

Medford Mail Tribune
Published Daily except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO.
33 North Fir St. Phone 2-4141

Suggestion: Go Slow

A recent state tax commission order instructed county assessors to see that all property of fraternal groups, except those "exclusively occupied or used" for charitable or educational activities, is placed on the counties' tax rolls.
Already there is sentiment among some fraternal circles for action by the 1961 legislature to exempt them from such assessment.
We suggest they go a bit slow.

IT IS almost universally acknowledged that property taxes are "too high," even while local governmental services that depend on property taxes (schools and cities, chiefly) are pinched for adequate financial support.
Property tax relief was one of the great cries during the recent election—and it was a cry with substantial voter appeal.
Assessment and taxation of the millions of dollars of property owned by fraternal organizations would go far toward lowering, or keeping down, the taxes on your house and mine.

AND, while state law exempts property used for charitable or education purposes, it is a pretty dubious extension of this principle to apply it to the bars, restaurants and game rooms operated chiefly for the pleasure of the organizations' members.
There is no doubt at all that many fraternal groups do great good with their charities.
But to use this as an excuse of escaping payment of taxes on properties in no way related to such charities (except as a source of their funds) is neither good morality nor good law.

AND we're inclined to doubt that the run-of-the-mill property taxpayer would look favorably on a law exempting palatial lodges, with their bars and card rooms and lounges, while continuing to pay his own oversized tax bill.
As a matter of fact, there is increasing sentiment toward a "new look" at the entire field of tax exemption, including church properties.
Reluctance on the part of the fraternal organizations to pay their share may hasten that "new look" to arrive.—E.A.

AND further proof thereof we submit the fact that a ruling of a United States agency has upset the practice of veterinary medicine, to say nothing of goose-farming, in France.
Doubtless other examples of the interdependence of modern civilization could be adduced, but this one took our fancy.
The story begins in August, 1957, when the U.S. Congress passed a bill entitled the Poultry Products Inspection Act, Article 17, of which established uniform inspection of poultry sold in interstate commerce, including both ante (before) and post (after) mortem inspection.

WELL and good.
The law went into effect at 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 1, 1959, and our story gathers momentum.
It was discovered that, interpreted literally, it applied to pate de foie gras—the zesty paste created from the livers of over-fed geese, and largely originating in the French districts of Alsace and Landes.
By 1957, the exports of this delicacy from France amounted to \$1,600,000 annually, with some 20 per cent going to the United States.
And Article 17 wiped out this trade overnight.
The geese which provided the livers for pate de foie gras were traditionally inspected—but after death, not before.

DISTRESS in pate de foie gras circles became acute.
Not only were the French farmers unhappy, but so were the gourmets in the United States who had come to look upon pate de foie gras as part of their way of life.
The sequel to the tale, the Washington Post reports, is that help is on the way. After much negotiation, intercontinental telephone calls, and shuttling back and forth across the Atlantic by American and French officials, an agreement has been worked out whereby veterinarians in Alsace and Landes will make regular circuits of the goose farms to perform ante mortem inspections.
And, presumably, the pate de foie gras situation will revert to the status quo ante.

THE moral of the tale, if any, is that when the United States sneezes, half the world catches cold.
The reverse isn't quite true yet, but it's becoming more so.
A riot in Panama, an arrest in Leopoldville, an assassination in Tokyo, an election in Great Britain, a border incident in Berlin, a speech in Algeria, an execution in Havana—all of these have become of immediate and pressing importance in Medford, Oregon.
They are immediate and pressing because each could trigger off a war, at worst, or seriously complicate the role of the United States in world affairs. And what affects the world affects the United States, and what affects the United States affects every soul in Medford.—E.A.

Dennis the Menace



HERE'S THE DIFFERENCE: IF I SPILL FOOD, MY MOM SAYS 'BE CAREFUL!' BUT MY GRANDMA SAYS 'DENNIS LOOKS GOOD IN ANYTHING HE EATS.'

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.

