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Rating the Presidents

A fascinating essay into historical gamesmanship is performed in an article in a recent New York Times Sunday magazine by Arthur M. Schlesinger, professor emeritus of history at Harvard and father of the Presidential assistant of the same name.

He reports the opinions of 75 students of American history on which were our great presidents, which near-great, which average, which below average, and which could be classed as failures.

The historians were in remarkable agreement, Schlesinger reported, particularly regarding the great, near-great, and the "failures."

THE great presidents, these historians believe, were Lincoln, Washington, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Wilson and Jefferson, in that order.

The near-great were Jackson, Theodore Roosevelt, Polk, Truman, John Adams and Cleveland.

Those below average included Taylor, Tyler, Fillmore, Coolidge, Pierce and Buchanan, and the "failures" were Grant and Harding.

THE most controversial of these choices would be Franklin Roosevelt as great, Truman as near-great, and Eisenhower as average, and this is because they were all presidents during living memory, and current passions and opinions concerning them have not yet faded into historical perspective.

The ratings were based solely on the men as Presidents, and did not include their activities when not in that office. Thus Eisenhower may rank in history as a great man, based on his career as a soldier, but not, in these historians' view, as a President. The same with Grant, whose military genius contributed to saving the Union, but whose record as President was marked by failure.

As Schlesinger remarks, "Admittedly, the judgment of the historians is not necessarily the judgment of history, but it is the best we can do without waiting for the sifting process of time."

EACH student of history could make his own list and his own rating, using varying criteria.

The criteria employed in this rating exercise included the state of the times in which he served, whether or not he had a creative approach to statecraft, whether he was master or servant of events, whether he used his office to advance the public welfare, whether he safeguarded the nation's interests, and how significantly he affected its future destinies.

On this basis, some would put Teddy Roosevelt and Harry Truman in the first rank, according to temperament, and some would move Wilson down a notch from greatness. Others would similarly demote F.D.R.

BUT the point that impresses Schlesinger about this poll of historians is the general feeling that, most of the time, the nation has been well-served by its chief executives.

Of the two "failure" Presidents, Schlesinger says:

"The verdict of total unfitnes... was reserved alone for Grant and Harding. Both were postwar Presidents who, by their moral obtuseness, promoted a low tone in official life, conducting Administrations scarred with shame and corruption."

In contrast, of the five "great" Presidents, he states:

"Each held the stage at a critical moment in American history and by timely action attained timeless results. Washington converted the paper Constitution into a practical and enduring instrument of government. Jefferson expanded the original area of the United States to include the huge region stretching westward from the Mississippi to the Rockies. Lincoln saved the Union from internal destruction. Wilson tightened the restraints on big business and finance and carried the nation successfully through World War I. Franklin Roosevelt preserved the country in the face of its worst depression and marshaled its resources for victory in World War II. Lincoln excepted, all effected profound domestic changes peacefully within the democratic framework—revolutions by popular consent."

EVEN when men marked with greatness were not in the White House, Schlesinger believes the nation was well-served. "Great" and "near great" presidents served for a total of nearly 80 years, or almost half the lifetime of the republic. "Can any other nation display a better record?" Schlesinger asks. And he continues:

"Moreover, even the do-nothing stretches in the White House did not lack value, since, as a rule, they provided breathing spells for the country to digest the achievements of the forceful Executives. "All in all, the historical picture offers the present-day defenders of democracy against totalitarianism reassuring evidence that Jefferson's—and America's—reliance on the people as the "safest depository of power" is the cure for mankind's ills."

ONE can quibble with the order of rank of individuals in the historians' poll, but it is difficult to contest the general thesis that our Chief Executives have, in the main, left the nation in better shape than they found it, within human limits.

The question of where John F. Kennedy will ultimately be found on the scale of failure to greatness cannot now be answered, of course, for his record is being written. But it is well to remember that all the "great" presidents were reviled and despised while in office.

Greatness is not necessarily measured by popularity of the moment, but by constructive action on behalf of the nation.

"Para El Progreso, Si! Already I've Written To Washington For Folders On The New Models"



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.

