

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
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A Modern Constitution

There is a general impression abroad that Gov. Mark O. Hatfield is a supporter of the proposed new Constitution. He may, or may not, support the proposal. The impression that he does comes from his inaugural address, but in it he did not say, specifically, that he approves the new Constitution. He said:

"The Constitution Revision Commission has produced a notable document. This legislature's greatest legacy can be the referral of a realistic, modern Constitution."

HE DID NOT say, be it noted, "this" Constitution, but "a" Constitution. This leaves him free to support or oppose specific proposals or changes.

In any event, the Governor remains a supporter of Constitutional revision. So is practically everyone else who has given thought to it. We suspect that the proposed basic charter will have a tough time getting through the current legislature unscathed. Still, we would prefer that the voters of the state would have a chance to pass on it next year.

THE Constitutional Revision Commission was a "blue ribbon" group of 17 distinguished citizens, who spent long hours and days, assisted by full-time staff workers, in writing the proposed Constitution. It comprised virtually every segment of the political spectrum, and represents the careful, considered judgment of some of the state's best political minds.

The Legislature, by its very nature, cannot do a similar job. Each member has a multitude of other things to claim his attention; a multitude of pressures to contend with; concerns having nothing to do with the Constitution. The Legislature should accept the proposed Constitution pretty much as it is now, and give the voters a chance to pass on it.

THE proposed Constitution is not merely a patchwork job of repairs done on the old one. Although it retains many of the principal features of the old one, it is essentially a new document, integrated and balanced. The changes it would make are of two kinds: first, "housekeeping" changes, designed to eliminate outmoded or unnecessary provisions which either belong in statute law, or do not belong at all, and, second, substantive changes.

It is the substantive changes which have attracted the most attention thus far, tending to obscure the fact that many of the changes are minor, and the fact that many of the essentials of the old Constitution are retained.

NO Constitution, no law, no proposal, can be designed to the satisfaction of everyone. We disagree, personally, with a few of the provisions of the proposed Constitution. So do individual members of the Commission. Still, it must be judged as a whole, and not as a series of unrelated provisions.

In judging it thus, the commission was near-unanimous in declaring it is, in "our collective best judgment a model for a modern state having Oregon's historical, political and economic background; it is far superior to the existing 1857 Constitution." They added:

"Its adoption by the Legislature and the people will give Oregon one of the three or four best Constitutions among the 50 states."

We agree with Governor Hatfield's suggestion that the Legislature's "greatest legacy" can be the referral of a realistic, modern Constitution. We would add "this Constitution."—E.A.

Bullock's Hits Back

We have been told by the super patriots why they are harassing merchants who retail such items as Polish hams or Yugoslavian baskets.

Now we hear another angle, that of the merchant involved. Bullock's department store in Los Angeles has filed a \$3-million damage suit and a request for an injunction against the local "Committee to Publicize the Sale of Communist Goods."

A story in Women's Wear Daily reported: "The case was viewed here as the first strong legal counteraction to advocates of the so-called 'card parties,' which seek to identify certain stores as merchandisers of 'Communist goods' from Iron Curtain countries."

"Bullock's charges that defendants, without its permission, have secretly distributed the cards in a conspiracy to maliciously and unlawfully injure its business and reputation."

"Bullock's charges that it did not permit use of its name and that defendants have unlawfully trespassed on its property and defamed the good name which it has enjoyed in the community for more than 50 years. It is specifically charged that statements on the cards give the false impression that Bullock's is sympathetic with Communism and is promoting its cause."

TRADE with certain Iron Curtain countries is advantageous to this nation, has the approval of President Kennedy and the State Department, and, if halted, would put two workers out of jobs in this country for every one idled elsewhere.

Super patriots make a lot of noise about "slave labor," and so on, but they have not shown, nor can they show, that harassing loyal citizens engaged in legal retail activities is anything more than the hysterical use of smear tactics.

The store issued a statement in connection with its suit for damages which said, in part: "Bullock's believes that the democratic way is to follow the lead of our Government, rather than to capitulate under the harassment of individuals who have no representative authority."

"When individuals invade our property and secretly distribute their defamatory cards, we must use legal processes to protect our good name and our patriotic intentions. Amen.—E. A.

"Reminds Me Of That Crazy Idea Of Henry Ford's That You Can Make More Selling At Lower Prices"



... 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.

The Place for Prayer

To the Editor: I read your column each day, really enjoying other people's opinions. This shows we still have one of the things our forefathers left to us, freedom of speech.

Here is an item that has bugged me lately, prayer in schools.

Let's say that all of the students, parents and teachers, except one, would go for a few minutes each day for a prayer.

What shall we do with this one? If he or she is a student shall we send him to a closet or out in the hall? Or shall we brand him an atheist or a communist and send him home?

