

Argument About Freedoms

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Someone recently clipped out a Mail Tribune editorial and for some reason mailed it to our old friend, Giles French, the crusty, outspoken, tough-skinned and soft hearted editor of the Sherman County Journal, in the pleasant little wheat country town of Moro.

So Giles sat him down at his typewriter, and wrote as follows:

FREEDOMS

An editor of the Medford Mail Tribune, signing himself as E. A., which should make him Eric Allen, wrote an editorial in August in which he inquires rhetorically "What freedoms have you lost lately?"

It was his contention that conservatives in arguing against the new deal cited loss of freedoms without being specific as to what ones.

It is true that the growth of populations limits the freedoms of an individual. That is natural and cannot be helped. But the growth of government under the new deal type of thinking has limited freedoms much faster than the increased population would make necessary.

E. A. does admit that he has noticed the loss of freedom to spend his own money, which is important but less so than others.

He mentions the freedom to starve to death in old age. That is certainly a lost freedom and a very important one. The freedom to fail is necessary to the freedom to succeed. No people can be free unless some can fail; no society can make progress unless the unfit and unworthy can fail. On the other side there must be rewards for the successful.

We are so bound by laws and union regulations that a man can hardly tell whether he is a success or a failure. A boy starts school at six and barring deliberate refusal to cooperate is graduated at eighteen from high school. He gets a job and if he pays his union dues he keeps it until social security retires him. Thousands of such persons have insufficient freedom to tell whether they are a success or a failure. They never tried.

Without the freedom to die broke man becomes like a barnyard animal fed by the solicitous hand of the master. That is the philosophy of materialism which which Karl Marx gave such a boost because he never could make a living at anything. That is the philosophy that elevates the stomach over the spirit, the belly over the brain.

Sure, E. A., the freedom to starve is a real one. Without the freedom to starve there can be no freedom to succeed, no opportunity to do things for oneself.

The nation, therefore, loses the fresh approaches of the brave and adventurous, and becomes stale and stodgy for where there is no reward for thinking there is none and the end is dismal drabness.

If Americans are to be men they will welcome the adventure of living and accept the penalties of failure; if they are to be steers in a feed lot they will think only of a manager full of grain. Take your pick.

AS IS often the case in arguments of this nature, the opponents agree on many points and their disagreement isn't as wide as each might make out.

If a starving man were to stumble into Giles' office, we have a hunch he wouldn't go away without a handout.

Giles' trouble is that he equates failure with starvation.

They're two different things.

STARVATION is dying for lack of food, and there can be a dozen causes.

Failure is not getting done these things which you, or society, think are important to get done.

Some of the worst failures we know are well-to-do men.

Some of the most successful people we know are poor.

And if Giles thinks that the world of today has fewer truly successful people than it had before, we've got news for him—there are more successful people today than ever before.

There are more "failures," too, of course. There are more people. But the proportion is about the same as it ever was; if anything, the proportion of successful people has gone up a bit as the opportunity for education has broadened.

SO, UP to this point we have received two replies to our inquiry "What freedoms have you lost lately?"

1. Giles French says we've lost the freedom to starve in old age. We still think that's a lousy freedom, in the richest nation on earth. And, despite Giles, we still have the freedom to struggle and work and make a success of life. Everyone we know, who's worth knowing, is doing just that—including Giles French.

2. In a communication it is alleged, in a gloriously confused way, that today "abortion abounds; and there is the growing acceptance of euthanasia." What this has to do with the subject at hand—the loss of individual freedom due to government—escapes us.

THERE is much freedom in this land today. But there seems to be an increasing trend for people not to use it as they should.

Too many people are meekly quiet when they should speak out on issues of the day.

Too many people are afraid to dissent, to protest against social conformities and picayunish traditions and customs.

IF WE have lost freedom, it is not because of government, and its broadening of social services.

It is because of fear; of over-attention to material things; of failure to think and probe and wonder about the whys and wherefores of things, and to speak out against fat-headed, stuffed-shirt, greedy, materialistic nincompoops.

No, Giles. You are as free today as your grandfather was, except in those things where your freedom infringes on that of others in a world growing crowded too fast.

And if the freedom to starve is diminishing, hooray, say we.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



"BOY, YOU SURE MUST HAVE A LONG CLOTHESLINE!"

Foreign Notebook: U.S. vs. U.S.S.R. in United Nations; Red Harassment Viewed

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign Editor From the foreign editor's notebook:

Russia vs. United Nations The Soviet Union is extremely annoyed with United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld's handling of the Congo crisis.

Red Harassment No matter what actions the

Communist bloc may take at the U.N., they have plenty of opportunities to stir up trouble elsewhere. Western diplomats fear the Soviets may be considering harassing actions in the three 20-mile-wide air corridors to West Berlin.

and Asian nations, also Latin America. Bonn feels that analysis of the Khrushchev proposals will show, as before, that what he really wants first of all is the removal of U.S. bases in West Germany.

Dim View in France France will boycott any General Assembly debate on Algeria and already has warned it will ignore any U.N. decision which might favor the Algerian rebels.

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.

Begging the Question To the Editor: The reply to Mr. M. J. Olsen that appeared in last Sunday's (Sept. 11) paper certainly was a masterpiece of evasion and begging the question.

Consider a case at random. The FBI carries on an investigation; a Congressional committee uncovers large amounts of evidence; a defector from communism in this country voluntarily comes forth with further testimony; another defector seeks asylum from communism in West Germany; and Army Intelligence adds their bit of evidence.

