

Ethics of Public Debate

This is being written before the outcome of Wednesday's election on the consolidation of the Talent and Phoenix school districts became known.

And this is not to comment about the pros and cons of consolidation—although it seems to us that the advocates had more logic on their side than did the opponents.

But both before yesterday's election, and prior to the similar election last May, it seems to us that there was a lot of misinformation, packed in emotion and coated with bitterness, being tossed around.

WOULDN'T it be wonderful if the American people could conduct their affairs with sweet reasonableness?

That probably is too much to expect, for whenever a public controversy arises, the emotions get involved in the debate where facts and thought, and orderly debate, should govern.

Differences of opinion are both understandable, and, to an extent, desirable. Oftentimes each side is partly right and partly wrong, and in the thrashing out of the differences, the facts of the matter become known, thus permitting a proper solution.

BUT challenging people's motives, casting personal aspersions, and attempting to sway votes on an emotional basis by last-minute tactics are something else again.

(One is reminded of George Bernard Shaw's remark, "Mankind, being for the most part incapable of politics, accepts vituperation as an easy and congenial substitute.")

As to the circuit court complaint filed regarding the school dispute, again we say nothing as to its merits. But its timing—it was filed two days before the election—makes it appear to be a deliberate attempt to sway the outcome of the election.

THE realities of the situation indicated that the Phoenix and Talent school districts, sooner or later, will be reorganized or consolidated, one way or another. Yesterday's election may or may not have accomplished this.

But whatever the outcome, it is to be hoped that school patrons in the areas involved will accept the results in good grace, and then proceed to work for the betterment of their schools without the bitter dissents and unmannerly disputes which have marked the discussions and elections thus far.—E.A.

10 YEARS AGO

Sept. 17, 1949 (Saturday)
A memorial flower fund is established to provide flowers for funerals of Camp White veterans' domiciliary members.

A demonstration of water skills from ballet to life-saving is held at the Medford YMCA.

20 YEARS AGO

Sept. 17, 1939 (Sunday)
A Medford unit of the Associated Employers of Oregon, Inc., is reported in the process of formation.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "It looks like war was just around the corner, where Prosperity has been for ten long years."

30 YEARS AGO

Sept. 17, 1929 (Tuesday)
L. A. Banks takes over operation of the Medford News. Residents of Rose ave. are frightened by a low-flying plane.

40 YEARS AGO

Sept. 17, 1919 (Wednesday)
Local Elks plan to dedicate a new picnic ground on the Rogue river next Sunday.

The move to make smoking a crime in Oregon gathers momentum.

50 YEARS AGO

Sept. 17, 1909 (Friday)
Hundreds of men are to be put to work in rushing construction of the P and E railroad.

Much copper mining activity along the Rogue river divide is reported.

What's Your I.Q.?

Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

- About whom did Bruce Bartlett write "The Man Nobody Knows"?
- Which State is nicknamed "Keystone State"?
- All years equally divisible by four are Leap Years; true or false?
- How far does the North American Continental Divide extend?
- Can salt water be frozen?
- The source of the poison that Socrates was condemned to drink is supposed to have been what?
- In what sport is the term slalom used?
- How many ciphers must be added to the figure one to represent one quintillion?
- Tripe is obtained from cattle, swine, or poultry?
- In what town did John Brown's insurrection take place?

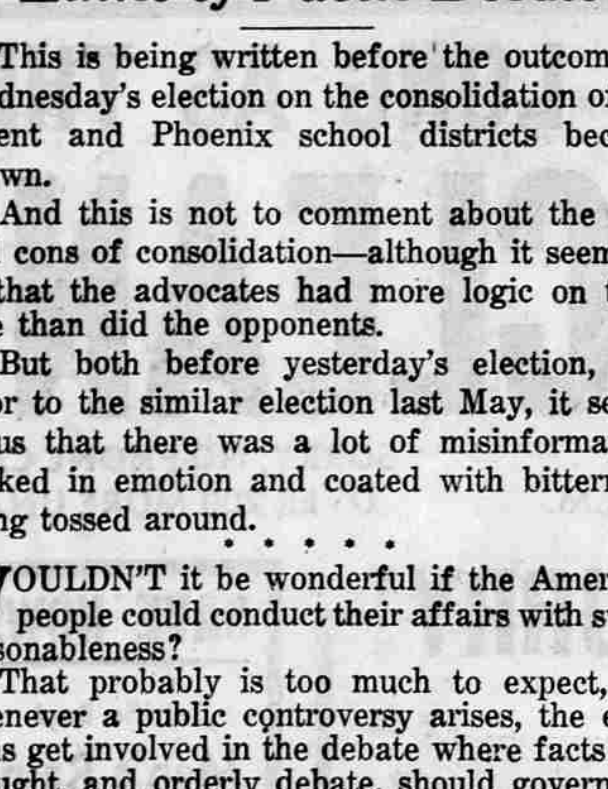
Answers: 1. Jesus. 2. Pennsylvania. 3. False. 4. Arctic seas to Columbia border. 5. Yes. 6. Hemlock. 7. Skiing. 8. Eighteen. 9. Cattle. 10. Harpers Ferry.

