

Over-Professionalism

"Professionalism" is a good, solid word; a word which connotes a high degree of ability, an adherence to a code of ethical behavior, a self-confident competence in any of a number of fields.

Professionalism, then, is a virtue. But like almost any other virtue one can name, it can be carried to a point where it becomes, if not a vice, at least a drawback.

An excess of professionalism can convert self-confidence into cocksure complacency; ethical behavior into a holier-than-thou withdrawal, competence and ability into attitudes of don't-touch-me superiority.

THESE are generalities.

But any thinking person, observing the professional and service fields, can name individuals who have let their sense of professional zeal carry them beyond the realm of common humanity and common sense.

A recent "Library Week" issue of the Saturday Review contained complaints that some librarians in the east had removed books of the "Oz" series from their shelves, simply because they apparently did not meet the "standards" set up by librarians for books.

Now there is always a legitimate debate as to whether such-and-such a book is suited for library use. We personally don't think the "Tom Swift" or "Rover Boys" series have any place in a library.

But we are inclined to agree that the gentle, fantastic tales of the Wizard of Oz, so popular with young people for generations, do belong. And isn't their exclusion an excess of "professionalism"?

SOME physicians suffer from the same malady.

Because of their hard-won and specialized knowledge, it is a temptation for physicians to come to the belief that their superiority in one field carries over into others, which in turn leads to an intellectual arrogance or, in less severe cases, an attitude of "What you don't know won't hurt you."

It is an attitude which the ordinary intelligent patient finds infuriating.

It is also one of the things which have led to a widespread disenchantment with the medical profession as such — a disenchantment which medical leaders recognize, and are seeking ways to combat.

IT IS one of the factors, for instance, in the weak but growing demands for a higher degree of governmental participation in medical care — something which doctors regard with abhorrence as "Socialized Medicine."

(We suggest they read an article entitled "Socialized Medicine, 10 Years Old," in the current Harper's magazine, which reports on the British government's national health program — a program which now receives almost universal support in the British Isles.)

Excessive "professionalism" also may well motivate some (certainly not all) physicians to dislike pre-paid health insurance plans, or to refuse to discuss with patients such things as fees, delays in waiting rooms, the nature of prescriptions, or the reasons why a particular course of treatment is recommended.

LAWYERS, too, are susceptible to over-professionalism. Again, this cannot be a blanket indictment, by any means. But, again, anyone can name one or more attorneys who glory in the obfuscations of legal language, who treat juries politely though with thinly-disguised impatience at their lack of understanding at the ins and outs of the procedures of jurisprudence; who may, even, seek to convert a simple court action into an arcane mystery.

Lawyers are the great accommodators of our society; the professionals who seek compromise or settlement, and who handle the prosecutions and defenses and conflicts of a dynamic society. As such they are public servants. The malady of over-professionalism can convert them, in their own minds, to public masters.

THE illness can strike wherever a profession or trade or craft is performed which has its own tricks, its own traditions, its own skills and special knowledge.

We have seen overweening newspaper reporters and editors in the last stages of the disease of over-professionalism. It has caused them to glory in the "power of the press," the while forgetting about the responsibilities of the press. Some legislators, congressmen and senators suffer from the ailment, as do other office-holders who, because of their position and experience, believe they have a corner on wisdom and competence.

POLICE officers are not immune. In their case, when over-professionalism strikes, it usually takes the form of an over-suspicious nature, of a forgetfulness of the rights of everyday citizens, and of a tendency to take the quick and easy way, instead of the right way, in their job of crime prevention and detection.

Happily, true professionalism in police services is more and more overcoming over-professionalism, which creates a false image of what a competent police officer should be.

Is there a remedy for over-professionalism? Of course. It is the same remedy that could cure most other human foibles. A decent sense of humility, a feeling of sympathetic interest toward one's fellows, and a sense of humor, will do the trick.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



YA THREW THE BALL OVER YOUR SHOULDER, JOE! NEXT TIME USE YOUR OTHER HAND. MAYBE YOU'RE A SOUTHPAW!

Communications

Letters to the Editor must bear the name and address of the writer, although under certain circumstances the use of a pen name or initials for publication is permissible. The Mail Tribune reserves the right to edit all letters with a view to clarification and condensation. Letters submitted for publication must not exceed 400 words. The letters printed in this column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

Hatfield Also To Blame

To the Editor: One evening, at a late night session at the Capitol, I read your editorial of April 19 entitled "Marijane Hits Back" as well as Mrs. Duncan's lively defense of the current legislative session.

I am inclined to agree with you that the Legislature ought to have enacted some new taxes and to have kept abreast of the programs now being allowed to lag.

