

## Horse sense



By

ERNEST V. JOINER

Bribery. MY dictionary says is "money or favor bestowed on or promised to a person in a position of trust to pervert his judgment or corrupt his conduct." The second preference: "Something that serves to induce or influence." Bribery is much in the news these days, what with certain American business corporations revealed as paying private citizens and public officials at home and abroad in order to win contracts for their companies. Bribery is far from new. Ever since people began exchanging goods, bribery had been an essential, legitimate and well-used tool to get and keep customers. This is exactly why this newspaper and most all other businesses, large and small, send fruit cakes, fancy calendars or Jack Daniels to good or prospective customers at the jolly Christmas season. Whether Lockheed pays an Arab official \$2 million to influence his government to buy American planes or whether I take a prospective advertiser to dinner, the principle is the same. Both of us are trying to "pervert his judgment or corrupt his conduct" in favor of buying our respective products. Of, if you prefer Webster's second definition, "to induce or influence" them to buy our respective products."

Congress is stimulating moral indignation because of "payments" to certain persons to secure needed contracts for ailing American business interests. Their position is slightly hypocritical. These same gentlemen, so morally outraged, are those who promised "money or favor" to the American voter in return for sending them to Congress. The situation may be different, the principle is not. One reason Congress is preparing to enact a stiff law punishing American business for paying bribes to sell products and thus stay solvent, is that they believe the American voter, in this election year when so many of them are up for re-election, will look favorably upon them in the voting booth. This very act constitutes a bribe, and falls within both preferences 1 and 2 of Webster's definition of a bribe.

In the case of American oil and manufacturing companies under heavy fire for bribing in order to get orders or concessions, nobody seems to consider that making a payoff or supplying a person with money in exchange for influence may be necessary if a business is to survive. Had they not done so in recent Lockheed payoffs to The Netherlands, Japan and other countries, American planes would not have been sold to those countries. The orders would have gone to France, Britain or other countries who did meet the payoff demand. Then our aircraft factories, along with many subsidiary and supplier units would be bankrupt. Many thousands of workers would be unemployed, and the taxes paid by the companies and their workers would be saddled upon the rest of us. The prospect of our becoming moralistic in this regard is to ignore reality in the business and political world, and an invitation to disaster. Payoffs, rebates, commissions, bonuses, incentives of all kinds are synonymous with bribery. But have you ever heard of the baker who offers his "baker's dozen" of 13 cupcakes for the price of 12 being hailed before the bar of public opinion for offering a bribe?

There are types and degrees of bribery. What kind of an example would a father be setting if he gave his child a quarter to eat his spinach? If the church promises—yep, even guarantees—a finer future life in exchange for keeping virtuous in this one, would you say the church is attempting to "induce or influence" one's conduct?

Who suffers when Lockheed pays millions in bribes to an inducement to buy planes? Certainly no American does, unless he is morally troubled with the ethics of the market place. Otherwise, he is enriched. Do the buyers suffer? No. If they had not received the bribe from Lockheed it would have come from a competing manufacturer in another country. The bribe is a cost of doing business, as are wages, taxes, advertising and paper clips. It is not unusual for supermarkets to lose a nickel on a pound of coffee in order to "induce" customers to buy in their stores. Have you ever heard a customer complain he was "bribed" into patronizing such a store? Does the man who goes to a lending agency to get a mortgage loan to buy a home feel that he has paid a bribe because the agency nips him for one or two points, in addition to the regular interest rate on the loan?

All right, you say, then business is immoral and should be abolished. Many of our bright-eyed youth sprung from college in recent years have been taught that American business is a nasty business and something to be avoided. I agree that business ethics can be improved, and are constantly being improved. But business must not be prohibited from "meeting the competition." President Woodrow Wilson was a just and Christian man, but he took the trouble to say of it: "Business underlies everything in our national life, including our spiritual life. Witness the fact that in the Lord's Prayer the first petition is for daily bread. No one can worship God or love his neighbor on an empty stomach."

