

Horse sense

By

ERNEST V. JOINER



● "(Doctors striking constitute) an insidious and cruel subterfuge callous to human misery, a mockery of the Hippocratic oath the doctors are sworn to uphold. These doctors place profits above people. They have forgotten the 'Forgotten man'—the injured patient." These are the words of Robert E. Cartwright, president, Association of Trial Lawyers of America.

That is a harsh assessment, but one to be expected from a person who makes a living in suing doctors for malpractice. The doctors have not forgotten their patients. Emergency cases are being handled. Those who can wait, do. Those who can wait, probably should. There are far too many people clogging doctor's offices these days. According to some doctors, fully 50 per cent of their patients have no business being in a doctor's office. Many patients go to the doctor because they have Medi-Cal or Medicare. Many go because they're lonely and need somebody to talk with. Many are hypochondriacs with imagined ills. Some go just for the plain hell of it, or because there's nothing else for them to do. A doctors' strike could actually be good for the health of the nation if only it eliminated hypochondriacs who might be better off solving their own problems; or, failing, consult a psychiatrist. The nation's health would benefit also by forcing people to do a lot of their own treatment for minor ills, such as cuts, bruises, flu, colds and assorted aches. Doing nothing is often the best medicine; nature is still the best doctor. A person's good mental attitude is a great healer, as any Christian Scientist will attest. So will many physicians, many of whom admit that a person's mental attitude spells the difference between life and death in serious illnesses or major surgical operations. Americans rely too much on their doctors. A good doctors' strike might stimulate us to take better care of ourselves rather than leave all our health problems to our friendly physicians.

● The right to strike is well ingrained in U.S. law, the exercise of which nearly always constitutes an insidious and cruel subterfuge callous to human misery. Most strikes occur because strikers put profits above people (people other than themselves, that is). We have in our midst in Sebastopol today a group funded by various trade unions, agitating for a closed shop at the construction site of the local hospital. If they have their way, no person in America could hold a job without paying dues to a union. The "forgotten man" here is the one who prefers not to join a union, but who is forced to starve unless he does. That, Mr. Cartwright, is being callous. And the union man who believes that nobody must be allowed to work but himself or his union associates is putting personal profit above the rights of other people to earn a living. This Mr. Cartwright does not protest.

● The same Americans who acknowledge the right of unions to strike are the same Americans who believe the doctors should not. What about a teamster strike wherein medical supplies cannot reach the doctors' patients—is that not callous? And airline personnel strikes that delay delivery of needed medicines to patients? Where was Mr. Cartwright when the nurses went out on strike, jeopardizing the lives of hospital patients? Or when utility workers go out for more pay and shut off electrical service to iron lung patients? Or municipal employee strikes where the garbage piles up in the streets, endangering the lives of everybody? Or gravediggers who strike, leaving the confined dead piled a dozen deep? What about police strikes where urgent calls for help go unanswered, or firemen strikes that allow fires to burn themselves out? It could be called callous, insidious and cruel that unionized school teachers are today among the worst offenders—they are so-called "professional" people who hold children hostage to line their pockets with more money. Yet teachers have a code of ethics, if not an oath, that does not square with their walking off the job for more money or a longer coffee break. Lawyers also take an oath, and anyone who has received a bill from one of them lately will wonder about the cruel and callous assault upon his pocketbook, and might wonder about the lawyer himself placing profits above people.

● I support the doctors' strike. A doctor team forced to pay \$45,000 a year for malpractice insurance must add this cost to the patients' bill. Therefore, the doctors' strike is a strike to lower the cost of medicine to the patient, not to line his own pockets as Mr. Cartwright perversely suggests. The strike I despise is the one that enriches the striker at the cost of the general public, an element not present in the medical field crisis.

● Now that the legislature has completed its session, it may be sometime before we actually know the results of their deliberations.

Major issues took up much of the time and weren't resolved until the very end, but increasing the legislators' expenses and salaries was completed quickly and quietly.

We remember the campaign pledges of holding the line on taxes and expenditures. Also, the needs of Oregon to stimulate the economy and stop unemployment. Like most campaign pledges they were somehow forgotten. Taxes, fees, licenses, permits and tuition have all been increased and who's going to pay them? It always comes back to the small wage earner regardless of who the tax is placed against.

