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The Secret Crime

Every once in a while we are called upon to wonder what sort of mentality it is that can make an anonymous, threatening telephone call, and still live with itself.

How cowardly can you get? There are a few things that these people should remember:

Making threats of physical violence is a crime, punishable by a term in the penitentiary.

And committing this crime—threatening the commission of a felony—under the blanket of anonymity—is not only criminal, it is evil, in the deepest and darkest meaning of the word.

HANDLING a rash of this sort of thing is a matter for the police and other law enforcement agencies.

But more basic than that, it is a matter of fundamental human decency and morality.

People that allow themselves to do such an evil thing should be warned—warned not only of the legal and criminal consequences if they are discovered, but also of the consequences to themselves as human beings.

No person can live long with such evil and still retain a right to think of himself with any respect.—E.A.

Medical Care Plans

... It is astonishing how invariably spokesmen for American organized medicine invoke the specter of the British "experiment" (National Health Service), when debating on the Forand Bill or its numerous successors. What is even more invariable is the way in which they misrepresent it...

In addition to pointing out that the "Service" has been a most welcome if qualified success, Dr. Fox (Dr. T. F. Fox, editor of the noted British medical magazine, the "Lancet") established that its inception was attributable to economic pressures, not ideology; that doctor freedom and patient freedom have not been impaired to any noticeable extent; that medical service is infinitely superior now to what obtained in pre-Service years; and that, contrary to the persistent allegation by American doctors that the Service has been a great wasteful extravagance, the British in fact spend somewhat LESS of their national income on medical care than we do and that the SAME care would have cost considerably more if rendered without the Service...

THE sad thing is that the two main institutions fighting this development (financing of medical care for the aged via Social Security)—organized medicine and sectors of the insurance business—fail to welcome it on their own terms. The doctors should rejoice that government funding of medical care for the dependent population will mean the chance to bring more care more easily to millions who need it the most.

And for government to take care of the indigent and semi-indigent (the medically indigent) will open up a much bigger market for the health insurers because, with the basic coverage met by government, the aged will then have some money left to buy desirable and supplemental coverage from private insurance; and also the insurance companies, freed of the indigent, will be able to offer more attractive rates to the rest of the population.

Just as Social Security helped the private pension business, so it will help the private health insurance business. The prediction here is that all this will become quite clear within the next few years to all the parties concerned, even the A.M.A.—Edward T. Chase, writing in The Commonweal.

Save Roadside Beauty

Where are the roadside pussywillows? Not many years ago, a 15-minute auto trip from the city would pay off in an armload of furry stalks anytime in latter January or early February. Their favorite roadside haunts are empty now, the result of more effective roadside brush control.

The use of weed and brush killer sprays to control roadside growth has proved to be far more economical and permanent than the manual pruning and clipping methods used heretofore. The price of this piece of progress, however, has been the loss of much of the roadside beauty which accompanied the brush and weeds.

THE killer sprays sweep an indiscriminate scythe of death along the roadside, wiping out the brush that encumbers the driver's vision, the blackberries which threaten to spread into the road itself and also the flowers which bejewel the roads in the spring.

The trilliums, lamb's tongues and violets were among those which found the roadside shoulders especially suited to their needs. The masses of buttercups were spectacular as well as fragile. In the background, wild currant, Oregon Grape and wild roses provided the proper backdrop.

EVEN if the county and state road crews modify the "scorched earth" policy, it will take years for these flowers and shrubs to return to their roadside haunts. Perhaps we should set aside "pussywillow reserves" in the same way we offer havens to wild fowl.

At least, there should be more of a compromise between the esthetic and the efficient. Whenever decorative roadside shrubs do not threaten to become a hazard to driving, they should be saved from the chemical executioners.—Oregon Statesman, Salem.

Dennis the Menace



"GEE, NO. DO I GOTTA HAVE A LIBRARY CARD?"

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 his column do not necessarily represent the views of the paper; in fact the contrary is often the case.

Not Quite Right

To the Editor: I read with interest the letter written by the woman in Ashland who is having so much trouble with her creditors. It seems like there's always someone ready to kick you when you're down and out.

I agree with her, there should be some kind of protection for people who are in this kind of a situation, especially when they are trying to do their best. The labor problem has affected a great many people all over the United States and it's beyond the control of the every day working man and I certainly think that in a crisis of this kind that the creditors could be a little lenient and understanding.

