

Horse sense



By
ERNEST V. JOINER

● It's a marvelous thing to see our politicians scrambling to do something about inflation. It is suppose to be our No. 1 concern, and is blamed for just about every ill that befalls us. Some want to rope and tie the corporations and squeeze their profits out of them; others have plans to soak the rich; all of them have harsh words and punitive programs on the board for all who jack up their prices and thus contribute to inflation. But politicians never mention that they, themselves, are the biggest contributors to inflation. They have no program to curb themselves. Taxes, not food and oil prices, accounted for the greatest cost of living boosts in 1974. Food prices went up 13.5 per cent, but taxes rose 25 per cent. For middle and upper income families, social security taxes went up 21 per cent; personal income taxes (federal state and local) went up 26 per cent. As you might suspect, lower income families saw their income taxes rise 31 per cent in 1974. The poor are always hardest hit by taxes, but it becomes so much more immoral when they are taxed at a higher rate than those with greater income. Nowhere in all the political rhetoric has there been a suggestion that taxes have risen twice as much as the cost of living. To do so would suggest that whatever government spending accounts for the increase must be cut back, not expanded. President Ford, noting that the cost of living is pinching the people, offered a \$200 income tax rebate while at the same time taking \$250 out of the taxpayer's other pocket to pay the cost of his program to stabilize the oil situation. This is the type of political legerdemain that keeps government costs rising and people working harder and longer to pay the taxes that fuel the politician's plans for perpetuation in office. There may not be much we can do about taxes rising 100 per cent more than the cost of food, but at least we can see through the phoney speeches designed to turn our attention away from wild government spending that forces such jumps in taxes.

● The 27th amendment to the U. S. constitution is very near to becoming the law of the land. This one is ERA, the Equal Rights Amendment so dear to the hearts of women libbers who somehow feel they are going to have their shackles struck from them in another Great Emancipation. Two states that have rectified the amendment are having doubts, and are attempting to rescind their hasty decision. Their reasons stem from the experience of Maryland. According to the Maryland Attorney General, there are 27 state laws that will have to be repealed because of the passage of ERA. A classic example of what women can look forward to is the family support feature under ERA. Women are dismayed to find that a wife is liable for the support of her husband, and is also responsible for his debts! Worse, Maryland women discovered that ERA automatically makes them part of the Maryland State Militia! This is a little more "equality" than the women bargained for, but in their mad dash for equal pay and job opportunity, they failed to read all that fine print. Here in Oregon a woman is suing to have her daughter admitted to the Boy Scouts. Another is getting her daughter into Little League. And all over the country there is a move to have women on high school and college football teams. The locker room is going to be a real fun place when all American women are taken from their pedestals and lowered to the level of their counterparts in the Soviet Union.

● Part of the annual Silly Season is Daylight Saving Time. This is when one stops turning on the lights at 5 p.m. so he can turn them on an hour earlier in the morning—to save electricity.

● The legislature, curiously enough, goes into session during the Silly Season. As happened last year, 3,000 bills are going to be introduced and ill-considered. As happened last year, there are going to be at least a thousand things you can do now that you can't do next year. One bill alone, HB 2442, makes the Silly Season worthy of its name. This bill would require employers to file with the state labor commissioner each year proof of financial ability to pay wages of his employees for 60 days by posting bond or by cash deposit. I can see such business giants as Portland General Electric and Fred Meyer having to post 60 days wages in escrow to keep their employees from wondering if their paychecks are going to bounce! The state is one of the biggest employers. If the law passes, should not each state agency post the same wage bond? No, they will all be exempt. They are the good guys. The bad guys are PGE, Fred Meyer and the rest of us! It would be interesting to know how many employers beat their employees out of wages each year. The figures, if any exist, surely are not high enough to justify this law. But if it should pass (and Oregon does show the way in enlightened legislation, I read every day), there should be a companion law to protect employers from employees. For example, each employee should be required at the beginning of each year to deposit with the Chamber of Commerce or some other responsible business group a cash deposit or bond to guarantee the employer that he will deliver a full day's work for a full day's pay; that he will not malingering on the job; steal from the cash register; and certify that he has not misrepresented his qualifications for the job. If the maxims that "fair's fair" and "what's sauce for the goose, etc." haven't been repealed, I commend this proposed rider to HB 2442 to the attention of Rep. Jack Sumner and Sen. Ken Jernestedt.



The mail pouch

EDITOR:

When will people recognize the need for humane education in our schools, and make it a compulsory subject? Every day news of crime and violence of the most sadist kind appears in our news media, in papers, the radio and on TV.