State spending was increased by 35 per cent. This makes an increase of 70 per cent in the last four years according to figures I have received.

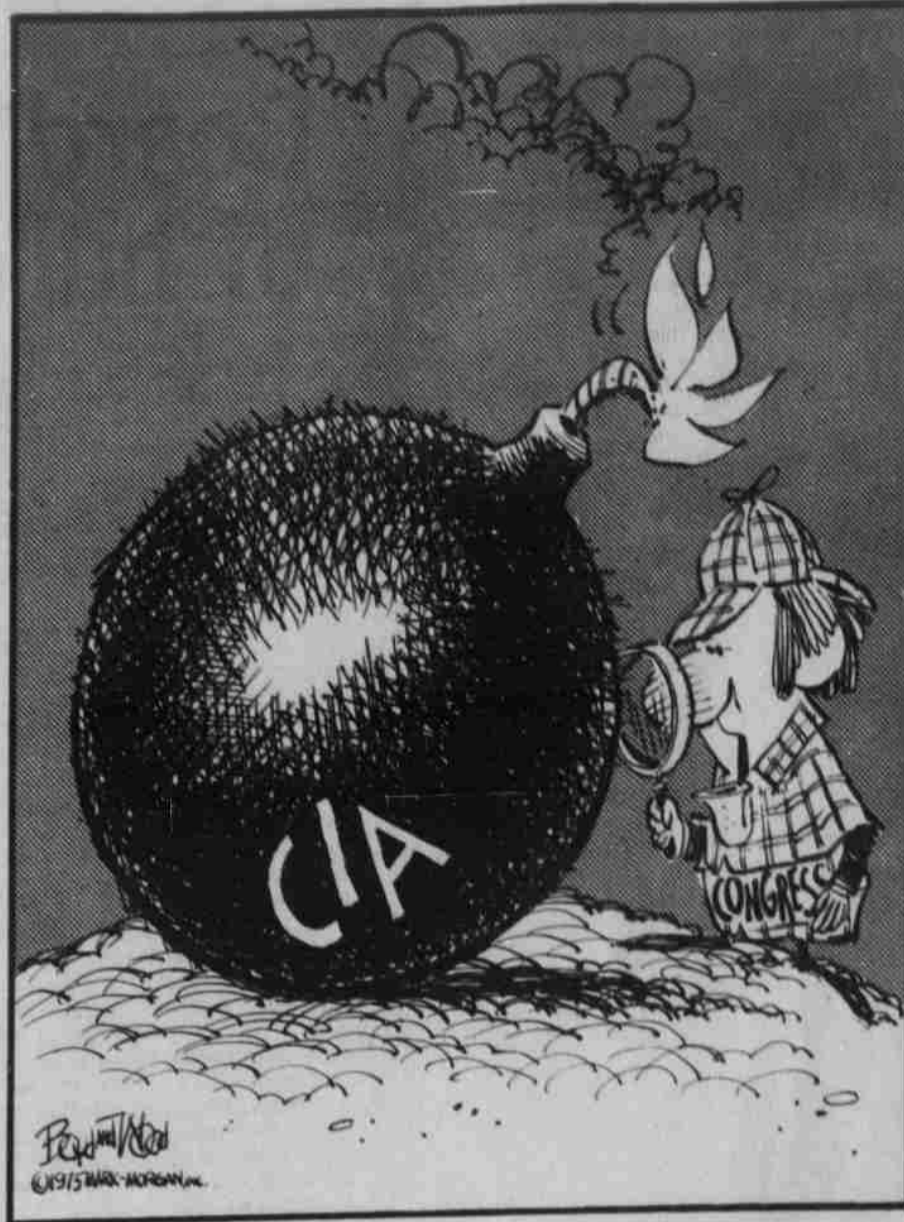
I'm also told the cost of what we eat will also rise due to the taxes levied against the farmer and businessman. The small taxpayer is supposed to get a break and the person with larger incomes will have to pay more. I hope it works this way.

I believe in protecting our environment within reason. It is said some legislation will discourage "clean" business from coming here. I don't consider this a benefit. Those that will establish here and meet all the requirements will find it costly. This extra cost will be passed on to us, the small wage earner, as no business can operate without making a profit.

