

**Horse sense**

By ERNEST V. JOINER



There is much agonizing and breastbeating over the collapse of South Vietnam. It should be no surprise, since the American in the street knew the war was lost five years ago—intelligence that never seemed to have reached Congress or the Pentagon. What is sadder even than the impending massacre of perhaps millions of South Vietnamese civilian men, women and children is the fact that we could have won this war. But to win it would have irritated our Russian "friends" and screwed up the Kissinger detente. Most of us remember the order that went out to American troops fighting in Vietnam: "Don't fire unless you're fired upon." A strange order, and one an American soldier couldn't appreciate. For, giving the Communist guy the first shot, he had a good chance of not being alive to return the fire. I am not an advocate of shouldering a national guilt for past errors. But if our fearless leaders are at all human they must have some heavy guilt feelings about not winning the war while it was still winnable, and now stand helpless as the slaughter of innocents begins. A well directed hydrogen bomb would have settled the matter in the beginning. Horrible, you say? Fifty thousand American dead in Vietnam would probably disagree. And I disagree. To me, the most humane act of World War II was the dropping of the bomb on Hiroshima. But back then, wars were to be won.

One of the newest forms of humor is the "two faced headlines," the kind that have a double meaning. One of these headlines appeared in the Evansville, Ind., newspaper several years ago. It seems the city recreation department sponsored a city-wide golf tournament. The first round was to be played on the municipal course, the second on the Masonic course, the third on the Country Club. The afternoon of the tournament the Evansville Press carried this headline: "Intercourse match starts tomorrow."

I am delighted to see so many black actors and actresses doing TV commercials. For years I thought that only whites had bad breath, odoriferous armpits, occasional irregularity and used the wrong detergent to brighten the family wash.

Perhaps our legislators are beginning to read the handwriting on the wall. They must be starting to realize that many are losing faith in both parties. As usual they blame each other for introducing and supporting a bill which would allow independents to vote in primary elections. I thought our constitution provided that everyone should have the right to vote, apparently not. The legislators killed the bill, thus a growing number of voters again have lost their privilege to cast their ballots.

Even one registered as Republican or Democrat receives only the ballot with that particular party's candidates. In order to vote for someone of his choice, he must remember the name (this must be exact to count) and write it in his ballot if he is a member of the other party. It seems so much simpler the way it's done in Washington. You only register and receive one ballot at voting time which contains all the candidates and you can pick your choice. Seems one ballot is much cheaper than two and everyone gets to vote.

I think for the most part, the days of voting a straight ticket are past. So, what's the need of registering by party? People are aware of bad politics more than ever before and I think they would like the opportunity of voting for the lesser of two evils.

The increased cases of vandalism at the fairgrounds is further evidence of a permissive society. One that ignores discipline in the home, schools and community.

Facilities provided by public funds for public use and employment has become the target for destruction. Many of the events held in the fair pavilion are for the youth. As usual, one bad apple spoils the whole barrel.

The fair board will have to decide if continued use of the buildings warrant the cost of repair. Perhaps the best way is for the youth to police their activities if they expect them to continue. They know the culprits and no one can deal stricter punishment than their own kind.

Raising fees for usage and charging for the fair may pay the expenses, however, it doesn't punish the guilty.

