

4 A MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Published Daily except Saturdays by MEDFORD PUBLISHING CO. 33 North Fir St. Ph. 772-6141

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

Member California Newspaper Publishers Association

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

July 28, 1953 (Tuesday) Mayor Flynn is still studying the 100-page comprehensive report on the death of Camp White member.

20 YEARS AGO

July 28, 1943 (Wednesday) Corporation property in Jackson county valued at \$8,745,687.90.

30 YEARS AGO

July 28, 1933 (Friday) Surprise witness in Klamath Falls trial of county judge for ballot theft testifies defendant told him of tampering with ballot boxes.

40 YEARS AGO

July 28, 1923 (Saturday) Black bears kill Sams Valley sheep.

50 YEARS AGO

July 28, 1913 (Monday) Grants Pass-Crescent City railroad builders contract for rails.

What's Your I.Q.?

- 1. Estes Kefauver represents which state in the U. S. Senate? 2. In what year was the Social Security Act enacted? 3. Name the crazed actor who fired the bullet that ended the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Freedom of Choice

While the furore over the Supreme Court's recent prayer and Bible rulings has not been nearly as loud as it was over the earlier regents' prayer ruling, still a lot of people are under the impression that the Court has "outlawed God" in the schools.

One of the most succinct and forceful rebuttals to this that we have seen was in a letter to the editor of a Portland newspaper by F. C. Meltzer, of 5206 SE 92nd st., Portland. In part Mr. Meltzer said:

"In the Declaration (of Independence), there is no mention of Christ at all — only of 'Nature, and of nature's God'. In the Constitution, there is no reference whatever to God of any kind, whether of nature or Christ.

Another brief and cogent argument appeared in a letter in the San Francisco Chronicle. In part it said:

"(Some) contend that God has been dethroned by the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling banning prescribed prayer in public schools. I cringe when I witness that kind of dogmatic fanaticism. In the first place, God cannot be dethroned by any man. The only ones who have been dethroned are those who would force us to pray. God would not force us to pray. And the Supreme Court cannot stop you from praying, anytime, anywhere you please. The court's intent was but to defend our constitutional right to freedom of choice."

That sums up the matter rather neatly.—E.A.

Musa and the Constitution

The action of Acting Governor Ben Musa last week in appointing a member of the state public welfare commission to fill a vacancy was legal, and he was within his statutory rights.

Oregon's creaking Constitution provides that when the Governor is out of the state, the next in line of succession shall have full powers of the governorship.

So Musa was within his rights. But he was wrong. His action, which violates every concept of good and responsible government, is another mark to add to those he compiled as president of the Senate at the late and unlamented 1963 regular session.

THERE is a certain irony in the fact that doing what he did has aroused a renewed hue and cry for constitutional revision. The irony arises from the fact that, as much as any one man, he helped to defeat the proposed new Constitution in the legislature, and prevent it from coming to a vote of the people.

The proposed revised Constitution takes cognizance of the fact that in this day of instantaneous communication and transcontinental travel in a matter of hours, there is no need to have an "acting" governor at all when the elected governor is away.

It would be a bit more than amusing if Musa's ill-considered and petulant action gave new life to the Constitutional proposal.—E.A.

Editing Communications

We received a personal note the other day which, in part, said:

"We differ over whether you edit (that is, correct spelling and punctuation — and maybe other things) some or many or any of the letters to the editor you print. They did not in the Macon (Ga.) Telegraph when I lived there years ago, and the results were devastating to community crackpots. How say you?"

That's a fair question. Others, too, may be interested in how Communications are processed.

When we receive a neatly typed or written letter which meets our requirements as to length, is not libelous or in poor taste, or unacceptable for other reasons, and is correct as to grammar, punctuation and spelling, we do not make any changes at all.

WHEN, however, a letter exceeds the 400-word limit, we either cut it down in length or return it for revision. We prefer the latter, for there is a danger, in making substantial cuts, of altering the writer's intended message.

Usually we also correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. This is done for several reasons. Often it is at the request of the writer. But even when not requested, it is our feeling that the writer would prefer it, so that his message is not obscured by errors.

OCCASIONALLY a letter will be deliberately written in dialect or slang. In such cases it is usually printed as received with whatever minor editing we deem necessary for clarity.

Once in a while we regretfully discard letters simply because we cannot read them.

Once in a long while we will let an error in syntax or spelling be printed, if we feel it is indicative or revealing of the writer's motivations or authority.

But the general rule we follow is to edit as little as possible, but enough so that most of the letters printed conform to certain minimum standards of English usage.

The objective is to present a variety of letters in a way so that the writer's intent is presented the most effectively. We do not always succeed.—E.A.

"But They May Be Grinding Exceeding Fine"



Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

"GETTING RUSSIA MOVING AGAIN"

Washington — The most important item in the background of the agreement on a nuclear test ban is also one of the most unexpected facts developed for some years by the experts who spend their time tracking down the truth about the Soviet Union.

