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### Religion and Non-Religion

We hope we've heard the last of the "religious issue," as it was present in the late election campaign, for a while—or forever. Our great hope is that President-Elect Kennedy will so conduct himself that this ghost will be laid.

But religion as such will always be an issue in America, which is divided and sub-divided into hundreds of groups, each with a different attitude and approach.

In our view, this is one of the great strengths of the United States, its diversity—not only in religion, but in politics and a dozen other fields of endeavor and thought.

**AN INTERESTING** report last month told of church membership as listed in the "Year book of American Churches for 1961," published by the National Council of Churches.

The figures are, of course, approximate, since church membership itself is subject to widely varying definitions.

But it indicated that, roughly, the American people are classified thus:

Protestants (of about 226 different bodies): about 62,534,000.  
 Catholics: 40,871,000.  
 Jews: 5,550,000.

**THIS** brings those with some formal church affiliation up to a total of about 109 million. What of the other 71 million or so Americans? Some of them, presumably, are children who have not yet reached the age of confirmation and church activity. Others may adhere to other beliefs—Mohammedanism, Buddhism, and others. But even then, the number of those without any religious affiliation, the "unchurched," to use an awkward phrase, comprises the largest single religious minority in America today.

What of them? Are they nominal "Christians"? Or are they agnostics, atheists, or unbelievers of other sorts? Or are they people who have no religious orientation at all?

No one knows. The U.S. census does not include religious beliefs in its list of questions, and from no other source can such information be obtained.

**A SURVEY** of the "unchurched" in America today would make fascinating, and we believe significant, reading.

It is the one huge area of American belief and attitude which is almost completely unmapped and undefined.

America has long prided itself as being a "Christian nation." It undoubtedly is, in the main, and its cultural patterns stem directly from the Judeo-Christian tradition.

But how, and whether, and to what extent, some 60 or 70 million of its citizens concur in this orientation is something that no one can say. —E.A.

### Arbitrary Ruling

With two circuit court verdicts against it, the Oregon liquor control commission's controversial "25 per cent" rule is, at least for the time being, a dead issue.

Which is fine. It was a mistake to begin with. Last Sept. 1, the OLCC ruled that every establishment which serves liquor by the drink must derive a minimum of 25 per cent of its gross receipts from the sale of food.

Several taverns were haled up for hearings, and the licenses of some of them were removed when it was shown they were not adhering to the ruling.

**BUT** in two separate cases which were taken to court, one in Coos county and one in Multnomah county, the circuit judges ruled that the commission did not have the power to make and enforce such a ruling.

State law specifies that each liquor-by-the-drink establishment must serve food as part of its service—which is a good, reasonable requirement. But the law set out no arbitrary percentages. The legislature, in fact, refused to do so when the matter was under debate. This was done by the commission.

Its objectives may, perhaps, have been laudable. But in effect the rule is unwarranted, and creates an unjust situation for a large number of licensees.

**PRESUMABLY** the commission felt that such a ruling would encourage temperance—a worthy aim.

But consider. In every community there are taverns which cater in large part to working people who want a quick beer or drink after work, and in which food sales are a minor part of their business.

If these are put out of business by a 25 per cent rule, their patrons simply will go somewhere else, and thus boost the percentage of liquor revenues at other establishments, thus subjecting them, in turn, to the loss of their licenses.

We hold no particular brief for liquor licensees, but as long as they operate a legitimate business, under state license, and in conformity with reasonable regulations, they should not be subjected to capricious rulings which would make it impossible for them to operate.—E.A.

Those who had time to look at TV election night tell us the announcers never once mentioned where they were getting all those reports from. And where do you suppose? Mostly right from the newspapers, whose editors, reporters and thousands of especially-hired supplementary employees provided wire services with the only spot coverage of returns in the entire nation.—Oregon Statesman.

### Dennis the Menace



"I'M NOT REALLY HER BOY FRIEND. SHE JUST CALLS ME THAT."

### Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

**A STARTLING ESTIMATE** Washington—There are all too many things to be said about the breathless and historic moment when the United States chose a new course.

For instance, there is at least one decided advantage in the narrow margin by which Senator Kennedy was elected to the presidency. It will strengthen Kennedy's long-felt impulse to form a truly national administration. The chances are now very good indeed that at least one high post will be offered to the kind of national-minded Republican typified by Under Secretary of State Douglas Dillon.

Again, quite aside from this special bonus, one can predict that the new Kennedy administration will set an exacting standard of human quality.

