

Everyone in Southern Oregon Reads The Mail Tribune... Published Daily except Saturday by MEDFORD PRINTING CO. 23 North W. St., Ph. 72-8141

About 'Communications'

All those benighted individuals who supervise editorial pages of daily newspapers know full well that, just before election, an upsurge can be expected in the numbers of letters to the editor received.

There are some other occasions when the number goes sky high, too, and the reasons are not always immediately evident.

This is one such time, at least as far as the Mail Tribune is concerned. We have been receiving letters for our "Communications" column in greater volume than at any other non-election period in recent memory.

WE ARE, of course, delighted. For we feel that the column is one of the best-read in the paper, and that it offers a "safety valve" for many people to get opinions off their chest.

It poses problems, too, however. For we simply haven't had the space to print all that we have received in the past several weeks. We have a bulky file-folder full of letters. One individual has four letters there awaiting publication, another three, and several others two.

During this period of more letters than we can print, we have given preference to those from people who have not written to the column before at all, followed by those who have not done so recently. As space permits, we hope to get all, or most, of the ones on hand in type, but at this moment cannot be sure we'll be able to do so.

THE letters column has come in for some criticism from time to time, which is perfectly all right with us. It is a legitimate subject for criticism.

Some feel that we shouldn't print so many letters concerning religion. Others object to the occasional bits of verse that creep in. Others object to individuals riding their pet peeves or pet projects in letter after letter.

One friendly critic had this to say:

"For some time I have tried to understand just what it is I do NOT like about the 'Communications' section . . .

"(Many of the letters are so unpleasant, argumentative, combative and stubborn. No one ever says 'I wonder' or 'I've often thought . . . ' or 'I just realized . . . ' or 'I would like to know . . . ')

"Somewhat the grand privilege of blowing off steam has been refined into the fine art of blowing off an opponent's head. There is no interest in new knowledge. Table-thumping seems to have taken over. And mean table thumping, I might add.

"Most of the letters have an educational 'style' usually associated with spilling five-year-olds or bar-room drunks.

"These people abuse your kindness. And they have no kindness . . .

"I realize the dilemma: people who are kind, anxious to learn, compassionate, tolerant of and with their fellow-men, do not write letters to the editor! And so, because of their absence, this section does not fully reflect the community. And because something is out of balance, it has become something of a bore.

"My act of kindness is to tell you I feel awfully sorry for you having to receive this barrage (this included) of letters every day . . ."

OUR friend need not feel so concerned. It is part of the job. And a part that we thoroughly enjoy, as a matter of fact. Even the letters which take us to task ("ultra-liberal," "asinine," "stupid," and a few even less complimentary) are in the grand old American tradition of writing to the editor—"Dear Sir, you cur . . ."

Still, our friend does have a point. Personal feuding in the column is questionable, even though the multitude may read and cheer on its favorites. Long lists of Biblical citations take up a lot of space, and we have endeavored to cut down on these in the past.

And acrimony doesn't take the place of reasoned argument.

WE DO not propose to make any immediate changes in our present policy concerning letters.

This has been:

We will print all letters received, as space permits, so long as they are no longer than 400 words, legible, within the limits of good taste (this one has been bent a bit on occasion), and, in our opinion, not libelous.

Obviously, we shall have to continue to assume full responsibility for the letters which are printed—or not printed. As Harry Truman used to say, "The buck stops here."

THE Mail Tribune has, over a long period of time, printed far more letters than practically any other paper in the state, and far more than any if judged on a per capita of circulation basis.

We should like to continue doing so.

Moreover, we would welcome letters from thoughtful people who have not written to the column before. We would welcome new and interesting subjects. We would welcome fresh ideas, and fresh controversies.

Our column is called simply "Communications." Other papers have such titles as "Editor's Mail Bag," "The Safety Valve," "The People Speak," and so on. All of these are descriptive of what we would like to see continue.

We are convinced it fulfills a real and valuable need in the community. We hope a majority of our readers agree.—E. A.

'What's This Talk About A Fitness Program?'



PHILIP BLOCK THE UNIVERSITY CITY

... 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.

Labor's Role

To the Editor: In reply to your editorial of 2/6/63, "Strikes, Courts and Automation," I fully agree with most of your conclusions, yet there are some phases of battle between labor and capital that were not brought out.

You are right that unions have done much to elevate standards of the general public, but I think it proper that your readers know that if it were not for efforts of organized labor men would no doubt be still working for \$1 to \$1.50 per day, the day consisting of 10 to 12 hours—yes, I have worked these hours for such pay.

