

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This office has been flooded with anti-fluoridation letters. We have published many of them, but it has become obvious that we will not have space to publish all the others in full before the new election day.

To the Editor: Some of your readers may be interested in the story of fluoridation and some comment on the material now descending upon them regarding fluoridation.

Around the turn of the century, it was noted that, in certain areas of our country, nature had provided so much of the element fluorine in the water that people in those areas had practically no tooth decay.

The U.S. Public Health Service studied the matter thoroughly and by 1944 was satisfied that no ill effects accompanied this decay reduction in high-fluoride areas.

tion, American Nurses Association, American Pharmaceutical Association, American School Health Association, American Society of Dentistry for Children, American Water Works Association, College of American Pathologists, Committee on Chronic Illness, National Research Council, AFL-CIO, American Legion, National Congress of Parents & Teachers, U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce, and many, many others.

These groups tell us that, without any doubt, fluoridation is safe and effective. Massive sums of money are now flowing into our city to try to convince you that this is not true.

Examine carefully the "poison" ads in a locally distributed shopping paper, those being dropped on your doorsteps and arriving in the mail. Check the authorities mentioned. Do they compare in reputation with the authorities mentioned above?

Two questions are quite understandable as being compatible with propriety and righteousness. One is: Why is the ballot on which the question of fluoridation of Medford's water a city-limit ballot, when a large share of those who will be affected by it are county residents, namely Eagle Point, Central Point, Jacksonville, and Medford's suburbs.

The second puzzle to us is as to why when the opponents of fluoridation tell the why of their opposition, they are asked by documentation and a l m o s t by demonstration, while the proponents and advocates expect all and sundry to accept without question all the statements whether any proof or not about the one and only leg they have to stand on, "it prevents dental cares," an unproved claim!

Do you not think, Mr. Editor, that your statement in a recent editorial should also be accompanied by unquestioned validation? I quote the statement: "The safety and efficacy of controlled amounts of fluorides in water as a dental health measure is, as a matter of fact, better established than the safety of insecticides or the effects of air pollution."

Let us make a final plea to voters, please value and revalue our deep spring water uncontaminated in any way, and vote a big X in the no box. H. R. Bulman, Route 4, Box 316A, Medford

An aspect of the fluoridation issue that should interest everyone is what will it cost. In order to learn what to expect in the future should the issue pass, I contacted Mr. Robert Lee, superintendent of our water department. He informed me that installing the machinery would cost \$44,000. The estimated cost of maintenance would be \$22,000 per year, of which \$17,000 would

be for the chemical and \$3000 for all other expenses including repairs and replacements. According to census figures, 36,000 persons would use the water. Dividing the \$22,000 by 36,000 gives a yearly cost of about 61¢ for each individual. Just how this would be translated to the monthly bill he did not know. There are approximately 11,000 customers so at present the yearly cost per customer would be \$2. But it is futile to believe the equipment would last forever. The most frequently stated cause by cities discontinuing fluoridation, is the high cost of replacements sometimes in just a few months. Also it is futile to believe that the above estimates will be correct indefinitely.

Anna M. Streed, 36 North Peach st., Medford

In my opinion, poison is not the only important point in the fluoridation controversy, but in the excitement over that point, too many overlook the fact that they would be poisoning the social rights of others. Because no one can deny that fluoride can be taken in some other way by those who need it—as with iodine in table salt, or "Look, Mom, No Cavities." So no one would be depriving children of their right to have sound teeth.

Of course, the above mentioned ways would deprive parents of the easier way, which would be at the expense of others who don't need fluoride. So to put it into pub-

lic drinking water for all to drink would be as unfair as a law would be—by the will of some people—to prevent others from drinking their coffee black.

No, fluoride is not poison, but the idea of putting it into public drinking water is. John P. Gascon, Route 1, Box 310-B, Central Point, Ore.

Fluoridation of our water supply is not something to be decided by a mere majority. Everyone should want it, or it should not be forced upon them. What is good for some of the people is not necessarily good for all the people, and all the people should have their right to choose individually. Let those who want it get the pills—which is no doubt the least expensive way—for all. Would those who want it ask others to pay their bills?

It seems also that far too much of this "thing" would go far: watering lawns, and gardens—into washing machines, bath tubs, etc. About 90 per cent has been estimated.

This looks like a rather poor investment. S. J. Dodge, 907 South Holly st., Medford

Have we forgotten the original purpose of our Federal Constitution? Was it not to protect the rights of the individual from the masses and from oppressive government? Those who are advocating fluoridation of our Medford water system, it seems to me, are forgetting these purposes.

It is admitted by all that fluoridation will not be of benefit equally to all users of the water; thus fluoridation of the water will not be to the "general welfare" of all the people. Therefore, if voted in by the people will it be legal?