World Language

To the Editor: We have 2700 languages in the world. Of course we cannot teach any appreciable part, so we take three or four of the less important and ignore major ones. If we had a good grasp of our own language for communication with our own people and a World Second Language for communication with others, that is all we need.

The Colorado State Board of Education was moved by our language situation to recommend a universal language for use throughout the world. They viewed that as a means of solving "the almost hopeless task of teaching foreign languages in the schools". Think of the saving to the schools and taxpayers!

We already have such a language, already spoken in 82 countries, and growing steadily. We need only finish learning it, and it is easy to learn. It is already taught in the elementary schools of Denmark and Holland. If all the world but us acquires a common language, we would be at a tremendous disadvantage.

On Feb. 25, 1960, an American plane and a Brazilian, landing at Rio de Janeiro, collided and fell in the sea, with a loss of nearly 100 lives, due to misunderstanding of language. With our rapidly increasing air travel, that danger is increasing. Control towers cannot always know the language of the pilots, nor the pilots know the language of the towers.

Esperanto has a World Congress yearly (62 in Denmark; 63 in Japan). It lasts about a week, with about 2000 attendance from about 40 countries, with all proceedings in Esperanto. Russia formerly suppressed Esperanto, apparently hoping to make Russian the World Language, but has now relaxed their restrictions and there are about 1000 Esperantists in Gorky alone.

If you want more information about Esperanto, ask your library or write to:

H. E. Dillinger, The Esperanto Club, Box 792, Placerville, Calif.

Foaming in Shame

To the Editor: Correct living does not, health nor good sense do not, begin the word exercise with the letter "S". The goddess "goddesses" of sex who pose in the nude, and parade and perform in the nude to please sex perverts and sex perversionists, besmirch themselves and thousands of others. Jude, 10th verse, says, "What they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves," and - it may be properly said - an unnumbered multitude of others!

Of course we are all still thinking tragically of the death of the movie star. That was tragedy colossal! Perhaps it is scarcely within our power to estimate or to state the disaster of such a life, or such a death? Who wants to live such a life, or die such a death? Only a short time since another went in almost the same way. (Was it a year?) God, in Jude, 13th verse, speaks of them as "raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame, wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever." (Jude is no mean description of the base corruption of our day.)

What was said of this last one seeking happiness and finding it not may be - in a must be - said of all who

travel the primrose path of mere sensual living. Shame on all other women, young or old, who follow their pernicious or lascivious ways in shameful and shameful exposure of their bodies, as is done these days, especially in our own language for communication with our own people and a World Second Language for communication with others, that is all we need.

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Mower Warning

To the Editor: Because I believe it is very important and because I believe very few people are aware of the extreme danger, may I repeat a warning from an article in The Medical Roundup of last Wednesday: "Again I must call attention to the fact that in medical literature, cases are being reported in which some one, while watching a man using a power lawn mower, was seriously injured by a bit of wire or a pebble or a scrap of metal which was picked up by the rotor and thrown at him (or her) with a velocity of some 300 feet per second. Occasionally the man who is running the machine gets hit, but in many cases the victim is a child who has gone out to watch his father mow the lawn. Certainly no father should ever allow one of his children to stand nearby while he mows the lawn with this type of power mower."

Thank you for reprinting this warning - someone may have missed it and it may help save a child's life. Mrs. A. Sterton, 39 Summit, Medford.

Firm Promotes Former Area Man

Portland - A former Medford man has been named manager of western area dispatch here for Consolidated Freightways.

Appointed was Glen Jewett, 39, who has been with CF since 1941 when he joined the company as a dock and warehouseman at Medford. He was named manager of the Grants Pass terminal in 1946.

He later managed terminals at Klamath Falls and Salt Lake City before becoming assistant manager of CF's Portland terminal in 1955. In 1956 he was made general manager of the company's warehouse and moving division, and in 1957 was manager of terminal operations for the western region. In 1960, he was named director of operations for CF's western area.

Jewett replaces E. C. White, who will be given a territorial assignment as dispatch coordinator.