Shall we face the unpleasant truth about the current bribery flap? The act of bribery itself is not at the root of the furor. The fact is, too many Americans have been taught to hate Big Business. Corporations, they have also been taught, are symbols of Big Business. Thus, in the opinion of our New Breed of business haters and terrorists, they have to go—one way or another. This is why Safety Stores are frequently bombed by New Breed terrorists. It is why the Bank of America gets the same treatment, as does PG&E. They don't know, and refuse to learn, that Safeway competition has kept food prices from going even higher than they already are. Or that the Bank of America has furnished more low-interest loans to college students than any other banking source in the world. Or that PG&E furnished a cheaper, more efficient and readily available energy source than does any foreign system. So much for their logic. Mark Twain must have had them in mind when he said, "If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man."

### THE GAZETTE-TIMES

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"Now That I Have Your Attention, Allow Me To Introduce Myself. I'm Jimmy Carter. That's C-A-R-T-E-R."

### F. F. A.

(Continued from Page 1)

decision. His ability to make that decision will be of great value to the student. There are many people who are unable to make decisions, whether right or wrong, so the decision maker will progress in the future regardless of the field he chooses in later life."

20 years ago when Watson was in FFA he remarked his ag teachers tried to impress upon him the idea of doing things correctly. While it was no disgrace to do something wrong, if it was later corrected, it was far better to take the time to do it correctly the first time.

Various techniques, accounting, budgeting and setting alternate goals are important. If you are thinking of going into the farming business with your dad after college, think what you would do if your father suddenly died. Think of an alternative object in life.

Watson also stated that he was pleased to see girls taking an active part in FFA, for fellowship and working together in any organization is one of the best things that can happen to a young person.

### Life's Highest Priority

By Gordon E. Blackburn, Pastor  
(Text: Matthew 6:33)

All normal persons are in search of some unreach goal. They may be now where once they dreamed of being. But if that be true, they have discovered that the goal has moved on and up and all life's horizons has widened.

For the most part, one gets what he seeks. No trust is to be placed in lucky stars, crystal balls, horoscopes, Ouija boards, palm readers, fortune-tellers, wizards, magicians or spirit mediums. More to be considered is the saying ascribed to Emerson: "Hitch your wagon to a star; keep your seat and there you are." But men of achievement know there are times when one must get off his seat, get down on hands and knees, and scratch gravel: To arrive at your goal you must, to change the figure get on your beam and stay on it till you have zeroed in on your destination.

That which one seeks conditions his character. How tragic for a man with high, fine capabilities for Godlikeness to descend to a level lower than an animal. If one sets his affections on material gain, he becomes hard, harsh and like a machine. Even seeking knowledge on the horizontal plane dwarfs the mind and leaves a person lopsided, out of balance and eccentric.

Jesus gives us the secret of the ideal life in our text: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Put God in first place; then enjoy the best life can afford. Prosperity is no sin if it is accompanied by the persuasion that all one has is a trust from God to be administered for the good of men and the glory of God.

Jesus gives us understanding of life's highest priority in our text. It seems to be clear that when the Master said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God," He was saying that we should seek entrance to the Kingdom through the door of the new birth.

When Nicodemus came to Jesus by night saying, "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him," Jesus replied, "Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:2-3). Fallen, sinful man is without spiritual life and understanding until he is born again. He does become a new creature in Christ Jesus. "Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

God created man with the built-in capacity for self-determination. He may elect to be a sinner condemned to die, or to be a child of God to receive the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. He may will to remove himself from the Kingdom. Faith and obedience brought him in; unbelief and disobedience may take him out.

Man has a part in his own salvation, yet he cannot save himself. He must have higher help. He must know the miracle of God's grace in making him a new man in Christ. A man cannot change the color of his skin by willing it, nor can a leopard change his spots. A man cannot lift himself out of the deep, mire clay by his own bootstraps. He must know the supernatural power of God to lift him up and set his feet upon a rock, and establish his goings, and put a new song in his mouth, even praise to our God. It takes the power of God. The greatest of all miracles is a transformed life, a sinful man becoming a Christlike person alive unto God.