Some people who get their kicks out of the pain and misery of other creatures are supporting 500 dog fighting clubs with over 5,000 members in this country. Low-down humans need more than humane education—they need to be civilized. Proper training when young surely would help prevent the sadistic thrill of watching pitted dogs tear each other to pieces. In one recent dog fight one dog was so thoroughly chewed up and damaged that it passed its internal organs and had to be killed.

A lesser crime prompted me to write this letter. How can civilized people dump a big black Labrador mother dog and a very small helpless puppy on my end of Main Street, in the snow and freezing weather, with no provision made for them to be fed or given a dry bed to sleep in?

Such stupid people need to be reminded that this is a crime and against the law. To be on the safe side they had better not be caught in this neighborhood doing such a trick again. Norman Rickett and Ernie Winchester "vow it won't be healthy for such a low-down cad!" Why do these irresponsible people expect other people to assume their problems with their unwanted litters? The price of a spay job should be in the plans before anyone takes a female cat or dog to keep. This would prevent much agony and misery that thoughtless people cause by raising more homeless animals to starve to death or be destroyed.

To the idiots who think it's cute to raise puppies, and that there will always be a home for the ones they allow to be born, I have news. There are not enough homes to go around for puppies or kittens. An average of only 10 per cent of all animals that are turned in to Humane Shelters are lucky enough to get homes. The others must be killed.

It might interest people that in one shelter in Seattle alone destroyed pets are hauled to a rendering plant by the tons to make chicken and stock feed of their dead bodies.

Does anyone want to offer a good permanent home to a good black mother Labrador and an adorable black baby?

LOIS WINCHESTER
Heppner.

EDITOR:

It seems to me that in order for a person to make the front page of your paper they have to do something wrong. Week after week you print a story on the front page about people getting DUI, situations. Yet two weeks ago, when Jerry Gentry was chosen for the Shrine Team, you carried only a brief filler, and buried it in the middle of the paper.

I am certain that the people in the community would be much more interested in a local player being selected for the Shrine Team than who received traffic citations during the week. I certainly know that I would.

JOHN KILKENNY

EDITOR:

We enjoy the Gazette-Times. It is like reliving our early years to read many of the articles. We came to the valley during the War, 1942 after farming, teaching (1938-39) and school-busing. A diary I kept in 1941 noted we had been finger-printed by Sheriff Bauman for civil defense.

Our eldest son, Eldon was a baby that year and we took him out in his buggy in 14 below weather. Also we had lots of powdery snow and drifts and silver thaw followed by mud in Gooseberry area.

My husband and I drove two cars for buses south and back into one that year. Our riders were Lola McCabe, Elmer Fraters, Tom Huston, Ted Margery and Herb Peterson, Mildred and Lewis Carlson, Dave, Clarence, Helen Fay and Betty Baker, Eunice, Don and Gerald Peterson, and Art Stephani Jr.

Some of the high school boys will remember putting on chains for a woman driver!

Great days. It's fun to remember.

ERLING AND KATHERINE THOMPSON
McMinnville.

EDITOR:

We enjoy your editorials very much and that is why we subscribe to your newspaper.

I am on the verge of sending you a photocopy of the British statute which effected the calendar change in 1752. The statute was adopted by parliament in 1751. The Gregorian calendar was ahead of "sun time" and to correct this error 11 days were omitted from the calendar, thus Sept. 2, 1752 was followed by Sept. 14, 1752, causing a loss of 11 full days. This calendar change resulted in persons born before Sept. 2, 1752 to appear 11 days older than they were and it was the custom to rectify their dates of birth. Thus George Washington, who was born Feb. 11, corrected his date of birth and claimed he was born on Feb. 22. (Many people did this). In the Huntington Library in San Marino is Washington's original ms. journal and in what purports to be his handwriting, he stated he was born Feb. 11 (according to the old style calendar or Feb. 22 according to the new style. I believe this fact is also stated in most encyclopedias.

New Year's day was also changed (so that it was uniform) instead of New Year's day being on March 25 (ecclesiastical) it was changed to Jan. 1 (legal New Year's Day). This previously caused some confusion: persons born between Jan. 1 and March 25 and Washington was no exception his date of birth has been recorded this way: 11 Feb. 1731-32. According to the ecclesiastical year he was born on 11 Feb. 1731, the legal year 11 Feb. 1732.

NOEL C. STEVENSON,
Los Angeles.

