

# 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.

## Weather-Whether or Not

To the Editor: Yesterday was ground-hog day. Whether Mr. Ground-hog saw his shadow or not, will not affect the weather one way or another. I have done considerable research into this and even contacted one of the foremost ground-hogs in this neck of the woods. This is what he wrote in reply:

"Dear Sir: "Once and for all I want to destroy that canard about us ground-hogs butting in on the weather bureau. Throughout ground-hog history there have been many changes in the calendar, and as we do not have any calendars in our domiciles, we know from nothing when Feb. 2 comes. If some stirrings of instinct should send us out of our holes on Feb. 2 or thereabouts, it is not to look for any shadows. We may come out to look for some nuts, grubs or possibly some herb to re-condition our blood after sitting by our firesides all winter. If we should be observed to scurry right back into our hole, it is not because we have seen our shadow, but because of all the observers watching us. Judging by the antics of these nuts, they are already cracked, but this is not the kind of nuts we are looking for. Trusting this will answer your inquiry, I am, yours for less but better superstitions."

Wood Woodchuck (Vassar '44)  
Carl Bjorndahl  
F.O. Box 343  
Medford

## Bad Management

To the Editor: The article in the Jan. 31 edition by Mr. Kupillas warrants a reply. I happened to be present when this very, very young man took the floor and tried to take up too much valuable time by reading a book on game management.

This meeting by the sports-

men was packed with people in all walks of life who feel that something must be done to stop this bad management. After thousands of petitions have been sent to the Game Commission over the last ten years and lately to the Governor with no results, it was time to take a different approach. This was to organize the entire state by county chapters and take the issue to the Legislature where it belongs and let's do away with the appointive jobs. Surely all the thousands upon thousands of people who are unhappy are not stupid.

There is no problem of feed, the Greensprings for example. The season was opened on Sept. 1 and was still open on Nov. 25. These deer were chased and molested during their breeding season, and on Dec. 27 a California game warden, whose job it is to watch over this herd during the winter, stated to two Medford business men that there was not many of these animals left. This situation is of vital importance to every citizen in this state, taxpayer or not. Join this movement and get the job done.

W. H. Pelsler  
1001 South Peach St.  
Medford.

## Believe What You Read

To the Editor and Robert E. Howe: You came to the right stop to find your half-brother.

Tother night, after I had tried the windows and looked under the bed, I felt strange; the air smelled sulphuric. Hearing a slithering sound outside, I peeked out.

By the light of the street lamp I saw a circular contraption straddling the deep ditch in front of my house as slick as a button. (No car can park there.) Pussfootin' out of it came a little shrimp with a poker face and four pairs of black eyebrows.

## Poets' Corner

Conducted by

Arnold Eugene Jenny

### Poetry Is a Learned Thing

Poetry is a learned thing. To say it is a learned thing is not to suggest that it is an academic one. Poetry will forever be the heart's thing. But the heart that counts in poetry will beat in a human being who has learned the nature of his formal illusion.

— John Ciardi, Saturday Review, 12/1/62

### Rogue Valley Manor Anniversary

Hail! ye noble Lords and Ladies  
Of the Manor on yon hill-top:  
'Tis a time for celebration  
Now of two years' happy living  
With our many friendly neighbors,  
And the start of yet another  
Year of bright and gay adventure.

Lay aside all cares and labors;  
Deck the halls with flow'rs and bunting;  
Let them ring with song and laughter  
As we join in merry-making  
And in hearty, royal feasting.

Pledge anew your faithful friendship:  
Each for all and all for each one.  
Thus our home, assured of blessing,  
Shall remain a bit of heaven

Here on earth, come rain or sunshine,  
True alike for saint and sinner.  
— Arnold Eugene Jenny

### Longevity

Four generations of toll-hardened men  
Sleep by their wives upon the goodly land  
Where each lived out his fourscore years and ten.

Shelter-mellowed, fardhouse and out buildings stand,  
Timed by hundred-year-old apple trees—  
Enduring testimony to the hand

That turned the virgin soil. The springtime sees  
Them decked in bridal white, sufficed with roses,  
And vocal with the drone of pilfering bees.