To be sure, the next Secretary of Defense is unlikely to be president of General Motors. But the most probable candidate, the little known chairman of the Citizens for Kennedy, Byron White, is a man of brilliant intellect, strong judgment, and great moral courage, who has worn his country's uniform with valor. He has, in short, all the qualifications which Charles E. Wilson so conspicuously lacked.

**YET** again, there is the election's proof of the political talent of Kennedy and all his tribe. Consider, for instance, the nationwide registration drive organized by Robert Kennedy. It was modeled on the 1952 registration drive in Massachusetts, also organized by Robert Kennedy at the age of 26. That time, 150,000 new Massachusetts Democrats were put on the rolls, and Kennedy's winning majority was half that number. This time, the new registrants were again essential.

Or consider the other great practical factor in Kennedy's victory, his choice of Lyndon B. Johnson as his running mate, which was so much criticized at first. In the outcome, Lyndon Johnson not only performed magnificently in the campaign. In addition, his presence on the ticket meant the whole difference between triumph and disaster in the South.

A truly national approach, a knack for discovering and using very able men; a great political talent—these qualities of Kennedy's are revealed by the foregoing brief, disconnected notes. They are qualities of utmost value for any American President.

**YET** Kennedy's possession of these qualities is only part of the answer to the central question. One still wants to know what sort of man the American people have now chosen to lead this country and the free half of the world.

This reporter's worst misjudgments have always been on the optimistic side. That must be said as preface, because my estimate of the man we have chosen is so supremely optimistic. In brief, after nearly 30 years of political handicapping and 15 years of fairly close observation of John Fitzgerald Kennedy, I believe he is the only new political entrant in my time who has shown the promise of becoming a President of the first rank.

One of the marks of the true masters of men is complexity, and Kennedy is indeed too complex to be neatly summed up, even on the evidence of a decade and a half. One can only record some other obvious Kennedy qualities.

His mind, then, is unusually richly furnished, and he has a sense of the moment in history that can best be compared to Theodore Roosevelt's. He detests cant, whether the fashionable, damp cant of the liberal left or the smug, self-righteous cant of the right. He observes the world, and himself as well, with an odd, detached, sardonic humor. Humorous style means much to him, and he is almost too afraid of anything that is corny—this fear prevents him from showing his feelings in public, as a politician sometimes needs to do.

**HE** has strong feelings, nonetheless. The deepest of them, I would guess, is a passionate feeling for the greatness of America, an intense sense of the high destiny of this nation.

Next to this, there is his ambition, which is fierce, and his competitiveness, which is also fierce. But his priorities are proven by the gamble he took, when he keyed his presidential campaign to an honest description of America's real posture in the world, at a time of seemingly unshakable national complacency. No one who put personal success above everything else would have taken the gamble of challenging that complacency.

In these last years, in truth, we in America have reached a condition like the condition of Theoden, the rich old king of the Mark of Rohan, in Tolkien's saga of "The Lord of the Rings." As he did, we have grown self-indulgent and timid; and as he did, we have taken too much to hoping for the best without preparing for the worst.

But a fresh breeze like the clean air that roused King Theoden is blowing in America now. And one now remembers the cry at Theoden's awakening: "Hope there is still, if we can but stand unconquered." (Copyright 1960 New York Herald Tribune, Inc.)

### Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

**A WELL-LOVED MINISTER** always placed his Sunday morning sermon in his pulpit a half hour before the congregation assembled. A mischievous junior sneaked in one time and removed the last page of the manuscript.

The minister gave a fine rendering, as usual, of the sermon, till he reached the last page, which concluded, "So Adam said to Eve..." Turning the page, he was dismayed to discover, of course, that there simply wasn't any more. He fumbled through the script, distractedly repeating, "So Adam said to Eve..." then added, very angrily and very distinctly, "Confound it, there appears to be a leaf missing!"



### 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.

**The Only Fair Tax**  
 To the Editor: As I have been a reader of the Medford Mail Tribune, yes, even sold it on the streets as a boy, for many, many years, I would like to send you this clipping from the Herald-Bulletin of Burley, Idaho.

It is on the question of taxes, and I believe it to answer some of the writers who have been writing in your Communications.

Thank you and keep up the GOOD work of printing the news as you see it.

Jean H. Neimoyer Jr.,  
 736 West Lennox,  
 Yreka, Calif.

Editor's note: The clipping, from a communication in the Burley paper, follows:

"After due consideration and much thought, I have at last decided that the type of taxation we need to solve our monetary problems, both personal and federal, is real simple.