Yet, I wonder how much of the blame for this actually rests with Governor Mark Hatfield and the reckless type of campaign he conducted in 1958, when he specifically claimed he could reduce taxes and trim the budget?

I am conscious of all this because I have been trying, in my feeble way, to create sentiment for budget-balancing tax increases at the Federal level. I find that one of the state Governors who has urged us NOT to follow the President's recommendation for higher motor-fuel taxes is Mark Hatfield. Yet Hatfield also wants the Interstate Highway program kept on schedule, and the Federal government is putting up 90 per cent of the \$39 billion this vast road - building project will cost in the 49 states.

I thought Marijane Duncan had a valid point when she emphasized that there was a great difference between the Rockefeller and Hatfield approaches, in New York and Oregon respectively. Governor Rockefeller candidly said that New York state had certain essential needs to fulfill and he was going to collect taxes to finance these needs. Mr. Hatfield, by contrast, campaigned with a theme of ridicule against Governor Holmes as "high-tax Holmes" and he even said, at several places, that the only real issue in the campaign was that of high taxes and reckless state spending!

I agree with your editorial thoroughly that government must undertake the necessary services regarding education and other needs, and that politicians must have the political courage to levy the taxes to provide the required revenues. But certainly Mark Hatfield has been about as far from that as any Governor could, especially in the way he attained his high office.

Richard L. Neuberger United States Senator

Nutshell Opinion

To the Editor: Like too many already, I can't hold my opinion on the smudge "problem" any longer. Just two sentences directed to H. W. Van Hise will give my opinion in a nutshell.

Pear trees have been here much longer than he; how about his pulling up his roots and moving? If millions live unaided by pears, billions live unaided by Mr. Van Hise!

Ernest R. Hook 947 Manzanita st. Central Point, Ore.

Slow Down

To the Editor: This little incident requires attention I believe, as we read in the paper quite often where a Camp Writer was hit by a car, and as the story goes, he just walked out in front.

Well, from my point of view it seems that everyone is in a real big hurry to get somewhere, and where they are going I wouldn't know, they don't even have the time to stop and give a helping hand, or as far as that goes, slow down.

I had just made the turn off of Eighth st. on to King st. going south, and from there I could clearly see a

little old man with a white cane groping his way across the street, you could tell that he was confused, and couldn't see a thing. By the time I reached him he was in the center of the street, and the cars just zoomed by him, they didn't even slow down, and were going faster then I do when I see a dog in the street. I stopped and asked him if I could help him across. He told me he thought he was on the side walk. There is no curb on 10th st., and that's where he got mixed up, as he couldn't see, just feel his way through.

Well, the payment was great, the look of gratitude on the little old man's face, and even though it was raining I felt a wonderful glow inside, and the sun never did shine so bright.

Try it some time. Slow down, or even stop. We aren't in that big of a hurry.

Mrs. Irma L. Henderson, 729 Dakota ave. Medford.

'Thanks' From Hawaii

To the Editor: Before the Hawaii Statehood Commission folds up and becomes just an incident in history, I would like to say "thank you" for the wonderful support which the cause of Hawaiian Statehood received from the majority of the press of the nation.

During the eventful days before and after March 11 and 12, I had the opportunity of talking to many members of Congress. One senator made this statement to me: "Never in my life has any legislation come over my desk that had such united editorial support of the American Press." Only your help made such a statement possible.

It hardly seems possible that our battle for Statehood is now over. We are busily engaged in the problem of finding good candidates for the United States Senate, and the House, and our primary election has been set for June 26, to be followed by the general election a month later. We have no fear that the three plebiscite vote questions will not be answered with a resounding YES!

Inquiries on every phase of business, economic, social, and educational opportunities in Hawaii are pyramiding each week. The advent of jet air service this fall, which will cut travel time to Hawaii in half, is going to further increase this great interest.

We in Hawaii believe that our new State is destined to play an increasingly important part in the problem of earning and keeping friends for the United States throughout the entire Pacific area. To that end we will dedicate ourselves as good Americans.

We will indeed try to conduct ourselves as to earn your continued friendship and support.

Come and see Hawaii some day. We know you will like what you find.

Lorrin P. Thurston, Publisher, The Honolulu Advertiser, Chairman, Hawaii Statehood Commission.

YMCA-SOS

To the Editor: Medford's YMCA (and this is your organization) is calling for your support in its Ninth Annual Auction to be held May 5 at 7 p.m.

