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Semantic Viewpoints

We have never made an academic study of semantics — the science of the meaning of meaning — but we've been fooling around with words long enough to know that one word can mean one thing to one person, and something altogether different to someone else.

Each person, in effect, writes his own dictionary. And the more emotional and controversial the subject matter, the more strongly each clings to his own conception of the meaning of certain words.

CATCH-PHRASES are even more susceptible than single words to such manipulations and permutations of meaning.

What, for instance, is "the American Way of Life"?

One group of individuals would say that it is almost impossible of precise definition, except within the broad concepts of the Declaration of Independence ("all men are created equal"), the U.S. Constitution ("Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances"), or the Emancipation Proclamation, or the Gettysburg Address and the Second Inaugural ("with malice toward none, with charity for all..."), or the Sermon on the Mount, which is the essence of the morality of our Judeo-Christian heritage.

ANOTHER group of individuals might envisage the American Way of Life as one based on gadgetry, automobiles, split-level homes, television sets, baseball games, cigarettes, whiskey and wild, wild women.

Still another group would see it as wholesome family groups, attending church each Sunday in togetherness, and participating through the week in good works and helpfulness.

And another sees the American Way of Life one of an ever-rising tide of juvenile delinquency, of increasing crime, of slums and asphalt jungles, of kids roaming the streets looking for some way to alleviate their unutterable boredom.

THERE is one large group in the country which views the American Way of Life as one of unequal (or no) education; of discrimination in jobs, in voting, in public services; a Way of Life scarred by personal and gratuitous insult; a Way of Life marred by constant and infuriating frustration, and an inability to get ahead because of a million barriers—some tiny, some insuperable—raised against a dark skin.

There is, here and there, an academic American Way of Life, where learning and scholarship are pursued for their own sake, and for the sake of the rising generations.

There is also the American Way of Life which is dedicated to public service, often at considerable sacrifice of time and money, simply because the individuals feel an obligation to do so.

OR, ONE need not look too far to find an American Way of Life which is devoted to the spreading of divisiveness, fear, hatred and suspicion; a Way of Life which demands "investigations" of the loyalty of our State Department, demands that we get out of the United Nations and stop associating with all them furiners; demands that the government get out of the business of governing, and is vocally violent against any development which promises a greater degree of health and welfare to the American people.

There is the closely associated American Way of Life which spends much of its energy damning the kikes, wops, niggers, greasers, frogs, limeys, chinks, japs — anyone, in short, who differs from them in any way, including the red-necks and Godless atheists.

So what is "the American Way of Life"? There isn't any one. There are dozens of them. That is why the phrase means either many things, or nothing at all.

ANOTHER phrase which is susceptible to varying definitions is "anti-Communist."

Now we suspect that about 99.9 per cent of Americans who have given any thought to the matter at all would class themselves as anti-Communist.

But there are varying degrees.

Some see Commies and Reds and Pinkos behind every gooseberry bush, and do not hesitate to let their suspicions be known, loudly and accusingly. Everything that goes wrong is a "Commie plot," part of the "international conspiracy," without bothering to remember that things have been going wrong in this old world a lot longer than the Communists have been around.

A LESS red-eyed brand of anti-Communist recognizes the threat of the ideology, but even more the threat of the armed imperialism that goes under the name.

It, however, refused to stoop to using the methods of the Communists — lies, vilification, smears, accusations, and such like — in their opposition to the foe.

Too, they are level-headed enough to recognize that Communism the ideology, even Communism the armed imperialism, is not the only threat to the nation's security and stability.

And they remember that there was a time within living memory when Fascism was an even greater threat, and that it is one which could return if we blind ourselves with hysteria, and with lack of confidence in ourselves as a nation. So much for semantics.—E. A.

"Thanks For The Pat On The Back, If That's What It Was"



Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann (c) 1963, The Washington Post

THE GAMBLE ON FOREIGN AID

The foreign aid program, which began with the Marshall Plan in 1948, has always been a gamble, has never been a sure thing.

