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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. 11, 1952 (Wednesday). Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company today filed an application for a "general re-pricing" of residential and business telephone rates with the Public Utilities Commission.

20 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1932 (Thursday). Medford war price and rationing office starts receiving applications for "A" mileage gasoline rationing books.

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1932 (Saturday). Bill Morgan, University of Oregon athlete from Medford, named best football player to face UCLA team during 1932.

40 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1922 (Sunday). Temperature of 31 degrees in Medford is highest reported for state.

50 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1912 (Tuesday). Workmen start pouring concrete for new Main street bridge across Bear creek.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. How much money in gold coin is in circulation in the United States?
 2. What islands are famous for their small ponies?
 3. What queen celebrated her golden jubilee in 1887 and her diamond jubilee in 1897?
 4. What do musicians refer to when they speak of ASCAP?
 5. What was man's earliest know implement?
 6. What is the United States flag called when it is being carried by a cavalry regiment?
 7. Florence Nightingale obtained recognition of the value of women nurses during what war?
 8. What are the first five books of the Old Testament called as a group?
 9. Which musical instrument is the highest pitched of all?
 10. What have Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark in common?
- Answers: 1. None. 2. Shetland. 3. Queen Victoria. 4. American Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers. 5. A stone. 6. The Standard. 7. Crimean. 8. The Pentateuch. 9. Piccolo. 10. English Channel Islands.

Federal vs. Local Government

There can be no doubt whatsoever that the federal government has, since the mid-30s and even before, played an ever-larger role in the lives of everyone.

Taxes have increased; so have federal "grants in aid" to the states for a variety of purposes including schools, welfare, hospital construction, sewage plant construction, housing, agricultural practices — the list seems endless.

Most people — liberals and conservatives alike — deplore this federal enlargement. The basic difference is that the conservative looks up on it as encroachment by the federal government on the rights of the states, while the liberal looks upon it as the federal government "taking up the slack" — that is, performing necessary functions where the state and local governments have fallen down on the job.

AN EXCELLENT case can be made to support the contention that states, counties and communities have, indeed, simply passed along, by default, many of their responsibilities to Uncle Sam.

If, in the first place, they had given adequate support to schools, hospital construction, sewage disposal — again the list goes on and on — there would have been neither need nor justification for the federal government to become involved.

But the fact that they have not in many instances done so, and the fact that the federal government's taxing authority and power are so far superior to those of local taxing units, has resulted in this basic shift of both authority and responsibility.

EVERY TIME a state legislature cuts a budget for state services, there is an added argument for the federal government to step into the void.

Every time a school district budget, or bond issue, is defeated by local voters, the call for federal aid to schools gets a little louder.

Every time a pollution problem goes unsolved for lack of local funds, the pressure is applied to the federal government for more aid — to reduce pollution, improve sewage disposal, and so on.

Every time a local community has gone without needed hospital services, the cry went up for federal aid. When state and county funds were unable to carry the load of welfare cases, the cry is for increased federal appropriations.

THE FEDERAL income tax is probably the most efficient device in the millennia-long history of taxation, and it extracts vast sums from the pockets of taxpayers in the relatively "painless" form of payroll deductions, so that a majority of taxpayers don't even think in terms of their full salaries any more, but only in terms of take-home pay.

This efficient and relatively simple means of tax collection, coupled with the fact that the federal government is so far removed from direct pressure by taxpayers, has resulted in this historic shift of power from local and state governments to Washington.

It is our view that this trend will not be reversed unless and until local units of government — state, county and city — begin to assume both the responsibility for these necessary services and facilities, and the responsibility of paying for them.

THEN — and only then — will the pressures for increased federal assistance, and the inevitable federal standards and controls which go with them, begin to diminish.

Then — and only then — will governments resume a more intimate association with its individual components — the voters and taxpayers.

Then — and only then — will more taxing ability be returned from the federal to local units of government.