TWO ARRESTED: MARIJUANA

Sheriff deputies on Feb. 12 cited Robert Lee Botehr and Fred Richard Fox Jr., both of Heppner, for criminal activities in drugs, possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

They appeared Feb. 13 in Justice Court before Justice of the Peace Charles O'Connor and asked to be represented by counsel.

Heppner City Police arrested George Eldon Tucker, lone, for driving while under the influence of liquor early Sunday morning. He is also charged with operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol content of 15 or over, and is scheduled to appear in Justice Court. Bail has been set at \$305 for each violation.

Carl Lee Bonner was arrested by City Police Sunday night for driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor. He appeared in Justice Court Tuesday and asked to consult counsel before entering a plea.

Willie E. Moddis appeared in Justice Court Tuesday and pleaded guilty to driving while under the influence of intoxicating liquor. Justice of the Peace Charles O'Connor fined Moddis \$305 and suspended his drivers license for 30 days.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

While I set here writing this piece, my old lady is back in the kitchen baking a cake for a sale the church wimmen is having.

Ed Doolittle told me the other day that his old lady has been working for the past two months on a patch quilt she will put up at the sale. Me and Ed know what is going to happen. I'll bid high on the cake and he'll wind up buying the quilt, and the church will come out a few dollars ahead and count the sale a success.

Furthermore, Mister Editor, Ed will git to use the quilt, but my old lady will take the cake I bought and give it to the Sunday church supper. That way I come out loser twice, and I won't git to taste the cake. But when I try to explain to my old lady that we'd come out ahead eating the cake and giving what I paid for it to the church she quotes some Scripture and says her joy is in doing the work.

I don't argue with my old lady, cause I've learned that they is two kind of people in the world, them that agree with her and the rest of the misguided souls.

When she gives me a piece of her mind and backs it up with Scripture, I jest say I'll have another cup of coffee and does she reckon Nationalist China is going to take over the Mainland in our lifetimes. I figger the farther away I can move the subject the least chance I got gitting her mixed up with the facts of the case at hand.

But actual, her idee of spending \$3 on a cake I'll pay \$2 fer and never git to eat has been around ever since the first man set around the fire at the mouth of his cave and said to his buddy, "Don't jest set there, do somepun."

I saw last month that President Ford called for \$100 in tax relief for the average working man, then he ask fer increases in oil prices that'll take \$95 out of the other pocket, and we're supposed to think we're gitting our problems worked out.

The fellers brought up this habit at the country store Saturday night. Clem Webster said he had saw where more people now is eligible for unemployment benefits than ever before in the history of the Employment Security Commission, but that the federal Government is having trouble giving away money to local Governments to hire folks.

Clem said a burnt child fears the fire, and local Governments know that federal money cures can be worst than the disease. They know if they take the money they got to take the guidelines, and it's more trouble to use the money with all the strings on it than to muddle along by theirself.

General speaking, there's somepun to be said fer wives baking cakes and Governments spending our money fer us, and that is when it comes to solving problems they're both like the feller that got excited, jumped on his horse and rode off in all directions. And ever misfortune that falls on us men, you can bet your tax rebates we blame it on one or the other.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.



Soviets,
homosexuals--
and
Carl McIntire

By LESTER KINSOLVING

CHICAGO—By comparison to the wild sixties, church conventions have recently grown so peaceful as to lose their secular news value as well as evoking expressed suspicions of chloroform in the air conditioning.

What should be an explosive contrast to all this current placidity is scheduled for March 5 when the Windy City hosts the National Council of Churches (NCC) General Board meeting. An exciting spectrum of guests is expected (either invited or uninvited):

(Invited) A delegation of Russian Orthodox clergymen from the Soviet Union, headed by the Patriarch of Moscow. (Not invited, but officially recognized) A "Gay Task Force" representing some 20,000 homosexuals, whose 78 Metropolitan Community Churches are planning to apply for membership in the NCC. (The NCC has appointed a Committee on Gay People in the Church.)

(Not invited, nor officially recognized) The Rev. Carl McIntire famed Fundamentalist radio preacher, Victory-in-Vietnam advocate and perennial critic of the NCC.

Dr. McIntire, pastor of Collingswood, (New Jersey's Bible Presbyterian Church) and president of the small but vigorous International Council of Christian Churches, is expected to attract numerous midwestern supporters in what the NCC expects as a protest demonstration.

Few ecclesiastical conclaves since the Council of Nicaea have attracted a more electrifying combination of clergy than this exciting assemblage of Soviets, homosexuals and "Canonball Carl" McIntire.

The Soviets are expected to be too heavily guarded for close order conflict, verbal or otherwise.