I had my first experience with labor unions when I helped to organize the Portland, Me., local of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks in 1908. Sure I was very young and my part was small, but in the years since I have held some quite good positions in labor. In this time I have seen labor come up from the underdog to a colossal giant in its own right, in spite of its natural enemy. Speaking of giants of labor vs. capital, some of our greatest hassles we have ever had in the so-called labor field have been capital vs. capital. This means that some where along the line some with money have bought votes, backing and positions of influence in unions until we now have big business vs. big business, yet labor gets the blame.

We read much of the deprivations of labor, but the general public hears little about the underhanded schemes, of closed door sessions, collusions, gentlemen's agreements lawful or otherwise. Why have we so little about "business" failing to negotiate in good faith? Why so much lament about high wages and no mention about high interest rates?

Labor is the life blood of the nation, it creates wealth and a majority of the small businesses across the land find their survival hinged upon the paycheck. To install automation and curtail the paycheck of any locality is not in the best interests of the economy. Remove the lumber industry and the fruit, with their payrolls, and we would have another ghost town, several of them, with gophers in the park and bats in city hall.

The time is near when labor should be accorded its rightful place as one of segments of economy and march side by side with producers, transportation, merchandising and the rest that go to make

up our way of life, and must receive its rightful share of the production.

C. R. Burrill 834 1/2 Cherry St. Central Point, Ore.

Pity Them

To the Editor: I would shudder to think of the consequences were everyone to think as do some people. Where would we be if it were not for the imaginations of the great thinkers in history, those who were not content to sit and tend violets or to just exist, but wanted to find out more about the universe and its secrets. We have them to thank for many of the comforts we enjoy today, as well as a place to live in which to enjoy them.

The trouble with some people is it is too big an effort for them to try to think anything out; they prefer to sit back and pass judgment on others who do think, or make fun of them. It seems to give them a great delight to exploit their ignorance for all to see, and to make themselves just as revolting as they can, and with these folk no amount of shaming or reasoning will help. But it is nice to know that they are in the minority.

It is ridiculous to even think that these men of science with high intelligence would go about thinking up stories to tell for pastime and want of something better to do, and the fact that U.F.O. have been seen by so many widespread places would indicate that there is something to the stories and not figments of wild imaginations. I think the day will come when it will be proven to all that these things do exist and their purpose for being here, and the men like Mr. Fry can take the credit for our enlightenment. Meanwhile we will have to tolerate the inane ramblings and jokes that are an insult to the human intelligence. We can pity these people, they need it badly. (Name on File) Eagle Point, Ore.

Be On Guard

To the Editor: Recently I submitted an article re the U.F.O. and White Sands incident which suggested that if these supernatural things happened the cause could be demonic forces, as the Bible says Satan will "work miracles" (Rev. 16:14) when that serves his purpose. I was taken to task by a gentleman who deplored my calling devil, devil and suggested I read the New

Testament and learn of Christ's superior power. Fearing I have been misunderstood, I would like to state that I have no misgivings as to what Power will triumph in the great controversy between good and evil, believing as I do in God's omnipotence and mercy toward His earth-born children.

More recently an Eagle Point lady suggested that one should really be acquainted with the man who claims to have had this experience before challenging its having happened under the auspices of the forces of good. However it is possible to be sincere and still be deceived, especially in view of the fact that "we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Eph. 6:12).

So may we all be on our guard remembering that "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (1 John 5:12).

Harold J. Reith, Briggs Bldg., Shady Cove, Ore.

Offers Proposal

To the Editor: Since the paramount issue before the American people today is taxation, which, be it remembered, was the spark that set off the revolution in 1776, it is interesting to note how the government evaluates its income and expenditures.

The graph published not long ago, analyzing the budget dollar coming from the executive office of the President, lacks, in my opinion, any semblance of relationship to political economy.

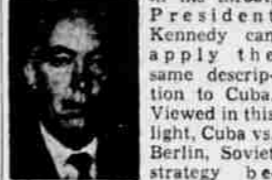
Granted that half of the tax money must be spent as a "war debt," I offer in a purely academic sense, a breakdown which I feel is more consistent with needs and purposes.

I suggest 25 per cent allocation to defense, 12.5 per cent to foreign aid, and 12.5 per cent to veterans aid, which is sorely needed. I note this amount now is small (5 per cent). A clear look at this evaluation would relieve the headache caused when we think of half the income going down the drain.

Sid Hollingsworth, VA Domiciliary, White City, Ore.

Kennedy Can Apply Khrushchev Saying to Cuban Situation—A Bone in His Throat

BY PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst



For much the same reasons that Nikita Khrushchev described West Berlin as a bone in his throat, President Kennedy can apply the same description to Cuba. Viewed in this light, Cuba vs. Berlin, Soviet strategy becomes clearer and Cuba takes a natural place on the cold war chess board.