Those who want it and not compulsory for those who do not want it. LOOK—what has happened in other cities, many have voted it out after two or three years, when seeing the damage and cost to the equipment and plumbing, as well as an increase in the death rates, especially elder people.

LISTEN—what leading medical doctors and dentists have to say about it making the bone structure brittle. When children reach the ages of 15 or 16, their teeth begin to decay and are so brittle they are unable to be filled and have to have dentures at an early age.

When we pay for our water every month, do we not have the right to insist on pure water? Mrs. W. C. Malone, 48 Mae rd., Medford

Russia does not apply artificial fluoridation to their drinking water, but they do use it in their slave labor camps for its paralyzing effect on brain and nerves, making the prisoners more easily controlled, and Russia is actively promoting fluoridation for America's drinking water.

From a photostat before me I read, Daily Worker, (Communist) New York, Facts Spur Campaign for Fluoridation Here. Rockefeller Urges City Fluoridation.

Mayor Robert Wagner has been urged by Nelson A. Rockefeller to fluoridate the city's water supply to combat tooth decay.

I have more documented proof that Russia is actively promoting the fluoridation of America's water supply. Mrs. Alice I. Black, 812 South Newtown st., Medford

The first point of wisdom is to discern that which is false; the second to know that which is true.

Who are the uninformed? Mrs. Ernest Santo, 204 Lozier Lane, Medford

The September 1962, Prevention Magazine gives us more information on fluoridation. In Wilmington, Mass., where the city water supply has been fluoridated for seven years, there was to be a public vote on March 3, 1962, as to a public referendum. After a series of breakdowns of the fluoridator at the pumping station because of the corrosion of the metal parts of

the equipment, the superintendent of the water system felt he should notify the townspeople of the trouble and expense to them in a letter dated Feb. 28, 1962. He also added, "I must also notify the townspeople that it has been impossible to maintain the recommended 1 part per million. This is the concentration which we add to the water at the pumping station, but tests of fluoride in the lines have fluctuated from 4 to dangerously close to 1.5 ppm which according to the U.S. Public Health Service makes the water unsafe for drinking purposes."

The townspeople also considered "Dollars and Cents," reprinted from the Congressional Record.

New Kensington, Pa., (and other places) the fluoridation caused a rise of 15 per cent or more in water rates.

Washington, D.C., of \$130,000 a year spent on fluoridation, only \$27.82 worth reaches children under 12. The rest is wasted.

Schenectady, N.Y., \$2,000 a week for equipment and repairs, so great was the corrosion of machinery caused by fluorides. (It wrecks heavy machinery, imagine what it will do to you!)

Wilmington considered these hard facts and went to the polls to repudiate fluoridation. The vote was 1622 to 701.

Pauline McDonald, 110 Lozier Lane, Medford

STOP—before you vote for fluoridation, consider the cost in dollars and cents. N.Y. furnishes the pure controlled Fluorine dosage to children free of charge, saving the city thousands of dollars on equipment and repairs as well as lower water rates. It makes fluoridation voluntary to those who want it and not compulsory for those who do not want it.

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UNICEF To the Editor: It's time for Trick or Treat—for UNICEF. So let me share with MT readers a pertinent item from "The Christian Century" of October 17:

"Few things are harder to kill than a lie which serves the malicious purposes of those who propagate it. Such a lie is the charge that the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a communist organization which contributes money raised in the United States to communist countries."

"This lie is a perennial; about this time every year it comes out of the ground to harass churches, ministers, youth groups and others which sell UNICEF greeting cards as a part of their beneficent activity. Despite the fact that UNICEF is the best-known, most successful and the most universally accepted U.N. program, despite the fact that it meets the emergency needs of millions of children and mothers in almost every country and territory of the world, it is viciously attacked every year in this country by right-wing groups which condemn it as subversive."

"The truth is more than a match for the lie, but the truth has to be repeated annually. The truth is that UNICEF is not a communist organization. Since it was established by the U.N. General Assembly in 1946 the fund has been endorsed by all Presidents of the United States. Pope John XXIII—no communist or communist sympathizer—endorses UNICEF and contributes to it. The United States contributes, as it should, nearly one-half of the money distributed by the fund, but nearly 100 other countries also give to it."

"UNICEF does what it was established to do: it provides relief to children and mothers by supplying medicines, milk and technical supplies. The fund is efficient; one of its officials reports that the profit on a box of ten greeting cards sold by UNICEF provides enough vaccine to protect 50 children against tuberculosis or enough penicillin to cure 16 cases of yaws."

"It is not true, as frequently and irresponsibly charged, that 75 per cent of UNICEF money contributed by Americans goes to communist countries; the actual figure is less than 3 per cent. The truth about UNICEF is too big to be spelled out in detail here. But the facts we have cited are enough to refute the lie—at least for people who want to know the truth..."