Foreign News: Berlin Crisis Renewal; Reds May Move in Congo; Japanese Subs

By MURRAY J. BROWN United Press International Notes from the foreign news cables:

Sharpening Crisis in Berlin Communists are expected to step up the Berlin "war of nerves" in an effort to create a crisis atmosphere before the United Nations General Assembly meets in September. Then, by offering a peace treaty to deflate tensions, the Russians hope to win support from neutrals and uncommitted nations as well as from the lukewarm NATO members.

Red Move in Congo Expect Russia to try and play a more active role in the still-troubled Congo. Sudden appointment of new Soviet ambassador to Leopoldville could spell more trouble. Moscow recently resumed attacks on the so-called "imperialist policies" in the Congo and it looks like a new major propaganda campaign is in the making.

Submarine Watch The U.S. 7th Fleet is getting more help from the Japanese in keeping watch on Soviet submarine activities in Northwest Pacific area. Japan is quietly but rapidly increasing its anti-submarine warfare capabilities. The Japanese recently commissioned their first postwar submarine squadron, which will be used mostly for anti-submarine operations. But the most significant development has been in the air arm, which is being expanded by the purchase of U.S. planes specially designed for such purposes.

Foreign Legion French army authorities are seriously concerned about the future of famed Foreign Legion since headquarters were moved from Algeria to Corsica. Desertions are reported to be at the rate of two to three daily and recruiting is almost at a standstill.

Drummond Reports

(Walter Lippmann is on vacation. Roscoe Drummond reports from Washington in his absence.) (c) 1962 New York Herald Tribune Inc.

U.S. vs. LATIN AMERICAN DICTATORS

Lima, Peru—If the United States is going to be true to itself and become the active ally of Democratic governments for the people of all Latin America, we'll have to resist dictatorships of the right as well as dictatorships of the left—and take whatever onus may come. Obviously we're not being wildly cheered here in Peru because of our stand against the coup d'etat by the military last month. But this is no quick popularity contest. By many we'll continue to be accused of interference in internal affairs whenever we act to support elected governments attacked from the left or overrun by the right.

After seeing something of the play of political forces in the largest countries of South America, I am convinced that the U.S. is headed in the right direction taking the most reserved attitude toward seizure of power by the Peruvian military and in holding back Alliance aid at least until it is clearer whether the promise of free elections is reliable.

I AM NOT suggesting that every elected government in Latin America is a jewel of integrity; far from it. I am not arguing that every Latin American military chief is an ogre eager to crush democracy. Some of the military are high-minded and, to their own best lights, want to preserve democracy. But the evidence is indisputable that the recent coup violated Peru's constitutional processes at every central point. President Prado was deposed by force before he could finish the last days of his term. The results of the July elections, which a military itself helped supervise, were cancelled. Congress was prevented from fulfilling its legal role of choosing the President when none of the candidates received a third of the total vote.

Probably the Peruvian political leaders will themselves accept the assurances of the junta that new elections will be held and will soon begin to ready themselves for a new campaign. If so, the U.S. can hardly be more Peruvian than the Peruvians and withhold diplomatic recognition indefinitely. To foreign correspondents the junta leaders have privately said they would have no objection to a committee of the Organization of American States observing and reporting on the elections. Such an assurance would provide a suitable occasion to end the period of interrupted diplomatic relations.

THOUGH it is by no means certain, we might have forestalled the Peruvian coup by taking a tougher line when the armed forces of Argentina ousted President Arturo Frondizi earlier this year, threw out the wide-ranging Peronist victories in the house of representatives (45 seats plus numerous governorships), and reluctantly accepted the presidency of Jose Guido, formerly president of the senate.

On the main issue the actions of the Peruvian and Argentinian military were the same. In each the constitutional president was deposed and the election results annulled. There are also differences. In Peru the junta vetoed as next president the candidate who won the most votes. The junta leaders hold all the principal cabinet posts. In Argentina, though Frondizi was removed by force, he was replaced by a civilian political leader through the constitutional process. Mr. Guido, then president pro tem of the senate, was hurriedly sworn into office before the military could act. His succession to the presidency was ratified by the supreme court. The cabinet is predominantly civilian, and while the Argentine military is a powerful force, it exerts its influence through a civilian government.

