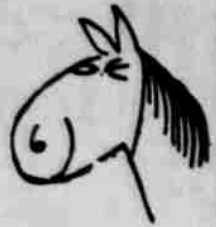


# Horse sense



By ERNEST V. JOINER

● That wire story from Washington Friday about chances for reviving the Willow Creek Dam project is pure smoke. The dam is buried for good. The story was a political caper. This is election year and Cong. Al Ullman doesn't plan to lose any more votes than he has to, so his office told reporters there is a chance the dam could be reauthorized. This was the carrot. Our Excellencies has been dangling successfully before the eyes of local residents for 40 years, so he must have thought it would work again. But for all our sakes, I hope nobody ever mentions reviving this money-glutted albatross that has swung 'round the necks of Heppnerites for so many years and upon which so many hundreds of thousands of our tax dollars have been expended in making jobs for federal paper shufflers and sometime engineers. And any politician naive enough to bring up the dam again ought to be tarred, feathered and dumped on the outskirts of town. The late and lamented Willow Creek Dam should be an object lesson to the nation: if there's a job that needs doing, keep the government out of it. Some people know this already, which may be why so many business men are hand-delivering their own letters and monthly statements these days!

● Last week we were discussing proposed amendments to the constitution to be voted upon by the people on Nov. 5. The proposed amendments are important, more so than voting for candidates. We can vote out a bad legislator; he may die of natural or for justifiable cause. But a bad constitutional amendment is almost as permanent as the World War II Temporary Tax on telephone calls. Repealing a constitutional amendment is like reversing apple pie, motherhood and Henry Kissinger. Which is why we're talking about those amendments (which are all different) and not candidates (who are all alike).

● No. 8. This measure would reduce the minimum age for voting in a school district election from 21 to 18 years of age and reduces the requirement of six months' residence to 30 days' residence in the district. Voting is a precious privilege anywhere in the world it exists, and it should not be given lightly. Those who have the franchise should nurture and treasure it, exercise it wisely and with maturity. I do not feel that many 18-year-olds appreciate the right to vote, have the maturity necessary to pass on the issues or realize the gravity of the process of voting. I am aware that some adults at age 60 lack the maturity and responsibility to make good voters, but the rules have to be applied somewhere. No on # 8.