"Churches and civic organizations can help restore holiness to Halloween through 'Trick or Treat for UNICEF'."

Arnold Eugene Jenny, Rogue Valley Manor, Medford

Missiles and Golf To the Editor: And Mr. Fred Vannatta. You say, Mr. Vannatta, that people are asking what the differences in political candidates are. I say the difference is in what they do while they are in the employment of the people that they are supposed to represent.

If elected, after election they can go to the golf course every day or so. They can completely ignore the fact that Cuba is being taken over as a puppet of the Soviet Union.

They can let the U.S. planes fly over Russian territory with a blabber-mouth at the controls.

They can send the then Vice President to South American

countries and have the people there waste good tomatoes on him.

They can let America get so far behind in defensive weapons that only a conservative Republican would appreciate it.

And if the people would have retained them in office, who knows, maybe they could be gloating over the tax dollars that they could have saved in the past two years, even though we would not have had a ship to sail or a gun to fight with.

Who do like and Nixon think they are fooling? Surely not one that knows anything of the records.

The Republicans should have done something about the Cuban situation while they were in office. Did they not know or try to find out if Castro was a communist?

If we have war, Kennedy will get the blame when the campaign mud starts flying again, branded a war monger. Yet, you say the President's action is precisely what the Republicans have been calling for.

You state the Democrats are nebulous or ineffective. Look back. Why did we get behind in the production of missiles? Why, Khrushchev builds missiles while like plays golf.

A. E. Savage, Klamath River, Calif.

Three To Elect To the Editor: Many voters do not yet realize the fact that Jackson County will elect three representatives to the

state legislature, rather than just two, due to legislative reapportionment.

A reminder from the Mail Tribune would be of value to the voters as well as to the candidates who are running for these offices.

Mrs. Ernest R. Kennedy Jr., 3088 Old Stage rd., Central Point, Ore.

MORE COMMUNICATIONS ON PAGE 6A

Portrait of Al Dumas with text: Elect AL DUMAS (Republican) State Representative. Ability, Understanding, Do With Dumas. Pd. Pol. Adv. Wilson Smith, 3135 Connell Ave., Medford

Poets' Corner

Conducted by Arnold Eugene Jenny

On the Writing of Poetry The maker of poetry writes from sheer necessity, saying what must be said. He writes with such intensity and absorption, that living does not exist outside his world of poetry until the poem is made. Elizabeth Stanton Hardy

Heritage On dead men's deeds the living nations stand, Plucking at fruits that dead men lost or won. And dead men's thoughts inhabit every land. From Spain to Troy, from Greece to Babylon. Solon and Plato, Homer, Sophocles, And all red Caesars of the bleeding sword, Proud Hammurabi, boastful Rameses, And sage Aurelius rule the breathing horde.

By dead men's toil our piers and castles rise, Our homes and halls reverberate with song. Scrolls have enriched the temples of the wise, And grids bear the mansion of the strong. On paths dead fingers dug, dead feet have worn, Who must die shall build for worlds unborn. - Stanton A. Coblenz

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Memories of Nebraska and Oregon So busy knitting. How fast my fingers fly As stitch by stitch the flashing needles ply To shape the bright yarn from the rolling ball Into a garment warm. But, after all, Although I gaze upon it steadily, And catch an accidental drop-stitch readily, I do not see the gay bright thing at all And am unmindful of the lessening Upon the floor.

From my surroundings, I am free To travel back again in memory, to see A vast, wide rolling plain when night is gone And twinkling stars have paced before the dawn. The morning's rosy light creeps wide and high. Until the vast rotundity of earth and sky Bursts into crimson glow. Stillness reigns supreme As Nature waits to greet the golden queen Of day.

Again, in fancy, I behold A rocky wind-swept cliff, so grim and bold It stands, to meet the thundering waves that beat Relentlessly against its firmly planted feet. Gray mists roll in to buffet at its side And white wings sweep low o'er the rolling tide. While I, in memory, stand in quiet solitude Upon its ancient head, the while to brood On earth and sky, and marvel at the wonder Of it all.

And then I read asunder The misty veil of years; my thoughts have turned To where an ancient fire had raged and burned Upon a mountain top. There lurid flames leaped high To paint the darkness of a midnight sky In flaming hues. A lake of deepest blue Now nestles in the burned-out fire's bowl. I view It from its lofty rim and, breathless, gaze Upon its still, clear blueness, now ablaze In flaming sunset hues.

O God above! I thank thee for these tokens of thy love And for the memory that recalls at will The happy hours I've spent, that I may fill My gloomy days with lovely scenes held dear. And brighten homely tasks with joys of yesteryear. Edith Goodson Norfolk, Va.

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