In both Peru and Argentina there is a free press and an independent judiciary, which means that neither regime is in the modern sense a police state.

CONCEIVABLY the Argentine military may have prevented a potential Peronist dictatorship. But it did it at the expense of the democratic process. It is evident that the United States cannot effectively help resist the rise of new military dictatorships if the other Latin American nations are unwilling to join and do it together. Only the tiniest handful is doing so today. Most of them are holding back in part because of the historic fear of U.S. intervention.

But I am convinced that the United States will do more to win long-term support and respect by remaining true to itself and actively standing against dictatorships in any form or guise. Many so-called liberal Latin American politicians will rant against us, but in the end most South American people will say, "Thank God—at first under their breath and later openly and with heartfelt relief."

IN THE DAY'S NEWS

By FRANK JENKINS

A word of advice: Be sure to read the news summaries of Former President Hoover's speech at the village of West Branch, in Iowa, where he was born 88 years ago. You may not agree with it. But you will find it worth reading... and STUDYING... and THINKING ABOUT.

It will go down in history, I think, as one of the great utterances of our day.

IT IS time, he said for NEW APPRAISAL of United Nations, which he added, "not only has failed to give even a remote hope for lasting peace but adds to the dangers of wars which now surround us."

He added: "The time is here when, if the free nations are to survive, they must have a new and stronger world-wide organization... It should include ONLY THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR THEIR FREEDOM."

WHY HAS the UN failed? The disintegrating forces in the United Nations, former President Hoover said, are the communist nations in its membership. He added: "The communist leaders, for 40 years, have repeatedly asserted that no peace can come to the world until they have OVERCOME the free nations. They have, about 100 times, vetoed proposals in the Security Council which would have lessened international conflict. They daily threaten free nations with war and destruction. In sum, they have destroyed the usefulness of the United Nations to preserve peace."

So—He says—"We must have a council of FREE nations to step in when the United Nations fails to act for peace, or is prevented from doing so."

"And—This council must be made up of those free nations that are WILLING TO STAND UP AND FIGHT FOR THEIR FREEDOM."

assembly meets in September. Then, by offering a peace treaty to deflate tensions, the Russians hope to win support from neutrals and uncommitted nations as well as from the lukewarm NATO members.

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Washington Report

By William S. White (c) United Feature Syndicate

RULE OR RUIN

Washington — The increasingly savage filibuster against the administration's bipartisan bill to give private enterprise a large and proper share in our space communications system has now reached the point of rule or ruin by a handful of professionally liberal Democratic senators.

Not without heavy cost to orderly government and responsible party conduct can the President longer ignore what has become a bitter attack of rarely exemplified recklessness upon the honor and integrity of his whole administration from within his own party.

And an even deeper challenge is posed, too. This is a threat to the whole cooperative arrangement between government and business upon which every single phase of the national space effort has thus far been so patiently built.

GRANT what the leading filibusters really want—a totally nationalized space communications system from which private business is excluded in any owning capacity—and the whole future of the space program is unarguably cast into a mold of massive state socialism.

What then? Can bureaucracy and liberal means build the great machines through which man will talk to man in endless space? If private companies are not to be trusted in the infinite outer air, would private companies continue to own our radio and television and telegraph on earth?

What had started as a mere headline-grabbing demonstration led by a notoriously irresponsible senator up for reelection, Wayne Morse of Oregon, has now become nothing less than a crisis in government. For every legitimate question which the filibusters had been able to raise against the bill has been answered and answered yet again and again by the highest figures in government.

FAR from placating them, however, every concession made to such men as Senators Morse and Estes Kefauver of Tennessee has led only to more and more demands and more and more violent accusations. Kefauver, for example, now proceeds to the incredible charge that this bill is "the most gigantic giveaway in the history of this country."

If this is so, the President, his cabinet and immense majorities in both parties in Congress are prepared to defraud the country as it has never been defrauded before. By a ratio of more than 35 to 1, the House of Representatives has already sealed the fraud. For it has passed the bill by 354 to 8; the Senate long has been ready to approve it overwhelmingly, too, if only the filibusters would allow a vote.