What really gets me is that when a man is laid off, or put on call and works 2 or 3 days out of a week and earns \$40, he has to pay taxes and other benefits out of it but when he doesn't work he still draws \$40 unemployment and does not pay anything. Doesn't seem quite right somewhere. (Name on file) Medford

What We Have in Common

To the Editor: Your review of the John Birch Society's Blue Book (Mail Tribune April 5, 8, 1961) seems only to have added to the confusion in regard to the purpose of, and the means used by, the Society.

The John Birch Society has adopted some of the means used by the communists (their constancy, concertness and dedication); but the Society has substituted the powerful truth for the communist deception. And in barely more than two years have grown to a force that the press would have us believe seriously threatens the American Way of Life. Doggrel! The John Birch Society is a threat only to what has at times been cleverly veiled communism, and at other times open avowment of ruthless totalitarianism.

The communists make it a prime point to take advantage of any and all methods (tactics) in spreading their poison. This does not mean that all methods used by the communists are base and contemptuous. Some are many are—but some are not. Some are perfectly legitimate, adopted by the communists because they seemed valuable, and later proved to be. The communists then, in part, use legitimate means in acquiring their vile goals. The John Birch Society uses some of the same legitimate means as justifiable means toward preserving the American Way, as it was conceived. The John Birch Society thinks it worth the effort. These legitimate means are not therefore repugnant to reasonable men. Such for example the concerted action advocated by Robert Welch.

You berate Robert Welch because you claim he smears all who differ with him; but in your editorial you are guilty of the same thing you accuse him of. Thus: Robert Welch, in the Blue Book presents a different view of history than the one you have been exposed to, and you automatically accuse him of "twisting" history. Perhaps you could explain why you are able to do this and remain pure; but Robert Welch is guilty of smear when he claims history in part has been falsified.

We think the press is embarrassed, and well they might be. Now might well be the time for the press to explain, if they will, why most of the bias against the John Birch Society is so identical to the original attack leveled against the Society, which appeared in the official communist publication, The People's World.

What is it you have in common with the official communist press?

Robert J. Howard
828 B West 14th St.
Medford, Ore.

Humanity

To the Editor: On Sunday last, April 9, I made a hurried tour through the Hobby Show at the V. A. Domiciliary. I didn't have much time, because I had to catch my bus and go down to skid row. (My funds are insufficient for a visit to the Medford Hotel bar.)

I was amazed, astounded and overwhelmed at what I saw on exhibit there. Landscape pictures of marvelous and stupendous majesty; photographs of nature equal to any I ever saw in any magazine or book; magnificent gems created from the rude, rough stones of nature; leather-work fit for the elite of Park Avenue; intricate weaving woven by hard-won skill and artistry. And many, many other works of almost creative genius.

Tears of understanding welled up in my eyes, unbidden and unshamed, as I viewed this triumph of the human spirit over odds almost insurmountable to man. I knew full well that weak and trembling hands; spirits almost crushed by the cruel fist of fate; falling eyes and aching bones; despair, despondence, and resignation to the grave, had gone into much of what I saw.

You call White City a soldier's home. Actually, we are men without a home, else we would not be living here.

You see us staggering on skid row; we have no place else to go.

I've seen your citizens, too, in just as bad a shape. What goes on in the seclusion of your private homes—rich and poor alike—offentimes is much worse than what we are forced by circumstance to do in public. I know, because once I lived at the top of the heap. It too, is a sordid mess.

Try to understand that we are human beings too; destitute, alone and sick, without a name that longer counts for aught; doing what we can, the best we can, with the burden fate and God have placed upon our stoped and weary shoulders. "We are but helpless pieces, in the game he plays, upon this checker-board, of nights and days."

And never, never forget this timeless truth when you see a sodden, drunken wretch shambling down the street: "There, but for the grace of God, go I."

We are White City are not all like that. Be that as it may, my plea is for the worst of us. Let the lamp of love and mercy; the candle of peace on earth, good will toward men; pity, understanding, and forbearance, light the hopeless, dark and dismal shadows, through which you see us all—outcasts of a cruel and a heartless world. (Name on file) White City, Ore.

Clean the Rogue

To the Editor: The time has come for the residents of this Rogue River Country to help in efforts to keep the Rogue River clean for everybody to enjoy. Reference is made to the deplorable muddy waters that have been occurring off and on since last fall.

U.S. Financed South Viet Nam May Develop Into Another Laos

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst

Next to troubled Laos lies the republic of Viet Nam, about twice the size of Maine and second only to South Korea as the recipient of United States aid.

The United States trains and pays South Viet Nam's 150,000-man army.

Exclusive of military aid, the United States has poured nearly a billion and a half dollars into the country since 1955 in an attempt to bolster its economy and stability.

Yet with all this there is mounting concern that in South Viet Nam the United States may well face the

same situation that it presently does in Laos.

