

Horse sense

By
ERNEST V. JOINER



● Deliver me from reformed cigarette smokers, reformed drunks and reformed whores. They are the most intolerant people on earth, aside from being the most monumental bores. Once the "light" and the "truth" has been revealed to them, they will move heaven and earth to insure that every person, voluntarily or by force, foresees the three alleged evils. The reformers are round-the-clock crusaders for laws to enforce their tardy and fanatical judgement, apparently on the premise that if none of these popular vices are to be enjoyed by them, they are not going to be enjoyed by anybody. Sen. Keith Burbridge of Salem, an alcoholic, is an example of the reformer. He has introduced HB 2145, a bill that would double the taxes on beer and wine. The money (naturally) would go toward rehabilitating drunks. If Sen. Burbridge had quit smoking instead of drinking, he would probably have introduced a bill doubling taxes on tobacco—with proceeds going toward the expense of reforming smokers. Had he been a prostitute he would most likely have introduced a bill to make practice of the oldest profession a capital crime—or proposed a tax on prostitutes to train them all to sing in the choir.

● Back to the beer and wine fields of Sen. Burbridge. The easy-going American people are over-tolerant of such zealots in the vineyard. They accept without complaint the massive taxation of a chief source of enjoyment, the hours and days they may enjoy same, and a hundred regulations imposed to restrict the exercise of their chosen vices. But Americans can be pushed too far, as they were in the Prohibition era. Since people learn nothing from history, it will do no good whatever to point out that over-taxing or outright prohibition of alcoholic beverages leads to the public's decision to manufacture its own beer, wine and liquor—which it can do, has done, and will do again when its patience with the reformer's rabidity becomes exhausted. Once it becomes more profitable to make alcoholic beverages at home, it will be I have made it myself when the stuff was over-taxed, and I will do so again. During prohibition I patronized bootleggers, as did most Americans. The reformers don't believe this, in spite of the fact that it has happened before. They think "a law" automatically resolves the question in their favor.

● If we get taxed so highly that we switch to bootleg alcohol it will be interesting to see what will happen to the reformers' pot-social programs that are now being supported by high taxes on sin—the half-way houses, clinics for tobacco and alcohol addicts, and dozens of "rehabilitation" programs such as the one Sen. Burbridge proposes. On the other hand, who cares? "Swearing off" is an individual matter. A smoker who wants to stop, does. A drunk who decides to become permanently dry, will. Prostitutes abandon their careers every day to enter more socially approved professions—by making the decision themselves. The overweight person who becomes disgusted with his flab will push himself away from the table. If reformation is, in the final analysis, an exercise of an individual's will power, where is the need for these proliferating rehabilitation centers supported by taxes on our chosen vices? What Sen. Burbridge needs is a stiff drink.

● For a man who serves his community for peanut pay, Mayor Jerry Sweeney at least deserves some appreciation—which he seldom gets. What he usually gets are letters like this one he received last week. It reads: "Just why do we elect a mayor if he can't take time to sit in with the councilmen to discuss city affairs and especially the bills at these inflated times. We commend Mr. Plocharsky for speaking up on this matter. Thanking you, we remain interested in city affairs." It was unsigned, except for "Property Owners." The postscript is a real grabber: "If we signed our names on this letter you wouldn't like us." Sweeney, of course, knows who wrote the letter—and at whose direction. So do I. Neither of us are going to poison the writer's dog. The mayor's decision to stop spending an hour pawing through routine bills is one way to speed up council sessions. It isn't that bills get no attention. They do. Recorder Marshall Lovgren gives them a thorough scrutiny. Bills are available to individual councilmen at any time. They can peruse them at their leisure, but not on the council's time. Fifty years ago there wasn't much business for a council to transact, so it fiddled around with reading routine bills and exchanging gossip. It's different now. City business is big business. Sessions must be streamlined and run on a business-like basis. Which is what Sweeney is doing, even if over the heads of the community nit-pickers. I appreciate the mayor, and sympathize with him. Everybody, it would seem, knows better how to be mayor than does the mayor. Just like everybody knows how to run this newspaper better than I do. But none of them run for the office of mayor and none of them go into the newspaper business themselves. Which is probably a blessing!

● Remember a while back when Sen. Mark Hatfield was calling upon Americans to eat one less hamburger a week so the grain-fed beef saved would mean more grain we could give away to the "starving nations"? The March 10 issue of "Foreign Agriculture" has a story about farmers in India who are feeding wheat to their poultry and livestock—while shipping more expensive feed grains (corn and sorghum) to other countries at \$160 to \$200 a ton. Maybe the senator hasn't done his home work.