In this light, the actual number of Soviet troops in Cuba takes on lesser significance, whether it be 5,000 or 20,000. It is the Soviet "presence" that counts.

A handful of 10,000 or so Allied troops in West Berlin could not hope to stem the Soviet tide were it to be unleashed. One reason that it is not unleashed lies not in the

number but in the Allied "presence" which would guarantee a world war in case of Soviet attack.

When the world receded from the brink of nuclear war last October with Khrushchev's promise to remove his offensive rockets, it naturally was assumed that he now

would look elsewhere for a means to re-establish damaged prestige and to recapture the initiative.

One of these assumptions took in the possibility of new Soviet pressure on Berlin.

Instead, he has reversed his field, facing the United States in Cuba with exactly the same risks he would face in an attack upon Berlin.

There are other striking similarities.

Just as West Berlin is a foothold within Communist territory, so Cuba now is a foothold in a traditionally U. S. sphere of influence.

Copypat Method

Just as the Western powers have been willing to pour millions of dollars into West Berlin to help maintain it as a free world symbol, so Khrushchev apparently is willing to pour millions into Cuba to maintain it as a beacon for Communist subversion throughout Latin America.

Khrushchev could take other pages from the book of Allied experience in Berlin.

The allied airlift broke the back of the 1948 Communist blockade of Berlin and demonstrated the futility of trying to starve out even an isolated city without measures sterner than the Communists were willing to undertake.

A Communist seifit can continue to supply Cuba, although at enormous expense, unless the United States is willing to take similar stern measures.

Washington Report

By William S. White (c) United Feature Syndicate

PARTISANSHIP & SAFETY

Washington—For the first time since he entered the White House two winters ago President Kennedy has been thrown upon the defensive by his Republican opposition.

He is now feeling two things which, as president, he had never known before—the awareness of having lost political initiative to his critics and the blasts of a planned and all-Republican attack upon his leadership.

The inner realities of the whole national political position have been turned upside down within recent weeks, even though such fragments of evidence as is available here gives no indication that the president's popularity in the country itself has sunk in any large way.

WHAT had been an extraordinary strong congressional bipartisan backing for the President in foreign policy is being heavily shaken. What had actually been a good Kennedy relationship with Congress on the vital domestic issues such as taxes and economic policy—excluding those secondary welfare issues on which he never has had a favorable congressional consensus—is being eroded. His tax reduction reform bill, for one sharp illustration, is daily getting into deeper water.

As to foreign affairs, there is profound significance in the circumstances that Republican assaults upon the President have been immeasurably broadened.

For two years, the only real G.O.P. challenge in this field had come from a small right-wing group headed by Senator Goldwater of Arizona. Now, challenge is coming from the moderate and even the liberal wings, from such moderates as Senators Dirksen of Illinois and Saltonstall of Massachusetts and from such liberals as Senators Kuchel of California and Cooper of Kentucky.

WHEN, the other day, the 11 top G.O.P. leaders in both houses of Congress joined in a formal statement accusing President Kennedy of not providing "the kind of leadership so vital to keeping the free peoples united," they signaled nothing less than the end of a long armistice in world affairs.

Their critique went far beyond Cuba. In words strikingly similar to those used previously by the leading G.O.P. presidential aspirant, Governor Rockefeller of New York, they charged the President with having made unnecessary trouble for us with the British, the French and the Canadians, among others.

That their manifesto had some shortcomings, if looked at impartially, is obvious. The President did not provoke our recent spat with these three countries. And the insistent hunch of this columnist is that the people are far less likely to be angry at Mr. Kennedy for speaking out at last against Allied foot-dragging and irrationality than they are to be displeased with him for not having done so much earlier.

BUT ON Cuba the G.O.P. has plainly got something. The President's determined stance against the Soviet missiles of last October will not save him from coming to grips with the undeniably large Soviet military establishment—whatever may be its ultimate purpose—that yet remains in Castro Cuba.

Infinitely more important

Maybe since your doctor told you not to give blood, you have been cured or a new way has been found to use properties from your blood. Time difficulties? Every couple of months the mobile unit spends several days at the Red Cross building in Medford and then travels to nearby communities.

Sure, you can frighten up donors by saying, "You'll never know when you might need it yourself," (which is true) but why not donate it because it gives you something.

Mrs. Elice Skirvin, 1002 West Fourth St., Medford.

Strictly Personal

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

Hats off to the nation's latest fad—this marathon walking craze.

If enough people will do enough marathon walking, there won't be time enough left for so much hell-raising—which is responsible for a lot of our modern troubles.