If you have any articles of no further use to you, they can be of great value to your YMCA. A small donation can become a big boost toward the well-being of your community, your children and

Unrest Stirs in Western Provinces and Red China's Neighbors in Tibet's Wake

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign Editor

Scattered among the soberly dressed government officials and the peasants in blue tunics and pants at the Red Chinese National People's Congress in Peiping this week were other delegates clad in the bright costumes of tribesmen from Central Asia. They were representatives of minority groups which have no relationship to the Chinese except by conquest but to whom the Communists give a certain amount of lip service with no more meaning than the autonomy promised to Tibet.

And just as unrest stirred in Tibet, so it has been stirring in other outward areas of Red China.

And as Communist speakers hammered away at charges of Indian "expansionist" ambitions in Tibet, they also had reason to eye uneasily events in the neighboring Sinkiang-Uighur autonomous region and the next-door province of Chinghai.

Like "Wild West" Sinkiang and Chinghai are Red China's "Wild West," a land of desert wastes and sky-high mountain ranges which together comprise one-fourth of China's total territory but with only one-hundredth of her population.

In Sinkiang and Chinghai, weapons are the blunderbuss, spear and bow and arrow.

Nomadic tribes bear such names Uighur, Kazakh, Uzbek. In the region are more Turkic peoples than Chinese and more Tibetans than there are in Tibet.

As in Tibet, opposition to the Chinese springs from religious and nationalistic sources, with the added hatred among the nomads for any central authority. Whereas in Tibet the religion is Buddhist, among the Turkic peoples it is Moslem. A dream of the Moslems has been an Islamic state.

Marco Polo was among the early explorers of Sinkiang through which ran the old silk road from India to China.

Since the 16th century, the area has been a bone of contention between China and Russia.

The region supposedly is incredibly rich in minerals. Two yourself.

Radios, clothing, furniture, even shrubs and plants for the auction can be instrumental in maintaining the YMCA building and camps. The sparkle of unused glassware or jewelry can be just the thing to put a brighter sparkle on some kids' face. These are the things toward which the auction proceeds go every year.

Take about five minutes of your spare time and dig around in the attic or basement. Find that "whatever-it-is" that you no longer need and someone else can use. It's much better that it gather dust than that it should be sold.

It's the little that you give that helps the "Y" give so much year after year. So come on, answer the SOS. Time is growing short and the YMCA needs your support now. If you can't take your articles to them, call SP 2-6295 for pick-up, but DO IT.

The whole town's pointing toward the Auction on May 5. The whole town wants the YMCA. So let's see that the whole town doesn't let them down.

Mrs. Gig Farfan, 723 South Newtown st., Medford.

Editorial Comment

SMALL MARK OF PROGRESS

Mississippi's lynching of a Negro prisoner, by a mob of White men in the grand, bloody manner, strangely enough is a mark of "progress" in civil rights cases.

Small comfort that it gives anybody, the lynching received nationwide publicity and nationwide shudders of horror that it had occurred, and nationwide revulsion toward the men who did it and the system that allowed it.

Not so many years ago, this would not have been the case. The incident would have been scarcely noticed. In fact, local newsmen might not have thought it newsworthy enough to file.

Today it is something different. The nation has done much deep thinking about the problems of civil rights and a majority of the people believe the status quo of minority group economic and educational discrimination has to be changed.

Small comfort. But at least some comfort. — Coos Bay World.

of China's greatest oil strikes were reported there. Two vast coal fields are supposed to have reserves of one billion tons of coking coal each. And there also are reports of rich deposits of tungsten, antimony, copper and perhaps uranium.

To tap these rich resources the Reds are building railroads into the area and have sent in thousands of troops to double as settlers and in emergency to quell the rebellious local populace.

The influx of such Chinese "settlers" was one of the triggers of the Tibetan revolt.

Proof of Chinese troubles in the region came this week with disclosure that the Communists recently removed five opposition leaders from government posts in Sinkiang and that more than 300 other persons were assigned to manual labor and further ideological reeducation.

The latter phrase, reduced from typical Communist terminology, simply means a period of brainwashing at the end of a pick and shovel.

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

THE FALSE ACCOUNTING

Washington — Last week, in the semi-final stage of the Berlin crisis, the Secretary of Defense of the United States offered the country an accounting.

That does not mean that Neil McElroy is a dishonest man. In the stock market boom of the late '20s, the vision of many honest men was irresistibly deformed by the atmosphere of the times. Their eyes were blind to debits and credulous towards credits; and so these wholly honest men published wholly misleading balance sheets. In the same fashion, in the atmosphere generated by the President's budget-mania, blindness to debits and extreme credulity towards credit now prevail in the Pentagon.