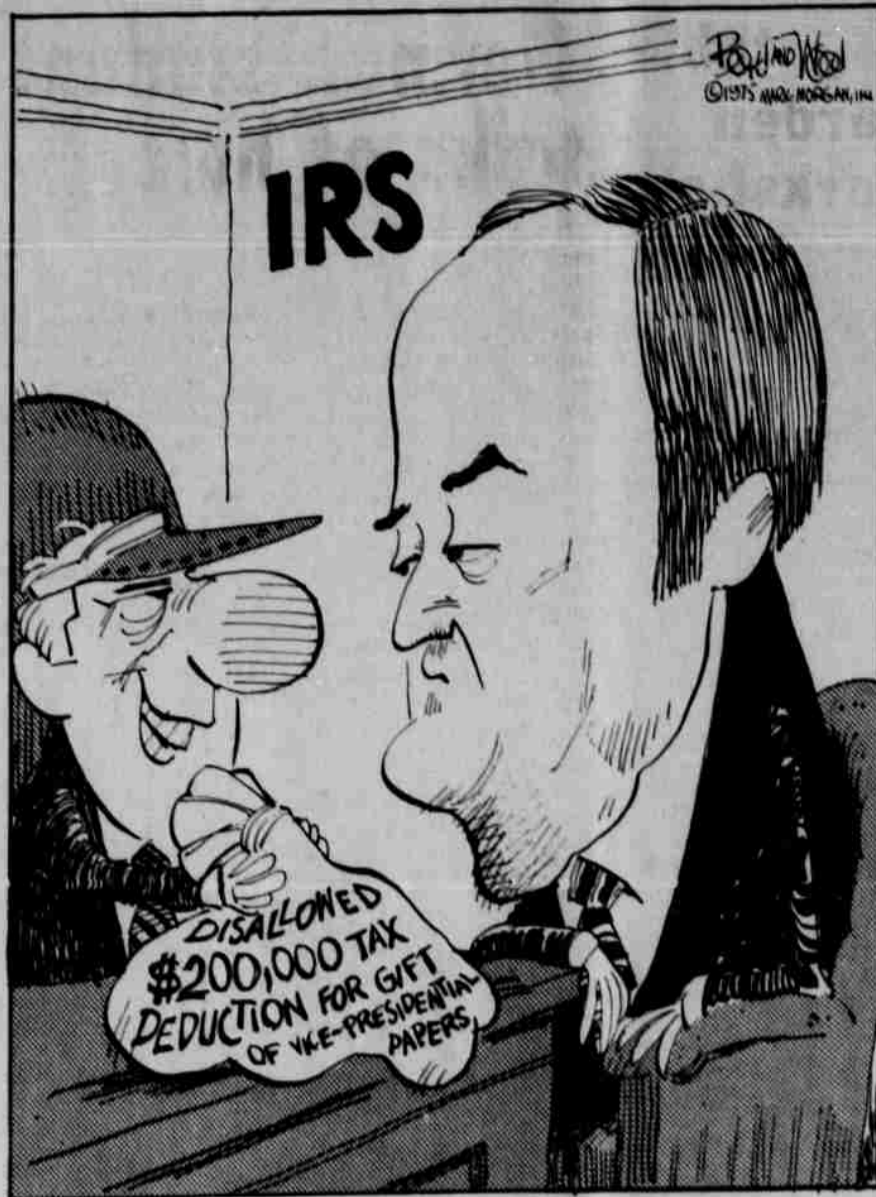
● Last week I got carried away in a news story about the opening of the new Bank of Eastern Oregon and wrote that it is the only full-service bank in Morrow County. What I intended to write was that the Bank of Eastern Oregon is the only independent bank in Morrow County. It didn't take genial Ken Belcher, manager of the First National Bank long to find the GT's telephone number and challenge the statement. Rightly so. The First National is also a full-service bank. Fortunately, Ken did not enter upon the Gazette-Times premises to horsewhip the editor. But he did extort 10 drinks at the Elks Club Happy Hour as balm for his injured feelings—paid for by the errant editor, who had it coming.

● I don't find it hard to believe in the Hereafter. It's the Here and Now I find hard to believe!

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"Look On The Bright Side.
Think Of The Trouble You'd Be In If
You'd Been Elected President."

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

House Bill 2872 sponsored by State Representative Bill Ferguson, MD, has been introduced in the Oregon House of Representatives. It's purpose is to restrict the ability of people without adequate finances to file lawsuits.

This bill if adopted would permit the courts to intrude in the lawyer-client relationship when this relationship is on a contingency basis.

In a contingency case an attorney agrees to handle a lawsuit on a percentage basis, which he only receives if his efforts are successful. If he loses he is out any time, money and effort he has invested on behalf of his client. The line of attack used by opponents of this is the contention that the lawyer will receive too much of his client's settlement if he is successful.