If the President does not now denounce and destroy this almost hysterical thrust at the heart of capitalistic democracy, he will have surrendered to a small coalition of shouting demagogues and good but deluded men who are still populists at heart in a world where populism has been dead for half a lifetime.

MOREOVER, he will have let himself down, and his principal cabinet officers—including Attorney General Robert Kennedy and Secretary of State Dean Rusk—as well. And he will have run away from that high noon showdown which sooner or later he must, at any rate, face with the left-wing of his party: will this administration finally submit to these irresponsibles on the left, or will it stand and fight them to the end and thus maintain its due authority and responsibility?

The question is genuine, not rhetorical. For every day the irresponsibles are throwing away congressional seats to the Republicans in the elections of this fall. They can throw away the President's seat, too, in the election of 1964.

ing machines may be justified by the savings in work and time—or it may be a proud status—symbol which is not needed at all. It seems that even a "fictitious person" can be victimized by the same emotional distortions that afflict real persons; and more than one corporation may be living with bravado, quite beyond its income.

I am not suggesting here that computers are useless; no doubt they are enormously helpful in some corporate activities. What is interesting, however, is the urge for prestige that seems to afflict companies as well as individuals.

We ordinarily think of the corporate entity as a passionless, profit-gearing machine, cold and objective in its estimate of needs and expenditures. Apparently, this is not the case—and a company may be as susceptible to flattery, as fearful of contempt, as a human being.

The building of a larger plant may be prompted by sound commercial reasons—or it may be a form of vanity, of self-assurance. The purchase of a battery of computing machines may be justified by the savings in work and time—or it may be a proud status—symbol which is not needed at all. It seems that even a "fictitious person" can be victimized by the same emotional distortions that afflict real persons; and more than one corporation may be living with bravado, quite beyond its income.

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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

Aug. 13, 1952 (Wednesday) Mayor Diamond L. Flynn has changed his mind and will seek a third term as mayor of Medford.

John Dellenback has been named chairman for Medford's observance of National Kids day, Sept. 27. Medford Kiwanis club will sponsor the observance here for the third year.

20 YEARS AGO

Aug. 13, 1942 (Thursday) Water Superintendent Robert Duff announces approval by the Federal Works agency of the erection of a \$4,000 chlorination house for the Medford water system.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "A Smudge Pot" column: "A wing of Congress feels the Flying Cargo carriers proposed by Shipbuilder Kaiser won't work. It's a safe bet they will turn out to be more of a success than Congress."

30 YEARS AGO

Aug. 13, 1932 (Saturday) Wave of petty racketeering continues as racketeers work in pairs, one occupying housewife with hardluck story and begging handout, while the partner goes through back door to ransack house."

40 YEARS AGO

Aug. 13, 1922 (Sunday) Mail Tribune correspondent Arthur Perry visits Los Angeles to describe trial of Ku Klux Klansmen; tells of former kleagle fainting when high school girl describes outrages of KKK.

An embargo is placed on Southern Pacific shipping of perishable goods by striking workers; California and Oregon fruitgrowers fear losses may total several million dollars.

50 YEARS AGO

Aug. 13, 1912 (Tuesday) A burglar enters the home of Mrs. Walter Eskine, West Clark st., in a daylight raid and steals a gold watch, a chain, two rings and a bracelet.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Is the tortoise, elephant, or eagle reputed to have the longest life span?

2. In addition to its use as a disinfectant, what is the other principal use of hydrogen peroxide?

3. "Rocky Mountain Canaries" is a slang term for fish, goats, deers or donkeys?

4. Is a volterline an animal of the dog, cat or weasel family?

5. Which of the nouns are plural: falls, ways, woods?

6. How many centimeters are there in one inch?

7. What species of bird is known as the "king of birds"?

8. Which state leads in the production of pig iron and steel?

9. A person who had read about gemology would have learned about precious stones; true or false?

10. A person suffering from anthropophobia has a morbid dread of what?

Answers: 1. Tortoise. 2. Bleaching agent. 3. Donkeys. 4. Weasel. 5. All three are. 6. 2.54. 7. Eagle. 8. Pennsylvania. 9. True. 10. Of meeting persons.