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To End the Death Penalty

With the legislature now in its final struggles, and due to adjourn either this week end or early next week, we can still expect it to pass legislation calling for a vote of the people on the question of capital punishment in November of 1964.

The question, of course, has been widely debated over many years, and will be again in Oregon as election time grows near.

Most people probably have their minds already made up, but there may be some who are undecided, or willing to discuss the matter. It is even possible that some could change their minds.

As previously stated, we are opposed to capital punishment.

There are, as we see it, only three possible excuses for it:

- 1. To get the offender out of the way for the protection of society.
2. Retribution against the offender.
3. As a deterrent to others.

None of these, in our eyes, constitute a sufficient reason to continue the practice, which puts the state in the position of deliberately taking a life—a process as cold blooded, calculating, and evil as murder itself, and in some ways worse.

The first end mentioned above can be taken care of by imprisonment. For those who say that the state should not "waste money" by keeping convicted murderers alive, it should be pointed out that in virtually all cases it costs more to execute a man than it does to keep him in prison all his life.

One recent study found that the cost of keeping a man in prison for 30 years is about \$45,000, but that the costs of a capital trial and appeals, special detention handling in jail, and an execution itself, costs in excess of \$60,000.

In such notorious cases as that of Caryl Chessman, executed some months ago in California after years of appeals and other litigation, the cost to the state was far higher than if Chessman had been kept in prison all his life.

The second reason—retribution—is an emotional one, stemming from the old "eye for eye" belief. It is, to our mind, a barbaric attitude. Imprisonment, in some ways, is as much "punishment" as death, and serves to protect society from further depreations.

Vindictive justice can hardly be justified on moral, ethical or religious grounds, and certainly should be beneath the dignity and order of a sovereign state.

If we can agree that imprisonment is cheaper and just as effective a way of protecting society from a criminal, and that vindictive justice is incompatible with civilized standards, only in the deterrent argument remains.

There is no evidence to show that capital punishment serves as a deterrent to potential murderers.

First of all, a vast majority of murders are either crimes of passion, committed in a highly emotional state when no thought of any penalty would have any effect, or else they are so planned that the murderer believes he'll never be caught. In either case the deterrent aspect of the death penalty is ineffective.

About the only true measurement of the deterrence of capital punishment on potential murderers is statistical. And the statistics show that states which have capital punishment have, on the average, murder rates just as high, and in some cases higher, than those states which have abolished the death penalty.

In an excellent little booklet entitled "The Unexamined Death," the author, Hans W. Mattick, sets forth the conclusions of long study of capital punishment. They are far more detailed than space permits to reproduce in full here. (The booklet is available in single copies from the John Howard Association, 608 South Dearborn St., Chicago 5, Ill.)

Here are his final paragraphs:
"On the basis of the evidence presented above, and in many other studies, there is no reason to believe that capital punishment serves any rational purpose for society.

"On the contrary, the evidence indicates that those who favor capital punishment are sentimentalists, pure and simple. The hardheaded and practical people who say, 'let us examine the evidence,' find that the evidence cannot support the arguments asserted with strong conviction, and embellished by special-pleading anecdotes, by the proponents of capital punishment.

"The means and ends of this public policy are not related, and, therefore, the death penalty does not deal with the homicide problem. The venerable Socrates, who was executed in 399 B. C., maintained to the bitter end that 'the unexamined life is not worth living.' Our examination of capital punishment has led to the conclusion that the unexamined death is not worth dying.

"Jesus Christ, who was executed at the beginning of our era, said, at the end, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do. We are still executing people . . . and there is still no evidence that we know what we are doing when we inflict the death penalty.

"Every rational inquiry into the relation between the death penalty and murder has demonstrated that capital punishment is irrelevant to the homicide rate. It is, however, a cruel, expensive, and demoralizing irrelevancy to maintain. Since capital punishment is irrelevant on any rational grounds, and since the only purpose it can serve is that of an irrational vengeance that is no better than the original homicide to which it answers in kind, it is high time that the death penalty be abolished.

Let us hope that the voters of Oregon will do just that in the 1964 election. — E. A.