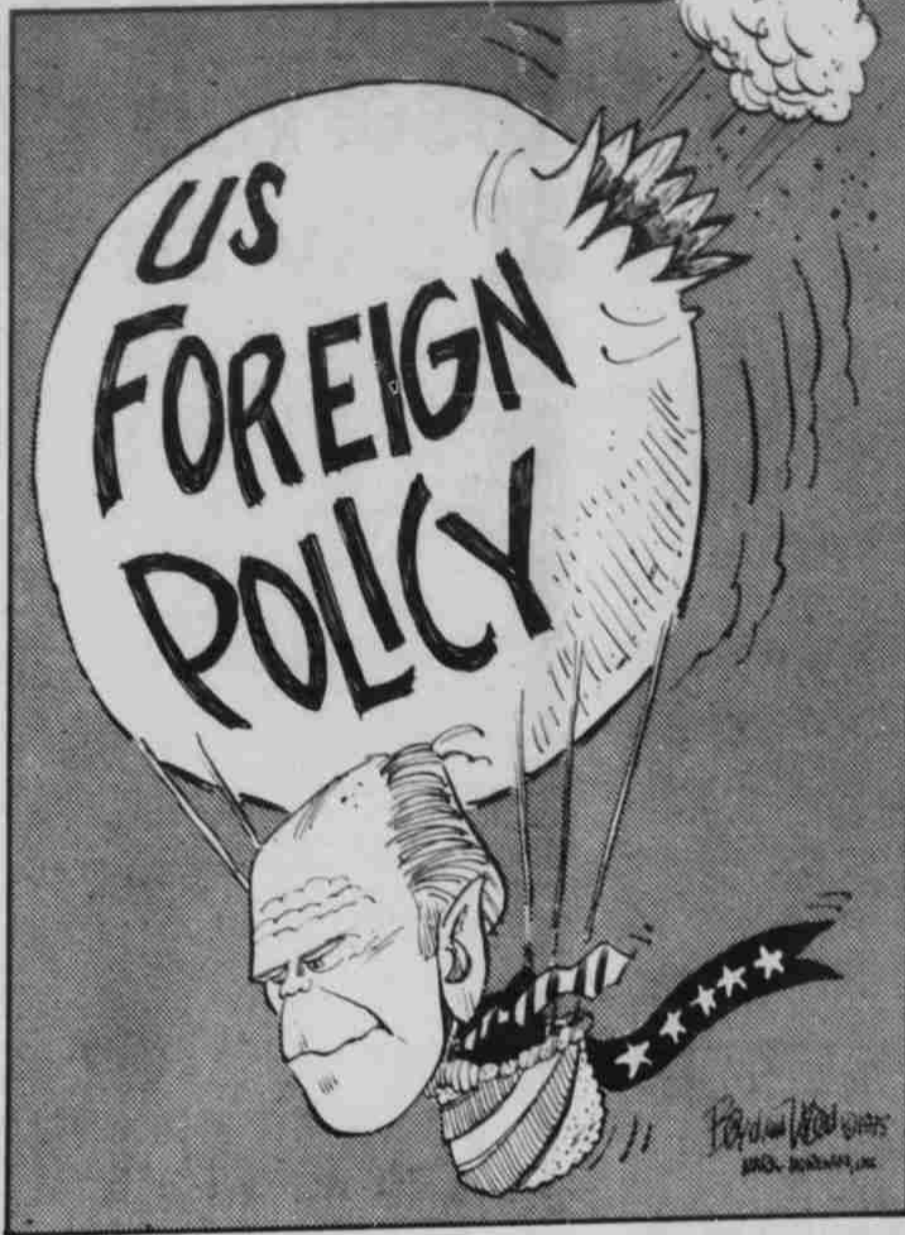
If anyone thinks that the girls don't take their softball games seriously, they better think again.

The girls take softball as a fun game, so do their coaches and managers. They will take little league as seriously. What is important is that the girls are learning a new sport and having fun. As long as they have a good time, who is interested in whether a game is won or lost? Isn't this what sports is all about? Learning to lose before you can win? Little League coaches will need to be more careful about their language. You can't tell them to get their butts out in the field.

If the gals really have the desire to play the game, I'm certain they will make as good a showing as most of the boys. Good Luck gals!



"The Trouble With Our Foreign Policy Is We've Been Fooling With Too Many Foreigners."



**The mail pouch**

EDITOR:

This letter is in reference to your statements you made concerning reading and the Army's teaching of reading.

First of all, you used a very poor analogy. You were comparing a group of Army rejects who all had a reason to learn to read. They also were willing to try to bring up their reading level on their own.

You compared these men with students who in high school had no better than an 8th grade reading level and went on to college. You never did give the Army rejects reading level prior to the Army's efforts.

This is a poor comparison in that high school students feel a stigma attached when they need extra help in any given area. Also, the reality of needing reading skills does not "set-in" until a high schooler is out of high school.

Problems in reading can be caused by a multiple of reasons. You never did quote your sources. Exactly where are you getting your information. Before you start giving statistics in reading, you'd better be careful of the validity of the test scores. Reading scores vary with the tests given. Some reading tests end up being a "multiple guess" test and do not measure a child's reading level; let alone pin point deficient reading skills.

Problems in reading can be caused by one or all of the following: physical problems (visual, auditory, or organic), intellectual problems, emotional problems, and/or educational problems (e.g. placed in the wrong type of reading program).

Also, when you start complaining about reading problems children and adults have, and about the educational system as a whole, please consider (if you can) your sources, types of tests given, areas of the U.S. where tests and statistics were compiled, that ghettos and slums do exist, all high schools have drop-outs, many schools are over crowded, and last, the emphasis each school places upon reading may vary within each district.

