

### Shop Talk

"Shop talk" is one of the most interesting kinds of discussion—provided the parties to the discussion are in the same line of endeavor. Sometimes "shop talk" outside one's own line of work can be of interest, too, and sometimes it can be boring. Well, this piece is going to be shop talk of a sort—newspaper shop talk—and if it bores you, we commend to you our communications column, which has been pretty lively of late.

ONE of the occupational hazards of newspaper work is losing friends. This is true of reporters, sometimes, when they report a story which they feel is news, and which someone else—a friend—thinks should not be. It is true of editors, when they commit what others consider to be sins of omission or commission in the handling of news. It is true of editorial writers, when they voice opinions with which others disagree—particularly when the opinions are set forth vigorously.

ANOTHER related occupation hazard is the business of hurting people. This is done every day. For because news is what it is, it is frequently true that someone is hurt by its publication. Hardly a week passes but what we get a call asking that a story not be printed, or that someone's name be left out, to avoid embarrassing that someone, or his aged, ailing grandmother, or his innocent children. Since we consider that news is news, and that we're in the business of printing news, it is a rare case indeed where such requests are observed. When the request is rejected, we've made someone mad. And if it's a friend, then he becomes a former friend. We are not complaining. It is one of the facts of newspaper life, and one everyone who stays in the business learns to live with.—E.A.

### Officialdom and the Public

Somewhat similar hazards face holders of public office as those mentioned above. Elected and appointed officials are fair game for critics. It has always been thus in American politics, and we hope it will always be so. For America operates on the presumption of political equality, and anyone who has the courage to stand up and sound off against the government is exercising a constitutional right. This does not make it pleasant for office holders. But it is one of the occupational hazards. SOMETIMES these two related hazards come into conjunction—like when a newspaper publishes a story in which someone is critical of public officials. The latter can, understandably, feel such a story is unfair, particularly if they are conscientious, hard-working public servants, trying their best to do a good job for the public. But the newspaper owes its first allegiance to its readers, and any newspaper worth its salt will not withhold news for the purpose of sparing the feelings of public officials. WE MAINTAIN that both elected and appointed officials, in addition to being subject to criticism, also should answer it when it is voiced. Not to do so may leave the impression the criticism is valid. And not to do so is failing to keep the public informed about the public business. It is an age-old temptation of public officials, who are entrusted with the public's business, to come to look upon it as a private trust. And admittedly it is far easier to transact business when no one is looking over your shoulder, or second-guessing your decisions. THIS has led to closed-door sessions of committees and councils and boards and commissions—sessions at which the business of the public is transacted in private. Oregon has been singularly free of this kind of petty secrecy in public affairs. In Medford, council meetings, meetings of the school board, and most other public bodies, are open not only to the press, but also to any interested citizen. Elsewhere, it is a continual battle for newsmen to ferret out news of public affairs so that the public can be informed. This is true at all levels of government—federal, state, county and city. THIS newspaper joins the great majority of papers in America in believing that public business should be transacted in public—save only in instances involving national security. But it has never gone to the length that some papers do, demanding that whenever public officials get together to discuss public business, even informally, the press must be included. Having been on "both sides of the fence," we know it is sometimes difficult, if not impossible, to thrash out solutions to controversial problems in public. BUT we do insist that when decisions are made, the public has the right to know about them, and the reasons which led to the decisions. For the same reason we feel that when public bodies or officials are criticized, they have an obligation to the public, to their "bosses" and constituents, to answer the criticism, frankly and fully. Only in that way can the public determine if the trust placed in their public servants is justified, or if the criticisms themselves are ill-founded.—E.A.

### Dennis the Menace



"I THOUGHT YOU TOLD ME IT DIDN'T SQUIRT?!"