Reds on Offensive
Aided by geography and increasing unrest among the 10 million people, communism has been on the offensive there for more than a year.

Last week, as Viet Nam prepared for the national elections which returned President Ngo Dinh Diem to office, they carried that offensive into Saigon itself, aimed especially against Americans.

A U.S. aid administrator was injured by a bomb tossed into his home. An American sergeant was injured by another bomb exploded near a hotel housing U.S. military advisers.

Last November a U.S. public safety adviser and his driver were killed in a daylight ambush outside the seaside resort of Long Hai.

Each month from 250 to 300 government officials are murdered by Communist guerrillas.

Orders from Peiping
The guerrillas operate under orders from Red China and Communist North Viet Nam. Supplies reach them through a series of guerrilla posts running down the mountainous spine from North Viet Nam along the border of South Viet Nam and Laos. These posts in turn support guerrilla nests along the bor-

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

THE PICKLE WE'RE IN

Vientiane, Laos—Every sensible person in this little city, who has either Laotian or Western interests at heart, looks forward to the new phase of the Laos crisis with extreme concern and apprehension.

If you are several thousand miles away from Laos, it may seem very hopeful indeed that a ceasefire seems likely and that negotiations are expected to begin. But if you are in Laos, the new phase looks just about as dangerous as the phase that is now coming to a close.

To begin with, the Communist forces here, with the assistance of lavish Soviet supplies and large numbers of invaders from North Vietnam, have occupied far too large a part of Laos.

The position is much worse than in 1954, when the Geneva accord left the Communist Pathet Lao movement in control of the two northern provinces, Phong Saly and Samneua.

That was bad enough, as experience proved. But a ceasefire now will presumably leave the Communists in control of these two frontier provinces, plus important bits of other provinces, plus the whole of Xien Kuang province with the Plaine des Jarres and the important Xien Kuang airfield.

Their hold on Xien Kuang gives the Communists a grip on the strategic heart of Laos. It is wishful nonsense to talk about a stable, truly neutral Laos as long as the Communists retain military control of the heart of the country. It is just as wishful to imagine that a Communist pullback can be arranged by the eloquent persuasions of an Indian chairman of a restored International Control Commission. In fact it is hard to imagine any Communist pullback at all, except under threat of force or as a result of actual military pressure.

Thus the situation on the ground is very grave indeed. Yet there are reasons for believing that the general political situation is even worse. To understand why this is so, one must look at the origins of the present Laos crisis and the singular response of the Eisenhower administration.

IN PARTICULAR, one must look at the coup d'etat of Capt. Kong Le and the subsequent assumption of the

Such are the general characteristics of the pickle we're in here. It may be, of course, that President Kennedy's handling of the Laos crisis has been designed to mask a gradual but decisive retreat behind a show of firmness. But if the President means what he says about the fatal effects of Communist control of Laos, he is going to have to show a great deal more firmness, and to be infinitely dexterous too, in order to achieve the truly neutral Laos he has been talking about.

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6,000 Expected To Hear Welch Speak

Los Angeles—(UPI)—A sell-out crowd of 6,000 is expected tonight to hear a speech by Robert Welch, founder and leader of the anti-Communist John Birch Society.

A spokesman for the Freedom Club of the First Congregational Church where Welch will speak said tickets were sold for \$1 each.

Welch, Belmont, Mass., arrived in Southern California Saturday for a series of talks about his controversial group.

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

A HAM-ACTOR'S wife had been dead for two years—and hadn't acknowledged his existence for five years before that, but still he burst into tears at mention of her name.

"Arn't you putting it on a bit?" he was asked finally. "You don't realize what a wonderful woman my wife was," sobbed the ham. "Never once did she slip me a check that bounced."

Matrimonial bliss in Hollywood: At dinner one evening Producer Billy Wilder's lovely wife Audrey (Wilder is responsible for "Some Like It Hot," "The Apartment," and a dozen other screen triumphs) announced blithely, "Darling, do you realize this is our anniversary?" Wilder poised a fork in midair and reproached her, "Please—not while I'm eating."

A morose character at the Metropolitan Bar kept complaining that modern science had cost him over twenty years of his life. "An unsuccessful surgery?" hazarded the bartender. "No," replied the character. "Fingerprints."



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Washington Report

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

THE SECOND VOICE

Washington — (UPI) — Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson has become the nation's second voice to a degree never before seen in history.

He has been granted by President Kennedy an unequalled intimacy in the preparation of the highest national policy. Not even Richard and Nixon in the Eisenhower administration was given so responsible a role.