QUICK recall test: Right off the bat—Without looking it up—Whence came this word MARATHON, as applied to long distance walking or running feats?

IT DERIVES from the plain of Marathon, about 20 miles from Athens, where in 490 B.C. the Athenian general Miltiades defeated the mighty army of Darius the Persian, who was bent upon the conquest of Greece. When the two armies came to grips, the superior weapons and bodily strength of the Greeks were decisive, although they were greatly outnumbered. The Persians lost 6,400 men, while the army of Miltiades lost only 192.

Miltiades chose his swiftest runner, Pheidippides, to carry the news of the victory to Athens. 20 miles away, he raced the 20 miles and reached the city stumbling and exhausted. He gasped out "Rejoice, we conquer," and fell dead.

SOMEHOW or other — although we still call it a marathon—we've raised the distance from twenty miles to FIFTY—which is probably a bit cocky on our part.

It just might be, if you're thinking of tackling one of these marathons that seem to be so popular, you'd better cut the 50 miles to 50 yards—at least for the first try.

BOOK review note: In Washington, the latest edition of the Report of the Secretary of the Senate, a 960-page volume listing the expenses of the United States Senate, is just off the presses. It's quite a book—as you can judge for yourself from the fact that its compilers spent \$3,411,197.44 (note the 44 cents, which is an example of the meticulous accuracy with which its authors worked in their labors of compilation). Every item of Senate expenditure during the year is listed—including a ten-cent phone call to New York by one of the investigators.

ALL in all—The book reports—The U. S. Senate spent \$27,346,411.11 (note the 11 cents) in the 1962 fiscal year. The total was UP \$158,233 from 1961, in spite of the efforts of the Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-Essential Federal Expenditures, which spent \$26,967.52 in its patriotic efforts to hold down non-essential spending.

WHAT to say in reviewing the book? Let's put it this way: There are 100 members of this exclusive club that is known as the U. S. Senate—two members from each of our 50 states.

If you will get out your pencil and paper and divide the Senate expenditures of \$27,346,411.11 by 100 (the number of members of the Senate), you will discover that the COST PER SENATOR came to the rather considerable figure of \$273,464.11.

It's little wonder that taxes are high.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

Hats off to the nation's latest fad—this marathon walking craze.

If enough people will do enough marathon walking, there won't be time enough left for so much hell-raising—which is responsible for a lot of our modern troubles.

QUICK recall test: Right off the bat—Without looking it up—Whence came this word MARATHON, as applied to long distance walking or running feats?

IT DERIVES from the plain of Marathon, about 20 miles from Athens, where in 490 B.C. the Athenian general Miltiades defeated the mighty army of Darius the Persian, who was bent upon the conquest of Greece. When the two armies came to grips, the superior weapons and bodily strength of the Greeks were decisive, although they were greatly outnumbered. The Persians lost 6,400 men, while the army of Miltiades lost only 192.

Miltiades chose his swiftest runner, Pheidippides, to carry the news of the victory to Athens. 20 miles away, he raced the 20 miles and reached the city stumbling and exhausted. He gasped out "Rejoice, we conquer," and fell dead.

SOMEHOW or other — although we still call it a marathon—we've raised the distance from twenty miles to FIFTY—which is probably a bit cocky on our part.

It just might be, if you're thinking of tackling one of these marathons that seem to be so popular, you'd better cut the 50 miles to 50 yards—at least for the first try.

BOOK review note: In Washington, the latest edition of the Report of the Secretary of the Senate, a 960-page volume listing the expenses of the United States Senate, is just off the presses. It's quite a book—as you can judge for yourself from the fact that its compilers spent \$3,411,197.44 (note the 44 cents, which is an example of the meticulous accuracy with which its authors worked in their labors of compilation). Every item of Senate expenditure during the year is listed—including a ten-cent phone call to New York by one of the investigators.

ALL in all—The book reports—The U. S. Senate spent \$27,346,411.11 (note the 11 cents) in the 1962 fiscal year. The total was UP \$158,233 from 1961, in spite of the efforts of the Joint Committee on Reduction of Non-Essential Federal Expenditures, which spent \$26,967.52 in its patriotic efforts to hold down non-essential spending.

WHAT to say in reviewing the book? Let's put it this way: There are 100 members of this exclusive club that is known as the U. S. Senate—two members from each of our 50 states.

If you will get out your pencil and paper and divide the Senate expenditures of \$27,346,411.11 by 100 (the number of members of the Senate), you will discover that the COST PER SENATOR came to the rather considerable figure of \$273,464.11.

It's little wonder that taxes are high.



"Oh! Oh! Looks like he's really going to blast the administration's foreign policy!"