In Europe, it has been a brilliant success. But 15 years ago, nobody could know that it would be. In fact, such were the poverty and paralysis of France, Italy and Germany that there was a serious possibility of a general collapse into communism.

The Marshall Plan was expensive. But because it worked, all would agree today that it was cheap at the price.

Now we are concerned with foreign aid in this hemisphere. The problem is not what it was in postwar Europe. There the purpose of aid was to enable advanced and highly-developed countries to recover from the world war. Our purpose in this hemisphere is more complicated and difficult.

Broadly speaking, it is to help our neighbors achieve peaceably, and with liberty if not with democracy, a revolution out of their semi-feudal past. Our hope is that they will in fact achieve by progressive government what, failing that, their people will attempt to achieve by revolutionary communism.

Our policy is not only difficult to carry out, but also it is difficult to explain. It is rather like attempting to explain why, in order to protect children from polio, we inoculate them with the polio virus. Our Latin-American policy would be easier to explain if we forgot about peaceable revolution and concentrated on the simple task of giving unlimited military support to any government, indeed to any dictator, who was unqualifiedly anti-Communist. Such a policy would earn much applause in certain quarters. The trouble is that it wouldn't last very long.

For this is an age when the mass of men will no longer put up with their ancient poverty and servitude. Knowing this, we are looking to the progressive governments, as in Mexico, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia and Brazil, to carry out the progressive revolutions which are the alternative to the Castroite kind of revolution. It is, of course, a gamble, and nothing is easier than to think up the many reasons why it may be lost.

To end the inflation and to re-establish its international credit-worthiness, the Brazilian government has adopted a program which is only a very strong government, strong in its hold on popular support, would dare to undertake.

The Goulart government is going to raise tax collections to one party's rule after so long a stretch of 12 unbroken years.

This government is unpopular and would be even more so were it not able to point over its shoulder at President de Gaulle, who has served as lightning rod to draw away much of the natural anti-Americanism around here.

Opinion polls show the Labor party ahead in general estimation, and the latest by-election, in Colne valley, shows another precipitous drop in the standing of the Conservatives.

Britishers, like Americans, tend to vote "agin," not for, and this is not to say that Labor has suddenly acquired personalities and positive program which have seized the imagination of the populace.

The late Hugh Gaitskell, whom this reporter always found brilliant, prickly and almost too glib, had become a personality force in his own right, which takes a fearful amount of doing for an out-of-office politician in this island.

His successor, Harold Wilson, so far neither presents an image nor casts a shadow. The public impression of him might best be conveyed by quoting the Washington wife who once impatiently declared that "Economics are men who sit about smoking pipes and mumbling."



Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

THE EXTREMISTS

Paris—The following report of a conversation with Gen. de Gaulle's Minister of Information, Alain Peyrefitte, is devoid of news but pregnant with implications.

QUESTION: Just what does Gen. de Gaulle mean by his famous description of a future Europe extending from "the Atlantic to the Urals"?

PEYREFITTE: To begin with, Gen. de Gaulle has never accepted the division of Europe approved by the U.S. government at Yalta, which left Eastern Europe occupied by the Russians and Western Europe occupied by the Americans.

Such a division, he believes, is not in the nature of things. Eventually, the occupiers must withdraw, leaving Europe for the Europeans.

QUESTION: In this "Europe for the Europeans," are the Russians to be included?

PEYREFITTE: The Russians, it has to be admitted, are not fully European. Russia, you must realize, was under Mongol rule from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century.

QUESTION: Your history is not quite accurate. Russia paid tribute to the Mongols in the fourteenth and fifteenth century, but Mongol power was broken long before Ivan the Terrible. But leaving that on one side, what of Gen. de Gaulle's mention of the Urals?

Does he look forward to the division of Russia in two, or has it escaped his attention that nearly half the Russian nation is now to be found beyond the Urals, in Siberia?