The McElroy balance sheet, offered to the American Association of Newspaper Publishers, was first of all misleading about the priorities governing the current defense budget. "National security," he declared, had been the only test; and he denied that the defense program had been "determined by budgetary considerations." He forgot to relate the famous episode in the National Security Council, when Under Secretary of Defense Donald Quarles timidly urged that the national security demanded larger defense investments.

THE President responded with the famous flush-faced anger which so frightens his subordinates — but markedly fails to intimidate the enemies of this republic. Budget-balancing, he told Quarles, "was national security." That settled the matter.

Worse still, the McElroy balance sheet was misleading about the condition of the nuclear deterrent, on which the whole Western strategic concept entirely depends. Speaking primarily of the Strategic Air Command, McElroy smoothly promised that "the bomber forces will be kept in any status of alert required to insure their ability to deliver unacceptable punishment to any nation which might attack us."

In contrast, the brilliant Strategic Air Commander, Gen. Thomas Power, has given sworn testimony that in its present alert status, SAC could conceivably be "knocked out" with no missile-seeing radars as yet in position. SAC has zero warning against a Soviet missile strike. SAC has only been authorized to maintain a 15-minute alert. Such an alert is utterly valueless if the Soviets simply acquire a few hundred more long range missiles than the national intelligence estimates allow.

When and if this happens, unless SAC has meanwhile been authorized to maintain an airborne alert, it will in fact be possible to "knock out" SAC.

WORST of all, the McElroy accounting was shockingly misleading on the key matter of the Soviet missile capability. Our own admittedly imperfect long range missile, the Atlas, now has a claimed "circular probable error" of one mile. In other words, it can be relied on to hit within one mile of its target. The Soviets have been in the missile business much longer than we have, and they have worked much harder at it. Thus their long range missile must be expected to be at least as good as the Atlas.

If that is so, they need a very small number of missiles indeed — in the extremely low hundreds — to knock out both SAC and the United States in our present completely "soft" condition of no warning, no air-borne alert, and no counter-striking weapons in "hard" emplacements. The current Atlas output of six missiles per month could be immediately raised to 18 per month, and it could be quite rapidly raised to 23 per month. By the measuring stick of this American capability, an all-

ang and Chinghai can have little hope of help in their struggle, but the fact that they continue to fight is further proof that personal liberties died hard.

In Sacramento the other day, a senate committee charged that unscrupulous bill collectors, often using strongarm tactics or posing as police, are preying on businessmen and the public.

Beatings, embezzlement and impersonation of law enforcement officers by thugs were cited in a 64-page report prepared by the senate interim committee on collection agencies, private detectives and debt liquidators. The report adds that auto repossessions, which are free from state control, have provided a hunting ground for petty racketeers, ex-convicts and musclemen.

The committee's report is based on two years of hearings held all over the state of California.

IT IS an interesting report. It is interesting for a variety of reasons. Among other things, it provides an example of what can happen when our lawmakers get so busy with providing the services that go along with the modern welfare state that they forget to provide the protections that the general run of people are entitled to receive as a part of the legitimate police powers of government.

The conditions described by the report are bad. The conclusion is inevitable that steps must be taken to protect people against that kind of harrying.

Providing that wind of protection is what government is for.

I CAN'T help hoping, though, that in taking steps to remedy injustices such as are described in this interim committee report to the California legislature we don't go to the opposite extreme and make it TOO easy to avoid the payment of legitimate bills.

We mustn't permit ourselves to fall into the delusion that bills shouldn't be paid — that collection of legitimate bills is bad business and that avoiding payment of legitimate bills is something to be excused.

If you want to get anywhere in the world, KEEP YOUR CREDIT GOOD. That is one law of sound business to which there are few exceptions. If you want an easy mind, as well as a good reputation, see to it that your bills are paid at the earliest possible moment.

ALSO — If you are a creditor — Be as tolerant and as helpful as possible to your debtors. Remember that when you sold them the goods you willingly took a chance in order to increase your volume.

This business of credit is one of the important institutions of the modern world. It deserves thoughtful and intelligent handling.

Six Americans Killed in France

Chateauroux, France — (UPI) — Six Americans including three children were killed Wednesday when their car hit a truck on a highway near here. Air Force officials announced today.

The Americans were identified as S-Sgt. Decker W. McQuillan, 25, of Brooklyn, N. Y., his wife, Carolyn, 22, their children, Helen, 4, Wanda, 3, and Decker Jr., 1, and a friend, Mrs. Mary Lou Curtis, 29, of Detroit, Mich.

Air Force officials said the six were driving back to this Air Force base in central France when they ran into the back of a slow-moving truck.

Sugar cane, bauxite and rice now are three major products of British Guiana, an area of 83,000 miles, with 500,000 people.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

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