Being human, Johnson has responded to Kennedy's generosity with a magnanimity and loyalty toward his young chief. The association is not too unlike that between an infantry officer and his most trusted top sergeant.

This is the short and simplified truth as between John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Lyndon Baines Johnson. And these very same two were reaching for each other's arteries only last summer when both aspired to the presidential nomination.

THERE is, however, a long and more complicated

return home disgusted. Valuable gravel spawning bars become silted in, eggs are smothered in the gravel and insects as important fish food are killed. Fish are scarce enough without killing off more.

State laws for the control of mud in our public waters are weak. We have the opportunity to gain some strength with respect to gravel removal with three bills that are being considered by the Legislature now in session. All are reasonable bills and are patterned from laws that for many years have been used in the State of Washington where good, adequate control of gravel operations is afforded.

H.B. 1635 incorporates and gravel dredging and mining operations into existing statutes on pollution.

H.B. 1637 has received a "do pass" by committees and will be voted upon by the House and Senate soon. This bill relates to removal of sand, gravel and other materials from valuable fish spawning areas.

H.B. 1629 regarding control of pollution and gravel removal by requiring clearance from the State Natural Resources Agencies is still before the House Natural Resources Committee, Clinton Haight, chairman.

These bills will be voted upon soon. All disgusted persons and fishermen should write their State Representatives and Senator, both Salem, Oregon, and urge that they promote and vote the passage of these bills.

Patience-This.

Rogue Rod, Gun and Archery Club
Herbert F. Waller, President
300 S.E. "H" St.
Grants Pass, Ore.

Pill for Alcoholism?

To the Editor: Isn't it possible that we already have a pill or serum, which, when given to a human alcoholic, would make him lose his craving for alcohol?

Isn't it possible that the great sugar producers and distillers with their multi-millions of dollars say, "no"? Any country which expects to send a human being into orbit and bring him safely back to earth should be able to give these other human derelicts a capsule to bring him out of orbit and back to earth just as easily.

Well, it's none of my business anyway, just a thought. Thanks to my friends for your letters.

Malemute Slim
White City, Ore.

truth in the relationship. It is friendly, yes; but it is no sentimental tableau. It does not lack a common liking, but it rests far more on common sense.

It is, in fact, a highly practical concert between two tough and honestly ambitious men. They do not see absolutely eye to eye on everything, and don't pretend to. But they are absolutely together on the two vital points which have made and will preserve their partnership.

They are together on the one great issue: How to conduct the cold war. And they are together in their full awareness that only by staying together can they avoid disaster to their own administration and to themselves.

Kennedy knows that, though polls indicate a great rise in his popularity since the election, the fundamental fact remains that he won very narrowly. He knows that a break with Johnson, the leader of the moderates, would leave him isolated, with only the liberals and ultra-liberals for company.

THE President is no more than moderately liberal himself. He is not comfortable with the ultra-liberals, even apart from his awareness that ultra-liberals will give any Democratic administration as much unnecessary trouble as effective help.

Vice-President Johnson also knows several things. One is that there can be only one president at a time. Even if any vice president wanted to challenge any president, he would be almost certifiably insane to do so.

Another is that the success of the Kennedy administration is as meaningful to him as to the president. After all, if Kennedy's job is such as to bring about his reelection, the end of his second term will open an opportunity for Johnson himself. Without Kennedy's active consent, Johnson could never receive such a nomination.

And, finally, the vice president well knows that he has been able to become the country's second voice precisely because he has kept it the second voice and never tried to make it the first.

THIS was the reason for the success—both in Africa and in Kennedy's estimation—of Johnson's recent African mission. His was why he was entrusted with major policy declarations to our allies in Paris and to the disarmament negotiators in Geneva.

And all these are also the reasons why leading Republicans themselves never shared the delusion of the ultra-liberals that "Jack and Lyndon" automatically must "fight." These Republicans are themselves sensible politicians. So they knew that "Jack and Lyndon" did not share the ultra-liberals' view of politics as a steamy melodrama in which good guys are doing nothing unless they are hitting bad guys over the head and crying loud doctrinaire slogans.

Kennedy and Johnson, of course, may well turn out to have a poor administration in the end. But if they do, it will not be because they held this high-school notion of politics.

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Halsey Man Dies In Violent Collision

Albany—(UPI)—A violent car-truck collision eight miles south of here on Highway 99 Monday night claimed the life of Donald E. Soper, 26, Halsey, state police reported.

Soper was in a southbound car. Walter Ruby, Albany, driver of the truck, suffered a broken arm.

Authorities said the impact knocked the engine from the car and overturned the truck.