

Horse sense

By ERNEST V. JOINER



In a speech to members of the Citizens For Law and Order in Santa Rosa recently, I suggested as a possible solution to many of our legislative ills that Californians be urged to vote against lawyers who offer themselves as legislative candidates. Lawyers dominate all state legislatures (in numbers) and can usually be counted upon to enrich their profession at public expense. No-fault insurance as an example. This type of insurance would eliminate a lucrative field of practice for lawyers. So lawyers oppose it. When faced with overwhelming public demand for no-fault insurance, lawyer-dominated legislatures pass them with so many crippling amendments that the problem, far from being solved is actually enlarged. Which, of course, makes it more profitable for lawyers.

Take another example of how lawyers in the legislature compound a problem, instead of solving it—the medical malpractice issue—which, if not corrected by legislation will mean disaster for health services in California. It costs one Long Beach hospital \$970,000 a year for malpractice insurance. Stanford University pays about \$1 million a year for such insurance. Palm Drive Hospital Administrator Al Carrion says the insurance costs his hospital \$48,000 a year. Dr. Horace Sharrocks, a practitioner, has been notified that his insurance is going to \$22,000 a year! All this overhead expense is added to the cost of patient care. The average annual insurance cost per hospital bed in California is \$1,497. The legislature has offered many proposals to relieve the hospitals and doctors, but has adopted none. And how could it when the powerful Senate Judiciary Committee is composed of 11 members—9 of whom are attorneys?

Dr. Malcolm C. Todd, past president, American Medical Assn., told the Commonwealth Club of California recently that it may take a referendum by the citizens in order to "force" the state legislature to act in the field of medical malpractice. He attributes the hopelessness of the present situation to the lawyer-dominated California Legislature which is reluctant to disturb the lucrative legal fees inherent in the present system where juries respond to emotionalism generated by attorneys in the courtroom rather than to the facts at hand. The United States is the only country in the world that allows lawyers to accept contingency fees in medical malpractice suits, and these fees run from 30 to 50 per cent of the jury awards or settlement.

The California Physicians Crisis Committee has determined that California patients who sue and win judgments in malpractice cases receive about 16 cents of the insurance premium dollar; 40 cents goes to attorneys; another 40 cents goes to the insurance company.

Dr. Sharrocks says he visited in England not long ago and heard one of his doctor friends complaining that his malpractice insurance had jumped to \$80 a year! The average general practitioner, Sharrocks said, pays \$15 to \$20 a year for malpractice insurance in England. The low rate is because doctors there work for the government, and it is more difficult to sue the government than an individual practitioner. Too, the legal profession investigates each malpractice claim thoroughly to determine which are justified, and to what extent. It might be one answer to the problem in this country—if the lawyer-legislators can be persuaded that such a procedure would not interfere with their profits.

There is big money in Sacramento. The legal profession knows it. And lawyers "mine" it like gold. The fastest growing interest group to invade state legislatures (where the money is) is the educationists. Most of the \$90 billion a year spent on schools in this country is dispensed through the state legislatures. This is why the most powerful lobby in Sacramento is education. The education lobby spends more money to influence legislation than any other group.

Something is being done about the lawyer-dominated California Legislature. The assembly has passed 58-10 a bill by Assemblyman Howard Berman (D-Beverly Hills) that would place "public members" on committees that oversee the members of the legal profession—the Board of Governors, the Disciplinary Board and the Examining Committee of the California State Bar Assn. Attorneys oppose the bill on grounds that "only attorneys are competent" to pass judgement on complex legal issues. Says Berman: "It seems to me that the non-attorney members would have a more objective approach to the crucial questions surrounding the issue of the delivery and accessibility of legal services. Today the law gives attorneys a monopoly over every aspect of the legal profession and the delivery of legal services. I think there are built-in conflicts of interest and anti-competitive effects when an organization has absolutely no public input." AMEN, BROTHER.

Berman's bill will probably never make it. It now goes to the Senate Judiciary Committee (remember, where 9 of its 11 members are lawyers?) where stiff opposition is expected—even though it has the support of Gov. Brown and the attorney general.