They didn't make it tougher on the shoplifter that helps increase our cost of goods. They did give the Independent voter the right of choice in the primary elections. Penalties against the drunken driver were toughened and perhaps this will help make it safer to drive if we can afford the gasoline.

Some good and some bad came out of this session. Probably one of the most significant occurrences was the input from the silent majority. There was a noticeable increase, something that has been lacking for years. Hopefully, this will increase even more as the "squeaking wheel gets the grease".

N.P.



The mail pouch

EDITOR:

On May 25, Mike Sweeney announced the kickoff of Morrow County's celebration of the Bicentennial and a number of projects we are to undertake.

July 15, the covered wagon representing Oregon, retracing the Oregon Trail back to Pennsylvania will be hosted at Cecil by the people of Morrow County; however, we are lacking funds and manpower. We need all the volunteers we can get and all donations possible for the Cecil celebration and barbecue. We need food, entertainment, ticket and advertising chairmen.

All of the proceeds from the barbecue and the auction we have planned for Aug. 20, and the Fair booth is to help all of projects; such as Hager Park improvements; restoration of Hardman Community Center; Democrat Gulch schoolhouse.

Anyone is welcome to attend our Bicentennial meetings. The next meeting will be July 8, 7:30 p.m., with the meeting place to be announced later.

Please, we need action NOW. Volunteers and donations are welcome. Make checks payable to Morrow County Bicentennial committee. They may be deposited with either the Bank of Eastern Oregon or The First National Bank.

TERRY HUGHES
Co-chairman, Morrow County
Bicentennial Committee

EDITOR:

Judging by the talk shows covering gun legislation it is certainly encouraging to know that the overwhelming majority of the citizens are still much against gun legislation in any form. It is surprising that any of our politicians would push for gun control laws that would endanger a citizens rights of self protection. Our problem is a matter of criminal control and not gun control (the law courts are to blame as they are soft on the criminal). It is about time they think less of criminal rights and more on citizen rights.

When it comes to crime control and the use of a hand-gun all our law courts would have to do is to slap on no less than a 10-year prison sentence when a gun is involved in a crime (20 years would be better). This would cause a drastic change in the crime and hand-gun record as the criminal gun-packer is severely punished.

One of the best patriots we have for our Right to Keep and Bear Arms is Chief of Police Edward M. Davis of Los Angeles, Ca. He has pointedly said that we must first try to get the Judiciary Dept. to enforce the existing laws which they consistently fail to do. He also said there is nothing in our Constitution or Amendments which would give the Federal Government the right to impose gun control laws.

The record bears out that a police officer is killed about every three days in America. The police officer is obligated to protect the lives of citizens and in turn the police officer's life must be protected too. No one who willfully kills a police officer should expect any less than a life time prison sentence. This would halt the killing of police officers to a great extent and would allow them the rights he deserves.

It is true that guns are used in most violent crimes with one third of the killings being caused by knives but the criminal is the killer and not the knife or the gun. It is also well known that guns are dangerous in the hands of some people but guns are a great deal more dangerous in the hands of a dictatorship. That is why our forefathers insisted on the Second Amendment and history has proven them right as the governments of Soviet Russia and Red China control all guns. When a nation foresees the guarding of its liberties then the people become slaves, (free people own guns, slaves do not). The criminal must be punished not the law abiding citizen.

CARL M. MARQUARDT
Lexington.

THE GAZETTE-TIMES

MORROW COUNTY'S NEWSPAPER
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Oregon, \$7 elsewhere
Ernest V. Joiner, Publisher

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"When you smoke cigarets, you're likely to burn yourself to death; with chewing tobacco the worst thing you can do is drown a midget."—Fred Allen

Mayor of Hardman

Clem Webster come to the meeting at the country store Saturday night with more to add to the discussion the week before about states and cities going broke trying to match funds and fatter guidelines to get federal grants that keep them from having to spend their own money. Congress now has dug up that old shoe about folks that git in trouble buying everthing on time, Clem reported, and that jest keeps the money merry-go-round spinning.