"Sales tax is the answer, everyone pays, and only on the money they spend. But—we have a small business, we would have to collect the taxes, keep books on it, and be responsible to the state for it. And we really spend a lot of money, maybe that isn't such a good idea.

"Property tax must be the one. Farmers have lots of land and almost everyone has property, and that way the cost would be spread over everyone. But—we own a business in town, and our taxes are too high now, and any more along that line will really hurt us. So I guess I don't like that either.

"Income tax, now there is a fair way to tax, our help takes more money home than we do, and they don't have the investment or the headache that we do. We just hold the money out of their pay checks, and they never miss it. Of course, we do keep records, pay Social Security on their wages, send records to the state every three months, and just generally it's a nuisance. And, besides, my husband is a salesman and his income would be taxed, and that isn't fair to us.

"I guess that the only fair tax method is the kind that taxes everyone but us, and I'm going to vote for the party that come up with a promise like that."

Mrs. Charles Twitchell

**Further "Musings"**  
 To the Editor: Your editorial "Musings" of Nov. 10 pretty well express my own reaction to the election results, especially with regard to your three points on the Kennedy victory and the Puerto Rican voters' repudiation of "their bishops' ill-advised entry into politics."

It would appear that many of my fellow-Protestants who followed the equally ill-advised counsel of their pastors could learn something of true Americanism from our fellow-citizens of Puerto Rico. Let us hope that this lesson may be well learned—by those pastors as well—by the time another election rolls around. The actual performance in office which we can expect of President-elect Kennedy should go a long way to set at rest the ungrounded fears of

those Protestants who voted against him on religious grounds.

One further musing I should like to add to yours. The defeat of Congressman Charles O. Porter is, in my opinion, a grievous loss to the nation as well as to the people of Oregon. Throughout his two terms in Congress he proved himself an uncommonly able, courageous and devoted public servant.

Although evidently highly respected here as physician and neighbor and not without honor as a public servant himself, Dr. Durno-I felt disappointed to some very unfortunate McCarthyite slanderers against Mr. Porter, quite unworthy of one aspiring to that high office. None of the false accusations leveled against Mr. Porter would stand up in any objective and honest review of his record in Congress.

Talk of "Mr. Porter's pre-empting the duties of the executive branch of government" (an obvious reference to foreign affairs) is really rather silly. If he doesn't know it already (though surely he must be well aware of it), I would like to remind the good doctor that a Congressman's responsibilities are not restricted to domestic affairs but very definitely embrace our foreign relations as well—in short, all that has to do with our country's welfare and security and peace and freedom for the whole world.

We may count ourselves fortunate if our Congressman-elect will perform anywhere near as well on all counts during his term in Washington as has our distinguished member from Eugene.

Incidentally, how about our Republican Governor's present trip to Argentina and Brazil? I'm for it! Foreign affairs are very much the concern of everyone of us, in or out of public office.

Arnold Eugene Jenny  
 Rogue Valley Manor  
 Medford

**Lest We Forget**  
 To the Editor: Since the election is now over, I would like to quote from Kipling's "Recessional" written at the height of England's fame and power. (There is not a living man so perfect that he cannot be benefited.)

"The tumult and the shouting dies—  
 The captains and the kings depart—  
 Still stands thine ancient Sacrifice,  
 An humble and a contrite heart.  
 Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet  
 Lest we forget—lest we forget."

So in this spirit I wish to speak of a purely nonpolitical subject. Although the citizens of Jackson county now have the splendid new Rogue Valley Memorial hospital, soon to be even larger, I believe that we will be doing ourselves a sad disservice if we let the old Sacred Heart hospital, operated by those devoted Sisters, "fade away."

This is all aside from mere appreciation of their 50 years of splendid service. I am considering the fact that people of a free democracy

present value. We are the most contemporary of peoples. Our youth is our oldest tradition, as Oscar Wilde said, and in that perfectly valid sense you are traditional and well rooted in the American soil and story.

Like most political writers, I am a romantic at heart; believe in heroes is my secret vice. It has been bad form in recent years to reveal this particular vice. I hope you turn out to be a great man in the book sense, in the history professor's sense. But you have to arrange about that, yourself. Tuesday's vote didn't prove it. I hope you discourage press agents and quick-book biographers who try to prove it a priori. They will make things harder for you in the long run.

On its face, the vote seems to say that half the country is against you. I don't think it is. You have too much trust to be intimidated by the statistical result, anyway. A house divided statistically can stand. But it can't move unless you move it.

On its face, the divided vote gives you no mandate. Forget about that. Lincoln was a minority president; so was Truman. What the statistical stalemate gives you is the wonderful chance to write your own mandate, and a whole Congress of your party persuasion is there to witness and endorse your signature.