### 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 initial 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.

Reflections on Complexions To the Editor: On a stanza and the chorus of the Indian love song, Red Wing, we read a parody entitled "Fledgling." "Oh, there once was a nice little maid, She used a complexion aid; She was ill content with the one God sent, So for lipstick and rouge Some money she spent; She thought of a warrior brave, So her make-up she carefully made; Fixed her face and hair quite well Till she thought she looked real swell, BUT THE RAIN WASHED IT NEARLY ALL AWAY. (Chorus) Now the light shines real bright on the painted lady, Decent shows plainly, it's camouflage mainly. While those content to live as God has made them, Still look quite finely from day to day." So deeply ingrained in my tastes and discretionary nature is the love of the real and genuine in humans, that, were I young again and unmarried, I would remain unmarried until I found that companion who would shun the unreal, the artificial, and the superficial enough to refrain from paint and make-up—and here is the reason: If she were unreal in her outward appearance, having an artificial and superficial and purchased complexion, how am I to know that she has a genuine interior. My consolation would be that there still remain some unadorned and genuine women whose exterior and interior agree, and whose depths are unmarred by what in so many is mere camouflage. If a painted exterior is indicative of an inferior interior—and it is—and would contribute to a disrespect for his wife in him who loves the real and the bonafide, let us plead and pray for better womanhood. Try to visualize God making "an help meet for him" who requires to enhance and complete her complexion appearance by the application of coal tar dyes lately diagnosed and condemned and ready to be banned by the U.S. department of health as cancer producing! Suppose men began to paint lips, nails, and toe-nails; and to wear toe-less, sock-less shoes, women would (and I would) scorn them, and refuse to trust such freaks! Lord, give me a woman who is genuine and bonafide, from the farthest outside exterior to the deepest inward interior; from the tips of her unpainted nails to the ventricles of her magnanimous heart! "And all the people said (or should say) Amen." H. R. Bulman Route 4, Box 316A Medford.

Christmas Project To the Editor: The Medford Lady Lions wish to thank the editor and staff members of the Medford Mail Tribune for the excellent publicity given for our project, "Dolls and gifts for needy children at Christmas-time." Through this widespread publicity many individuals and organizations in and near Medford made dolls and gifts available for distribution prior to Christmas. Our thanks too for the splendid cooperation on the part of all those who sent in gifts and dolls for the children. (Mrs.) Beulah A. Dollahide, Secretary, Medford Lady Lions.

Modern, But Not Indifferent To the Editor: In answer to Mr. Barleen's article depicting me as an evil-minded dogooder on my protest to a recent movie, I must reply that I am really quite a modern mother of three children. However I am not so modern that I will accept obscenity with complacency and indifference. I did not intend to bring religion into the controversy, but since Mr. Barleen quotes scripture from the Bible, I can only state that if I Christ Himself had been seated in the theater during the previews which I witnessed, I doubt that He would have smiled His approval on the spectacle. Mr. Barleen might be a mature adult who can take sensualism in his stride, but I'm concerned about the children and teen-agers who were shrieking, whistling, and stomping their feet. Apparently they do not share his modern, cosmopolitan attitude. Do the French have such praiseworthy morals that we must try to imitate them? Cannibalism and polygamy are prevalent in some parts

of the world too, but that does not make it desirable for us. Perhaps my protest will mean nothing, but if parents do not object to movies of this type being shown to children, what will we be accepting in a few years? I'm sure Mr. Barleen will allow me to retain both my blushes and my anonymity. (Name on file) Medford.

23rd, Et Al To the Editor: It appears a number of people either have not read or were unable to understand the text of the "23rd Amendment" proposal, and I must, whether I like it or not, agree with the editor. I interpret it as follows: "Section One-The Government of the United States shall not engage in any business, professional, commercial, financial or industrial enterprise except as specified in the Constitution." The Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Soil Conservation Service, Flood Control, power and other similar efforts on the part of the Corps of Engineers, and some others are, and I cannot see how anyone could consider them otherwise, either engaged in business, professional, commercial, financial or industrial enterprises. May I ask these proponents—What is the building of a flood control or power dam if not business, professional, commercial or industrial enterprises? What are the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, if not business enterprises? Now, "Section Two - The Constitution or laws of any State, or the laws of the United States, shall not be subject to the terms of any foreign or domestic agreement which would abrogate this amendment." I cannot say much about the "domestic" agreements but I see no way we can get along in this world, the way things are, without the foreign aid given by the United States.