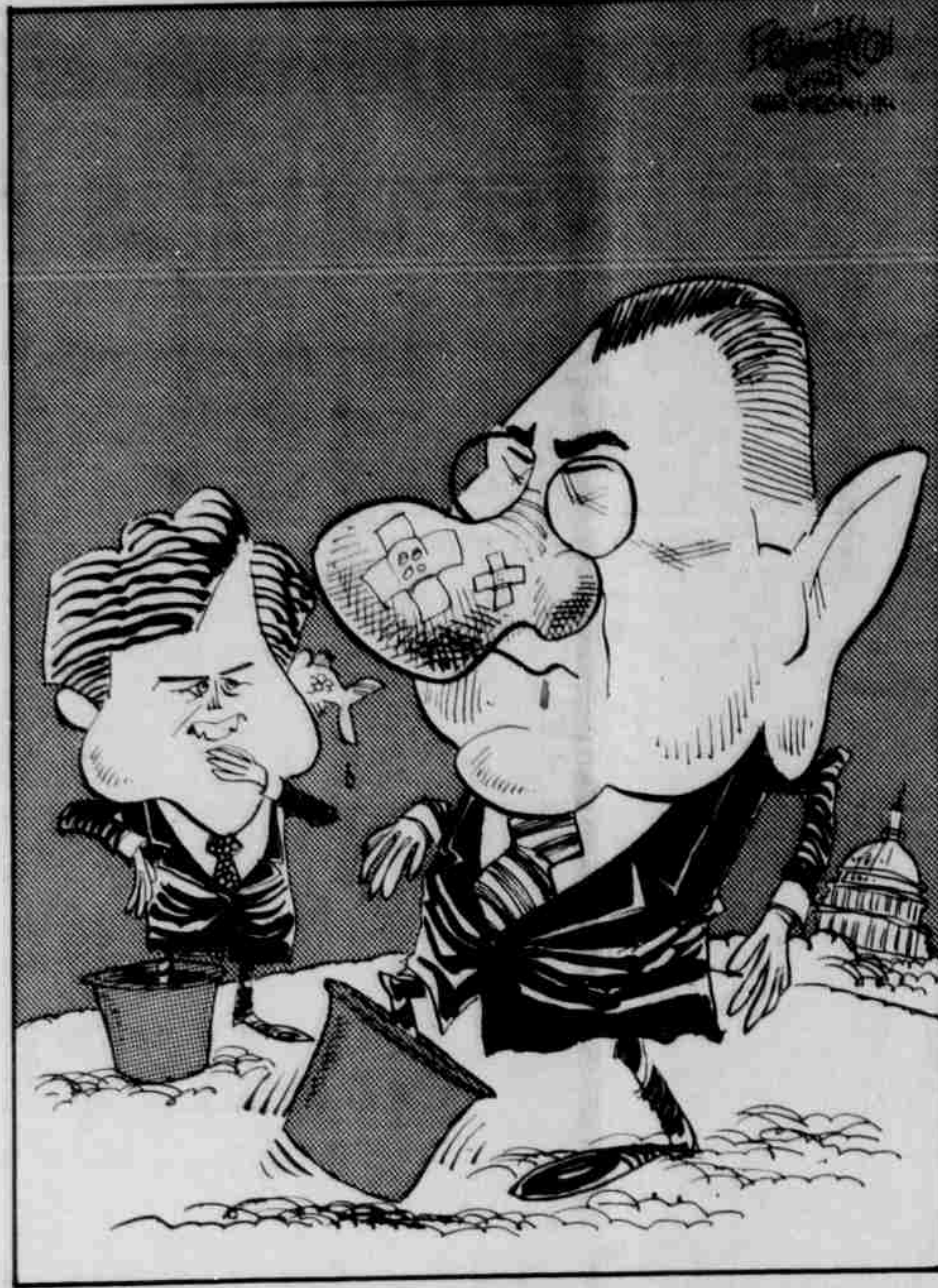
● No. 9. Voter approval of this proposed constitutional amendment would permit a state employee, other than an executive in the exempt or nonacademic unclassified service, to simultaneously serve as a member of the legislature. The legislature would provide for rules governing leaves, position protection and other employment relationships during election campaigns and during legislative service. It would be difficult for any state employee to serve simultaneously in the legislature without having a conflict of interest. If a state employee wants to stand for election to the legislature, he may do so. If he loses, he can still be rehired on his state job—if he's needed. If he isn't needed, why should he be hired? This is another step toward setting up an entrenched governmental hierarchy. The people would be wise to vote no on No. 9.

● No. 10. This proposed amendment would revise the Oregon voter qualification law and make it conform to the U.S. Constitution by lowering the minimum voting age for all elections in Oregon from 21 to 18 years of age. It would reduce the state residency requirements from six months to 30 days. It would also eliminate requirements that every voter be able to read and write the English language. If No. 10 (this one) is passed, what are we doing being asked to vote on No. 8, which is essentially the same amendment? I oppose No. 10 for the same reasons I oppose No. 8 and No. 4. And the intention to let people vote who can neither read nor write their own language is absurd. If a man wants to participate in government he should be able to read and write, unless we are enamored of illiterates and desire to exalt them. Should there be some incentive to learn to read and write? If we extend voting privileges to illiterates, won't there soon be enough of them to elect an illiterate president and an illiterate Congress? The fate of the republic should not be placed in the hands of these sloven, lazy dummies. No on No. 10.

● No. 11. At present a person is entitled to a jury trial in a civil case involving \$20 or more. This proposed amendment would raise this limit to \$200. When the present provision was made a part of the state constitution, \$20 was a real head of lettuce. Not today. A good cap pistol costs that much. \$20 then equals \$200 now. We're just keeping up with inflation by raising the ante here. Besides, anybody with no more than a \$20 beef who can't settle it in the back alley with his fists hasn't got any business clogging up our courts and forcing taxpayers to hire jurors to adjudicate a \$20 cap pistol. Spending \$500 in tax money in order to settle a \$20 dispute is "economic unfeasibility" (as our Willow Creek Dam assassins recently reasoned). Let us raise the ante to \$200 and get the courts out of the peanuts business. Yes on No. 11.

● No. 12. This one would permit state bonding to assist cities and counties in such matters as housing, water supplies, streets, lighting, etc. Total bonds cannot exceed 1 per cent of the value of taxable property in the state, or \$276 million at present. The state would very much like to complete the act of taking over cities and counties by making them dependent upon it for such vital services—especially when the state proposes to finance the bonds by raising our property taxes. No thanks.