Then when the summertime draws to a close,  
The promise of their blossoms is fulfilled  
By lush fruit, suckled by the earth which flows

With life . . . The hands that swaddled them are stilled,  
Their dust long mingled with the soil they tilled.  
— Mary Boyd Wagner\*  
New York

\*Klamath Falls high school pupil (1904-05) of Alice Applegate Peil, now a resident of Rogue Valley Manor, Medford.

### Perception

Not when the procession is in motion  
and all moves in order to a destination  
without alternative—not when, stone-faced,  
you watch the silver trappings deftly placed;  
not at the contours of grass where in June or December  
garlands are placed by those who can only remember  
even then no tears, for the unbent heart is slow,  
the eye dull and arid from the blow.

But later, when for the first time alone  
you look upon an anguished world grown  
parentless and realize as the toll of a knell  
how final is finality and all you forgot to tell—  
that no longer is there tomorrow when, subject to weather,  
you might do this or that together.  
Only then does grief release at last:  
then does the heart reap its past.

But when you recall how in the magical stir  
of Christmas gifts appeared on a fragrant fir  
you know there can be no possible death as such  
to sever the invincible span of sunlight and dust.  
— Dorothy Pruitt  
Medford

### In Retrospect

When daddy duns his youthful sins and bids us shun 'em,  
It seems like day is almost glad he done 'em.  
— Jack Finel  
Central Point, Ore.

Mom told me to beware of men, but she didn't mention space critters, so when he knocked like a Fuller Brush man, I opened the door a little. He put his foot in.

Says he, in a sorta ghostly falsetto—"Do you know how?" I was stumped: "How what?" I says. He answered, "Not what—who?" (Like a hoody owl.) "Do you know my half-brother Bobby HOWE? When I went up, he stayed put." I told him "No, but he must be further north, cause I herd the Injuns up there calling his name once."

Not knowing any more, I offered him some coffee. "I don't cough," he says. I explained that coffee is what clockwatchers take a break with, but he didn't savvy.

Having pushed all the glassware under the sofa before I let him in, I offered him a box of gum drops a feller had given me and he made such a pig of himself that he floated right out the door. I slammed it shut, but I sure would like to a rid in that 'ere flat thing. He didn't give me no invite; spect he thought I'd rock his saucer.

When he took off it sounded lak the store man's big vacuum cleaner. It wogs up all the roosters and docks in this here burg.

I agree with Mrs. W. H. Meslon; I know Eric would never print anything untrue. You can believe everything you read in the papers, but if I were you, Mr. Howe, I'd discount all relationship as overhead.

Ol' Lady Spackman,  
Jacksonville, Ore.

## Right To Work

To the Editor: Under the Constitution every man is given the right to do anything that does not interfere with the rights of others.

But woe is us. One by one our rights have gone down the drain. Our spineless lawmakers have permitted a few of the sharpest to lay themselves upon us that they themselves would not touch with a little finger. The greatest of these is depriving the working man of his right to work.

I believe in a man's right to join a union if it suits him. I believe in a man's right to work for whatever or wherever it suits him, without first having to pay sometimes as much as a month's wages to an organization that has never and will never contribute one red penny to his welfare.

The unions today are as obsolete as the horse and buggy. There are state and federal laws to protect the worker against everything except exploiting by such as the Becks and the Hoffas. It is long past time that the worker realizes this, and stands upon his own two legs and in a loud voice demands his God-given right to work for what, for whom, and wherever he fancies.

George Brown  
Box 259  
Prospect, Ore.

## No Guts

To the Editor: Mr. Hoffa says the Unions lack guts. Now I've seen union men who were not worth \$1.50 an hour, but they charged \$7.50, and that takes a lot of guts. It's the New Frontier in Washington which doesn't have the guts to control the unions.

Everett Acklin  
Ashland, Ore.

## Abolish or Amend

To the Editor: Periodically a cry is heard in this land demanding the abolition of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, or some other anti-communist movement. I would suggest that all American citizens read, "Masters of Deceit" by J. Edgar Hoover, long time head of the FBI.

On page 184 we find this statement, "A primary tactic of the Communist Party is to preserve the legal status of the party. Thus any organization which has the duty to investigate or expose communist activity is singled out for attack. For years the Party has campaigned against the House Committee on Un-American Activities, the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, and the Senate Investigative Committee. The Department of Justice and the FBI have not been spared, and we have come to judge our effectiveness by the intensity of communist attacks." There is much more.