Thus, it seems to us, both liberals and conservatives who want government closer to home, had best work to strengthen it, and see that it gets adequate financial support to do the necessary jobs in education and in all the other areas where it has too often fallen down.

Unless and until that happens, no congress is going to deny increasing funds to the federal government to do the jobs the local governments have either botched or not done at all. — E.A.

Federal vs. Local Taxes

Thinking along the same lines as those above, an editorial writer on the Eugene Register-Guard reasons thus:

"... In reality, the average Oregon family is burdened far more by federal taxes than by local taxes. And so is the average business or industry.

"The only plausible explanation why more furor is raised about local property taxes is that these are locally controllable. Control of federal taxes is difficult, if not impossible. Thus, individuals and organizations are led to concentrate their opposition to 'higher taxes' upon the sort of taxes they can hope to oppose most successfully.

"But do they pause to consider where such tactics must inevitably lead? If local governments, including school districts, are not properly supported by locally collected taxes, the day will quickly come when they will be financed through handouts from Uncle Sam.

"Those who think this would lead to true tax conservation, to more efficient and less-costly overall government, have lost faith in the traditional American system. Either that, or they fail to see that blind opposition to local taxes could all too easily weaken our local governments, forcing them to default more functions and responsibilities to federal agencies."

"You're About All Played Out—ch"



Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop
(c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

YOU'RE ANOTHER Washington—According to reliable report, President Kennedy's meeting with wily Anastas Mikoyan was far more interesting than it was made to appear at the time. What Mikoyan wanted was some form of public pledge by the President that the United States would not invade Cuba. This was supposed to "wind up" the Cuban affairs, and incidentally, of course, it was also supposed to give Nikita S. Khrushchev something tangible to point to as a gain from his misadvised Cuban gambles.

As the world knows, Mikoyan had nothing to offer the President in the way of the one-site inspection and verification in Cuba which was such an important item in the Khrushchev-Kennedy bargain. Nonetheless, he rather more than insinuated that the President would be guilty of bad faith, if he refused to issue the desired "no invasion" pledge.

THIS gave the President the opening, for which he had no doubt been hoping, to say, "You're another" with great vigor and vividness. And the President not only pointed out with some asperity that the Soviet side of the Cuban bargain had not been fulfilled. He also reminded Mikoyan that the bargain in Laos had been flagrantly breached by the continuing non-withdrawal of the North Vietnamese Communist troop from Laotian territory.

While on the subject of Soviet bad faith, the President also recalled to Mikoyan the ugliest feature of the whole Cuban affair. This was the lying personal message that the Soviets would never put into Cuba "weapons capable of reaching American targets," which Khrushchev and Mikoyan sent to the President through Georgi Bolshakov, a subordinate officer of the Soviet embassy here.

To this, Mikoyan replied with blarneying impudence so great that one must almost admire it. Khrushchev and he, so he swore up and down, really, truly did not regard the strategic missiles that were put into Cuba as offensive in character. Their purpose, he said piously, were solely defensive.

AS for not having been frank about them with the President, Mikoyan went on, Khrushchev feared that the presence of these innocent defensive weapons in Cuba might be misinterpreted and distorted, in the heat of the American Congressional elections. So Khrushchev had tried to keep the missiles a secret until the election was over, when he had meant to tell the President all about them right away.

It can be seen, then why the Kennedy-Mikoyan conversation was not immediately fruitful. Yet it is thought to have borne some fruit, nonetheless, of a slow-ripening kind.

It is thought, in other words, to have helped to drive home to the Kremlin that the U.S. Government is no longer willing to accept the long-prevailing double standard of international behavior. This is the odd, but widespread viewpoint which tolerates all kinds of Soviet actions that would universally be regarded as totally intolerable if they were American actions.

The elimination of the double standard is the obviously essential preliminary to any kind of useful negotiations with the Kremlin. Berlin, nuclear tests and all the

other outstanding problems cannot any longer be discussed on the familiar basis of: "What's mine is mine, and now let's have a jolly chat about what's yours."