PEYREFITTE: We must not be too exact about a mere phrase. Yet in Siberia, after all, the Russians are occupying what is Chinese soil. Will the Chinese forever tolerate this intrusion?

This is not in the nature of things, as it is not in the nature of things for the Russian occupation of Central Asia to endure forever.

THIS singular galimatias of historical mysticism and bad history deserves serious study, at the moment, because it conveys the character of what is called "unconditional Gaullism." No one

by 25 per cent. It has eliminated the subsidy of wheat, which has doubled the price of bread. It has eliminated the subsidy of petroleum products, which raised the price of gasoline 80 per cent. It has increased commuter railroad fares five times. It is cutting down the expansion of bank credit to a third of what it has been. It is freezing government employment and is trying to freeze government pay.

It is an astonishing program. Yet it is said that the Goulart government, which is left of center, is strong enough to carry out the program. We must hope that it will be, and surely the administration has been right in deciding to help it. For it would be hard to name any item in our whole global foreign aid program which, if it succeeds, will do so much good.

As has been stated, such an outcome still seems improbable, but it is at least clearly possible. Hence the possibility needs to be carefully weighed.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

The week's weirdest story: The \$7.5 million in negotiable Treasury Certificates that got lost in the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. It is presumed that they were dropped by error in a waste basket and were later burned along with the rest of the basket's contents.

Winter's Chill Dims Britain's Spring

By ERIC SEVAREID

London—Nature has obeyed the calendar, a rare thing for the accepted island, and the sun broke through to illuminate London's old tile roofs and new glass hotels precisely on the first day of spring.

This occurred simultaneously with the latest statistics which show a sharp drop in unemployment—the basic political barometer in Britain—but it is clear enough that Prime Minister Macmillan's winter of discontent has not ended, any more than that of President Kennedy.

The ruling Conservative party will do its best to take credit for the rise in jobs, if not for the sunshine, and is expected to pour money into the distressed areas of Wales and the north country for months to come in what will probably be a vain effort to regain its momentum, lost long before President Kennedy lost his. The President is only up against Congress, a tangible, calculable opposition, while Mr. Macmillan is up against the natural cycle of British politics, which would normally put an end



THINGS YOU WOULDN'T KNOW IF YOU HADN'T READ THEM HERE

There are two mountain ranges in South America called the Andes and the Andes. Cows give milk because they're too timid to ask the farmer to pay for it. People who live on the moon don't know what they're missing by not being able to sit under it. All chipmunks in national parks have government serial numbers tattooed on their furry little chests. After Ponce de Leon discovered the fountain of youth, he went back and finished the third grade. An Orville Wright once said to a Wilbur Wright, "Boy, I'd ad ever going to be mad when he sees what we've done to the chicken coop." Francis Scott Key couldn't remember the words of his hit song two days after he had written them. Because of the flip of a coin, you've never heard of the Clark and Lewis Expedition. The NBC peacock is really a stage-struck chicken with delusions of grandeur. The Dr. Albert Schweitzer who used to live over on Fourth Street is probably not the same one now living in Africa. A Portland, Ore., dog by the name of Miss Hap has a man by the name of Gene Rossman. Some polite nut by the name of Sir Walter Raleigh had the biggest dry cleaning bill in England. Most porcupines are really quite ticklish but won't admit it. Anyone who can juggle three bowling balls has quite a future in vaudeville, if it ever comes back.

KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

A salty part of the Pacific ocean borders on Crescent City, one of the few cities by that name in Northern California. The city, named before, was named after its harbor which is shaped like a crescent wrench. Its principal export is fog and it imports tourists and sea monsters alive. People wading to China often start from here because it's so close to the ocean.

BIRD WATCHER BULLETIN

If you're sometimes in doubt (and who isn't!) the ostrich can be told from our other feathered friends by the fact that both its nest and its fried egg are three feet in diameter.