The Bill of Rights guarantees freedom of religion to each of us, not to a majority. Let's let the schools teach the 3 R's and let's send the kids to church to learn about prayer.

Earl L. Groves 1103 West Fourth St. Medford

Farm Work

To the Editor: Is it to be a question of money or morals, this county farm experiment? It has been my very earnest endeavor to know more about it. The M.T. City Editor should remember a couple phone calls from me suggesting some kind of a writeup on it as it has come to me mostly by the old grape-vine, which to say the most is not too dependable.

The most convincing came from one of the unfortunates picked up on some sort of drunk and disorderly charge that landed, as he said, "in that God-awful tank." A soul shattering, initiative destroying thing that set him weeping in trying to say what it was like. That it was like escape from hell just to get out in the field of growing things of Nature's gift of free air, water and soil, at least the air is free most of the time.

Not knowing too much about it, there's little for me to say. But we do know that there is usually a loss sustained in the best of planned ventures, till check and receipts can be made to get it onto a paying basis, if it is to be merely a question of money. Clackamas county's venture looks like it might disclose methods that would make it pay off in money.

But if morals, the possible rejuvenating of otherwise decent men, is to be at all considered, then it would seem worthy of risking some money on it. If morals is to have a place on the waning balance. For as the immortal Robt. remarked, as memory has it:

"But ah, young friend Humanity's little to be trusted For when self (county interests) The wavering balance shakes, 'Tis seldom right adjusted. F. J. Clifford Route 2, Box 200F Central Point, Ore.

Old Home Place Gone

To the Editor: Sunday one of the landmarks of another pioneer family burned to the ground when my grandparents' home burned. While the house still stood, it seemed they were still with us, even though they had been gone so many years. The fire put such a final ending to such a sweet memory of Aunt Lot and Uncle Amos McKee, as they were known to all Applegaters.

I like to sit and think about all the good times that we had there when we kids were growing up. I think the thing that stands out the most in my mind is her lamp in the window. Each night about the same time, Grandma would light her kerosene lamp and put it in the kitchen window for all to see. It was there for so many years, that it finally grew to be a symbol for all who traveled the Applegate road. In those days we knew most of the people who traveled the road, and it was always a welcoming sight to all who saw it.

I can still see my great-grandmother rocking in her chair, telling about sitting on Abe Lincoln's lap as a small girl, and all the troubles they had crossing the plains in a covered wagon.

I can even taste grandma's apple pie and sour dough biscuits and home made bread with that good blackberry jelly she always made. No one ever left my grandparents without eating something.

There was no greater thrill than to sleep at my grand-

parents' in the feather bed, listening to the mantle clock striking out the time, as we watched the fire in the fire place sending out its dancing figures on the wall, until the fire finally went out.

I know that the burning of a house can't take away your memories of years past, but still it hurts to see the old home place gone.

Clara Faye Pursel 1394 Beekman Medford

Congo Clarification

To the Editor: To counter-balance the lengthy attacks against the UN and U. S. policy in the Congo, I submit the following.

The Congo, one of the richest mineral areas in the world, was left in turmoil by the abrupt and unprepared-for departure of the Belgians. Three factions immediately became interested: the mining association, the U.S. and the Russians.

The mine owners probably feared an eventual takeover and possibly had a racial interest. The Russians would have liked to have this territory or at least be influential in it. The U.S. wanted to keep the Russians out. That Russia was interested is documented by news dispatches and photos showing their planes and technicians.

The U.S. and its allies lined up behind Aduala, the Russians behind Lumumba and the mine owners behind Tshombe, the latter hiring white mercenaries and setting up a lobby in Europe and the U.S. The power of these lobbies should not be underestimated.

If the U.S. had stayed out, Russia, behind Lumumba, had a good chance of winning; if, later on, we had let Katanga secede, there would have been nothing but war with who knows what final result.

With the UN, there is some chance of an equitable solution for the mining interests, the Congolese, and the rest of the world. Their forbearance with Tshombe is indicative of that.

Frank Crum White City, Ore.

U. F. O.

To the Editor: Seems we always have about three types of reactions from people when we read of an U.F.O. encounter such as Mr. Danilo Fry's. There are those who simply ignore it, those who take it as a joke, and, last but not least, those prophets of doom and darkness that tell us it is a demonic force, and the last is about the most intolerable to me of them all.

When anything of the ordinary happens that cannot be easily explained to the human intelligence, the cry goes up Devil, Devil, Devil, as though the heavens be only inhabited by forces of evil.