Jesus said in that same discussion with Nicodemus, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth" (John 3:8). The ways of the wind have puzzled the meteorologists for a long time, and still do. But those who follow the course of the tornado or the hurricane can easily see the effect. God's mysteries of grace cannot always be understood, but the transforming power can be seen and known.

In the Great Commission which our risen Lord gave to His followers, there is a place for each and all to fill. In building a great cathedral there are many skills that must be employed. There are the architects, the builders to read the blueprints, the skilled workmen of many trades, the artisans, and the unskilled laborers. In like manner, the church must find tasks for all to do. This calls for consecration on the part of each person and it demands leaders to assign all to their tasks. Only as the involvement includes all can God's kingdom prosper according to His blessed will.

Total commitment to God and His will means a single eye and a single mind. There is no divided loyalty. Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." When God is first, there is no pull toward opposite poles of interest. The heart responds only to God and that which God approves. One who recognizes God's claim to first place in his life finds in His will perfect rest. "See ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." What things? The answer is given: food, drink, and raiment. "Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"

## Mayor of Hardman

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Zeke Grubb announced at the start of the meeting at the country store Saturday night that the Government final has said it flat out, living is hazardous to our health. Zeke told the fellers he had read the newspaper installments of a study of the health of Americans, and the word is that we're in pritty good shape but the way we're living is killing us.

The study showed that just about everthing we do is bad fer us, Zeke reported. Our food is too rich and we eat too much of it. We drink too much and we don't exercise enuff, and while we're setting down gitting fat we worry too much. Our bodies are flabby and our nerves are ragged, Zeke went on, and the harder we work to git ahead so we can set and git fat the higher our blood pressure goes. The only thing that's hurting us worst than failure, Zeke declared, is success.

There was considerable discussion on Zeke's report. General speaking, the fellers was disagreed that resting and eating is driving Americans to a early grave. It was Bug Hookum that said it seemed to him that the folks you allus hear crying that money don't buy happiness don't have none, so they ain't in a position to know. And fer shore, Bug allowed, you can't buy nothing with poverty. It makes a heap of sense, went on Bug, to rather set in the shade than work in the sun, and while hard work may not kill you he never had heard of anybody resting to death either.

Clem Webster said it was good of the Government to do all these studies on us, but he said what they fail to take in account is that most of the worry we got comes from Government. There's so many agencies to deal with now, Clem said, until a feller could git a nervous breakdown just trying to add a bedroom and a bath to his own house on his own land. Clem said he was all fer a good night's sleep and all the other healthy habits, but the reasons behind the human condition are as different as people.

Fer instant, Clem went on, one man's idee of a good, relaxing time is golf, but another man might git so mad playing the game that he's hazardous to his health and everybody's around him. In most cases, you do better letting nature take the lead, because science and Government studies move to fast fer the human race, was Clem's words. And Clem said he has noticed that most of what science and Government come up with wind up on the list of things that is hazardous to our health.

Josh Clodhopper sided with Clem. He said he recollected when DDT was going to be the end of the fly, but now the chemics is more hazardous than the insects. And we need DDT more than ever, Josh allowed, cause two good whams with a flyswatter agin walls in houses being built now might be hazardous to everybody in em.

Personal, Mister Editor, I agree with the old feller that said if he'd known he was going to live this long he'd of took better care of hisself.

Yours truly,  
MAYOR ROY.

## The mail pouch

EDITOR:

I have news for Morrow County! A dog pound is not the answer to Morrow County's dog problems. Each year cities all over the country build bigger and more expensive shelters and dog pounds to handle the surplus of unwanted animals. The result is just more helpless animals butchered in these places. Only 10 per cent of the animals picked up are fortunate enough to get homes. Just recently a Seattle paper printed a full page story of the cruel waste of life of the unwanted animals. It was shocking to read that a ton of animal bodies being hauled each day to a rendering plant to make chicken food.

