

Horse sense



By ERNEST V. JOINER

The government has reacted typically to the current inflationary depression (depressed inflation?). It will, as President Ford triumphantly announces, put \$200 in income tax rebate into the average taxpayer's left pocket and extract an estimated \$250 per year in additional gas costs from the right pocket. This is trumpeted as a means of bringing prices down, putting everybody to work and insuring the domestic tranquility. It will, even as any amateur economist knows, do nothing of the kind. Nothing we consume or produce is unaffected by the cost of oil. With gasoline going up, so goes everything else. It takes a lot of fuel to make and deliver a loaf of bread, a hairpin or a comb. The added cost of fuel will be added to the cost of producing and distributing all consumer goods. That means higher prices. Rising prices contribute to inflation, right? Higher costs lead to consumer resistance to spending, is it not so? And inflation makes the natives restless, correct? Thus we are headed for more of what we already enjoy. There is no need to discuss further President Ford's plan for whipping the economy problem. But we do stand in need of at least one responsible statesman who will suggest that we do not send another \$10 billion to India, another \$6 billion to the Mideast, and another \$50 billion to Southeast Asia; that we not pay any more Turkish farmers not to grow poppies; that we cancel the \$1 million cockroach study; and that we lop off one government employe out of every 10. Ah, but there I go dreaming again!

The same day President Ford solved our economic and energy ills, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission found a solution to a cost-price problem: adulterate the booze. Beginning Feb. 1, 10 brands of whiskey will be reduced from 86 proof to 80, but the cost will remain the same. If a food manufacturer adulterated its product the USDA would probably prosecute. Anyway, it will now take more booze for the buzz. But few will complain. The average American believes that Demon Rum deserves all the hell we can give it, which is why a fifth of whiskey would cost about \$1 if all the taxes were removed from its manufacture and sale. I doubt government will be completely happy until it forces the public back into the business of making its own.

I am amused and bemused by the hue and cry raised against the Central Intelligence Agency, accused of spying on 10,000 Americans. The people, and Congress, are pretty mad about it. Frankly, I am in favor of surveillance of American citizens believed to be engaged in criminal activities against the government. My complaint is that there are probably far more than 10,000 assorted schnooks in this country whose so-called "private lives" need public attention. There is a strong feeling in this country that crime and subversion is alright as long as it is done secretly and under protection of the constitutional right to privacy of one's person and papers. Any government has the right (and the duty) to protect itself from subversives. If a revolutionary illegally plots the overthrow of the government, then the government should be entitled to "illegally" ferret them out and bring them to trial. A government that doesn't protect itself from its enemies won't last very long, will it? And we do want this government to last, don't we?