All installment buying does, Clem said, is put on a individual base what we already got at ever level of Government. Congress views with alarm the folks whose monthly outgo is more than their income, and in the same breath Congress votes a \$17 billion tax rebate when the federal Government is running \$60 billion in the hole this year. And ever state in the union is busting her budget to figger out ways to spend money so she can qualify fer more manna from Washington, Clem said.

Some kind of bill allus is kicking around Congress to pectect the citizen agin himself, Clem went on, and this latest move to curb credit buying is jest another of the same breed. He said he had saw by the papers where President Ford's speech writers make a habit of not using the words the President can't say right, and "pay as you go" must be outlawed forever, like "Susie sells seashells by the seashore." When the economic eggheads start looking out fer the little feller that draws a paycheck ever week, the little feller better look out, was Clem's words.

Ed Doolittle makes it a rule to rule agin Clem's reports on anything, but Ed was agreed that Congress telling a feller that works regular and tries to pay his way how to spend his money is worst than the blind leading the blind, it's a blind man trying to lead his seeing eye dog. If the HEW outfit would take a few tips from the folks that pay in the money that lets HEW be so generous, everybody would be the better fer it, Ed declared. Ed said he had saw where a feller name of Calvin Barron that is wanted fer murder drew a \$206 welfare check in his own name fer 18 months while the police was looking fer him and the HEW kept him up. If that ain't blind Government, what is, ask Ed.

Actual, said Zeke Grubb, he can see where that widow figgers she's got a right to the money her late husband got killed trying to withdraw from a bank. Zeke had saw where this woman is suing fer the money, saying it is part of the robber's estate, and she is the legal ministrator of it. The wonder is, Zeke said, that anybody thought to question her claim.

Personal, Mister Editor, economics is so far beyond me I try to limit my worrying to things I understand. Like the ozone. When you squirt them shaving cream cans, you kill the layer that pectects the earth from direct sun rays. I been shaving with mug and brush more than 50 years and jest now found out why.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.

County gains in potatoe production

Morrow County was rated seventh for its gross agricultural income and second in wheat production in the State of Oregon last year. This year, Morrow County has a chance of being number one in the state for its production of potatoes.

"said Harold Kerr, Morrow County Extension agent and president of the Chamber of Commerce. Morrow County has been second but surveys indicate the county will surpass Malheur County, not only in tonage, but also in the amount of acres seeded to potatoes.

Kerr presented a film produced by Bill Smith showing the methods used for growing potatoes in Oregon.

The potatoes used for seed are usually purchased from farms that are certified for growing seed potatoes only. To be certified, the farms

must be able to grow potatoes that are free from disease, especially leaf roll.

The fields are checked periodically and any plant

having leaf roll must be removed along with the new spuds.

Machines are used to cut the seed potatoes into sections. As they travel along a conveyor belt the sections are treated with insecticides and other chemicals before they are transported to the fields. Plantings begin about May 1, and harvested in the early fall. The new potatoes are taken to cold storage sheds where they are either sold directly to markets in the area or kept at an even temperature for future use. Potatoes will keep in storage sheds from October until the following June if the temperature is kept at 40 degrees.

It is estimated the average person consumes approximately 110 pounds of potatoes per year, or about two pounds per week, in one form or another.

Wes Greeley, executive vice president of Oregon Wheat League, will be guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce Monday.

DEQ hearing set for Alumax permit

The public hearing for consideration of an air contaminant discharge permit for the proposed Alumax Pacific Corp. aluminum reduction plant near Umatilla has been set for Tuesday, July 15, at Hermiston.

The Environmental Quality Commission will hear testimony on air quality control and a water pollution control facilities permit, according to Kessler R. Cannon, director of the Department of Environmental Quality. The hearing will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium at Armond Larive Junior High School, 199 E. Ridgeway Ave., Hermiston.

The design of the Alumax plant provides a "closed system" for treating and reusing process wastewaters, and no discharge to waterways of the state. The proposed water pollution control facilities permit stipulates no discharges.

Interested persons may submit written testimony to DEQ concerning the proposed permits or policy related to the Alumax plant at any time prior to the public hearing, or may be heard orally at the Hermiston hearing.

Copies of the proposed permits are available upon request from the Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division, 1234 SW Morrison St., Portland 97205.