● No. 13. Surprise! We have another obscenity and sexual conduct bill—as a constitutional amendment yet! This amendment would make it a crime to distribute or exhibit obscene materials to adults or to conduct live sex shows in public places or clubs. It prohibits sexual intercourse (want to bet?) for a fee (But it's OK, fellows, if it's free). It also prohibits any physical touching for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire—and prohibits paying for either. Do you ever get the feeling that your sex life is none of the government's business? And that if the government can't even catch a last-class burglar there isn't much chance it can apprehend a guy who gets his gratification by tweeking somebody's nose? Does it matter that the U.S. Supreme Court has tried, and failed, to even define obscenity? Or that every obscenity law passed by any state has been declared unconstitutional? If the Lord can't stop people from looking at Playboy centerfolds, Oregon isn't going to. Obscenity, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. Each person is the best judge of what is and what is not obscene, and each person has the right to accept or reject his judgment. It is one of the few choices we have left. But, if Oregon must make a fool of itself, nobody will complain because nobody's going to pay any attention to such a law. The big reason I vote No on No. 13 is because I don't want to be laughed at when I visit friends out of state.



"Why Wilbur...You Old Son-Of-A-Gun, You..."

## The mail pouch

EDITOR:

It was of considerable interest to finally see something in print from the pen of Joyce Bergstrom's opponent for the office of county assessor. It has been difficult to determine from the paid advertisements (i.e., mules, etc.) just how the county will or will not benefit if he is elected.

The gentleman's apparent interpretation of the recent letter from Jackson County Assessor Ray Stewart caused us grave apprehension of the candidate's judgement of who informed people are and his "hesitation" (quote) in following their advice.

Hopefully, he realizes the office of county assessor is not a kingdom within itself, but one spoke of 36 in a wheel controlled by a voluminous amount of statutes, many of which are enacted, revised and repealed with each session of the state legislature. Even the most knowledgeable should not "hesitate" to consider the advice of those better informed than himself.

Recent evidence of the importance of this has to be the successful endeavor of Joyce Bergstrom, resulting in uniform farm use values of adjacent counties, saving Morrow County taxpayers approximately \$9,500, that otherwise would have been absorbed in the county's apportionment of the Blue Mountain College 1974-75 levy.

As property owners no longer privileged to express our opinions at the polls in Morrow County, we can only hope the candidate, in the event of his election, is burning the midnight oil, familiarizing himself with the many complexities of the office he seeks.

WAYNE & LOY HARSIN  
Forest Grove,

EDITOR:

While visiting at a friend's house, I had the pleasure of reading your paper of last week.

I was quite interested in the letter about the person who didn't want to ride a mule. After some investigating I found he was a farmer up Willow Creek so I took the liberty of calling him on the phone to find out why he is a mule hater.

This is what he said:  
"I have a mule but really don't like to ride him. But, if it will make anybody happy I will ride him. I have always called him my mule but if it will make anyone feel better I'll call him my ass."

I was quite impressed with this fine show of good will and generosity. So, I think the least that his accuser could do is to go shake hands with him and pat his ass.

SUE FELLER  
Portland,

EDITOR:

In our wanderings we somehow arrived here in Carlsbad, N.M.

Thought you might be interested in this article, since you are a former Texan. It says Texas has \$1 billion in surplus funds and is considering slashing state sales taxes. All "sales tax" states don't come off this well, so perhaps the quality of administration has something to do with it.

We are having a great time seeing the Land of Enchantment on our way to Big Bend National Park; after that perhaps to the Brownsville area of Texas. Have a good winter.

JIM & BOBBE DRISCOLL,  
Heppner.



"Good Grief! That's My Broker!"

## CROSSROADS REPORT

DEAR EDITOR:

The figure jugglers say 85 million Americans were eligible for welfare handouts at some time during the past six years. Which is about 40 per cent of us.

+++

This low figure seems to distress the politician class, who consider it a sign they are not doing their duty as long as 60 per cent of us have enough left after taxes to sort of live on.

+++

So they are working on a new tax bill to cut out enough deductions to get this national indigency figure up to, say, 95 per cent. Or everybody but the taxpayers and their campaign angels.