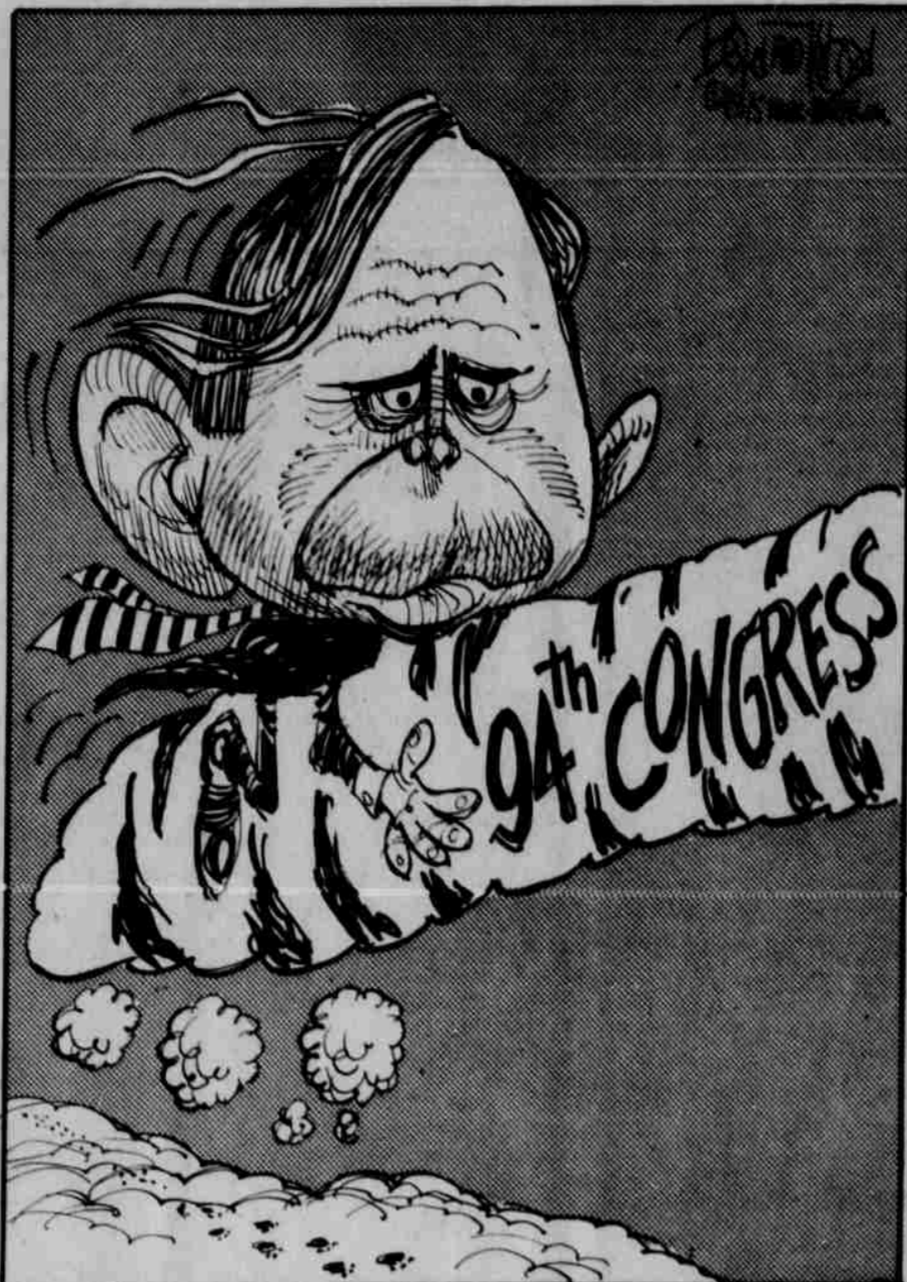
I am not against changing the government. It needs change. But ours is among the few that provide for orderly and bloodless change. It takes a little longer, but nobody gets killed in the process. Big changes have been brought about at the ballot box, and if anyone attempts to subvert this process we ought to be aware of it. Extraordinary circumstances call for extraordinary measures, which is why a man may legally kill another in self-defense, thus violating the deceased's civil rights and ending his "pursuit of happiness." And this government is also empowered to act in self-defense, even if by so doing the dissident's civil rights get cancelled. The constitution guarantees an individual's right to privacy in most matters. The same constitution provides for the punishment of those who seek to overthrow it by force. There is a conflict here, and logic and decency demand that in such conflict the right of the republic to survive prevails.

I am delighted that the CIA and the FBI have tapped the phones and "invaded the privacy" of such people as Angela Davis, the Black Panthers, the Symbionese Liberation Army, Students for a Democratic Society, Communist Party members, university student revolutionists and their equally revolutionary professors who use the freedoms granted by the constitution to destroy it, and the nation. I hope the CIA has compiled a dossier for college professors like Herbert Marcuse, who openly advocates the violent overthrow of this country. I feel safe knowing that government is keeping a close eye on the National Lawyers Guild, the Klu Klux Klan, the Rand School for Social Science, the Very Right Reverend Mr. James Abernathy, and all persons associated with the radical left and right. It pains me not at all to know that the phones of the enemies of this republic have been tapped or that they have been under surveillance at radical gatherings. The right of privacy is not absolute, and we can sleep better knowing that this is true.

What is vital to us all is that government must itself be prevented from abusing that power it has to protect itself. If innocent citizens are spied upon and their civil rights violated for reasons other than those which do not constitute a direct threat to the nation, such activities must be halted and the offending government agency or official punished. An innocent individual should have the right to bring criminal charges against any government agency or public official who abuses him. Such incidents are legion. Government has been just about as subversive in harassing innocent citizens as some revolutionaries have been in attacking the government. There have been instances where the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service and a hundred other government agencies have illegally invaded the individual's right of privacy and have never been held accountable for the crime. Property has been illegally confiscated. Citizens have been beaten, threatened and terrorized—all in the name of government. These atrocities are as illegal and despicable as the revolutionists' undermining of the government. Both deserve punishment, and the niceties as to how the evidence against them is obtained is of secondary importance—short of torture.

Sen. Hubert Humphrey has urged that the federal government create jobs for all the unemployed—which is one reason why Hubert isn't president. I, too, have a plan. How about the federal government requiring all the unemployed to accept jobs the business community needs filled right now? Those who refuse to accept available jobs in the private sector would then be put to work in our federal penal institutions, but only until they agree to accept jobs in business or industry. And that is just one of the many reasons why I'm not president!