Voters who send lawyers to the legislature do so at their own peril. The next worst step is to send an educationist. We have seen how both perform to the advantage of their respective professions and to the disadvantage of the rest of us.

Here's what taxpayers have discovered after years of being blinded by educators who claim money is the key to better education. From 70 to 80 per cent of every property tax dollar in the U.S. is expended on schools. From 70 to 80 per cent of every school budget goes for teacher's salaries. There is no way of knowing how much state and federal income taxes are diverted to education. We do know the combined expense for education is about \$90 billion a year. Taxpayers have a right to demand more for their money than they're getting.

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Take A Load Off Jerry

The mail pouch

EDITOR:

Senate bill 100, LCDC Land Conservation and Development Comm., is rank theft. The property owner is left with nothing but the title and taxes. He must beg permission from the Fascist state. They in turn must answer to no man. Permission denied there is a bird nest or moth in that tree that must be preserved for further generations. Saving the moth is for the public good.

There seems to be no check on the governments powers. Rudy Ness, lobbyist for the taxpayers was refused permission to speak for the man that pays the bills. Jim Allison has been refused his referendum again and again. The state cannot be bothered with the man that pays the bills.

Senate Bill 100 and other similar bills in other states became law by the promise that the land could be had and it wouldn't cost the taxpayers anything. No theft if you can get away with it is the cheapest way to go. Now we come to the part about if they get away with it or not. The state constitution says that the people are supposed to tell the county what to do. The county is supposed to tell the state what to do and the state is supposed to tell the federal government what to do. Any time the constitution is not followed to the letter a crime has been committed against the United States of America. If you allow the crime to go unpunished you are as much a criminal as you would be if you knew someone was stealing from your store and you did nothing to punish them.

Looking away when you see a crime committed will only mean that the criminal is still free and you could be the next to get it.

HAZEL GUDGER
Brookings

EDITOR:

In appreciation of the organizers of the Heppner High School class of '65 reunion: please print this letter of thanks from my husband and I.

All the way from then to now, ten years have gone by. July 5th we celebrated the Class of '65.

July 6th I knew we each had found our Yellow Brick Road. Some took the meadows, some took to the hills, and some took their time. Sunshine livin in our small town grew from the warmth of friendships we knew. All the way from then to now, seems like only yesterday. We would like to say thank you to all for making this a memorable ten-year reunion.

Mrs. Leora (VanWinkle) Kane
Michael D. Kane
San Francisco

Firefighting methods undergo changes

"There have been many changes in fighting forest fires today as compared to yesterday," said Roy Skelton, Fire Management Assistant for Heppner District of the Umatilla National Forest. He spoke before the Chamber of Commerce Monday.

He went on to describe how today men can be at the scene of a fire within 15 minutes with the use of helicopters. "In the past, when a fire broke out it could take two hours to transport the men by vehicles and another three hours of hiking to reach the fire", he said.

The 25 man crew working at Opal Meadow are specially trained in fire fighting. This year 150 men were trained at Pendleton for one week. After they received the basics, the 25 men were taken to Opal Meadows for another two weeks of training. In the event of a fire the men respond in either two or four man teams. With the use of the helicopter

they can cover four to six fires in an hour.

"The faster the men get to the fire, the faster it can be brought under control," continued Skelton.

"If more men are needed to combat the blaze they can be flown in within an hours time. If a fire retardant is needed, the planes can be on their way as soon as they are loaded with the slurry," said Skelton.

At Pendleton there are two DC6s, each capable of carrying 6,000 gallons of slurry. The slurry can be dispensed as needed by separate compartments or all of the compartments can be opened and the entire amount spread over the fire area.

The cost of the helicopter and the cost of the retardant are considered costly but when they are compared to the amount of time saved in fighting the fire and the amount of trees lost, the cost is reduced.

The cost of the helicopter,

New people are seen about the halls of the building this week. They are Sheriff John Mollahan's communications staff and will be working at various hours during the day.

Judge Paul Jones says that the court authorized him to consult with Harold Becket about adding a fire escape from the second floor of the building as the state fire marshal recommends. The judge says that the fire escape must be under construction soon. A sprinkler head over the boiler in the basement will also be added.