By comparison with me, the late Senator Taft was a Socialist, but still, like a number of other people I do not see what this country would do without the foreign aid and I definitely would not want all the federal lands to be thrown on the market with a provision that they be sold within three years. However, if the Sixteenth Amendment were the only thing to be changed by the proposed 23rd Amendment, then rest assured it would have my support. Now a note to the county court: How about making arrangements with the Forest Service for material and moving a rock crusher to the foot of Mosquito Hill to rebuild our road here? Also next time you buy gravel trucks get a rig with tandem rear axles and a tandem axle trailer to carry a minimum of 25 yards of crushed rock. This should cut considerably the cost of rebuilding our roads. Floyd R. McCabe, Mt. Pitt Star Rt., Butte Falls, Ore.

God's Truth To the Editor: It matters not which creed we choose; God's Truth, unchanging, is the same For Catholics, Protestants and Jews, And even those who faith disclaim. Without beginning, without end, Truth goes beyond infinity; Fore-shortened thoughts we must transcend To know our own Divinity. There is no doctrine that has all. The everything of God's great plan. Oft' times we stumble, yes, and fall While following the Son of Man. He said that Heaven lies within Each soul; that it's a state of mind. 'Tis there that God blots out each sin, As those who seek will surely find. The key is Faith-It opens wide The temple gate; Christ leads the way To all the precious gifts inside- To Love, Truth, Light-Eternal Day! (By Evelyn Evans) P. S.-If there is clearer thinking, more 'petal-perfect' (apology to Ben Hur Lampman) poetry written, this writer has failed to find it. F. J. Clifford, Route 2, Box 200F, Central Point, Ore.

Ambulance Speed To the Editor: As a former owner of an ambulance company, it was with great interest and concern that I read your article in last Sunday's paper on "Speed and First Aid." I agree with Dr. Louis Feves on one point, but heavily disagree on the main point. It is true that you will find some unscrupulous operators that will hire some siren happy individuals who will un-

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### Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

(The following article is the fourth in a series of six.) THE MISSILE GAP: FISHY STUFF

Washington - The American intelligence estimate prepared at the time of the first Sputnik gave the Soviets about 500 intercontinental missiles by the end of this year. If these first estimates happened to be correct the Kremlin may have enough ICBMs to "wipe out" our nuclear deterrent. During 1958, however, the first estimates were downgraded. New and lower estimates were conveniently revealed by former Secretary of Defense Neil McElroy, during his presentation of the business-as-usual 1959 defense budget. This second set of estimates gave the Kremlin 500 ICBMs by the end of 1961. If the revised estimates happened to be correct, the Kremlin should be in a position to win the world about 12 months from now. During 1959, however, the revised estimates were revised yet again. The new and still lower estimates were conveniently revealed by Secretary of Defense Thomas Gates, during his presentation of the business-as-usual 1960 defense budget. If the twice-downgraded estimates happen to be correct, we may perhaps bridge the missile gap without any final catastrophe - PROVIDED the Pentagon's highly optimistic schedules for the Minute Man missile and other weapons of the future also happen to be correct.

ON the face of it, there is something very fishy about these repeated, strikingly convenient down-gradings of intelligence estimates. How can anyone be so sure that Nikita S. Khrushchev was lying, in late 1958, when he stated that Soviet ICBMs were already "in serial production?" How prove that he was being deliberately misleading, more recently, when he seemed to say that a single Soviet factory had turned out 250 ICBMs last year? If he was telling the truth, Khrushchev must now have at least 150 operational ICBMs. The highest American authority, the Strategic Air

necessarily endanger their own lives as well as the lives of the public in general. However when you stop to think that an ambulance will cost the owner some \$20,000 new, or even a good second hand car some \$6,000, a lot of thought is going to be put into just how the car is going to be driven and cared for. Then again the insurance rate for an ambulance is quite high and for the most part is based on the number of accidents the company is involved in each year. In a lot of cases speed is essential if the lives of the patients are to be saved. I would like to cite just a few of such cases. In an accident involving three cars, on arrival the crew found several people injured, among them a seven-year-old girl that had been thrown through a window and her throat cut. The attendant applied first aid, reached down into her throat and succeeded in holding her jugular vein until the driver reached the hospital. Another time an elderly woman had suffered a bad heart attack. When the ambulance arrived she was already turning blue. First aid was applied, oxygen was given and she was rushed to the hospital. A woman in advance stage of labor was started for the hospital. The baby was born in the ambulance en route. She started to hemorrhage. If speed had not been made the woman might have died before the ambulance could have reached the hospital. I could go on and on and give example after example of cases where speed was most essential if a life was to be saved. In a case of a minor injury I say no, that speed is not essential, but on the other hand how would you like to have one of your loved ones die en route to a hospital just because the ambulance was ordered to obey all traffic rules? Come on people, wake up, tragedy can strike any of us at any time. Write to this Dr. Feves, write to this newspaper, make your voice heard in this most important matter. Don't depend on your neighbor to do it but write that letter now. Russell Osborn, 725 Walker Ave., Ashland, Ore.

