money, we are selling non-redeemable certificates of appreciation in \$5, \$10 and \$25 amounts. These are available at Murray's Drug, Peterson's Jewelry, Bank of Eastern Oregon, and First National Bank in Heppner; Del's Market in Lexington and Bristow's Market in Ione. Any size donation, however, will be greatly appreciated.

Already several individual businesses and organizations have pitched in to help get the campaign under way. We particularly wish to thank the Gazette-Times for printing the certificates for us, and those places of business selling the certificates.

We feel confident that Morrow County people will help in this campaign. Please pass the word along, where ever you travel that "One Friendly Town Needs More Doctors."

LIZ CURTIS,
Doctors' Search Committee.

BOYD and WOOD

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

People is ferever talking about the balance of nature, and how if people would leave nature alone she'd keep everthing running slick. Mister Editor, I've studied this claim up one side and down the other and I'm of a mind that nature gits things about as mixed up as folks do.

Fer instant, why can't a feller face the big decisions in his life when he's 17 and knows everthing, instead of when he's 40 and ain't sure about nothing?

How come people have to stick food in their face to git it to their stomach? Why is the outside of our bodies made to stand straight up, when all our inside organs work better when we're laying flay out?

And ever now and then nature fergits and lets a feller keep his hair and lose his teeth. When he gits past 50, a man ain't got no use fer hair, but he needs all the help he can git to chew.

We're jest to soon old and to late smart, Mister Editor, and where nature don't mess us up we finish the job. I saw this piece in the paper the other day where the kudzu vine is about to smother the South. It was put out along the roads to keep the land from washing away, and it has growed to where it covers up trees and crops. Some would say we ought to let nature take care of that eroding problem, but fer my money it takes man and nature working together to git the best benefit out of the land.

Parts of the country has had a awful dry summer, and corn and other grain ain't going to be what we have come to expect. But farmers and ranchers have come to trust themselves and nature, and they'll be right back next year to have another go at it. And when this team is working right they're a wonder to behold.

Actual, fer really messing up the order of things you can't beat the tax laws in this country. Best I can figger, they're opposite all the way. If the little feller in this country has ever found a tax shelter to crawl under, it ain't been since Cal Coolidge come up with his "flexible tariff." My memory gits a little fuzzy, and that's another thing that's backward. When we're young and ain't done nothing to recollect, we can remember everthing. After we git old and have piled up the memories, we can't remember em.

But if I recollect right, Cal fixed it so we could git some tax relief on items like sheep dip, ax handles and paint brushes, stuff a feller with money wouldn't need. Now we git it rigged so you got to have at least a thousand dollars to buy bonds that pay tax-free interest, and if you buy em in blocks of 10 thousand you git higher interest. The more you can afford the better deal you git on the tax.

It's like the old preacher said, Mister Editor, they may not be nothing fer sure in this world but death and taxes; but death don't go up ever time Congress meets.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.



Grenades in the
Archbishop's
Mercedes

BY
REV. LESTER KINSOLVING

JERUSALEM—Although Israel is widely regarded as one of the bravest nations in history, its government is so extraordinarily sensitive about respecting holy places and allegedly holy men, that certain highly-placed clergy have been getting away with a wide variety of crimes.

East Jerusalem's Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, of the Greek Catholic (Melkite) Church, for example, was arrested on Aug. 8. Israeli police discovered ten hand grenades, two revolvers, four Russian submachine guns and a number of plastic bombs in secret compartments of the Archbishop's Mercedes automobile, after he crossed the border from Lebanon into Israel.

The Archbishop's ownership of this not inexpensive car is significant in view of the Apostolic Exhortation issued only last April 5 by Capucci's ultimate superior, Pope Paul VI. "Unfortunately the church in the holy land is lacking in material means," wrote the Pope to Catholics throughout the world. "It is not possible to ask the local faithful for sufficient help, since most of them have barely enough to keep themselves alive."

Yet, on the very same day that the holy father issued this moving appeal for money, his Mercedes-driving Jerusalem Archbishop reported to police that his residence was robbed of a suitcase containing \$250,000, plus jewelry, cigarette lighters and other valuables worth \$2,250. (Five days later, police revised this loss from \$250,000 to \$25,000.)

Archbishop Capucci was not arrested, despite his violation of the Israeli law which prohibits holding of foreign currency in one's home.

But when Capucci was arrested for running bombs and machine guns, Patriarch Maximos V. Hakim of Damascus joined assorted Palestinian terrorist groups and Arab governments in charging Israel with a "conspiracy" against the Catholic church—which he intends to report to Pope Paul, as well as to President Gerald Ford, according to the "Beirut Daily Star."

But Newsweek magazine's Jerusalem bureau reported: (a) Patriarch Hakim himself was arrested for smuggling in the 1960's—but let go by Israeli authorities; (b) Archbishop Capucci has confessed not only to the gunrunning, but to serving as paymaster for the terrorist Al Fatah organization as well.

That the Pope pleaded last April with the world's Catholics to send money to such clergymen suggests inexcusable negligence on the part of his Middle East advisors in the Vatican.

The Pontiff might do well to take note of the statement of Capucci's fellow Melkite archbishop, Joseph Raya, of Galilee:

"I can say that the Israeli government cannot be so unjust as to fabricate reports to implicate people, particularly a religious man, if there is no truth in the matter."

Archbishop Raya, formerly of Birmingham, Ala., noted that the last time Capucci was arrested he had intervened and secured a release.

During an exclusive interview in Haifa on Aug. 3, Archbishop Raya told me that his life has been threatened by Al Fatah—the same murderous organization with whom patriarch Hakim was photographed, in conference, on Aug. 22, by the "Beirut Daily Star."

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER

Box 337, Heppner, Ore. 97836

Subscription rate: \$5 per year in Oregon, \$6 elsewhere.

Ernest V. Joiner, Publisher

Publishes every Thursday, and entered as a second-class matter at the post office at Heppner, Oregon, under the act of March 3, 1879. Second-class postage paid at Heppner, Oregon.