Kennedy's Oregon Itinerary Incomplete

Portland—UPI—The Oregon committee for Sen. John Kennedy (D-Mass.) said Wednesday that although the dates of his November visit were set, the itinerary was not completed.

The senator will be in Oregon Nov. 6 through the 9th. A tentative visit Oct. 20-21 also is planned.

Dennis the Menace



"LISTEN, MARGARET, IF YOU SAY 'ONK-ONK' AGAIN...."

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

THE WHITE TZAR

Washington—On a gloomy evening in Moscow in February, 1956, with the doors of the pompous Kremlin Hall locked against all outsiders, Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev delivered the most sensational speech of the times to the Twentieth Congress of the Soviet Communist Party.

This speech attacking Josef Stalin's memory marked a critical stage in the career of the squat, vital, ruthlessly energetic heir of Stalin who is now our guest—by virtue of his crude threat to our position in Berlin. In itself, moreover, this Khrushchev speech became a powerful force in modern history, leading directly onward to the change in Poland, the tragedy in Hungary, and much else besides.

Rereading the speech, with its unadorned record of Stalin's Byzantine cruelty, suspicion, treachery, and self-dedification, is like experiencing a walking nightmare. But now that Khrushchev is in our midst, grinning, back-slapping, orating, and hand-shaking like any backwoods candidate for Congress, it is worth experiencing the waking nightmare once again. For the Khrushchev speech unmasking Stalin also unmasks Nikita Khrushchev.

THE Khrushchev thus unmasked is by no means the monster that Stalin is shown as being. Here is a man, to be sure, unrelentingly and ruthlessly ambitious for power. For did he once protest against the endless, blood-drenched horrors that he so plainly records? Only once, is the answer, when Stalin's egotism was about to condemn an entire Russian Army Group to destruction by the Germans, in the fight for Kharkov.

And while all Russia ran with rivers of innocent blood, did not Khrushchev himself rise higher and higher in the hierarchy of power? Of course he rose while others perished, is the answer, because he danced the gopak, and did his assigned tasks without protest, and complied in all things with the tyrant's whims.

SUCH, one must remember, was the training and formation of the President's latest dinner partner. If Khrushchev is not a monster (and you will not think him so if you reread the speech), it is because he has a kind of earthy pragmatism, a rough humor, a knack of human contact, which somehow survived the dark, Byzantine years. He has too (again the speech shows it) a powerful, clear, and orderly mind. And this mind is inspired by an intense and burning Russian patriotism, which positively glows out in the passages on Russia's suffering and victory in the last war.

But the main thing the fact

masked is by no means the monster that Stalin is shown as being. Here is a man, to be sure, unrelentingly and ruthlessly ambitious for power. For did he once protest against the endless, blood-drenched horrors that he so plainly records? Only once, is the answer, when Stalin's egotism was about to condemn an entire Russian Army Group to destruction by the Germans, in the fight for Kharkov.

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THE present leaders of the nations of the world agree, if on nothing else, on the fact that war today would be unthinkable.

They speak from knowledge of the weapons which are stored in the world's arsenals. They know that, once unleashed (whether on purpose or by accident makes no difference), these weapons would end civilization as we know it, and might well end life, human and otherwise, on this shrunken globe. They know "the gun is loaded."

This, basically, is what is behind the Eisenhower-Khrushchev exchange of visits. It is the reason that even the most provocative incidents have gone without reprisals.

And it is what the saber-rattlers and super-patriots choose to ignore when they demand, either explicitly or implicitly, that we stand up and fight.

PATRICK HENRY once remarked "Give me liberty or give me death."

In the context of the times this was bold, courageous and patriotic. And it still is.

But those who cite his declaration as applying to international relations today ignore the fact that our choice is not between liberty and death—not yet, anyway.

The choice is between continued life for the world, and death for the entire race.

If we are smart enough, bold enough, work hard enough, and are patient enough, there is no reason why we cannot continue living—and in freedom.

But one of the preconditions to this is that the guns be unloaded and the planes disarmed. On both sides.—E.A.

Despite Warnings, Optimism Seen Rising Over Outcome of Ike-Khrushchev Talks

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign Editor

Despite all notes of warning, there seems to be on all sides a rising note of optimism that the talks between President Eisenhower and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev actually will herald the beginning of the end of the cold war. Official Washington seems to have maintained its equilibrium.