Convertor equipped cars, trucks pose field fire dangers

Farmers and ranchers driving 1975 cars and trucks equipped with catalytic convertors should use extreme caution about driving in fields this summer because of fire danger, points out Walter Matson, Oregon State Extension agricultural engineer.

The convertors reach very high temperatures, particularly if the engine is under load or is not properly tuned, and could cause dry stubble or straw to break into flame, he warns.

by the fact that the convertors are generally located where they can come in contact with such combustible materials, the engineer adds.

One oil company tested two production model cars with 351 and 400-cubic inch engines equipped with catalytic convertors. In the tests, convertor surface temperatures as high as 900 degrees were reached under the most severe conditions. Surface temperatures as high as 600 degrees were recorded under normal operating conditions.

The state fire marshal already has had reports of fires near lumber and logging operations when the heat from the convertor was apparently high enough to ignite dry sawdust and dust particles. The problem is compounded



Committee on unpresbyterian activities

By LESTER KINSOLVING

CINCINNATI—The eyes of editor James Cochran of the Presbyterian Layman had the same kind of twinkle as that of an author whose book has been banned in Boston.

For the majority of the 700 delegates ("commissioners") to the General Assembly of the two million-member United Presbyterian Church had just voted for a proposal entitled "On Investigation of Policies and Practices" of the Presbyterian Lay Committee, which publishes this unofficial monthly newspaper.

If such an unprecedented investigation was not enough to establish this newspaper as one of U.S. Christendom's most exciting, there was an added bonus: a number of scarlet anathemas unleashed on the Assembly floor:

"Devous and at times diabolic!" cried the Rev. Jerome Cooper of Philadelphia.

"Innuendo, misrepresentation, distortion!" charged Katherine Johnson of Hampton, Va.

"Attacks on our leadership . . . a whole lot of garbage . . . the powers of darkness . . . narrow Bibliocism . . . a deviousness that would do credit to Congress!" contended the Rev. Metz Rollins of New York.

But Cochran, a retired account executive for J. Walter Thompson advertising agency, was unfazed by these denunciations. "We welcome anyone to investigate the Presbyterian Layman—every month, in every issue. Our mailing address is 1727 Delancy Place, Philadelphia, 19103. We have nothing to hide," he remarked cheerfully. Then he added:

"I do suspect our reporting of the depletion of almost \$40 million in unrestricted reserves by our Presbyterian national headquarters staff may have had a part in bringing about this demand for our investigation."

There is also the fact that The Presbyterian Layman is sent at no charge to 369,000 homes, while the denomination's official periodical, a magazine called "A.D." is sent to 390,000 homes—at a cost to the denomination of \$291,815 in annual subsidy.

One rather devastating contrast between the two periodicals was brought out by delegate Dorothy Lynn of Torrance, California who told the Assembly:

"This investigation is the singling out of one particular group. Why investigate this paper? I read it thoroughly and in its last issue it published the views of both the Rev. Clinton Marsh and Dr. William P. Thompson (former Moderator and present Stated Clerk—the denomination's ranking officials.) Through The Layman, I am able to read both sides of the issues. I want to read both sides and then make up my own mind."

The Layman's critics were also challenged on the floor to specify any instances in which the newspaper was guilty of allegedly devious and diabolic distortion. Yet no such evidence was presented to the Assembly.

Instead, the Rev. Joe Spears of Salisbury, North Carolina, took the floor for a lengthy speech in which he reminded the delegates that his ancestors had been "snatched from a distant shore and left wide-eyed in Virginia. . . . Let my people go! . . . This paper's reports cast aspersions on projects at the center of our hearts. I believe in free speech and a free press, but I believe it should be responsible."

This apparently rallied the black militant caucus as well as the Assembly's predominantly liberal majority to pass the investigatory proposal.

None suggested that the committee in charge should be called the "House Committee on Unpresbyterian Activities."

But the Rev. Karl Bowman of Uniontown, Pa. told the Assembly:

"This is against the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It is an attempt to edit the thoughts of those who dare to disagree with the authorities. It is one minority speaking against the rights of express of another minority, called the conservatives. I am amazed at this effort to try to silence dissent."