Those Alabama Stories Are Sickening. Why Can't They Be Like Us And Find Some Nice, Refined Way To Keep The Negroes Out?"



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 initials 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.

Aquarian Age

To the Editor: There is no stronger defense against truth than a closed mind. As truth is eternal, changeless and infinite, how can any of us be finite, how can any of us know it all—there isn't any more? My chosen subject matter concerns the Aquarian Age and events pertinent to it. While it is a controversial subject, it is imperative for all who are interested and willing to learn more about it, to do so in order that they may be somewhat prepared for it. There will be many changes, and unless we are sufficiently spiritually fortified, our physical vehicles will be unable to withstand the higher vibrations of the frequency of the sign Aquarius into which Earth is presently passing with ever-accelerating speed.

It is not and never has been my purpose to convince anyone of anything, nor to alter anyone's pre-conceived thought patterns. It is regrettable if my letters have the effect of riling anyone, for anger is not a healthy emotion. While I can assume responsibility for the words, I certainly cannot for any individual reaction to them. As we have only our own thoughts to contend with, we are each responsible for our own actions and reactions. Therefore, to persons adversely affected, I can only suggest that they refrain from reading my letters, for they will all relate to the aforementioned subject.

There is much concrete evidence of space visitors and various types of space craft in our atmosphere and on occasion, landing. The father of modern rocketry, Prof. Hermann Oberth, says, "I believe that flying saucers are piloted by supernatural forms of life who have observed Earth for a long time." Rear Admiral George D. Ufex, USN says, "I think it's very stupid for human beings to believe that no one else in the universe is as intelligent as we are." Frank Edwards, TV and radio commentator and author says, "If you believe in flying saucers you're in good company." Mr. Edwards has compiled a list of world-famed astronomers, rocket experts and military authorities—even the former head of our Central Intelligence Agency—who are convinced of the existence of UFO's (unidentified flying objects).

As requested, (or perhaps "dared"?), in a future letter I will list some instances of Biblical accounts of what we now refer to as "flying saucers" and their occupants. Space will not allow for it this time.

Louise Wopschall, Route 1, Box 408, Eagle Point, Ore.

Birthday

To the Editor: May 19th, 1963—I'm 80 years old today and going strong for a borrowed timer.

Just pick up a dish cloth or broom and ting-a-ling: "Happy birthday to you," comes over the phone in tune, outta tune and— we won't go into the betwixters, but all sounded very sincere and I said "Thank you" just as though that was the first time I'd ever heard it.

I know over 400 people in and around Medford, and I believe—well, I wish I had counted 'em. Thanks folks, and I will write offender to Communist nations if E.A. doesn't kick me out. I would not blame him. I can't write many personal letters. I am allergic to licking five cent stamps. The four centers didn't bother so much. I am trying to live ungraciously on Social Security and dragging

my feet, but my feet work to fast dance-music pretty well at the Security Benefit club Wednesdays from 11 till 4. That is— we only dance in two till four. Bet you'd like to visit us, eh? Come as you are. It's potluck or 50 cents. Only thing you'll get on the cuff is gravy, but it's worth it.

Mr. Clifford and Nevah were over to see me this P.M. and we are planning a June picnic for Michiganders. Since I went to school there for over a term, I could be counted. If any of you are interested (I hope you are) send me your address and days you aren't booked for something else, on a postcard. If you have horse-shoes, baseball, etc., bring it along.

Any old gals going fishing? I have my license, sleeping bag and air mattress. I went out to dig some worms, but the low lifers heard my footsteps and plowed themselves deep under. I found only three. If, and when, it rains again I'll show them who is holding spades.

Bye now. Pearl Spackman, Jacksonville, Ore.

Holding Gold

To the Editor: Why the secrecy? For some strange reason the press has been very reluctant to print what many would consider startling news. A recent Federal Court decision legalizes the private ownership of gold in any form or quantity. Therefore, for the first time in 33 years, American citizens have the same right as citizens of most other nations—the right to hold gold by the ounce, pound or ton if they can afford it.