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

### quote/unquote

"According to a long lost statistic from the Internal Revenue Service, 50 per cent of Americans file their income tax—the other 50 per cent chisel it."—Lake Crystal (Minn.) Tribune.

## Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

The fellers was general agreed after the discussion at the country store Saturday night that they know a lot about wimmen, but they don't know nothing fer shore. Wimmen, allowed Bug Hookum, is as changeable as HEW guidelines.

What got em on the subject was Bug's report that wimmen in this country seem to be getting powerful trigger happy. Bug said it looked to him like more wimmen than ever is doing in their menfolk.

He said he read one piece where a wife up in Maine shot her husband and told the judge she did it to help him out of his financial troubles.

Another wife in Florida explained she shot her old man in the leg cause she loved him so much. He was lucky she didn't love him enough to aim between the eyes, was Bug's words.

And they ain't no way fer a man to turn down all this help and acts of love. Zeke Grubb said he saw by the paper where this feller was in court fer assaulting his wife. He told the judge he never give her a spanking unless she needed it. The judge ruled that no wife ought to be spanked that much, and he put the husband away for three months.

A feller can't please his old lady, said Clem Webster, and furthermore she can't satisfy herself. She'll make up her mind and her face four times a day, and she don't want to be confused with facts. She don't understand that she is overdrawed at the bank, the way she sees it her husband is underdeposited. And she's got the law on her side, Clem said.

He said he saw where this 21-year-old gal in New York City was training to be a prize fighter, and she's already got the rules fixed so when she boxes they can't be no punches below the belt or between the belt and the neck. And what man would try to hit a woman in the nose, Clem asked.

Practical speaking, Hi Doolittle said, he allus had heard that a feller that can keep up a car, a flashlight and a cigaret lighter probable is in a high enough income bracket to keep up a wife, if he gits rid of his car, his flashlight and his cigaret lighter. But he ain't likely to support her in the manner she had expected. Hi said, so she goes out and gits a job and he eats cold beans fer supper that he could of eat without her. And if he complains about that arrangement, she shoots him to help his financial affairs.

Actual, declared Hi, a man dealing with wimmen is up against a stacked deck. He expects to lose cause he don't know the rules, and he loses. He's like the feller that quit smoking and took up chewing toothpicks. He got to feeling poorly and went fer a checkup. The doctor told him to go back to cigars cause the toothpicks had give him dutch elm disease. Men usual find that their solution to wimmen problems is worst than the problems.

Personal, Mister Editor, I know the fellers ain't talking serious when they give wimmen a bad mouth. They jest let off steam now and again when they're well out of earshot of their old ladies.

Yours truly,  
MAYOR ROY.



## Selective Indignation at home and abroad

By LESTER KINSOLVING

"Is it necessarily less moral for American oil companies to do business in Portuguese Guinea than for American wheat dealers to do business with the Soviet Union?"

—Christianity Today magazine

Why is it that so many of the main line Protestant denominations have used their stockholdings in repeated attempts to pressure corporations to take action against the white segregationist government of South Africa—but not against the Arabs who have killed a substantial portion of the black population of Sudan?

Why is it that liberal Protestant church leaders so often declaim loudly against white racism—but say little about the black racism of Uganda's dictator, Gen. Idi Amin ("Big Daddy") Dada?

This same sort of "selective indignation" is seen regularly in Christianity Today's sagging rival, The Christian Century. (Founded some 60 years before Christianity Today, The Century has now dropped to less than one fifth of Today's growing circulation.)

Recently, for example, The Century sent a reporter from Chicago to Palo Alto, Ca., to interview physicist William Shockley about his controversial theories of alleged Negro genetic inferiority. The result ("The Moral Postulates of A Racist") was considerably more civilized than Shockley's treatment at the hands of young storm troopers who are enrolled at such alleged centers of academic freedom as Yale and Princeton.

But when asked why no reporter covered Mayor Richard Daley and the Rev. Jesse Jackson's participation in the honor afforded an especially hateful racist—one "Honorable Elijah Muhammed Day"—The Century's managing editor, Dean Peerman replied: "That's a good question."

Another good question was raised recently at the annual convocation (national convention) of the Church of England. "One rarely opens the newspaper without seeing some fresh new ideology of the World Council of Churches," observed one of the clergy delegates, who proceeded to compare the terrorists of the Irish Republican Army with the African terrorists to whom the World Council of Churches has been sending hundreds of thousands of dollars.