ON the other hand, if the Kremlin is at last ready for equal negotiations, the Kennedy policy-makers are convinced that negotiations will be desirable. There has been some discussion of a quiet, personal approach to Khrushchev by the President, which would have the effect of testing the climate and perhaps opening the way for talks.

Relaxed Tensions Signal End of Cuban Crisis; But What's Ahead for Castro?

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst
Guantanamo is emerging slowly from its womanless, wifeless state. The simple return of domesticity seems to establish that the Cuban crisis is not a crisis anymore.

As wives rejoined husbands on the big naval base, UPI correspondent John Goldsmith reported this burst of affection from hospital technician Edwin C. Adams, who but for a turn of events might have been engaged in far less pleasurable pursuits. Said Adams: "We really missed those long-haired mess cooks."

Castro's Cuba also seemed to be returning to normal. Scarcely had the last Russian bomber departed in its crate from Cuban shores than the government set about confiscating more businesses and returning to its normal denunciations of the United States.

If this seems like a slight approach to a most serious problem, it is not intended so. Rather it is a sign of relief echoing in many quarters that the world has managed to emerge relatively unscathed from what could have been its first, and perhaps last, nuclear war.

The fact that a firm hand, plus diplomacy, had turned an untenable situation into one of some advantage to the United States did not, however, provide a total solution nor the answer to several remaining important questions.

One of the most intriguing of these is, what now for Fidel Castro?

If the Soviet Union simply used the bearded leader as a means for placing missiles and bombers on Cuban bases and thereby gaining a military advantage over the United States, Castro's usefulness to Russia now would seem to be considerably reduced.

Despite the jovial appearance of Soviet First Deputy Anastas Mikoyan on his departure for Moscow after a 24-day Cuban visit, it also seemed obvious that Castro

Washington Report

By William S. White
(c) United Feature Syndicate

GOP V-P TALK Washington — In the new Congress opening next month, the United States Senate will become an active arena for Republican vice presidential possibilities for 1964.

As much as it was for Democratic possibilities in 1960, this old chamber saw a quiet but intense struggle three years ago between Senators John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts, Lyndon B. Johnson of Texas and Stuart Symington of Missouri for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Now, well before the opening of the new Senate, people are talking, as the saying goes, about two Republican senators — Thomas Kuchel of California and Thurston Morton of Kentucky — for the 1964 GOP vice presidential designation.

IN POLITICS, there is speculation and there is speculation. Always it is iffy and sometimes it is also merely idle. In this case, however, it is in no sense idle, nor is it touched with more than an irreducible minimum of ifiness.

Kuchel and Morton have won the right to serious consideration, the inevitability of favorable mention, by the most decisive and objective of all tests — the test of success in last month's elections.

Kuchel swept to reelection in giant California by an enormous plurality of some 700,000 votes while his fellow Republican, Richard Nixon, was losing for the governorship to the Democratic incumbent, Edmund Brown. It was, in fact, the most impressive victory, in voting margin, turned in by any Republican in the country.

Morton was returned from Kentucky against what had been supposed to be a very heavy Democratic challenge. Kuchel was always favored to win; what makes him a new factor in the Republican party was the great scope of his triumph.

Morton was billed to lose; what elevates him now is that instead of obliging the forecasters, he managed to turn in a solid, if unspectacular, victory.

EACH, moreover, is well within that broad stream of political moderation, or middleclassness, from which the GOP in recent years has nearly always chosen its vice presidential candidate. And neither is exactly hurt by the fact that he is a quiet and unassuming fellow in a place, the Senate, which will cut down prima donnas wherever it can for the odd reason that nearly everybody there is himself a prima donna at heart.

From this point onward, however, Kuchel and Morton are two very different men. Morton's basic strength is within organized, regular Republicanism because he has been to his party an outstandingly good soldier always. As a former chairman of the Republican National committee, he knows intimately the sources of convention power.