M. J. Olsen, Route 4, Box 325, Medford.

The Queen

To the Editor: "To the Queen." This is the title of an editorial which appeared in the Medford Mail Tribune Sunday, May 19, referring to an approaching birthday of Queen Elizabeth II—by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of Her other Realms and Territories, Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, and Defender of the Faith. . . The British affection for monarchs grows with the passing of time.

Strange, how free men, praising democracy, Obsequiously laud state Monarchy!

"Elizabeth Second—by the grace of God. . . Rules over an 'Empire' that needs not her nod. . . With useless crown on head and wave of wits, Victoria—or Elizabeth—would insist.

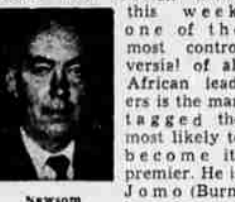
'Tis thus a sovereign rules an "Empire" Without a horde of troops who serve for hire!

NOT GENTLEMEN

Washington—Gentlemen may prefer blondes but a grand jury has indicted three men here on charges they preferred blondes, brunettes and red heads. An indictment Monday accused the three men of grand larceny for the theft of the three shades of wigs from a high fashion shop which valued the hair pieces at \$64 each.

Conflicting Appraisals Given of Man Who Will Lead Independent Kenya Soon

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst



Kenyatta, who spent nine years under imprisonment and house detention a chief organizer of Kenya's white-hating Mau Mau.

Said his convicting judge in 1953: "It is my belief that . . . you started to organize Mau Mau, the object of which was to drive all Europeans from Kenya, and in doing so to kill them if necessary. I am satisfied the master mind behind this plan was yours. . . You have turned the clock back many years."

Former Kenya Gov. Sir Patrick Renshaw called him "the African leader to darkness and death."

A man long acquainted with Kenya politics said of him: "He is the only wholly evil man I have ever known . . . a Communist . . . a true progressive who wants to drive out the whites and browns and return to the terrorist Africa of old."

To all of which Kenyatta retorted: "My leadership has not been to darkness and death but to light and prosperity. . . I am a true African nationalist. . ."

"Anyone who says I am or was a Communist is a liar. I went to Russia for an education. I also lived in England for a long time but that does not mean I became an Englishman."

Kenyatta did live in England for 15 years. There he shared a flat with American Negro singer Paul Robeson and later married a white English woman whom he abandoned to return to Africa.

During his imprisonment, there were reports that Kenyatta had become an alcoholic degenerate with a mind hopelessly clouded.

But visitors found him in top mental and physical condition, apparently deeply interested in Buddhist philosophy and the non-violence teachings of Gandhi.

He has declared he would like to stay clear of both East and West and added: "When two elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers. If East and West fight over Africa, only Africans will suffer."

Such was the conflicting word pictures of the man now expected to become the first premier of an autonomous government which within a year is to lead Kenya to full independence.

Kenyatta is a member of the Kikuyu tribe whose one million members made it by far the largest among Kenya's more than eight million people.

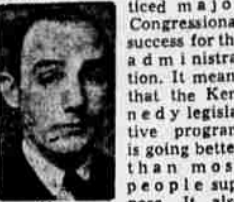
His political party is the Kenya Africa National Union which has promised that

whites, Indians, Arabs and blacks all will be accorded equal treatment in a new government.

What Kenya's 66,000 white settlers think of Kenyatta's promises is of small moment, of less moment than a dust devil stirred by Africa's "winds of change."

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate



DOLLAR WHEAT? Washington—Last week's Senate passage of the feed grains bill was a hardly noticed major Congressional success for the administration. It means that the Kennedy legislative program is going better than a most people suppose. It also set the stage for this week's wheat referendum.

This wheat referendum also deserves more notice, as an event with really convulsive possibilities. The Agriculture Department, which expects the wheat farmers to approve its proposals, is forecasting a record vote of more than a million wheat growers and their wives.

If the Department is right, stricter production controls will be approved, designed to hold next year's wheat crop to about 1.1 billion bushels; but in compensation, the farmers will get high price supports for their wheat. But if barely more than one-third of the farmers vote "no" in the referendum, production controls and effective price supports will both go out the window.