But the Gays, who have developed their own defense units in San Francisco, will be well prepared for combat, either physical or verbal.

The Rev. Troy Perry of Los Angeles is National Moderator of the Metropolitan Community Churches. As the author of "The Lord is My Shepherd And He Knows I'm Gay," Perry can drive Fundamentalists wild, by his rapid-fire quoting of Scriptures which seem to justify (or at least tolerate) homosexuality.

Then as the latest among denominational homophile caucuses, Dr. Louie Crew, of Ft. Valley, Georgia, has founded "Integrity"—for Episcopal homosexuals. ("Dignity" is the organization for Catholic Gays.)

Dr. Crew, who lives with "my lover Ernest Clay," has produced a "Gay Collect for Advent."

"O God who engendered Christ without heterosex in an unmarried virgin, . . . be essentially present with us in team rooms, garrets, dormitories, baths, alleys, rectories, ships hold, the trucks, buses, parks, in our holy marriages . . . and yours will be the glorious victorious witnessing to Him who never experienced heterosexuality and was in all points as we are, even Christ the Lord—AMEN"

Canadians charge:

U. S. firms lying to push wheat prices down

The following news story appeared in the Feb. 3, 1975 issue of the Calgary (Alberta, Canada) Herald. It has been forwarded to the Gazette-Times so that wheat farmers may be advised of some of the reasons for the current depressed price of Oregon wheat.

VANCOUVER—At a time when world grain supplies can hardly match demand, the Canadian Wheat Board in the past month has been forced to chop almost one dollar off the price of the prime wheat.

What is going on? A large part of the answer lies south of the border. Once again the American and Canadians are confronting each other over the price of wheat.

While Canadian officials believe that the price should still be going up, the Americans have succeeded in forcing grain values down with their modified form of export controls, plus some perfectly legal maneuvering on the commodity markets. The poker game has reached such proportions that grain officials here believe some American companies are deliberately floating false stories about canceled sales to depress the market even further and help them make financial gains on future trading.

A prime example of this was the so-called cancellation by the Chinese of 22 million bushels of wheat from Cook Industries, a Memphis based commercial trading firm.

William Barsdale, a vice-president of the firm, claims it was China which canceled the deal. "One would have to assume they had reasonably good crops and they don't need the wheat, but they did not tell us that."

PEKING GIVES NO WARNING

They certainly didn't indeed. Days after the American Embassy in Peking confirmed the cancellation the Chinese went out and contracted 36 million bushels of wheat from Australia—which knocks a great hole in Cook Industries suggestion the Chinese didn't need the American grain.

What probably happened is that either American grain contracted in advance to China was not there at delivery deadline or Cook stood to take a financial beating on the sale because the firm had guessed wrong in the future trading on the commodity market. Any grain company is entitled to sell in advance at a certain price, hoping that when it comes time to deliver it will be able to buy the grain at a price well below that originally contracted for, and thus making a healthy profit.

Certainly, there is little evidence to support the argument that China has too much wheat, as Cook Industries suggests. The Australian sale confirms it and so does experience of the Canadian Wheat Board.

Canada is currently 5 million bushels behind schedule in delivering a large Chinese contract, but there have been no suggestion Peking won't take the balance of 40 million. Then, there is the Russians. Canada will be delivering 760,000 tons in the spring, most of which goes straight to Cuba. Yet,

American trade sources are spreading stories that Moscow has canceled some orders, as well, because "it was overbought."

Canada's sales here held up well in the face of their maneuvering. What this country has not been able to beat is the effect that American export controls have had on the Chicago, Minneapolis and Kansas City market.

Up until last week no American grain company could sell more than 50,000 tons of wheat and soybeans to a foreign buyer without prior approval from the Department of Agriculture. This restriction tended to depress U. S. grain prices. In December, it was reported U. S. had turned down sales amounting to 7 million tons and growers were clamoring for the restriction to be lifted. The level has now been raised to 100,000 tons and this could well strengthen the market again. American wheat is priced at Minneapolis at \$4.28 a bushel on March delivery. If you add 25 cents a bushel for delivery costs that still puts them 60 cents below the Canadian price at Thunder Bay.

This shows that Canada, despite cutting the price of HRS wheat by 96.75 cents a bushel since Jan. 6, is holding on well. Last Tuesday, for example, the wheat board sold the Japanese 165,000 tons in a three-month contract at the Vancouver price of \$5.32 a bushel, still more than a dollar above the Minneapolis rating.

In fact, the entire 1974 Canadian crop is just about committed, and a lot of it at fixed advance prices.

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