Equality Under Law

To the Editor: What exactly is the Oregon Correctional Institution? Is it the Oregon penitentiary? If so, why is it not called that? If not, please tell me why a man in his fifties is being put in a correctional institution!

It seems to me that a man of his age and has had the education to become a lawyer has had the time to build his honesty and integrity! If he does this, he is in no way better than a man or woman who works for him or as us plain working people! Surely the laws here are equal for us all! We try awfully hard to believe this.

I'm fairly sure that Mr. Bengtson needs white washing but fully believe after doing what the courts have proved he has done, he should be in a penal institution or penitentiary the same as we would be if we had done the same.

Editor's note: The Oregon Correctional Institution is used chiefly for first offenders, with more hardened criminals usually going to the penitentiary.

Waste of Money
To the Editor: In the Dec. 5 paper, an article said work had started on the Battleship Arizona making it into a \$500,000 Memorial to Pearl Harbor.

What a terrific waste of money! Do you think the men on that ship, if they could voice an opinion, would want the money spent in this way, when there is a crying need for funds for medical research?

I don't think so. This is just pagan worship of the dead, and they isn't what these men died for.

Do away with monuments and use the money for research to find cures for the diseases that kill and cripple our children, then that would be a good way to remember Pearl Harbor!

Ella L. Fitzsimmons, Route 4, Box 400, Medford.

Another Matter
To the Editor: In the interest of accuracy, I would like to point out that J. Verne Shangle's objection to the Herlock cartoon concerning the film "Operation Abolition" is evidently based upon a false premise. Mr. Shangle protests that the cartoon "conveys the impression that the film was edited by the Un-American Activities committee itself."

So far as I know, the Un-American Activities committee has never denied that it edited this film purporting to show the communist-led student riots against the committee hearings in San Francisco last May. This would be hard to deny, since the narrator is Fulton Lewis III, a committee staff member whose voice is also augmented by those of chairman Francis E. Walter (D-Pennsylvania) and member Gordon Scherer (R-Ohio).

The film footage was taken by KRON and KPX in San Francisco and shown in the Bay area at the time. It was later subpoenaed by the committee and made into the controversial film by a commercial company. (Without payment to the TV stations who shot the film, incidentally.)

The controversy arose when Bay area viewers saw the results and realized that separate sequences were run together in such a way as to distort certain facts. Whether this was done deliberately or inadvertently has not been decided and is the real issue involved.

We are agreed that the Reds might like to undermine the Un-American Activities committee and that this should not be permitted to happen. Anyone who reads the Congressional Record also knows that both the continuation of the committee and its budget (\$50,000 in 1945 when there were 64,600 known communists and \$327,000 this year when known Red membership has fallen below 10,000) are still being approved by voice vote in the House.

The Un-American Activities committee serves a useful purpose. Whether the committee should adopt the Big Lie technique popularized by the groups it is trying to destroy is quite another matter.

Vern Wothoff, 1125 Winchester ave., Medford.
P.S. What is the John Birch society?

Democracy on Trial
To the Editor: Today in Miami, Florida, democracy is on trial. More than 40,000 refugees from satellite Cuba have fled the growing tyranny of Premier Fidel Castro's Communist government, and have demonstrated their belief and faith in America by coming here. These people fled from Castro's dictatorship to find American democracy. Instead many are finding hunger, disease, and privation on the streets of luxurious Miami.

March Toward Atomic Might Control Recounted; Disarmament Still Lacking

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst
On Sept. 22, 1949, sensitive U.S. devices testing the earth's atmosphere picked up information which American scientists had known was inevitable sooner or later.
Russia had exploded its first atomic bomb.
It ended the United States monopoly on the weapon and catapulted the world into a terrifying era where friend and potential foe each held in his hands a weapon of total destruction.
There were other important dates.
On Aug. 12, 1953, the Soviets exploded their first hydrogen weapon.
On August 26, 1957, Moscow Radio announced the successful test of an intercontinental ballistic missile. Scarcely a month later, on Oct. 4, 1957, the Soviets launched their first successful earth satellite and Western experts admitted the U.S.S.R. had missiles with the power to hit any spot on earth.