### POTLUCK

(By M-T Staff and Contributors)

Richard Todd, sixth grade reporter at Roosevelt school, gives us a hunting story. Here it is:

We started up a ridge about 12:30 p.m. and about 2:30 p.m. we figured we were lost.

We walked down hill awhile then we came to a creek with a trail leading up from it so we followed it for about a mile and it didn't go anywhere so we turned back. Then we followed the creek for quite a way. At last we came to a cave high in the rocks. We went up and spent the night.

We were quite hungry but we lasted and we kept warm enough because we built a fire. About 8 a.m. we got up and started off again. We were headed for a logging road but at the bottom of the hill was another road and when we got to it we followed the road to a house and had a good breakfast.

A man came and picked us up. I learned from my experience to always go down hill, don't think you're lost, and don't be sure of what direction you're going and to carry matches and food.

The thing I didn't like about being lost is that I ended up with a bad case of poison oak and we didn't get a deer.

**We have received envelopes addressed to the "Do-It-Yourself" editor.** In one of our school news columns recently which we liked so well we can't resist repeating it here. It said, "Linda Casper brought a large sugar beet so that we could see how sugar looks before it is really sugar."

Back to Commissioner Wendt for a minute. What with all the fuss over bats with rabies, the county court, in a jocular mood, heard Chet reporting on the difficulty he has had getting rid of the bats in his barn.

Whereupon they immediately appointed him Bat Control Officer for the county.

Well, with dog control being voted down, we see no reason why we shouldn't have bat control, even though Commissioner Wendt attempted to decline the appointment.

There is some talk of asking the district attorney's office for an opinion on whether or not Chet can turn down an appointment duly made for the betterment of the community by the court, acting officially.

When John Ragsdale recently resumed operation of his cigar, candy and snack stand near the switchboard in the courthouse, we heard it on good report that the switchboard operator was forced to give up her diet, because she didn't have the willpower to swear off candy bars when they were so readily available.

The election, as everyone knows, is now over, and everyone is glad. Political bruises usually heal without too much fuss.

There's one bruise, though, that we're not so sure about. Congressman Elect Durno had a few brittle comments to make about the Mail Tribune on television the night before election, and we have wondered whether they were, in part, motivated by this:

Our newest staff member, John Stafford, arrived at work during the heat of the campaign. He'd been here before two days when his telephone rang, and a voice said, "We have a 500 word statement by Dr. Durno and wondered if you would use it in the Mail Tribune."

Stafford, in all innocence, replied, "Who's Dr. Durno?"

The woman promptly hung up. We can hardly blame her. But we can hardly blame John, either.

**The Right Man**  
 To the Editor: Politicians will long be talking about the closeness of the election, and trying to figure out where they might have done better. Most Republicans did not believe that Kennedy could win. If Nixon had won by the same close margin, the outcome would have been considered a moral victory for Kennedy. The latter had to overcome Eisenhower's huge plurality in the previous election, and his strenuous last-minute efforts on behalf of Nixon.

The American electorate has always had the knack of electing the right man at a crucial time in our history. One feels proud to be an American.

David Frisch  
 P. O. Box 292  
 White City, Ore.

### Sevareid's Letter to the New Leader

By ERIC SEVAREID  
 Tuesday night's drama wrung out the spectators as well as the principals. In the grey early hours of Wednesday, when these words are being written, the spirit can hardly match the size of the event. So these words may be poor companions in the general parade. But all professional observers imagine themselves addressing a new leader in person, and my own communication, in its bits and pieces, goes about like this:

You have done an astounding thing, considering that your face and name were obscure until one night in the Chicago stockyards four years ago. But perhaps this is astounding only in traditional terms. Communication is instant, now; instant reputations can meet the times.

Anyway, the country has not responded to what you were, did or did not do in the past. In your case the country considered the past "a bucket of ashes." Your past record was no more than the record of a hundred others. You were neither hero nor sage. The people have taken you at face value, voice value, first value; that is,

present value. We are the most contemporary of peoples. Our youth is our oldest tradition, as Oscar Wilde said, and in that perfectly valid sense you are traditional and well rooted in the American soil and story.

Like most political writers, I am a romantic at heart; believe in heroes is my secret vice. It has been bad form in recent years to reveal this particular vice. I hope you turn out to be a great man in the book sense, in the history professor's sense. But you have to arrange about that, yourself. Tuesday's vote didn't prove it. I hope you discourage press agents and quick-book biographers who try to prove it a priori. They will make things harder for you in the long run.