Recently there have been renewed attacks by James Roosevelt, Harold Fey, the Coos Bay World and others, endorsed also by the local intelligentsia. Now, I would not accuse these people of being communist nor impugn their motives. God alone knows their hearts and in His own good time will judge.

But, unfortunately, good intentions do not always guarantee good judgement. Too many well intentioned people today are mouthing communist propaganda thinking they are promoting peace or protecting the right of freedom of speech, even while defending the very ones who would destroy the Constitution under which they hide.

What if the HCUA has made mistakes or overreached their authority? Does that mean it should be destroyed? These committees are the creatures of Congress. Cannot Congress amend or restate the policies of such committees as it sees fit? Is capital punishment for HCUA the only or best answer while we agitate for sentence commutation for murderers?

Suppose the House should abolish the HCUA, what then? The next step would be to attack the Senate Subcommittee, then the Senate Committee of Investigation, then the FBI. Already attacked. Any one who has studied communist history and tactics can see the pattern clear, the goal, complete destruction of our defenses and ultimate world domination by communism under the guise of peaceful co-existence.

When, consciously or unconsciously, intentionally or otherwise, by voice or pen, you mouth communist propaganda, you are making the communist job that much easier.

For my part, I do not want my name linked to any sort of propagand emanating from communism's headquarters. I believe there are ways of testing propaganda whether it bears the marks of truth or falsehood. St. Paul says, "Test all things, hold fast to that which is good." Study the communist pattern where it has borne fruit.

L. G. Weaver  
301 Haven St.  
Medford

## Keep Looking Up

To the Editor: Yesterday a friend dropped in for a visit. This man and the writer have much in common. Both of us fondly look forward to that day when the Christians' hope will be fully realized. I refer to the glorious, personal appearing of our Blessed Lord in the consummation.

When the theme of one's thoughts and words are focused on this, the blessed hope, daily annoyances and trials sink into insignificance. Life seems to be made up of detours. Many times pre-conceived plans have to be changed. Reminds me of a little experience Abe Lincoln once had, when as a young man he was plowing a field. A large log, much too large to move, obstructed his way. Abe just plowed around it.

So we must do. When obstructions beset our life's journey just detour or "plow around" them. True, it's easier said than done many times. This is especially true when supposed Christian friends place "logs" in your pathway.

We humans are peculiar creatures. Too many a time we feel that if our fellowmen do not do things as we think they should be done, then our efforts should be thwarted. So instead of waiting and letting God have His way we minimize and throw cold water on the efforts of another.

The writer believes in organized Christian effort. But never forget that "God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform." The work of individual Christians is never to be minimized. Thank God that we were not made as cogs in a piece of machinery and had to be forced to work. The loving service comes from the heart that loves his God and fellowmen.

Reminds me of one of America's most loved radio pastors. I'm referring to him, Pastor J. L. Tucker and I have been personal friends for a number of years. Twenty-six years ago he began broadcasting from Portland. The Quiet Hour is now heard throughout the nation and overseas. We hear it locally at 9 a.m. Sunday on KRVC.

Many a time Pastor Tucker had "logs" placed in his pathway by even fellow church members. With God's help he plowed around them. The work Christians fail to do now in peaceful times will have to be finished in days of turmoil.

According to sacred scripture perilous times are ahead. But beyond these hectic days lies God's tomorrow. So let's not despair but keep looking up.

Henry Johnson Jr.,  
2315 Highway 66,  
Ashland, Ore.

## Taxes and Economy

To the Editor: In 1894 an income tax of a modest 2 percent with a \$4,000 exemption was proposed. The Supreme Court killed the tax before a dime was collected, declaring that such a tax would spoil private property. What of the present tax, of 20 to 91 percent? The Court might possibly declare such a rate of taxation to be confiscation of property with due process of law.

There is a tax proposal for consideration of the Oregon Legislature which would include all incomes, without any exemptions. Many baby sitters and those in the lowest income brackets would

have food taxed from their mouths by such a tax.

Excessive taxes are encouraging waste and the giveaway brainstorms of Congress and state legislatures. The same are discouraging production and ownership of property. Also providing the means to expand the functions of the federal and state governments, at the expense of the liberties and freedoms of all the people.