Many newspaper editorials have pointed out that on the basis of Khrushchev's record alone, any broad meeting of the minds seems possible.

Yet the optimism persists. Outside the United States, it is especially notable.

In Britain, Prime Minister Harold Macmillan bases part of his chance for success in the forthcoming general elections on the fact that he went to Moscow first and thus can lay claim to establishing the groundwork for the present Eisenhower-Khrushchev meeting.

United Press International dispatches from Moscow tell of Muscovites floating on rosy clouds of anticipation.

UPI correspondent Robert J. Korengel reported: "Soviet citizens seemed to be sure that Khrushchev's trip and the return visit of President Eisenhower were steps toward increased cooperation and peace."

"The difference between the atmosphere in Moscow today and at the height of the Berlin crisis a few short months ago was breathtaking."

Since the sentiments of the Soviet man-in-the-street largely are under control of the state, his present feeling of optimism obviously has been whipped up by the state. And that should constitute a real warning against over-optimism among the Western nations.

Khrushchev has taken out a sort of double-indemnity insurance.

If a better understanding does develop, it will have been accomplished by Khrushchev, the man of peace. If disappointment is the only outcome, it will be because the war planners of the West once again have blocked international Communism's drive toward world accord.

Major Issues Discussed

Basically, Khrushchev must come to the United States with three things in mind. They are Germany and the question of Berlin, disarmament and increased U.S.-Soviet trade.

Eisenhower already has announced the West will not abandon two million West Berliners. Since it is unlikely the Communists will give up their bargaining point on Berlin, the best that seems likely is a stalemate.

Disarmament presents a possibility, in that East and West might come together on the point of an inspection system connected with a ban on nuclear tests. But so far as abandonment of Western bases around Russia is concerned, there is no chance at all.

So far as trade is concerned, the Soviets principally need our help in such industries as chemicals and heavy goods. The Soviets recognize neither copyright nor patent laws. Give them one machine and they can produce thou-

changed the course of the moon.

IN SAYING all this, I do not mean to suggest that the talks will be serious only if Mr. K. agrees with us. The essence of the stalemate about Germany is that there can be no German settlement, and not even an agreed truce, unless a new formula—however limited and provisional—is introduced into the deadlock.

There is some reason to think that we, in company with the British, would examine carefully and with an open mind a new formula. As the Soviet Union has the diplomatic initiative in the German question, the new formula will have to come from Mr. K. It cannot come from President Eisenhower who has to think about his continental allies.

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If one could feel sure that Mr. K. has realized what the moon shot is as propaganda in the present situation, it would be reasonable to assume that he is coming here with something important to say. After such a crashing overture, the way has been prepared for something more than the Khrushchev-Nixon dialogue at the Moscow Fair, or an oral presentation of Mr. Gromyko's speeches and diplomatic notes.

The overture promises to prepare the way for some move which inaugurates, which does not throw cold water upon, serious negotiations.

WHILE CONCEIVABLY it may be the case, I find it hard to believe that Mr. K. has given such importance to the visit if he does not have some serious business in mind. Mr. K. is nobody's fool, and he cannot be deluding himself with the fantasy that there can be any marked change in the American attitude towards the cold war without a change of substance in some of the critical issues of the cold war. There is no more chance of his beguiling and seducing us with speeches and gestures than of our converting him to the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights with the sight of supermarkets or what have you.

In the end everything will depend on whether in his private talks with the President and his closest advisors, a way is found to continue the talks when the President goes to Moscow. The public hullabaloo will be interesting to watch. But in the absence of serious talks, what Mr. K. thinks of the U.S.A. and what the American people who see him think of Mr. K. will no more change the course of history than the moon shot has.

Such, in fact, is Nikita Khrushchev, as the dead boys of Budapest and poor cheated Zhukov, and many other witnesses mutely testify. In dealing with such a man, far more will be needed than good will, good intentions, and a belief in a balanced budget.

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Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

CRITIC PERCY HAMMOND once dismissed a star who performed the bottle to the footlights with "So-and-so repeated which is what he did last night."

Another distinguished critic, George Oppenheimer, is the author of a play called "Here Today." One of its scenes was on a bathing beach. The producer sent away to the seaside for 40 tons of sand—and then the opening trout was scheduled for Atlantic City.

"That," commented Howard Dietz, "is what I call carrying sand to Atlantic City."

Advices Pat Kraft: "If you don't want stage fright, at least not for ages, my system is simple: Just stay off the stages."

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Power Lines Seen Inadequate Soon

Ithaca, N. Y. —UPI— Present estimates of America's electrical power needs indicate that within 10 years most of the power lines serving metropolitan areas will be inadequate.