On its face, the vote seems to say that half the country is against you. I don't think it is. You have too much trust to be intimidated by the statistical result, anyway. A house divided statistically can stand. But it can't move unless you move it.

On its face, the divided vote gives you no mandate. Forget about that. Lincoln was a minority president; so was Truman. What the statistical stalemate gives you is the wonderful chance to write your own mandate, and a whole Congress of your party persuasion is there to witness and endorse your signature.

On the face of the divided vote, half the country wants to "move forward," as you have put in a manner that makes even the emptiest clichés seem bursting with meaning, and the other half wants to sit where it is. This isn't quite true, either.

Actually, the country wants to go somewhere. It just doesn't know the address. It has in mind. It knows it wants something different but doesn't know how to label it. You are in the position of the advertising man—you can "create wants." A trial offer is all a President can give us, anyway—returnable after four years if not fully satisfactory.

I am persuaded that you are one of the men in politics, one of those who want position in order to do something with power. Not one of the boys who want position in order to be something with title.

So the place ought to be jumping for months to come. Covering Washington in recent years has been a bit like covering an endless convention of certified public accountants. Most of us have been turning out noiseless copy from our noiseless typewriters. The exclamation mark key is rusty. Most of us will love to bang on it, praying the finger for that key hasn't totally atrophied. This isn't just our problem;

unless you stir our glands, you aren't likely to stir the glands of the nation.

Still, while you seem very young yourself, many of us are getting along and with age comes inconsistency as well as caution. So we want you to be impatient with many of the hideous, haggard problems still cluttering up the place; but we are also afraid of your impatience when it comes to the explosive problems like Berlin or China or Cuba.

When we were a kid country we could blunder around. Now America has large feet and the yard is full of land mines. Hire at least a few scared warriors to help guard your mind, if not your body.

It's strange how the world's image of America always becomes the image of the single individual who sits in the White House. So you can't create a new image of America until your own image is completed. All we've got so far is the outline sketch. Believe me, a lot of us want to fill it in, and we're reaching for our strongest, brightest colors. Water colors, right now, that will wash; but we're hoping we can switch to oils, worthy of being hung, one day, in all the best galleries at home and abroad, including the Hall of Heroes.

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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

Nov. 13, 1950 (Monday)  
 A 14-man delegation headed by Mayor Diamond Flynn is representing Medford today at the 25th annual League of Oregon cities convention in Portland.

A large semi-trailer truck overturned near Ashland this morning when it hit a cow on the highway; the cow was killed.

### 20 YEARS AGO

Nov. 13, 1940 (Wednesday)  
 Rogue River National forest headquarters will be moved tomorrow from the Liberty building to new offices in the remodeled and enlarged federal building.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Auxiliary coaches of OSC in these parts have defeated Stanford next Saturday, but both squads and schools will bull-headedly go ahead and play the game."

### 30 YEARS AGO

Nov. 13, 1930 (Thursday)  
 Nineteen hogs were butchered at the annual community hog-killing day in Prospect.

A public speaking class has been started at the local high school.

### 40 YEARS AGO

Nov. 13, 1920 (Friday)  
 A new Hope-Jones pipe organ has been installed at the Page theater.

The city of Jacksonville is making plans to celebrate the defeat of the courthouse transfer proposal at the last election.

### 50 YEARS AGO

Nov. 13, 1910 (Sunday)  
 Literature will be distributed nation-wide from here pointing out the fact that Rogue valley apples have captured the sweepstakes prizes at both the Canadian National Apple show in Vancouver, B.C., and the National Apple Show at Spokane, Wash.

The Greater Medford club will hold an educational art exhibit at the new Natatorium Nov. 15 to 17.

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

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

1. What is a Gatling gun?
2. What President of the United States broke the precedent forbidding the chief executive to leave the country while in office?
3. Of what two metals is bronze an alloy?
4. Which has the greater number of bones in its skeletal structure, an adult or a child?
5. From what plant is heroin made?
6. Under what range of mountains is the Simpson tunnel?
7. What American city was nearly destroyed by natural calamity in 1906?
8. What famous character in literature signed a contract with the devil?
9. What instrument is played by the "concert master" of a symphony orchestra?
10. What is the English name for Paternoster?

Answers: 1. Early type machine gun. 2. Woodrow Wilson. 3. Copper and tin. 4. Child. Some adult bones grow together. 5. Opium poppy. 6. Alps: 64,971 ft. long. 7. San Francisco. 8. Faust. 9. First violin. 10. Our Father - The Lord's Prayer.