The treasurer's office has quieted this week. It might become a very fine source of information and news now that tax collector Irby and assistant Fetsch have joined Treasurer McDaniel in the first floor, south-east corner of the building.

Two "regulars", Alma Green and Barbara Bloodworth, were off vacationing last week. Juvenile Department head, Carolyn Davis said that her committees were rather dormant during the summer. She is hoping to get ground-work started toward the establishment of a Big Brother program in the county in the future.

Judge Jones toured the Eight Mile area with the county road boss, Doc Sherer, to assess storm damage and reports that the crews will have extra work cleaning up and repairing culverts.

The next meeting of the Morrow County Planning Commission and its Advisory Committee is set for Monday, July 21, 8:00 a.m. in the Courthouse. They will consider the application of the

Cecil

(Continue from Page 1)

tinued steadily until his death which occurred Nov. 6, 1896. He left a fine estate of 800 acres of deeded land, well improved, with a handsome two-story residence and other substantial products of his skill and industry. He was active in politics and the affairs of the county.

His widow continued to live in the home at Cecil until her death in 1903. All of their children are gone now, the last to die being Mary, 1941. One of their many grandchildren, Norah Cecil Rasmus, a daughter of Wilford, died this year at Heppner. Several great-grandsons, Percy of Heppner and Frank of Spray, are still active in this area. Frank's daughter, Jan Cecil Stroeber, Heppner, brought the picture of her great-grandparents and some of this family information to the Gazette-Times. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stroeber have three daughters, Shelly, 8, Cindy, 6, and Christy 3, who are sixth generation members of the Cecil family living in Morrow County.

DEANS HONOR LIST

Philip Carlson and Julie Zinter, both of Lone, were recently named to the Dean's Honor List at Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls. To achieve this honor a student must maintain a grade point average of 3.00 to 3.50.

Philip is a student in diesel technology. Julie is a student in medical radiologic technology.

Court house notes

Oregon State Highway Division for a conditional use permit for surface mining on Hwy. 74 north of Cecil, and will continue the Keeco hearing. They will review fees for hearings and zoning permits and for filing subdivision plats and several other matters.

NORMAN WILLIAMS COMMISSIONED

Coast Guard Ensign Norman W. Williams, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford A. Williams of Lexington, Or., was commissioned in his present rank upon graduation from Officer Candidate School at the Coast Guard Reserve Training Center, Yorktown, Va.

He completed 18 weeks of intensive training, which includes instruction in Coast Guard history and tradition, uniform regulations, military courtesy, marksmanship, close order drill and the principles of leadership. Williams also learned the procedural aspects of Coast Guard missions such as search and rescue, aids to navigation, maritime safety, marine law enforcement and port security.

A 1974 graduate of Portland State University, Portland, Or., with a Master of Arts degree in history, he joined the Coast Guard in January 1975.

SCHOOL BOARD MEETS

Morrow County School Board will hold its regular meeting on July 21 at the Lone High School. Meeting time is 9 p.m.

Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

I reckon everybody that ever worked on one of them big city papers has stopped at one time or another and thought about how nice it would be to put out a little weekly paper where everthing runs along easy and nobody's in a hurry to get the news out. Ever time I see the President on one of his play acting TV press conferences I git the feeling if you ain't in a hurry you can't amount to much. Have you ever noticed how when it's time to start the President comes in the room at a half-trot? Probable, he's been setting in a back room having a cup of coffee and fumbling with his notes for 15 minutes, but when the cameras come on he takes off like a spooked rabbit.

The idea is that a feller in a hurry is doing somepun. Fer my money, that ain't the case. If he's keeping up with his job I don't see no need to act like he's so far behind he's got to run to catch up. But a busy man with never enuff time is the kind of image ever politician wants, and keeping up the image is what keeps em in office, not keeping up their jobs. Personal, I ruther see the President take his time to git to all them microphones. When he's in a hurry the image I git is one of somepun terrible about to happen. If he walked slow and stopped to pass the time along the way I'd figger everthing was running smooth.

But, like the fellers was talking at the country store Saturday night, you can't beat this image business. We got people setting up nights figgering new images fer folks that didn't even know they had one or needed one. It was Bug Hookum that got on the subject, and he wondered why they call em images, cause what they come up with usual is a far cry from what they are.