The fact is that those opposing this arrangement object because poor people are getting half-way as much protection within the law as the more affluent, when opponents believe poor people should have none.

JOHN D. LUKER,
Hillsboro.

(ED. NOTE—I am not acquainted with the provisions of HB 2872, but there is abundant evidence that something must be done to stop the high general and punitive damage awards handed down so lavishly by juries and judges. It is not unusual for plaintiffs to receive million-dollar awards for everything from hurt feelings to injuries clearly the fault of the complainant. These heavy award costs are passed on to the public in higher costs for medical, legal and other services. Perhaps a ban on punitive and general damages would correct the injustice of high awards, still permitting a low-income person to have legal representation but with court awards restricted only to actual, proven damages. An injured party's actual damages should be compensated, but getting rich just to punish a defendant beyond actual damages is, in my opinion, legalized larceny.)

EDITOR:

I would like to take this opportunity to share with the people of lone news that a former employee of the Morrow County Schools is presently under contract with a neighboring school and has substituted there almost the entire year.

To refresh your memory, during the 1973-74 school year remarks were made that the contract was not going to be renewed or specifically placed on permanent tenure and that 9 years of previous experience was to be given no consideration. Many people rallied to her defense but the effort proved futile.

Because of a chosen few of the community and lack of school support, she was forced to resign. Probably the greatest advantage of being dismissed from a Morrow County teaching position is that it carries with it the best possible recommendation.

The moral of this unhappy experience is to quote an old cliché. "It's not what you know but who you know."

JERRY L. MARTIN,
Ione.

EDITOR:

My name is Herman Glasco. I am a 32-year-old inmate presently incarcerated at the London, Ohio Correctional Institution, which is somewhat an honor prison.

I am without family or friends who are concerned with my health and welfare, or to whom I can write. I am writing this letter to you as an agent of appeal for correspondence and friendship. I am hoping you will be kind enough to publish it in your paper. In a desperate effort to emerge from the internal prison of lost hopes, I have written you this letter in an attempt to acquaint myself with the outside world.

My interests are sports, music, education, etc. My sign if Gemini. I will answer all letters promptly if anyone cares to write. Please address me: Mr. Herman Glasco, No. 132 296, P.O. Box 69, London, Ohio 43140.

HERMAN GLASCO,
New London, O.

(ED. NOTE—Mr. Glasco appears to be a man trying to rehabilitate himself rather than throw that responsibility upon society. I hope individuals and groups will see the wisdom and Christianity in corresponding with this lonely man.)

School . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Doherty told the board that the tax off-set established when the county's schools were consolidated into a county-wide district, will end July 1, 1975. As a result, residents of Ione, Boardman and Irrigon will see a slight increase in school taxes and Heppner residents will experience a slight decrease.

A student from Lexington, representing Lexington youth, requested that the gymnasium at the Lexington school again be opened for use evenings by the young people so they could play basketball. The student also requested that burned out lights and basketball nets be replaced. The gym has been closed the past month because a project was being constructed in the building. The board voted to grant the request. Students and parents are to meet with the superintendent on the matter.

Martha Doherty was hired to instruct girls' tennis at Ione. Jim Edmundson, principal at Ione, has been instructing both boys' and girls' tennis in the past. Due to the increase in student interest additional help was needed. There will be 16 girls and 10 boys participating in tennis at Ione this spring.

The board adopted a set of policies concerning the keeping of students' records. The new policies comply with new federal law concerning the right of privacy.

The next board meeting will be at A. C. Houghton School in Irrigon on Monday, April 21, beginning at 3 p.m.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

With all that's going on in the world I ain't surprised to see by the papers where this college professor has done some serious research in the rimes that children say when they jump rope.

She has collected more than 2,000 of them little songs and sayings, and she has decided that they tell us a heap more than what children say when they play.

Them jump rope rimes, this University of Connecticut teacher says, deal with the problems children face when they're growing up. And she allows that what sounds like innocent noise to most of us actual is young people telling all the trouble they've seen.

Mister Editor, to give you some idea how little I know, I didn't think younguns even jumped rope these days. I thought all they done from the time they could walk was stare at the TV and listen to that racket they call music.

But even if this professor is on to somepun, I have doubts about where her research is going to lead her. There's a chance, though, that she'll find out the children know more about dealing with their problems than we do, and she could do for the country what the monkeys has done for art.

I see by the papers where chimps in Portland and gorillas in Toronto, Canada are selling all the paintings they can turn out and they're got their zoos offering a hole new line of art. It looks more and more like all you got to do to make somepun popular is not understand it.

