



BAY AREA HIT—The Benicia, Calif., bay area was hit recently by a defense department economy order closing down historic Benicia Arsenal. The economy move will

affect 2,400 workers employed at the arsenal. Guards Paul Espejo, left, and W. H. McLendon, both of Vallejo, Calif., look over arsenal showing guns, tanks, and half tracks. (UPI Telephoto)

A. Robert Smith

Little Debate on Wisdom of Loans To Private Schools

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Professor Howe added, in his letter to Morse, that he opposed loans to private schools as a matter of policy. Morse commended him for separating his legal view from his political view.

The curious aspect of the debate that is engulfing Washington on this issue is that there is virtually no debate about the wisdom of loans to private schools as a matter of national policy. The debate focuses on the legal issue.

There is a tendency, it appears, for congressmen to take for granted that if loans to private schools are constitutional, then they are, ipso facto, good public policy. Not being the national authority on the constitutional question, the Congress would rather pass the buck to the courts.

The Supreme Court, to be sure, is the authority on this aspect of the question. But the Congress is supposed to be the authority on what is good and necessary public policy. Here's where there is a wide gap in the debate.

Random Observations

Morse, thus far, has confined himself to the constitutional issue and some random observations about the relief the general taxpayer is getting because some 15 per cent of the nation's children aren't attending tax-supported schools. He is fond of saying "what would happen if we closed all the private schools in the United States tonight and if all the schoolchildren in those private schools appeared at the public school doors tomorrow morning."

Oregon has some 26,000 school children attending non-public schools, roughly 7 per cent of the state's school population.

Sen. Morse is going to have to do better than this to make a case for federal assistance to private schools. He is going to have to demonstrate that there is a dire need and to quell doubts about the results of such a program.

For example, will federal aid to private schools result in many new sectarian schools, perhaps each religious denomination creating its own educational system?

Will aid to private schools make possible many new non-sectarian schools financed in part by Uncle Sam and in part by the status seekers in this affluent society who want to

climb a notch "above" the public schools.

Best Teachers?

Will an improved financial condition for private schools permit them to attract the best teachers, as they often do today with higher pay scales than public school boards will approve?

Will the public schools, as a result, become a second-class educational system? And will it be necessary for those who want their children to get the superior education required by life in a technologically advanced democracy to send them to private schools?

Perhaps none of these conditions would arise. But if they should, the country could be fragmented in ways that might have deep social affects. Instead of the American melting pot with its historic reliance on a free common school system, we could end up with a hundred different schools sponsored by a hundred differently oriented groups — the Catholics, the Baptists, the Jews, the Episcopalians and all the other denominations, plus who knows what new groups, even the John Birch Society for the red-hot reactionaries and the Socialists for those at the other end of the ideological scale.

Aimed at Segregationists

Sen. Morse has a proviso in his loan bill to rule out those private schools in the South which discriminate against students on racial lines. This is to prevent the segregationists from taking advantage of it to avoid the court rulings requiring integration in the schools.

The question for Congress to decide is whether any provisions in such a proposal can prevent a fragmentation of educational training in this country which would cause more and more school children to identify themselves and their destiny with a fragment of society.

This is the public policy issue, which Congress must debate and decide long before the courts are asked to rule on the constitutionality of the bill.

TERRORISTS ATTACK

Paris—(UPI)—Terrorists Saturday attacked three police stations, killing one officer and wounding six others.

Goldwater Sees Reelection of Kennedy in 1964

Washington—(UPI)—Sen. Barry M. Goldwater (R-Ariz.) has conceded that the political odds favor the reelection of President Kennedy in 1964 unless the chief executive "stubs his toe."

The conservative GOP leader said Sunday it would be easier to make predictions about 1964 after the votes have been counted in the 1962 congressional and state elections.

But he said 20th century history shows that presidents have been reelected "unless something very bad happens, and nobody wants something bad to happen to President Kennedy."

Goldwater, chairman of the Senate Republican Campaign Committee, also said the GOP would not be in a position to win the presidential vote in big northern cities until it gained control of mayor and aldermen posts.

"I don't know how many jobs the city of New York has to give out, but... when

you multiply by four, which is the usual political patronage value, you come up with an election day starter that is a whole of a thing to overcome," Goldwater said.

Goldwater reasserted his contention that the Republicans could win more elections by becoming conservative.

In the last election, he said, nearly half of the GOP congressmen who were defeated were from northern New York, "a state that is supposed to be able to elect liberals."

And, he said, the losing GOP candidates "were so-called liberals."

Not Adequately Expressed

Since 1928, he said, "The conservative mind of the Republican party" has not been adequately expressed either in the GOP presidential candidates and the party's platforms.

Goldwater said he felt that the next Republican presidential candidate would be "a man that we haven't heard from yet," possibly a governor, a young member of Congress or even a state legislator.



Disabled Planes In Safe Landings

Boston—(UPI)—Landing gear trouble Sunday night forced two giant prop-jet airliners with 114 persons aboard to make emergency landings at Boston and Montreal airports.

No one was injured in either of the safe landings although one passenger fainted when the Trans-Canada plane from Tampa, Fla., with 49 persons aboard skidded to a halt at Montreal's International airport.

An Eastern Air Lines Electra with 65 persons aboard circled Boston's Logan field for two hours before landing on a foam covered runway in one of the biggest disaster alerts in the airfield's history.

The big Trans-Canada Airlines turboprop airliner, carrying 42 Canadian passengers and a crew of seven from Tampa, Fla., circled the Montreal airport for more than four hours before coming in for a belly landing.

A task force of ambulances, doctors, police and firemen had been summoned to the airfield. Crash equipment lined both sides of the runway and all area hospitals were alerted.

COMPOSER DIES

New York—(UPI)—Wallington Riegger, 75, a ranking American classical composer, died Sunday four days after falling to the sidewalk in a freak accident when he became entangled in the leashes of two fighting dogs.

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