Kuchel is not too close to regular Republicanism, but he has perhaps the higher strength of geography. His state, California, is about to become the first in the nation in population and in electoral power. Moreover, as assistant Republican leader of the Senate he is in a hierarchical position within the party, as Morton is not. This means a larger and readier access to national publicity and a greater opportunity to identify himself closely with the party's national record.

FINALLY, there is the factor that the Senate has become what it never used to be — a good stand of ground for the growth of presidential and vice presidential timber.

John F. Kennedy broke an old truism that the Senate was a great place to become famous in but not to become president from. The 1960 presidential ticket for the first time in history carried the names of two Senate men, his and that of Lyndon Johnson.

The sum of it is that a good deal of vice presidential politics will surely be involved in the new Senate, regardless of the reserve that may be shown in the matter by both Kuchel and Morton.

Drummond Reports

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

MEET STALINIST ULBRICHT Berlin — Herr Walter Ulbricht, the Moscow-trained Stalinist, is today the most hated Communist dictator in the most resented Communist dictatorship in the entire Soviet orbit.

The East German government, installed by force and maintained under the guns of the Red Army, is the most repressive, iron-ruler Communist regime in all Eastern Europe.

There are three reasons why Ulbricht imposed an unlimited, unrelieved Stalinist repression over the 17 million East Germans.

Ulbricht is doing what comes naturally. He is a Stalinist by choice as well as by necessity.

He wouldn't dare open up his regime even to the modest regulated freedoms now allowed in Communist Poland and Communist Hungary, which give public opinion some latitude of expression and influence. He knows that the East German people would blow his regime out of existence if they had the slightest means to do so.

He fears his own people as Stalin feared his own colleagues. Ulbricht's repression begets repression. The more he represses, the more he is hated.

Finally, although the "Wall" stands as an ugly sentinel of brick and mortar, it is porous to the eyes of the freedom-hungry East Germans. While Ulbricht and his regime hide behind the Wall, his people can see and almost touch the joys of liberty which radiate from West Berlin.

THIS is why the East German Communist regime is the worst of all the Soviet colonies. It has at its top an inveterate and incurable Stalinist. It has at its base a whole people who are hostile and unreconciled and who refuse to make peace with their rulers.

This is the regime which the Soviet Union wants the West to recognize and elevate to potential membership in the United Nations.

I do not wish to leave the impression that the East Germans are in a mood to turn on their tormentors and their bare hands. They aren't. They

tried it in 1953 — and failed. The regime is physically stronger than it was ten years ago. It has all the means of terror and control in its hands.

But even the Wall has not rendered the East German people hopeless or even acquiescent. A good gauge of their spirit is the letters which still pour into RIAS, the American radio station in West Berlin, which broadcasts news and music primarily to the East Zone. They dropped sharply for a few weeks after the Wall went up. They now run nearly 800 a week, nearly as many as before. To reduce the risk of censorship, many are mailed to friends in West Germany to be sent on to RIAS.

YOU have only to read a cross-section of this mail to realize how detested the Ulbricht regime remains. The East Germans have not lost the power of expression — many of the letters have to be laundered to go on the air — nor the courage to express themselves.

RIAS continues to have a tremendous audience in East Germany despite the repeated Communist campaigns to persuade its listeners that the news and views from the West are the "Poison of the Enemy." Periodically squads of police will mount the roofs of homes and apartments to turn the TV antennas in the opposite direction so West Germany's TV programs cannot be seen. Later most of their owners will boldly turn them back.

RIAS has succeeded in getting over to the East Germans a very crucial fact — that Ulbricht refuses to tolerate as much freedom as the people of Poland and Hungary now enjoy. Nothing infuriates the East Zone regime as much as to have the East German population know that German authors whose works are suppressed in East Germany, are published in Poland and Hungary. And that West German newspapers, which are not allowed over the Wall, can be bought and openly read in Warsaw and Budapest.

This is the regime which Mr. Khrushchev wants the free world to invite into its living room.