Cornell University researchers say they are looking for a type of cable that will bring more electric power to consumers at less cost.

One such system being developed could supply a city the size of Toledo, Ohio, plus Grand Rapids, Mich., through a single circuit consisting of three cables, the university said.

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

THE MOON SHOT

In choosing this moment to shoot the moon, Mr. K. has taken, we must presume, a calculated risk. For among the dangers of his visit the greatest—apart from a possible accident—is that nothing will come of it, that the mountain will have labored and brought forth a mouse.

In signalling his arrival by such a spectacular scientific and technological triumph, he has to think of his departure, and whether his visit, which has started so big, is to peter out at the end.

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Appreciates Police

To the Editor: Today something terrible happened to me. While I was taking a piano lesson, my bicycle was stolen. I went back to my piano teacher in tears and in 10 minutes there was a policeman there to ask me some questions about my bike.

I appreciate Medford's police force and I just hope that everyone else does. That's why I am writing this letter.

In less than three hours that same police officer brought my bike to my house.

The police watch over our homes when we are away. They come at once whenever we call them, whatever the occasion is. They are always kind and polite to us.

This is my way of thanking the Medford police department for the nice things they do, all the year through and for being such nice friends to us all.

Bruce L. Stewart,
(6th grade)
1817 Siskiyou blvd.,
Medford.

Candy Sale Success

To the Editor: We would like to thank everyone for the kind reception and support that was given our candy sale.

You have made it possible for us to give \$243.52 to the crippled Children's Hospital School in Eugene.

Children from all over Oregon attend this school. Anyone wishing more information can call Marjorie Peterson at NO-4-1748.

All chapters of Epsilon Sigma Alpha in Oregon help support the school, and last year gave \$11,549.91, and with your generosity we expect to donate more this year.

Epsilon Sigma Alpha
Alpha Lambda 616
Betty Harrison
(Corresponding Secretary)

Potatoes and Famine

To the Editor: Fawcett courtiers were puzzled when once a King of France appeared at court dinner with a potato flower boutonniere. All seated, he remarked: "This evening a soup of what you all, a week ago, would have said 'poisonous.' If it be poisonous, let us die now, instead of by the mob." All present knew hungry masses were murmuring against excessive taxation, yet ostentatious luxury at court.

The King then said: "The potato flower has the same form as that of deadly nightshade. Because of this, men supposed New World's potato should be grown only for ornament. One of my subjects, chemist Parmentier, convinces me, from his own

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

From Washington: Premier Nikita Khrushchev, beaming, waving his hat and gesturing to President Eisenhower with his hands, arrives for a fateful 13-day visit that could turn the course of the cold war—for better or for worse.

WHAT DOES he want? That's a tough question. It prompts other questions.

WHY DID HE take such meticulous pains to land a Russian rocket on the moon on the EVE of his visit to us? Suppose I'm coming to visit you. Suppose, before starting, I strap a six-shooter around my waist and go out in sight of all the world and stage an exhibition of how fast I can draw and how straight I can shoot.

What would you think?

NOW ONE from Moscow: The Russian people were so sure the trip would end the cold war that their excitement and almost PASSIONATE HOPES reached near hysteria by the time his plane took off for America.

Russian newspapers have warned that the trip was only a beginning, but to Russians it MEANT PEACE.

SUPPOSE it doesn't mean peace? What will happen then? Will the collapse of their passionate hopes for peace fill the Russian people with hatred of US? Or will it disillusion them as to their own leadership?

There are so many questions.

A FINAL ONE from Washington:

When President Eisenhower met Premier Khrushchev at the bottom of the ramp, a red carpet was rolled out, a 21-gun salute was fired, an honor guard snapped to attention and the first of eight bands began to play.

But all the pomp and ceremony still left hanging the question of how the man in the street would greet Russia's leader on his parade into Washington and his transcontinental tour of our country.

HOW SHOULD we act? The answer is simple. He's a guest. He was INVITED here. As an invited guest, we owe him courtesy. Clear back when Neanderthal man invited another Neanderthal man into his cave, he acted hospitably. He shared his food with his guest.

Down through the ages, that hasn't changed. We owe Mr. K simple courtesy.

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Will it not pay to also "reduce U.S.A.'s biological illiteracy?"
C. M. Goethe,
Seventh and J sts.,
Sacramento 14, Calif.

The King was shrewd. The court circle next day wore potato-bloom boutonnieres. Within a week, shopkeepers bid against each other for a single boutonniere flower. That winter the potato saved the dynasty. Next year saw crops from the English channel to the Pyrenees, from Brittany's teapot tip, across France, to Mont Blanc.

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