KAREN BECK, lone.

EDITOR:

I think I received a free psychoanalysis in your last edition. Thanks!

My query was just a plain, straight-forward query—a simple question as to how any educated group could produce figures like the one you printed. I wonder who the API group thinks is reading all the books that are being printed in this day and age.

I don't question the validity of your statement that the schools are doing a poor job of teaching reading. Studies seem to indicate the illiteracy is increasing, and few can deny that there are plenty of problems in the schools. But you must admit that we're doing an excellent job of teaching all phases of athletics—both boys' and girls'. Look at the records fall! There will be no doubt when I want to criticize or defend the schools. I'll do it in words that won't require interpretation!

In accordance with that thought, I recall that just a few months ago you printed a story in which our own superintendent of schools, Matt Doherty, is quoted indirectly as telling the Associated University Women that we can now look forward to the end of the "non-reader" because of the large amount of money poured into school reading programs. You can put your mind to rest! You worry about a problem that will soon be solved!

CLIFFORD A. WILLIAMS Lexington.

EDITOR:

The federal tax rebate of \$100 to \$200 for the American taxpayer was granted for the sole purpose of stimulating the economy. The Congress passed the bill in the hopes these funds would help get America moving again.

To assure that all those funds are available to the taxpayer, I have introduced SB 619 to exempt Oregonians from paying state income tax on the rebate. Under present law, the rebate is counted as taxable income.

It is estimated that unless SB 619 is passed, 890,000 Oregon taxpayers will pay the State of Oregon \$9,000,000 in additional taxes.

I believe the state will benefit more by letting Oregonians have the full amount of the rebate to generate new business which in turn will generate additional legitimate taxes.

If you agree, I ask for letters of support to be written to Sen. Vern Cook, Chairman of the Senate Revenue Committee, to your own legislator and to me, urging passage of SB 619.

BLAINE WHIPPLE, Senator.

**PROBLEMS!**

**Mayor of Hardman**

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Problems plague newspapers also. Portions of our last two issues have had light spots that were difficult if not impossible to read.

After many consultations with experts, we have made and remade adjustments, experimented and hopefully we may have the problem corrected this week. If not, we will go through the process again until we have a suitable solution.

We hope you will bear with us until this annoyance is remedied.

**New GI loans now available**

New GI loan policies that apply to all veterans with military service since the start of World War II make more than 20 million veterans eligible for the Veterans Administration guaranteed loans.

Among them are more than four million veterans whose GI loans have been paid in full. VA Administrator Richard L. Roudebush said. Those who have never used their eligibility are still eligible even though they might have been out of the service more than 30 years. Also potentially eligible for new loans are those veterans with current loans outstanding. The only condition for restored eligibility is that the first loan be paid off and the home be disposed of.

**Senator Ken Jernstedt reports on legislation**

While this session of the Oregon Legislature is moving along considerably faster than its 1974 counterpart, there are several obstacles which could delay adjournment past the late May estimates of some legislative leaders.

Senate President Jason Boe predicts that Oregon's lawmakers will go home by the first of June. However, the general feeling among the legislature leans toward adjournment at a later date, and I would be surprised if the session concludes by the end of the first week in June.

Still waiting—and posing potential holdups in the session—is the unsettled state employee salary issue, a tremendous number of bills backlogged in committees, as more bills have been introduced this session than ever before, and many state budget measures, which require careful review by the Ways and Means Committee because of the current state of the economy.

There is one significant change in this session of the legislature from those of past years, as we are not considering a major tax reform bill. The lack of such a measure has caused many legislators to fight against new taxes, or increases in existing taxes. The public is so opposed to higher taxes that any other action by the legislature would be going against the wishes of the people.

Four measures that would have increased the role of the controversial land conservation and development commission in the permit process have been tabled by the joint committee on trade and economic development. Concluding that the measures increased, not decreased bureaucracy, the committee last Thursday tabled measures adding the LCDC as a "permit stop," providing that the agency reviews applications for major development; and encouraging the creation of new communities in Oregon.

The major thought here was the original goal of LCDC—land use planning—not economic development. The trade and economic development committee, a statutory committee which will continue indefinitely, pro-

perly addresses Oregon's economy.