THIS is the feature that makes the referendum potentially convulsive. The Farm Bureau Federation, which has been leading the opposition to the wheat plan, has been grossly misleading the farmers on this point. For example, Farm Bureau President Charles Schumann has publicly promised the wheat growers that Congress will quickly "ball them out" if they vote "no."

In reality, the odds are better than ten-to-one against any bailing out operation. It would again have to take the familiar, pernicious form of a bill subsidizing over one-half production at vast cost, by offering high price supports combined with lax production controls. But the mood has shifted, both in Congress and in the executive branch.

ALL this, says Senator Talmadge with sound logic, is vicious nonsense, without economic or moral justification. But he adds that there is a moral, social, and even biological justification for helping the smaller higher cost farm producer to stay on the farm with his family.

Hence the Senator has offered a cotton bill, now before the Senate Agriculture committee, which will do two things. It will pay direct subsidies to cotton growers, in reverse proportion to their output—high to small producers, very low indeed to larger producers. And it will return cotton to the market place, getting the U. S. government out of the costly business of "buying, storing, transporting, selling, and giving away cotton."

Incidentally, the Talmadge bill is also estimated to save the taxpayer \$500 million annually. But the main attraction of the Talmadge approach is its logic. It avoids the decimation of the farm population which the anti-control ideologists seem to want, without admitting it. It helps those who need help and no one else. It cleans up an ugly mess. In fact, it ought to persuade everyone but the ideologists.

Strictly Personal

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

FOND BELIEFS In my recent piece on "left-handed thinking," which dealt with our resistance to changes of thought, I mentioned the hard time given to new ideas in science, from Harvey on the circulation of the blood to Freud on the role of the unconscious.



I might expect that Freud would be bitterly opposed, because he, after all, dragged into the light the repressed sexual conflicts of people, and outraged the social conventions as well as the medical convictions of his age.

But why should people—and the medical profession as such as anyone—have objected to William Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood? His investigations did not embarrass "morality," nor did his theory have any theological or philosophical consequences, as Darwin's did a few centuries later.

Nevertheless, Harvey could hardly find the courage to publish his results, even after many years of dissecting no fewer than 80 species of animals, including reptiles, crustaceans and insects. When he finally published, he dedicated the book to King Charles, hoping it would receive a more sympathetic hearing—and in the dedication compared the King and the realm to the heart and the body.

It seems almost incredible, but Harvey confided in a letter to a colleague that his theory on the quantity and the source of blood: ". . . is of so novel and unheard-of character that I not only fear injury to myself from the envy of a few, but I tremble lest I have mankind at large for my enemies—so much do habit and custom, that become as another nature, and doctrine once sown and that hath struck deep root, and respect for antiquity, influence all men; still the die is cast, and my trust is in love of truth, and the candor that inheres in cultivated minds."

As Prof. W. I. B. Beveridge remarks: "His fears were well founded for he was subjected to derision and abuse and his practice suffered badly. Only after a struggle of 20 years, did the circulation of the blood become generally accepted."

(I highly recommend, by the way, Beveridge's book, "The Art of Scientific Investigation," now available in a Vintage paperback for \$1.25) The human race, it seems, cannot be reminded too often and too forcibly that our thought processes tend to grow mechanical and habit-forming; that anyone who dares to challenge these processes becomes abused, ridiculed, feared and finally hated. It is worth suffering a thousand cracks rather than close our ears to one true genius who calls into question our fondest beliefs.

Major Gordon Cooper goes 22 1/2 times around the earth, a distance of slightly more than half a million miles, and comes down only 7,000 yards (about four miles) from the rescue ship that was waiting to pick him up. And . . . he may have landed deliberately wide of the mark to make sure that the ship hadn't changed its position.

I reckon we can hit with a bomb just about any spot on earth. It gives one a slight attack of the shivers, doesn't it?

THE distance he traveled in his 22 and a fraction trips around the earth was just under 600,000 miles. The round trip to the moon is a little less than 500,000 miles. His time was a little less than a day and a half.