Speaking of images, Zeke Grubb said they work in some cases. Zeke said he use to belong to a lodge where you had to wear a coat and necktie to git in the dances they had onct a month. The thinking was that if you dress a feller up he's more likely to think of himself as a gentleman. He may be the same drunk under the coat and tie, allowed Zeke, but he's apt to behave himself if he's wearing his Sunday best. Zeke said the same line of thinking works at church. A feller dressed to the top notch in the front pew gets the idee he's high class, and you don't find the menfolks standing around in bunches telling jokes at church. What they're doing, Zeke allowed, is living up to their image.

Gitting back to your case, Mister Editor, a heap of our image making is the old game of thinking the other feller's grazing is greener. If you lived up to your image in the eyes of them on the big papers, you wouldn't ever git a paper out. You'd jest set around smoking your pipe with your thumbs hooked under your galluses.

General speaking, I figger we're better off living up to our image of ourselves than one that somebody cooks up fer us.

Yours truly,
MAYOR ROY.



How to use a Diocese

By LESTER KINSOLVING

One of the perennial goals of many of the nation's Roman Catholic liberals is the right of the clergy and laity of each diocese to elect their own bishop, instead of the present system whereby all bishops are appointed by The Vatican.

Some Catholics would regard the remote possibility of such a local ecclesiastical franchise as the arrival of ecclesiastical utopia.

If so, they might find it enlightening to consult with the Episcopalians who do elect their own bishops—especially those in the Episcopal Dioceses of West Virginia and Delaware.

For during the intricate process of electing a bishop—which can be just as delicate and painful as courtship—both of these dioceses recently experienced the same case of R.H.P. ("Reluctant Hot Property").

A "hot property" in ministerial parlance is a clergy member, one who is frequently sought after ("called") to prominent parishes or election as bishop.

The seeking after an R.H.P. has a decided element of risk, however. For there are some in this category who for vanity's sake permit their names to be placed in nomination, or even elected, to parishes or dioceses to which they have not the slightest intention of going.

Such a turn-down or eleventh hour withdrawal can be absolutely shattering to the morale, not to mention the finances, of the electing parish or diocese. But the R.H.P. has an easy out. He can announce piously that "after prayerful consideration" he has learned from The Holy Spirit that he cannot leave his present parishioners. (This, of course, can send soaring his stock with the flock, many of whom virtually weep with relief that the great man will not be leaving them.)

One of the nation's leading Episcopal R.H.P.s is the Rev. Jack Spong, the outspoken and (to some) mesmeric liberal who is rector of Richmond's St. Paul's Church ("The Westminster Abbey of the Confederacy"), and a member of the denomination's national Executive Council.

Last December, the Rev. Mr. Spong told the nominating committee of the Diocese of Delaware: "I don't want to play games. I will accept if elected."

But less than two months later, on the night before Delaware's election of a new bishop, Spong wired Wilmington:

"I find myself less and less comfortable with the possibility of serving in that capacity. . . . St. Paul's is more exciting than any church in the U.S. and I am not ready to leave. . . ."

The Rev. Mr. Spong did not reveal to the Delaware Episcopalians precisely how St. Paul's had become so exciting in less than two months.

Nor did he indicate where in the ordination vows of a priest is there any such criterion of being "comfortable" as the basis for evaluating calls.

Three years earlier, on September 29, 1972, the Rev. Mr. Spong gave consent for his name to be put in nomination to become Bishop of West Virginia. Yet just 18 days later, he wrote the West Virginia Episcopalians:

"I have tried to live with that (being Bishop of W. Va.) and it is increasingly difficult. . . ."

Is ease so important in the Spong ministry? Apparently. For it is with remarkable ease that the Richmond rector solves something of a major dilemma.

It seems that he has become something of a TV star, as co-panelist with Rabbi Jack Spiro, of Richmond's Congregation Beth Ahaba. But soon continues his membership in the Country Club of Virginia which excludes Jews.

Explains Spong: "I don't apologize—I don't even feel bad. To me it's a necessary modus operandi to bending the establishment."