A weapon may be used offensively, defensively or as a deterrent.
Has Deterrence?
The United States, behind both missiles and satellites, still had its deterrent—the atomic bomb—carrying potentials of its Strategic Air Force and its ring of bases around the Soviet Union which made any Soviet city vulnerable.
In man's progress toward destruction, there was another important date.
That was Feb. 13, 1960, when France exploded an atomic device in the Sahara. It meant that the exclusive atomic club now was less exclusive and that its membership could be expected to increase still more.
One new member would be Red China.
Sweden announced it would develop its own atomic weapons if world disarmament failed. Switzerland, another traditional neutral, also began looking toward atomic weapons for its defense.
These were some of the fruits of failure of disarmament and atomic control talks which now have dragged on for 15 years.

Matter of Fact by Joseph Alsop

PEOPLE WORTH TALKING TO
Paris—A grisly but hilarious tale of an encounter between two high officials, one English and one American, is worth telling at the moment, because it helps to explain the current malady of the Western alliance.
Setting the American in question still holds office. He is one of the second-rate patronage appointees brought into the State Department when in-competence in the lower echelons hardly mattered, since Secretary of State John Foster Dulles made all the decisions anyway. The story about him—the incredible but literally true story—has meaning for a special reason.

The smooth working of any alliance, and above all the smooth working of the large and cumbersome Western alliance, largely depends on the existence of what the French call "interlocuteurs valables"—which simply means "people worth talking to." Without people worth talking to on both sides of an alliance, neither side can ever know the other's mind.

IN THE period of John Foster Dulles, it did not matter so much that the American government was comprised of so many people who were obviously not worth talking to, like the American hero of the story already told, President Eisenhower had delegated Dulles the whole power of decision, and if our allies only know what Dulles thought, that was enough.

In the post-Dulles period, Secretary of State Christian Herter and Secretary of Defense Thomas Gates materially raised the level of ability in their two departments. But ironically enough this improvement bore few fruits, since authority was so diffused and policy was so unclear that our allies could never be sure which way any particular policy would develop.

Consider, for instance, the secretary of the treasury's recent maladroit mission to Europe. Behind this mission, as every European policy maker knew, there was a two-year battle by Anderson and Budget Director Maurice Stans to withdraw large numbers of American troops from Europe, and thus hamstring NATO, in order to ease the strain on the dollar. The battle was nearly won once. The scars of the fight were apparent in Anderson's extraordinary behavior over here. And knowledge of this fight left the Europeans in a quagmire of uncertainty about America's long-run policy towards NATO.

OR consider disarmament. After talking disarmament for years, and after letting the unhappy Harold Stassen go rather far in negotiating disarmament, President Eisenhower appointed the commission headed by Charles Coolidge, to find out what our disarmament policy ought to be. The commission reported against any effective disarmament. Secretary Herter got the President to override the commission, at any rate in part. But America's real disarmament policy still remains a largely unknown quantity.

OR CONSIDER even Berlin, the most urgent problem of the moment in Western Europe. On the present trip, this reporter has been told by two officials, one German, one French, and both on the very highest level, that they were never really sure that President Eisenhower meant to fight for Berlin if the Berlin crisis came to a real crunch. This is not surprising, since the President told the NATO summit meeting here in Paris that it was "unthinkable" to surrender Berlin, but also unthinkable to fight for it. The resulting sense of drift and uncertainty can be imagined.

Now that a new American administration is in prospect, in truth, the allied leaders

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS
The 40-million-member National Council of Churches, which is meeting in San Francisco, hears a report by its Division of Foreign Missions. The report deals with conditions and problems in two of the hottest spots in the foreign affairs field—the Congo and Cuba.
Here are some of the high spots of the report:
The communists miscalculated in Africa (the Congo). They have gained a strong foothold in Cuba, but haven't necessarily WON OUT yet.

THE report (to the National Council of Churches, by its Division of Foreign Missions) concludes with these significant words:
"WE MUST NOT write off REVOLUTIONARY situations as lost to the Christian cause. THE GOSPEL ITSELF IS THE ROOT OF CREATIVE REVOLUTION."