I recall a man named Christ that walked among men doing good. He was persecuted and put to death because he performed miracles the people did not understand. If we were to take a T.V. set and turn it on in front of some of the African natives we would get the same reaction of Devil, Devil, Devil. The heavens also contain the powers of God and good, and let us not forget that we should look more for the good in things and less of the evil.

I really enjoyed Mr. Fry's article and wish we might have more like it. I found it very stimulating to the mind as well as enlightening. More power to a man who is not afraid to face ridicule to report his experience.

(Name on File) Eagle Point, Ore.

Fanfani Outwardly Unconcerned as His Government Faces New Trouble in Italy

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst Showing little outward sign of concern, bouncy Italian Premier Amintore Fanfani returned home from the United States this week to face another of the tests which regularly have plagued Italian governments since 1953. It was nothing particularly new for Fanfani who had his first crack at the job in 1954 and became but one in a bewildering succession of Italian premiers.

It also seemed that Fanfani would keep his job at least until after general elections which President Antonio Segni is expected to call for April or early May.

Chief opponent in the test facing Fanfani this time was Communist Palmiro Togliatti

whose party of an estimated 1.5 million members had filed a motion of no-confidence against Fanfani's 10-month-old center-left government.

If the Communist cause were to be helped it would come from dissident members of Pietro Nenni's left-wing Socialists whose failure to vote in the Chamber of Deputies had helped keep Fanfani's government in office and who now were accusing Fanfani of betraying his promises.

Overall it was a picture of the general confusion among Italy's political parties which for 10 years have prevented establishment of a stable government.

Fanfani's Christian Democrats, the dominant party, are split three ways, among left, center and right. The man who held them together, former Premier Alcide De Gasperi, has been dead for nine years.

Smaller, right-wing parties do not trust them.

Ten months ago, Fanfani formed his center-left coalition which included Social Democrats and Republicans but depended for its existence upon a marriage of convenience with the Nenni Socialists who agreed to support measures favorable to their own platform and to abstain from the vote on others.

In return, Fanfani promised to decentralize state administration by creating 13 regional governments, to press school and agricultural reforms, to develop low-cost housing and to build more hospitals and health centers, to act against tax dodgers and to press for nationalization of certain utilities, notably electricity.

When the chips were down, the Christian Democrats refused to go through with the plans for regional government out of fear that the Nenni Socialists might rejoin the Communists to take control.

Out of this came the Communist challenge, with the additional charge that the government failed to foresee the development of a Paris-Bonn axis endangering the European Common Market.

Strictly Personal

By Sydney J. Harris (c) Field Enterprises, Inc.

SEPARATENESS AND UNITY We divide the world along the grain of our infirmities. Whatever it is that we feel we most lack, or need, becomes the boundary line between us Here and There. Illness, chronic or disabling illness, is the most striking example of this division. To someone who is really ill, seriously and for a considerable time, all other loyalties and animosities are submerged beneath the sense of separateness between the Sick World and the Well World.

To the poor—perhaps not so much in America, where economic mobility is possible, but in most other countries—the social order is irrevocably divided into the Haves and Have-Nots. The lack of funds, the lack of food, makes every other division seem artificial and meaningless. This, of course, is the great fulcrum by which communism has moved half the world.

And to the Black, especially today, color is the absolute line of demarcation. The world is a color world, sharply and simply; all other distinctions are at bottom temporary, superficial and in the end meaningless.

Thus, whether our basic infirmity or incapacity, is physical, economic or social, it is this cleavage that determines our view of ourselves and of mankind—and that eventually pervades any real idea of "brotherhood" which is more of a slogan than a feeling. Our brothers, in point of fact, are only those who share our lacks, who feel our needs, who stand under the same threat.

When is a nation most "united"? When under attack. The American Revolution united the colonists as peace never could; the Civil War solidified the peoples of the North and the South; Nazism gave the British people a sense of solidarity and unanimity not seen since then.

It is one of the profound paradoxes of human nature that separateness creates unity; it is the Other that makes us One. And this concept of oneness comes only in times of crisis, through hate, enmity, deprivation, discrimination, conflict and fear.

Such negative feelings are what engender our positive virtues—our loyalty, our heroism, our selflessness, our willingness to subordinate the individual interest for the common good. There are few heroes of peace, there are few martyrs of love. Persecution held the Jewish people together for 5,000 years; acceptance might dissolve them in a generation.

It is those Out There who keep us Here identifiable and ready to fight for our rights, or our wrongs, or simply our survival.

Communicate Backs Cubans' Struggle Phn Penh, Cambodia (UPI)—Visiting Czech President Antonin Novotny and Cambodian chief of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk issued a joint communiqué Monday supporting the "struggle of the Cuban people for independence and liberty."

The statement also called for the admission of Red China to United Nations membership.

Novotny promised continued technical, industrial and cultural aid to this Southeast Asian nation and praised Cambodia's policy of "neutrality."