PANIC PARAGRAPH

All of the emergency evacuation arrows in Klamath Falls point right smack toward Medford. This could very easily lead to a serious congestion in our theatres if you know who every drops a you know what on we know you.

SEND IT NOW!

Through a new electronic computer service, it is now possible to determine how suited you are for marriage. According to a magazine advertisement, you send in your questionnaire and only you and the machine ever see the results. If you really want to know, and if you're willing to trust the machine not to go blabbing its answers all around, send \$5 to Data Technology, Inc., P.O. Box 278, Mercer Island, Wash.

KIDS AND CALCIUM

Here is a simple home test to determine if your children are getting enough calcium. Grasping a child (firmly by the neck) in each hand, bring the two heads smartly together. (If you have but one child, a borrowed neighbor child will do very nicely). A pleasantly hollow sound will set your mind at ease that your kids' aching head has plenty of calcium.

But—It appears—No harm was done. Nobody had paid a bill with them. Nobody had given them as security for a loan. In that event, a debt would have been created. The debt could have been paid only with money or negotiable paper.

It would then have been a horse of another color.

QUESTION: Why don't we just print money enough to run the government—instead of taking the money away from us taxpayers?

The answer, of course, is that money is a commodity, and as such is subject to the law of supply and demand. If too much money is printed, its value will shrink—just as happens when too many potatoes are grown. Or too much grain. Or too much cotton.

When that occurs, the PRICE goes down.

THAT suggests another thought. Our government is spending a tremendous amount of money. It is putting it on the cuff—which is to say, it is adding it to the national debt. The national debt is now about \$300 billion. That's a LOT of money.

How will it be paid? Presumably with paper money.

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

March 31, 1953 (Tuesday) Permit issued to erect \$20,505 annex to Medford post office. Dorothy Wareskjold concert under auspices of Jackson County Civic Music Association praised; reviewer compliments group on "successful season."

20 YEARS AGO

March 31, 1943 (Wednesday) State has more than \$36 million cash, the largest amount in history, in its treasury. State Treasurer Leslie M. Scott says. From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "April weather has started before March could make an exit either as a lion or a lamb. The month is apparently going out like April."

30 YEARS AGO

March 31, 1933 (Friday) Two men who attempted to swindle southern Oregon residents, including Jackson county, out of bonds are sentenced to prison in California; much of evidence used against was collected by Oregon state police. Dramatic group of Phoenix Grange wins state championship in the one-act play contest in Corvallis.

40 YEARS AGO

March 31, 1923 (Friday) Gypsies traveling in 20 high-powered autos pass through town. Local Legion and Elks protest importation of alien labor for orchard work in valley.

50 YEARS AGO

March 31, 1913 (Sunday) "Good Citizens League" is formed and will hold first meeting next Friday. Mail Tribune comes out editorially for peace in city affairs and closes with the observation: "Pigeonheadedness has no place in civic affairs."

What's Your I.Q.?

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

- 1. What is the name of the Illinois poet and biographer of Abraham Lincoln?
2. To which President was the oath of office administered by his own father, a Justice of the Peace?
3. What famous woman's college is on Philadelphia's "main line"?
4. Was the chief god in Roman mythology Zeus or Jupiter?
5. If you called a girl vivacious would she most likely be complimented, or insulted?
6. In referring to Sino-Russian relations, what does the term "Sino" mean?
7. Who said, "Heaven helps those who help themselves"?
8. What is the official language spoken in Cuba?
9. In London, if you buy fish and chips, what will you get?
10. If you wished to visit the Ivory Coast, where would you go?
Answers: 1. Carl Sandburg. 2. Calvin Coolidge. 3. Bryn Mawr. 4. Jupiter (Zeus was in Greek mythology). 5. Complimented. 6. Chinese. 7. Benjamin Franklin. 8. Spanish. 9. Fried fish and potatoes. 10. West Africa.