Second, these words, "crash program," are doubly revealing. They show first the deforming effect of budgetary pressures. A mere ten months of capacity output by our own Atlas plant - the Kremlin requirement as stated by General Power - could not be called a "crash program" by anyone who had not lost his grip on reality. Second, these words, "crash

program," also imply a shocking fact that Secretary Gates has now publicly admitted. They show that our estimates are no longer calculations of Soviet "capabilities" - calculations of the utmost the Soviet can do, by a crash program for instance. They indicate that our estimates are now mere calculations of Soviet "intentions." Despite Secretary Gates's subsequent attempts to fuzzle the whole thing over, his original testimony on this point was crystal clear: "Figures of Soviet ICBM output) that have been testified to in years past... were based on Soviet capabilities. This present one is an intelligence estimate of what we believe (the Soviet) will probably do, not what (the Soviets are) capable of doing."

PEARL Harbor was the result, the last time the American government based its defense posture on what it believed a hostile power would probably do, and not on what the hostile power was capable of doing. If the estimates are wrong by no more than a hairsbreadth, something much worse than Pearl Harbor can now be the result. In this matter, it is folly to blame the estimators, and above all the Central Intelligence Agency. The C.I.A. has never claimed to provide gospel instead of estimates. It has done its best with a bad, difficult business. But those who have pressed for downgraded estimates, and have then used mere estimates as gospel, can certainly be blamed. These sponsors of our business-as-usual defense budgets, headed by the President, are playing a vast game of Russian roulette with the national future. (c) 1960 New York Herald Tribune Inc.

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Flight o' Time Medford and Jackson County History from the files of The Mail Tribune 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years ago.

10 YEARS AGO Jan. 29, 1950 (Sunday)

Central Point volunteer firemen report good results in campaign to raise funds for a fire truck to serve the rural area around Central Point.

Radio station KRCO in Prineville went on the air today. It is operated by four former Medford men who were employees of KYJC.

20 YEARS AGO Jan. 29, 1940 (Monday)

German planes attack British shipping in worse raids yet. Three neutral ships are sunk by mistake.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "A sin circles it has been contended it was not for Moses with his Ten Commandments to say how the people should behave 1940 years later."

30 YEARS AGO Jan. 29, 1930 (Wednesday)

New snowplow arrived today for clearing Crater Lake road in winter.

Dairymen will fight new city milk law that sets minimum price of 12 cents a quart.

40 YEARS AGO Jan. 29, 1920 (Friday)

A Chicago moviehouse has opened a smoking room for women patrons.

Increase of illness has caused a flu quarantine to be invoked in Medford.

50 YEARS AGO Jan. 29, 1920 (Saturday)

Local man back from air show in Los Angeles, says flying is easy and predicts there will be 10 planes in Medford in two years.

Sis Hopkins joins Medford's growing theatrical colony. After touring U.S. she likes Medford best and will stay.

### What's Your I.Q.?

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

- 1. What is another name for Hoover Dam?
2. Is "revelations" the correct name of a book of the Bible?
3. Whiskey which is designated as bottled-in-bond is at least how many years old?
4. Do you associate the name Jascha Heifetz with the piano, violin, or organ?
5. An inviolable remark is most likely to provoke laughter, ill will, or good will?
6. Bing Crosby is a member of what religious denomination?
7. Herring bone, sidestep, snowplow, telmark, and Christians are terms used in which sport?
8. What blind poet wrote "Paradise Lost"?
9. In the political life of what European country was the name of Leon Blum prominent?
10. Do prisoners confined in Federal penitentiaries wear a black and white striped uniform?

Answers: 1. Boulder Dam. 2. Revelation. 3. Four. 4. Violin. 5. Ill will. 6. Roman Catholic. 7. Skiing. 8. John Milton. 9. France. 10. No.

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