If the voters were so lacking in wisdom to see and visualize the results of permitting their elected body to fix their own salaries, those voters must abide by the consequences.

Economy in Government has become a tragic joke. There are many times the ways to spend tax money than are suggested as ways to economize. As a matter of fact the payers of the bills are wondering if they get any consideration whatsoever from the spenders.

There is a clause in the Constitution which reads, "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury unless in consequence of appropriations made by law and a statement of receipts and expenditures shall be published from time to time." Has anyone ever noticed a published statement of receipts and expenditures?

A sample of what has happened to the people as a consequence of faulty and extravagant Government causing unreasonably high taxes. First, a postage stamp is now five cents, was two cents. Second, a pair of shoes of a well known brand were in 1930 five to seven dollars, now the same shoes are \$19 to \$25. Many other necessities cost in about the same proportion.

Some remedies suggested for the dilemma are, first, get the U.S. Government out of business in competition with private industry, second, more efficiency and experience in Government officials, third, appoint all officials because of ability rather than political expediency, fourth, more economy in government from top to bottom, fifth, repeal the income tax law, thus cutting off the supply of money to waste on extracurricular activities, sixth, Americanism in place of internationalism, seventh, bind all legislative bodies down with the chains of the U.S. Constitution.

Ed Black  
2573 Camp Joy rd.  
Medford

## Vital Function

To the Editor: Most of the material in your editorial (MT 1-27-63), consists of the traditional inaccuracies leveled against the House Committee on Un-American Activities. It was significant however, that you admit support for your position to HCUA includes (in your own words), " . . . pinkos and their dupes."

We wonder why "pinkos and their dupes" oppose HCUA and by whom they are influenced. You must feel they are not being influenced by you, or you would not have appealed to "hysterical name-calling" ("pinkos and dupes are not attractive labels). It does seem safe to say your "pinkos and their dupes" are influenced by communists, whose opposition to HCUA is universally known. Now, does the communist campaign differ essentially from your own? In substance, the difference is not noticeable. Then do you differ in intent? If so, we feel you would have to admit HCUA is effective in exposing

communist influence and individuals, and follow this up with appropriate legislative recommendations; but that you "don't like their methods."

So this leaves us with your claim that HCUA acts toward loyal citizens is Ah, deplorable, to say the least. We simply counter: that a loyal citizenry, perhaps not because of, rather in spite of the ordinary means of mass communication (radio, television, newspapers, etc.), would not be aware of much of the deceitful work of otherwise unknown communists throughout the levels of our society, without HCUA. HCUA exposes these subversive activities and individuals and recommends appropriate legislation designed to eliminate their harmful influence.

At any rate, Eric Allen, the Coos Bay World editor, the Christian Century editor and "some eminently respectable people," (We do hope you do not mean to imply that support of HCUA does not include "some eminently respectable people") (again E. A.'s words), at present find themselves representing a distinct minority opposing not only

HCUA but most of the other loyal citizenry, including virtually the whole United States House of Representatives, all of whom instinctively know and recognize that HCUA fulfills a vital function in a manner acceptable to reasonable men.

Robert J. Howard,  
702 Beekman st.,  
Medford.

## Church and State

To the Editor: It is most disturbing to read that almost the first official act of newly elected Rep. Edward Branchfield is to introduce legislation which would attempt to breach the separation of church and state. I am referring to the article in the Tribune of Jan. 30, which quotes Mr. Branchfield as saying that he will introduce a bill to amend the present law which limits the expenditure of tax money for the education of gifted students to students from public schools, in order to permit students from St. Mary's High school of Medford to participate in the program. Mr. Branchfield states that no tax money is involved. This is erroneous. Every dime spent in this program comes out of taxes.

The United States Supreme Court and the Oregon Supreme Court have decided this issue time and time again. If the parents of St. Mary's High school students want their children to have his opportunity, let them send them to public schools where they can compete for the privilege on the same basis as other children.

We fervently hope that Mr. Branchfield will reconsider his ill-advised proposal and devote his time to legislation of significance to this county and the state.

A. C. Fries Jr.,  
806 Harmony lane,  
Ashland, Ore.

Hallmark  
Valentines  
Thurs., Feb. 14  
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217 E. Main,  
Medford, Ore.

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