As a result, through unbelievable coincidence, all this evidence from all these groups and individuals overlies and completely substantiates each other. There is no apparent variation. Rather a very clear picture of subversion is painted.

Police Headaches To the Editor: He was heaving favoritism-loaded "bricks" at Medford, its police force in particular. When asked for something more believable than lung-wind, he gloatingly produced a much used letter to the Editor.

What E. A. Did To the Editor: Will you please state in your columns what E. A. was doing during the war. Was he in the trenches at one dollar a day or did he have a nice soft job with the paper at 40 or 50 per day?

Editor's note: E. A. - Pfc. ASN 39893984, 902nd TG, AAF, Disch. 7 Jan 44 under Sec. II AR 16-36 and SO No. 5, Par. 35 HQ TS & BTC No. 12, AAFWITC.

plained that she was merely returning empties that beer-guzzlers had tossed her way. Despite such justification, it was explained that throwing of bottles or trash anywhere is a serious offense and would not be allowed; that she should have reported it in and prompt inquiry would have been ordered.

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Now to a touchy subject. A liquor license was applied for. The first application was denied or put off. The case was appealed and as we now understand the license has been granted. It was a warmly contested issue.

Some very prominent Ashland citizens are behind the securing of this license. One of them personally told me that liquor was needed to put the place on the profit side. In fact I fear he was a bit disturbed over my feelings about the matter.

My small efforts against this enemy liquor don't amount to much, I know. But if we would and could sense the responsibility we owe one another, we'd do more to battle an enemy that is loose in our midst.

It was also instructive to learn that the Name on File party was not listed in the city directory, city water dept., or with the power, light and heat facilities. Also a trip out South Grape St. way to the address given was found to be a most primitive place of abode, a weedy, empty lot.

A 'Look at the Record' Shows Communist Plan of Duplicity

By LYLE C. WILSON Washington-UPI-Too bad Al Smith isn't around to deal with the United Nations' most distinguished visitor, the Soviet Union's Nikita S. Khrushchev.

Al Smith had a way with phonies. His way was to hear them out, consider their propositions carefully and then propose: "Let's look at the record."

First Objective The Institute study finds disarmament to be K's prime strategic and tactical objective. Disarmament of the United States and of the West, that is, his disarmament proposals and other sweet talk of co-existence are likened to just so many tranquilizer pills.

Al Smith is gone, but the Foreign Policy Research Institute of the University of Pennsylvania is very much alive. The Institute prepared and the government printed a 40-page pamphlet entitled "Khrushchev's Strategy and Its Meaning for America."

With that knowledge fresh in their minds they did every thing possible, in the writing of the Constitution, to stop the federal government from getting that hold on the American people. That is the reason for the state governments. They knew that it would be easier for the taxpayer to keep tabs on his tax dollar, and also that if a man thought his state was getting out of hand tax-wise, he could go to another state, instead of another county like they had to do.

Against the universal expectation of the professional politicians, Georgia Democrats have turned in an advisory vote favoring unpledged electors rather than electors committed to the Democratic ticket.

THEY does not necessarily mean the final loss of Georgia to Sens. John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. But it is a heavy blow, at the very least. If they should go on to carry the state in November, a majority of the electors no doubt would still cast most of the state's electoral vote for the Kennedy-Johnson ticket.

Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

TAKING CLEAR TURN Washington - The Kennedy-Johnson Democratic presidential ticket is now taking a clear turn toward a relatively conservative position, but it may be too late a turn in the south and border states, anywhere.

Extremely bad news for the Democrats, for example, just came from Georgia, a state never in modern history carried by a Republican presidential candidate and a state which, above all others in the south, the Democrats had believed to be safe for November.

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IN THE meantime, both Kennedy and Johnson, as had been forecast recently in this column, had already begun to move a bit away from the Democratic left wing. In the very home of left-wingism, New York, Kennedy had in effect publicly rejected ultra-liberalism, on the very night the Georgia ballots were being counted.

THEY have only said that they want to see the state's electoral vote withheld altogether. This is in the hope that, in the highly unlikely event of a national tie for the presidency, Georgia would be in position to bargain. Such

tie would throw the election into the House of Representatives for a decision there.

Now, all these things almost certainly will not happen. But what will surely happen is this: The Georgia straw vote - which already means the repudiation of Gov. S. Ernest Vandiver as a pro-Kennedy man - will put fear into every Democratic leader in that state, and all over the south. It is an ominous portent for Kennedy and Johnson everywhere below the Mason-Dixon line.

Richard Russell and Herman Talmadge, had been awaiting the straw vote in the expectation that it would give them a mandate to back Kennedy and Johnson. The mandate has not come, and the lesson will be read among other powerful southern politicians. It would be unwise to bet much that Russell and Talmadge - or Governor Vandiver for that matter - will now break their backs to carry Georgia for the Kennedy-Johnson ticket.

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Medford Mail Tribune advertisement with subscription rates and contact information.

1960 Newspaper Publishers Association logo.

National Editorial Association logo.

Flight o' Time advertisement for Medford and Jackson County.

10 YEARS AGO advertisement for a school event.

20 YEARS AGO advertisement for a traffic engineering department.

30 YEARS AGO advertisement for a shoe store.

40 YEARS AGO advertisement for a local club.

50 YEARS AGO advertisement for a log cabin.

What's Your I.Q.? advertisement with a list of questions.

Answers to the I.Q. test.