Can anyone doubt that I think not.
Jesus was the GREAT REVOLUTIONARY of all time.

I CAN'T help thinking that perhaps we need to rely more on the reports of these dedicated missionaries than even on our diplomatic service. More, possibly, than on United Nations, which governs itself by diplomatic procedures.

We need to be brutally realistic on that point. Of necessity, everything considered, our diplomatic services tend to operate in the rarified upper atmosphere of diplomatic procedures. They seldom get very close to the kind of people who start social revolutions as a means of bettering the lot of the people who live at the lowest levels.

THE missionaries (the real missionaries, the DEDICATED missionaries) get CLOSE to the people. They tend to be governed NOT by protocol but by the simple doctrine of Christianity. They feed the hungry. The medical missionaries among them minister to the sick. They mend broken bodies. Things like that IMPRESS the kind of people whose urge is to REBEL against what is, in the hope of getting for themselves something that is BETTER than what they have.

This report to the National Council of Churches opens up some subjects that are worth thinking about.

WHEN F. D. R. was in the White House, Herbert Hoover was often given a rough ride by reporters, and he resented this thoroughly. When he returned from Europe one fall, a ship news scribe asked him how he evaluated the New Deal. "If I just recited off the Ten Commandments," replied Mr. Hoover bitterly, "you'd say it was a harsh criticism of the New Deal." Then he added with a twinkle, "As, of course, it would be."

The late Robert Benchley once felt called upon to comment on the appearance of a little girl who lived in the apartment next door to his. "She has her mother's nose," noted Benchley, "her mother's eyes, and her mother's mouth—all of which leaves her mother with a pretty blank expression."

"Up in Maine," recalls Orson Beane, "my grandpa always warned me to beware of folks in the deep South. I can hear him now saying, 'Just you keep away from Hartford, Connecticut!'"

© 1960, by Bennett Cerf. Distributed by King Features Syndicate

1960 NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

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 Dec. 8, 1950 (Friday) Dr. A. Erin Merkel, county health doctor, this morning warned residents of the city against giving magazine subscriptions to a woman posing as a public health nurse.

20 YEARS AGO Dec. 8, 1940 (Sunday) The Oregon State Horticultural society was told at a meeting here yesterday that Argentina is the most important of the Latin American countries both from a production and a competitive point of view.

30 YEARS AGO Dec. 8, 1930 (Tuesday) Cannery owners have thrown up a solid wall of opposition to plans by sports fishermen to close the Rogue river to commercial fishing.

40 YEARS AGO Dec. 8, 1920 (Thursday) One year ago tonight, Medford had the severest snow storm in its recorded history.

50 YEARS AGO Dec. 8, 1910 (Thursday) Citizens of Ashland will vote next Wednesday on a measure to raise the monthly salary of the mayor to \$125 and the salary of councilman to \$25.

What's Your I.Q.? Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.
1. Who arranged the post-election Florida pact between President-elect Kennedy and Vice President Nixon?
2. Was Boris II the King of Rumania or Bulgaria at the outbreak of WW II?
3. What is the naval rank of students at the Annapolis Naval academy?
4. Though "grand" means magnificent, is it a colloquialism when used in the sense of "excellent"?
5. Should a United States flag be flown night and day over a state capitol?
6. Do rose growers ever plant rose bushes in the fall?
7. Which U. S. president killed a man in a duel?
8. Who was the detective character in the novel "Hound of the Baskervilles"?
9. Correct the following: "One of the houses were burning."
10. From what historical document is the following: "We whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread sovereign Lord King James; Joseph Kennedy and Herbert Hoover, 2. Bulwinkle, 3. Midshipman, 4. Yes, 5. No (day only), 6. Yes, 7. Andrew Jackson, 8. Sherlock Holmes, 9. "... was burning," 10. Mayflower Compact.

Try and Stop Me By BENNETT CERF



© 1960, by Bennett Cerf. Distributed by King Features Syndicate