The monkeys in Portland have sold \$2,000 worth of their paintings, and their keeper said they's got more orders for work than they can fill.

Up in Toronto, folks turned out last month for a showing of ape art, and the critics was agreed the paintings are real abstract. I figger that's a word they use when they don't have the foggiest idea what it's about, and to me there is so much abstract going on in the world no wonder it's popular.

Mister Editor, I ain't no Fort Knox on facts, but it looks to me like ape art and jump rope songs ain't all that's getting more attention than they deserve in this country right now. Fellers drawing down the big money on the speaking tours now is them that can tell us how to run a crooked Government.

Them ex-convicts that worked under Nixon is writing books and telling their stories all over the world. I saw by the paper recent where one was in England, and he said the Presidency in America is more like royalty than the British royalty. I reckon he meant our Government is more removed from the people than England's.

Incidental, I see where Willie Hill in Atlanta had to get rid of his collection. He collected garbage, and he had a hole houseful til the garbage collector hauled it off. Wonder if he sees the problems of America in his trash?

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.



The unmethodical Methodists

By LESTER KINSOLVING

UMATA, TRANSKEI, SOUTH AFRICA—In the very same month that Great Britain's Methodist conference voted to continue supporting the World Council of Churches' (WCC) financing of African terrorists, another Methodist conference met here in Africa.

The Methodist Conference of the North Transvaal designated such church financing of terrorism as ample justification for the Methodist Church to withdraw from the WCC.

This North Transvaal Conference is comprised of 10,000 whites—and 20,000 blacks. One of its clergy, the Rev. Fred Harris, said:

"This is certainly a call for Methodists in Britain to stop making assumptions on the often false and slanted reports fed to them by irresponsible radicals who think they know the mind of the African and are presumptuous enough to think they are speaking for the African masses."

In the U. S., one of the leading financial supporters of the African terrorists is the National Council of Churches—whose largest financial supporter is the Methodist Church.

But here in Umata, which in October of 1976 will become the capital of the independent nation of Transkei, black Methodist layman Knowledge Guzana, attorney and leader of the opposition in Tanskei's Parliament, told this column:

"When South Africa sends its police to defend the borders, those terrorists shoot both the blacks and whites—and they seem to have murdered far more black civilians than white. This is a kind of 'help' we can well do without."

Guzana, who is one of Africa's most eloquent and outspoken anti-segregationists, went on to comment:

"I welcome the change in attitude of your Senator Kennedy, in his no longer supporting the ill-conceived campaign to withdraw American investments and firms from South Africa. Such action would hurt blacks most and, if anything, make the South African government more rigid on apartheid."

Despite this, the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries will this spring carry on just such a campaign, by using its stockholdings to try to pressure such firms as IBM, Standard Oil, ITT and Union Carbide.

The U. S. Methodist high command does not want these firms to invest in the only nation in Africa which (1) attracts 50 per cent of all the continent's foreign investments; (2) has never nationalized a foreign company; (3) returns an average of 15-17 per cent on all investments; (4) is the only government in Central or Southern Africa which allows more than one political party (save only neighboring Botswana) as well as an unquestionably free press—a sizable segment of which roasts the government daily.

The predominantly white, non-African Methodists object to South Africa's racial segregation policies—which are rapidly changing. Meanwhile, what the non-African Methodist hierarchs are financing is seen in the cartoon, which shows a grinning bishop greeting a black terrorist who is hard at work digging up a road. Caption: "Laying a land mine that doesn't kill, but only maims? How clever! After all, we don't want to break the Sixth Commandment, do we?"

It was precisely this type of mentality which motivated a school teacher to place a bomb in the waiting room of the Johannesburg railroad station. He went to the gallows singing "We shall Overcome."

He overcame, all right. He blew one old lady to bits. And a seven-year-old girl, who was standing nearby, is currently in London undergoing the latest in a dozen operations which have thus far been unable to restore her face, which was blown off.

Water project bids opened

Low bidder on Schedule A and C of the city's water improvement project is Stadel Pump & Construction Co., Silverton, Ore., with a bid of \$137,329.25.

Schedules A and C includes construction of a new reservoir and two booster pumps with automatic control systems. The bids were opened at Heppner City Hall Monday for Phase 3 of the project. Seven contractors submitted bids.

Apparent low bidder on Schedule B, repair work to existing reservoirs 1, 2, and 3, is Weaver Construction Co., Union, Ore., with a bid of \$19,419.

The engineer's estimate for all phases of the project is \$173,600.

Contracts are expected to be awarded to the low bidders at the next regular meeting of the common council, April 7.



"Is It My Imagination Or Has It Recently
Become More Expensive To Be Wealthy?"