Matter of Fact By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

AGAINST TWADDLE Washington—In this week's Saturday Evening Post, Stewart Alsop will publish the unavoidable epilogue to the resounding row about Adlai E. Stevenson's role in the Cuban crisis. Brotherly feeling aside, the epilogue seems unavoidable to this reporter because of the charges of bad faith and inaccuracy that were so loudly made when Stewart Alsop and Charles Bartlett published their account of the way the Cuban crisis was handled by the Kennedy administration.

In that account, it is important to note, the role of Ambassador Stevenson was differentiated from the roles of the other chief Kennedy policy-makers in only one way. Stevenson was described as "dissenting" from the general view, in the specific sense that he alone wished to use America's overseas bases as bargaining counters to get the Soviet missiles out of Cuba.

IT NOW appears that before this highly significant fact was published, it was carefully checked in three conversations with Clayton Fritchey. By his assignment on the UN Ambassador's staff, Fritchey is just as fully and formally authorized to speak for Stevenson as Pierre Salinger is for President Kennedy.

On the first occasion, Fritchey stated he did not know what position Stevenson had taken, but would soon find out. On the second occasion, Stevenson's willingness to use the overseas bases as bargaining counters was frankly confirmed by his official spokesman, Fritchey even volunteered the new fact that Stevenson had said the U.S. "might even consider yielding the Guantanamo base" itself, if this "were necessary to sweeten our negotiating position."

Stevenson's suggested "sweetener" was omitted from the original account of the Cuban crisis, as being somewhat too explosive in its possible repercussions. But before that account was sent to print, the actual language describing the position Stevenson had taken was checked in a third conversation with Fritchey.

WHAT was not checked, to be sure, was the opinion truthfully attributed to another high Kennedy policy-maker, that Stevenson wanted "another Munich." It is a matter of judgment, whether it would have been another Munich to consent to use America's overseas bases, even Guantanamo, as bargaining counters to trade the Soviet missiles out of Cuba.

Before the end of the dangerous phase of the Cuban crisis, some respectable persons in this country and almost the entire British press publicly advocated the approach that Stevenson had argued for in private—though no one else, as far as is known, went quite so far as suggesting the possible abandonment of Guantanamo. This reporter happens to believe that adoption of his approach would have been an irredeemable disaster, but those who believe differently have a right to their view.

A public man does not have the right, however, to lie down on the floor, and drum his heels, and cry foul, because his positions on questions of urgent public interest are given to the public.

THIS is a point which has been mysteriously missed by Ambassador Stevenson. In the early phase of the Berlin crisis, for instance, he described his position with great frankness to a French newspaperman, apparently on the ill-founded assumption that he was talking off the record. The unfortunate Frenchman then printed a quite accurate account of the not-exactly-hard-boiled Stevenson position on Berlin—only to find himself in the eye of a hurricane of reproach and recrimination.

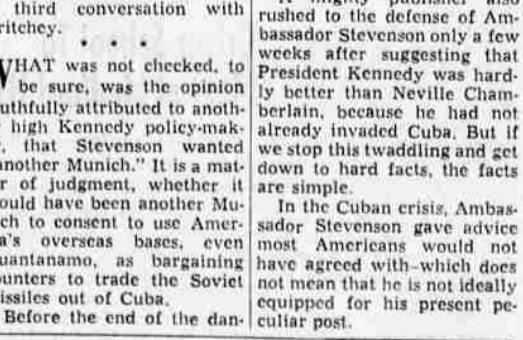
But the fact remains that the public has a right to know about the position which public men take on public questions. Public men, in this respect, are like cooks or housemaids, who expect to give references before taking a job.

Public men's references are nothing more or less than the positions they take, which define their outlook and reveal their viewpoint. And if you hold a high post and are also openly disappointed because you are not Secretary of State, you are not being victimized because your position in the Cuban crisis is publicly and accurately described.

IT IS high time, in fact, to protest against the torrents of twaddle that have been poured out on this point. The original Alsop-Bartlett account of the Cuban crisis was denounced as a breach of security by a great but sadly smug newspaper which had tried to put together exactly the same sort of account but had done it much less well.

A mighty publisher also rushed to the defense of Ambassador Stevenson only a few weeks after suggesting that President Kennedy was hardly better than Neville Chamberlain, because he had not already invaded Cuba. But if we stop this twaddling and get down to hard facts, the facts are simple.

In the Cuban crisis, Ambassador Stevenson gave advice most Americans would not have agreed with—which does not mean that he is not ideally equipped for his present peculiar post.



"I read where all the 'new ones' are caught up in the social whirl in Washington. Next time I'm going to vote for an anti-social representative!"