The dogs have committed no crime other than having been born; but to be doomed to a life on the end of a chain, and neglected by irresponsible owners is another angle of crime. A leash law to many people in other cities means just one thing, a dog chained with no shelter from summer heat or winter cold and food and water if some of the careless owners think about it.

Spaying and neutering would soon be a permanent end to the problem and would be cheaper—much cheaper in the long run; than the upkeep of an adequate legal dog pound and a perpetual dog catcher.

As the article in Feb. 28 East Oregonian stated, "Cost of Enforcing the new program, if the issue is approved, was not mentioned at the meeting." Since Morrow county advertizes on the front pages of the Gazette and the East Oregonian that it has little money to enforce the laws and the advice is to over look certain arrests, pray tell where will the money come from to enforce more laws? Better control people criminals and put the blame where it belongs, on irresponsible owners and not the helpless animals.

The current joke lately among the young people is "If you want to commit a crime of some sort come to Morrow County; they boast that they have no jail and a shortage of funds to enforce the laws that they now have." Humane education in our schools should be promoted by all. It would in the future reduce violence and crime; and teach people the responsibility of caring for their animals by not allowing them to breed unchecked and cause these unwanted over populations of nuisance animals.

Good news for Heppner, I'll soon be moving to the country with my kennel of adopted orphans.

LOIS WINCHESTER

Letters for publication should be addressed to the Editor, The Gazette-Times, P.O. Box 337, Heppner, OR. 97836. All letters are subject to abridgement and must be signed and carry an address. Short letters, typed double spaced are preferred, but all letters will be considered. We do not publish third person letters or anonymous ones. In exceptional cases the name of the writer may be withheld.

added unto you." What things? The answer is given: food, drink, and raiment. "Behold the fowls of the air; for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"

The question is pertinent now, is God first in your life? Do you honor Him in every occupation of your time? Do you keep the first commandment: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exad. 20:37

## Gleanings

R. A. Maxwell

● Farmers take note... check twice any offers over the phone or otherwise, to sell you name brand pesticides and herbicides at discount prices or at no charge for shipping. They may not be what they are purported to be.

● The best thing to do is stick to your known dealers. Read labels carefully before accepting delivery.

● It seems that most, a majority, of the people in Washington and Oregon would rather have a strong economy over environmental protection. When a choice has to be made, 61 per cent chose a strong economy.

● Those in the 18-29 age group were evenly split but as the age of the groups increased so did the percentage who chose the economy. 18-29 age group 49 per cent for; 30-44 chose economy by 59 per cent; 45-59 were 63 per cent and 60 plus chose a strong economy by 74 per cent.

● Perhaps the memory of the hungry days had something to do with the percentages.

● Well, well, it seems that the Federal government has to coordinate land use planning for Bureau of Land Management lands with state and local plans.

● About 15.7 million acres in Oregon are managed by the BLM, Sen. Packwood said. "That is roughly 25 per cent of the state that is managed by BLM and I don't want Oregon or any other state to take it for granted the Secretary of Interior is going to consult their needs before preparing land use plans. I want the American public to have a guarantee they will have a

voice in federal land use planning," he said.

● Will big brother consult or will he dictate as is nearly always the case with government bureaus. I guess only time will tell.

● I don't know if I have all the facts about LCDC, Land Conservation and Development Commission, in fact I don't really know if anyone has all the facts.

● We hear a lot of complaints when what we really need is some clear thinking. It appears to me that the state legislature has appropriated \$4.4 million dollars to assist counties and cities to carry out the required comprehensive planning.

● Others have already received these grants, why can't we do the same? Surely some sort of planning is necessary.

● Pay attention for 30 seconds... this may be important to you.

● The Federal Government assesses an "estate" tax when property etc. changes ownership at time of death.

● The State of Oregon "assesses an inheritance" tax when property etc. changes ownership at time of death.

● The Federal one is the "big daddy" that can cause you to have to dispose of everything. Under the state law it is possible for a surviving spouse and each minor child to assume ownership of an inheritance up to \$300,000 each while paying little or no tax to the state.

● Want the federal law changed. You better convince Big Daddy.