So, the Church of England voted to chop off two thousand pounds of its giving to the World Council of Churches. But for major effect apparently there will have to be similar action by the U.S. and West German churches (which have been the prime source of WCC income)—because the recent WCC Central Committee meeting in Berlin voted to go right ahead with the "Program to Combat Racism" which has been funding the black African terrorists.

The problem in most U.S. denominations who belong to the National and World Council of Churches is that in almost all cases support of these two organizations is a decision made at national conventions or by sequestered ecclesiastical bureaucrats. And the average layman, who does not want to support these organizations in their subsidizing terrorism and in their selective indignation, is generally at a loss as to how to do anything about it—other than cancelling all support of his or her local church. And when this happens, all too often the high ranking bureaucrats are skillful enough to see to it that the financial axe falls on the innocent, whether low-ranking headquarters staffers or (particularly) overseas missionaries.

The only apparent solution is to realize that organized resistance—and sharp inquiry of incumbent office holders—is the only way to bring about desired reforms in the administration of giant, multi-million dollar denominations. And the time to act is not primarily at national religious conventions (which ecclesiastical bureaucrats are expert at manipulating) but when there is the election of local delegates.

## Oregon Country . . . .

By PATRICK STEBER

Gambling has been around for years. The Indian usually gambled for fun but sometimes all his worldly belongings, including wives and children, might be staked in a contest. Losses were accepted without complaint or self pity.

In Indian society gambling was accompanied by a complex set of rituals. The customs of the Calapooia Indians recall elaborate preparations of a spiritual nature which included bathing, fasting and praying prior to any gambling session.

In one game a polished bone was held in one hand. The opponent was challenged to guess which hand held the bone. Stuck counters were passed from the losing side to the winning until all the sticks were on one side. The stakes were then passed to the winner and a new game began.

Any number of persons could make a wager during a game. The player who possessed the most supernatural powers, or luck, was chosen to represent the group.

Chanting, dancing and calling upon the gods were all permissible and sometimes the game went on for days.

Occasionally a blind person was designated to manipulate and hide the bone. His services were invoked during the important matches because of his ability to maintain a poker face.

The Indian women played their own games of chance. By carving varying marks on woodchuck teeth, they fashioned casting bones, similar to dice. The combination of marked or unmarked sides that turned up after the dice were cast determined the winner.

All types of bones were used in the gambling sessions because it was believed that the gods would favor certain bones from a few chosen animals. An old legend near Klamath Falls tells of an Indian chief who cut the forearms from a cavalry soldier for his gambling sticks. But the gods were displeased and sent the ghost of the soldier to haunt the home of the chief.

## The foxes of inflation

Everyone knows you don't hire the fox to guard the hen house. But what can you expect when the farmer who does the hiring is one of the foxes.

Well, it happens in the nation's capital, where your tax dollars are collected and spent. Congress gives federal bureaucrats the job of making the surveys to determine pay increases for 3.5 million federal civilian and military employees. The law under which the increases are computed is intended to make government salaries competitive with jobs in private industry.

Not surprisingly, under such a setup, federal salaries have outstripped those of workers in private industry. An article in Washington Report, biweekly publication of the Chamber of Commerce states, the average federal pay is \$12,984 per year, or 46 per cent more than the average \$8,900 received in the private sector.

"But that's not all. A Department of Labor report states that Federal Government fringe benefits, as a percentage of pay, are about 12 per cent greater than those of workers employed in the private sector. Federal Government employees, according to the report, receive better vacations, holidays, sick and leave benefits, retirement programs and health insurance programs than those employed in the private sector."

Because of rampaging inflation, which hits everyone's pocketbook, President Ford asked the Congress to delay for three months a proposed pay raise of 5.5 per cent for federal workers. The President said the action would save \$700 million this fiscal year and was "essential" in the fight against inflation. Either House could override the President's action by voting to go ahead with the pay raises as scheduled for Oct. 1.

Well, what do you think the foxes did? Ignoring the President's plea, the Senate voted 64 to 35 to go ahead with the pay raises, as scheduled. Surprised?

**THE GAZETTE-TIMES**  
MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER  
Box 337, Heppner, Ore. 97836

Subscription rate: \$6 per year in Oregon, \$7 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.