People who enjoy the thought that Americans are greedy and selfish will be pained to learn that private giving to charitable causes in 1974 is expected to exceed the all-time record of private giving set in 1973—\$24.5 billion. All this in spite of serious economic woes.



Tiger By The Tail

Church takes IRS to court

The Church of Scientology has been granted its request for a temporary restraining order commanding the Internal Revenue Service to refrain from destroying any of its special service staff files on any Church of Scientology in the United States or its supporters.

The order was signed Dec. 18 in the United States Federal District Court for Hawaii by Judge Martin Pense.

The Church of Scientology was one of 99 organizations named in recently released documents describing the operations of the IRS special service staff which gathered intelligence on so-called "activist organizations" during the Nixon administration.

The Scientologists' move follows a recent public announcement by IRS Commissioner Donald C. Alexander that all SSS records would be destroyed following a study of the files by the Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights.

"Destruction of the records would eliminate possible incriminating evidence," charged the church's national spokesman, Rev. Lawrence Wilbur. "It has been well documented by congressional investigations that IRS has been secretive about its operations, many of which have been abusive and illegal. Inexplicably, just hours before the initial SSS documents were made public, IRS tried to settle out of court a long standing legal battle over the status of our Hawaii church. They offered to pay our court costs, refund any taxes paid, and confirm our tax exempt status. Needless to say, we are very interested in knowing what's in those SSS files, and we are very, very pleased with Judge Pense's order."

The filing of the temporary restraining order is the latest in a series of legal actions by

church attorneys in Hawaii to prove that IRS has been engaging in harassment activities toward the church throughout the United States with purpose of "eliminating or impairing their (church ministers and parishioners) rights to the free exercise of religion" by means of unremitting administrative frustration, pressure to engage in repeated costly litigation without definite resolution, and otherwise by tactics not consistent with due process of law.

"I think the flavor of this situation is best reflected by the fact that the court required only a one-dollar bond as indemnity against the IRS being unduly enjoined from destroying the SSS records," Wilbur said.

In 1970 the IRS assessed the church in Hawaii \$749. The Scientologists paid the sum and then sued for its recovery. Subsequently, during the course of litigation, IRS offered to refund the taxes and submitted a motion to have the suit cancelled. Both the church and District Court turned the IRS down, arguing that return of the monies did not negate the issue of harassment. IRS now must face the church in court.

"The IRS has a long history of attempts to escape unfavorable legal decisions," stated Wilbur. "For that matter, IRS has also avoided any form of investigation. It is a little known fact that the IRS has not undergone a full and independent audit by the General Accounting Office for over 50 years. In fact, IRS has thwarted GAO audit attempts claiming GAO does not have this authority in spite of congressional statutes to the contrary. It will be interesting to see how well IRS stands up to judicial scrutiny." Wilbur said in a press release from the church in Portland.



"It's Finally Happened! They Got More Bowl Games Than They Got Football Teams!"

County schools

(Continue from Page 1)

Rauch and Pauline Winter reported to the board on an inter-district meeting they attended to explore the possibility of cooperative programs between districts. The meeting was attended by representatives from Echo, Stanfield, Hermiston, Umatilla, Umatilla Intermediate Education District, and Blue Mountain Community College and the Morrow County district. This was a preliminary meeting to explore the possibility of cooperation, especially in meeting curriculum needs in specialized areas.

Mrs. Winter told the board that the Irrigon and Boardman areas would most benefit from possible programs; however, she felt participation in the talks was a good idea. The board favored her opinion.

School board member Jack Sumner was not present; Board member Don McElligott arrived at the close of the meeting. The next meeting of the board will be Feb. 27.

quote/unquote

"China (Taiwan) has no idle hands because China has no unemployment insurance. Every citizen markets a skill, a trade, or becomes a professional. There are no slack times. If a job is not available, then the industrious Chinese will pick flowers to sell on the sidewalk, or he will take a job digging a ditch, harvesting a crop, or sweeping a street." Robert H. Rowland, Oklahoma Christian College, Oklahoma City.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Some good was found in some ill winds Saturday night during the session at the country store.

Ed Gony that nearly allus views with alarm had a collection of clippings that was picked to show silver linings in some clouds. He was joined by Zeke Grubb that said he favored coating the pill he had to swallow.