One issue in Salem that is moving from the background to the forefront is legislative versus executive power. The legislature seems to be "stalking out its ground", by considering and passing measures requiring the review of agency rules and regulations and broadening the economic development powers of the joint trade and economic development committee.

A measure expanding the role of that committee which passed by substantial margins in both the senate and the house was the first bill vetoed by the governor in his administration. He felt that the measure infringed on the rights of the executive—but many legislators disagree. A move is on in the legislature to override the Straub veto, as the feeling here is that the bill broadens the power of the legislative branch to a degree which we feel does not infringe on the realm of the executive.

A measure that would require legislative counsel to review and comment on the administrative rules and regulations created by state agencies is working its way through the house, after passing convincingly in the senate last month. This is another area where there could be conflict with the executive. The house is certain to pass Senate Bill 381—then the legislature will wait on the governor to see his reaction when the measure hits his desk. Personally, I doubt that Governor Straub will veto this bill.

The shoplifting bill that I have introduced will be the subject of a second hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee soon, as the first hearing recently did not provide enough time for all those who wished to testify to state their views. The bill—which would cut down on shoplifting in the state, by giving the merchant a clearly defined role in the apprehension of suspected shoplifters—is supported by statewide business groups and faces tough questioning in committee, but has a good chance of reaching the floor of the senate.

—Sen. Ken Jernstedt



**Ireland receives weapons**

By JESTER KINSOLVING

CHICAGO—"Our people are being killed by guns from America," said the attractive, middle-aged Irish housewife. "Massive sums are pouring into Northern Ireland, for more weapons rather than relief projects," added Anne Sloane, a member of the Church of Ireland (Anglican, or Protestant).

Seated next to Mrs. Sloane at a press conference arranged by the National Council of Churches, was Sean Cooney, Roman Catholic, a neighbor of Mrs. Sloane's in the battered Ardoyne section of North Belfast. Added Cooney:

"This blood money is being collected by groups such as 'Irish Northern Aid' in major U.S. cities who have an Irish-American population. This money goes to the 'Provisional Wing' of the IRA. This is the group that says that the IRA isn't entitled to be called an army because it isn't at war."

Cooney is a plumber who has six nephews detained (imprisoned) by the British Army in Longkesh. Mrs. Sloane has seen her husband's store bombed six times. Moreover he has been either robbed or assaulted on five different occasions.

Either Cooney or Sloane might be bitter under these circumstances. Instead, they are in the lead of those who are trying to make the best of a tragic situation.

Cooney is the co-organizer of a construction company which specializes in rebuilding bombed or burned-out houses. As head of the North Belfast Community Council, he is trying to bring frightened families back into the city's non-discriminatory housing areas.

Mrs. Sloane heads the Community Shop, where 12 community groups meet and where programs have been established for more than 6,000 children, who might otherwise have to be kept inside due to the continuing terrorism.

In recounting one of these meetings, where a nearby bomb explosion necessitated everyone shaking glass and plaster off their heads and laps, she manifested only candid good cheer—none of the melodramatic hostility seen in some press conferences.

"We condemn violence from wherever it comes," emphasized Cooney. "Neither the Provos nor the Ulster Defense Association have any real mandate from more than two per cent of the people. And may I particularly emphasize that this is not a holy war."

Cooney's Protestant companion immediately agreed, adding:

"Not a religious war, but a social, economic and industrial conflict which will come to an end only with reconciliation." The two also agreed that American aid to the IRA, along with the personal ambition and self-serving of certain Irish politicians, are the leading obstacles to such reconciliation. For when asked about Northern Ireland's two best known politicians—Bernadette Devlin and the Rev. Ian Paisley—they both scoffed.

"They are two of the most ridiculous people in Northern Ireland," contended Mrs. Sloane. "Though Paisley is admittedly making a good living, himself with all that income from both church and politics."

"Bernadette and Paisley are both demagogues," affirmed Cooney, "a pair of con artists. He is less a man of God than he is a man of wrath."

The two left assembled newsmen profoundly impressed with their candor and abiding senses of humor, in the midst of a continuing toll of terrorism. Both Mrs. Sloane and Cooney pleaded for volunteers to help, particularly during the coming Summer, in their programs to alleviate suffering in one of the world's most dangerous areas.

Heading the U.S. liaison with Cooney and Sloane is the Rev. David Bowman, S.J., the first Catholic priest ever appointed to the staff of the National Council of Churches—which organization has been edified by Father Bowman's efforts for a just peace in Ireland.

**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

Published 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.