So— It appears— The time may come when a round trip to the moon will be merely a week-end jaunt.

LISTEN to this: In New York a reporter was interviewing people gathered in the huge Grand Central Station, where the commuter trains leave for the suburbs. One of those interviewed was 10-year-old Christine Lewis. Asked what she thought about it all, she replied: "I feel so happy! I'd LIKE TO VISIT THE MOON MYSELF, SOME TIME."

AMONG those questioned at a New York's Grand Central was a University of Utah geologist, Dr. William Hewitt. He replied: "It was a most amazing achievement for all the world. Fifty years from now, Major Cooper's flight will look as cumbersome to us as the Wright Brothers' airplane does today."

ON THAT December 17, 1903, only 60 years ago, when Orville and Wilbur Wright made the world's first flight in a power-driven airplane at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, it is probable that no one who saw it or read of it could have imagined the jet airliners of today which make it possible to have an early lunch in Paris and late dinner in San Francisco.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

ON THAT historic day at Kitty Hawk, Orville Wright piloted the little contraption that by courtesy and with great pride they called an AIRPLANE.

He flew 120 feet and remained in the air for 12 seconds. Only five persons were interested enough to watch the flight, and few newspapers wrote anything about it.

Most persons thought the Wright brothers were crazy. But they weren't dismayed by what happened at Kitty Hawk. They continued to work on their crazy contraption, and in 1905, two years later, they flew 24 miles in 39 minutes.

The next year they received a patent for their invention. They tried to interest people in their flying machine, but on one listened to them. The U.S. government thought it impractical and dangerous. That was only an average lifetime ago. And look what has happened since! So who can predict what will come of space travel?



... and I say to this columnist, 'You're a dirty, stinking, opinionated rat, and you haven't got the courage of your convictions.' Signed Anonymous . . ."

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

May 21, 1953 (Thursday) More than 100 laundrymen throughout Oregon are registered for the 31st annual convention of the Oregon State Laundry Owners association here.

Searchers work on a 'hot new lead' in attempts to find a plane missing since last Monday in a flight from Gold Beach to Grants Pass.

20 YEARS AGO

May 21, 1943 (Friday) Maj. Bruce Guthrie, former Medford resident, dies of wounds suffered during fighting in Tunisia.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "The juvenile element mourns the closing of school June 4."

30 YEARS AGO

May 21, 1933 (Sunday) New Pacific highway between Medford and Central Point slated for opening in near future.

Southern Oregon hotelmen hold convention in Medford.

40 YEARS AGO

May 21, 1923 (Monday) Many people reported using tennis courts at Willow Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. O. V. Meyers leave Medford for trip to Willamette valley.

50 YEARS AGO

May 21, 1913 (Wednesday) J. J. Houser, mayor of Medford in 1900, visits friends here.

Preliminary hearing held in Judge Taylor's court for man accused of burning down Rogue River church.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

- 1. Would the vibrance of a cat be its feet, meows, or whiskers?
2. In labor relations parlance, forcing an employer to hire and pay more men than he needs is called what?
3. Elephants can, or cannot, swim?
4. Drake is the name of the male of which swimming bird?
5. Madame Marie Curie was the co-discoverer of what?
6. How many innings in a regulation softball game?
7. Name the smallest Central American republic.
8. Nov. 5 is the anniversary of the discovery of the Guy Fawkes' gunpowder plot to blow up what government building in London, England?
9. When an auto is traveling forward, do the passengers lunge forward or backward on acceleration?
10. Is the movie "Mutiny on the Bounty" based on facts, or purely fictional?
Answers: 1. Whiskers. 2. Feather bedding. 3. Can. 4. Duck. 5. Radium. 6. Seven. 7. El Salvador. 8. Parliament. 9. Backward. 10. Facts.

EAR BITER GUILTY

San Diego, Calif. (UPI)—John Ira Bayles, 45, was placed on three years probation Monday for biting off his former wife's left ear in an argument over money. Bayles, who pleaded guilty to a charge of mayhem, also must pay restitution to the victim, Mrs. Helen Jenks, when the amount is determined.