High prices, Ed reported, has done wonders for folks that print menus. He saw this piece out of Denver that said a printing house there has doubled business just turning out menus with new, higher prices. If menu printing is booming, went on Ed, what do you think the companies are doing that sell them ink pads and stamps they use to stick prices on stuff in the grocery stores? They not only are behind in orders, Ed said, they probable had to hire more people who can make money to buy the food that grocery stores had to hire more people to keeping marking up.

For 20 years, broke in Zeke, the bus lines was crying to everybody that left the driving to em. Now they're running full everywhere. The price of gasoline, Zeke said, and the cutback in money to buy it has brung a 10 per cent jump in bus business in the past year.

Six months ago, went on Zeke, federal was telling state and state was telling local Government to git more people using food stamps. Now the welfare departments all over the country is putting on new people to handle applications for stamps.

Even Zeke's preacher sees the benefit of tight times. He told Zeke a buddy of his had took a well off church in the city cause the souls of folks that got money is just as precious in the sight of the Lord as them that pay the preacher in fresh meat and canned goods. The preacher is like the old country doctor that told me once that he didn't know why he worried hisself sick taking care of pore folks when it weren't no more trouble to cure the rich. Everybody has to mold his own bullet to bite.

Ed got the floor back to report that this feller come by his place last week selling burglar alarms. Ed said he ain't been bothered by a lightning rod salesman in years, and this was his first knowing that all them now is selling burglar alarms.

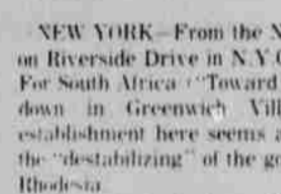
When the economy gits bad, the burglar alarm business gits good, Ed said this feller told him, and since all the neighbors was getting a alarm Ed wouldn't want to be the only unperrected place around. Ed said he'd take his chances with the lightning, his shotgun and the burglars.

General speaking, Mister Editor, the fellers still has got great confidence in this country, but they don't know where to place it. Ever time around, politicians promise help, when all they want is to help us mark out ballots. I saw where one new elected feller said when he took office, "I've been sworn in now I'll be sworn at." That's pritty close, and ever time you hear a politician say he's got the answer, you learn he forgot the question.

Yours truly, MAYOR ROY

Truncated freedom campaign

BY LESTER KINSOLVING



NEW YORK—From the National Council of Churches up on Riverside Drive in N.Y.C. to the Episcopal Churchmen For South Africa ("Toward Freedom in Southern Africa") down in Greenwich Village, the liberal Protestant establishment here seems almost unanimously devoted to the "destabilizing" of the governments of South Africa and Rhodesia.

This ecclesiastical establishment includes the national headquarters of the United Methodists, the United Presbyterians, the United Church of Christ and the Episcopal Church.

The Episcopal Church's Executive Council, for example, voted in December to use its stock in IBM to issue a resolution asking that IBM stop selling computers to South Africa. The Episcopal Council even voted, 16-12, to deny "any corporation against whom resolutions are being directed, the right to have responsible representatives present" in order to defend itself.

This policy, of what might be called cloistered deliberations, was defended by Richmond, Virginia's purportedly liberal rector, the Rev. John Spong. During a telephone interview, the Rev. Mr. Spong told us that he knew of no such Episcopal resolutions which asked IBM or General Motors (or any other corporation which the Episcopalians have been opportunizing) to stop doing business with any other African nations.

This policy is indeed strange, considering the racial discrimination elsewhere in Africa (such as the expulsion of more than 60,000 Asians from Uganda). Or, there is the massive slaughter of blacks, such as the more than 500,000 massacred in South Sudan, or the 75,000 murdered in Burundi, or the 2,000,000 Ibo who were systematically starved by the black government of Nigeria.

Nothing in South African or Rhodesian history can approximate the massive proportions of these atrocities, which somehow escaped the attention—if not the concern—of the Episcopal high command (at least regarding stockholders resolutions). So have the one-party-only Arab or black dictatorships which exist all over Africa.

How can the National Council of Churches, as well as the various liberal Protestant denominations, overlook these atrocities all over the rest of Africa (not to mention the enormous religious oppression in both the Soviet Union and Mainland China) in order to focus all indignation upon South Africa and Rhodesia?

"Because these are white racist countries," explained William Johnston, head of the Episcopal Churchmen for South Africa.

A more logical explanation may lie in the fact that Rhodesia and South Africa have between them the vast majority of the Western world's known mineral resources in gold, uranium, diamonds, manganese, asbestos and chrome (which is essential in the manufacture of stainless steel). Both the Soviet Union and Peking have been intensively active among several of Africa's black governments, whose current push for an all-black central and southern Africa is an ideal vehicle for eventual communist control of these strategic minerals.

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