For at least a decade it has been a standard international cliché that the authoritarian Soviet Society, with all its defects, was at least assured of a very high rate of economic growth. In recent years the Soviet growth rate has been noticeably declining, but the cliché has continued to be parroted. It must now be relegated, however, to the intellectual boneyard where the dead clichés of history molder into oblivion.

In the year 1962, to be specific, the Soviet Union's rate of economic growth dropped below 4 per cent per annum. In the days when President Kennedy was promising to "get America moving again," he often pointed with alarm to the higher Soviet growth rate. But in 1962, the U. S. rate of growth was 5.4 per cent, or about 1.5 per cent higher than the Soviet growth rate.

THE U. S. growth rate in 1962 also exceeded the average growth rate of all countries of the NATO alliance, which was 4.8 per cent. And the margin was again wide between the growth rate of the Western allies and the average growth rate of the Warsaw Pact countries in Eastern Europe, which was only 3 per cent.

To see the meaning of these statistics, so startling against the background of the long-accepted clichés, it is needful to remember that there is nothing abstract about growth rates. Instead, they are the measures of the food and finished goods and other things that each economy produces, for consumption, and for national defense, and for investment for further growth.

The slippage of the Soviet growth rate below the American level is all the more dramatic because of certain other recent developments which also help to explain the slippage. Just after New Year's of 1962, in brief, the Soviets loudly announced that they had increased their spending on national defense by a whopping 40 per cent; and Soviet defense spending has clearly continued to rise since that announcement.

NONE of the experts believe, to be sure, that the real increase of outlay on the Soviet armed forces was anything



Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann (c) 1963, The Washington Post

ON RATIFYING THE TEST BAN

The draft of a test ban treaty, which has been worked out in Moscow by Khrushchev, Harriman and Hallahan, is, it appears, substantially the same treaty as we offered the Soviet Union nearly a year ago on Aug. 27, 1962.

This proposal in turn was very like the one made by President Eisenhower to Chairman Khrushchev on Apr. 13, 1959. The two American proposals were based on the same principle — that tests should be prohibited when, as President Eisenhower stated it, the ban "would require the automatic on-site inspection which has created the major stumbling block in the negotiations so far."

President Eisenhower mentioned tests in the atmosphere, which can be detected at great distances. He did not mention tests in the water and in outer space, which are banned in the American proposal of Aug. 27, 1962, and are included in the draft treaty which has just been negotiated in Moscow.

THE core of the opposition to the treaty consists of those who do not want to stop testing under any conditions. But the official and general popular view has been that tests should be banned if, but only if, they can be policed with ironclad certainty. The irreconcilable opposition to the new treaty will probably make much of the fact that it is not possible to police outer space.

Theoretically, it is possible to shoot a nuclear device a million miles into outer space without anyone else knowing it and then explode it without its being detected. The answer to those who will make this point is that, if this possibility were really important, the whole, long, tedious effort under Eisenhower and Kennedy to negotiate a test ban would have been a deception.

For no proposal has ever been made, or could have been made, to insure that a violation in outer space would be detected. If outer space can really be used for significant testing, then the two Presidents have made a dreadful error. In that case, the opposition to a test ban has been strangely silent. For it has been warning us that significant and decisive tests can be made underground without being detected. If, now that underground testing is to be permitted, the opposition switches to outer space as a stick to labor the treaty, they will look like men who are inventing the reasons to conceal their real purposes.

THE situation we face is this. If the Senate refuses to ratify this treaty, the United States government will be rejecting a treaty which it has itself proposed. For 11 months, there has been before the world an American draft of essentially the same treaty which the Soviet Union has now agreed to. During those 11 months, no move was made to withdraw or amend the proposal. If then the United States government now rejects what the United States government itself proposed, how can this be done with a straight face?

The real opposition to a test ban is inspired by the hope that, if we keep on testing, we shall invent the absolute weapon—a weapon of annihilation against which there is no defense; the opposition to a ban is also inspired by the fear that, if we do not invent the absolute weapon, the Soviets will invent it.

Both the hope and the fear rest on an assumption which, though theoretically possible, is in practice most improbable. The assumption is that, as between the two nuclear powers with their gigantic nuclear arsenals, there is in sight somewhere and somehow a weapon so absolute that the existing arsenals can be written off as obsolete. Almost certainly the truth of the matter is that in nuclear affairs, as in all human affairs, the longing for the absolute is, as the poet said, the unending pursuit of the everlasting object of desire.

If, in the pursuit of the perfect, we wreck the best that is possible, the longing for the absolute will be akin to madness.

WHICH is to say: Following the war, people of our country bought homes — some 20 million of them. As soon as the homes were finished and they moved in, they began to pay off the mortgages. The war ended in 1945, and the war ending 18 years a considerable part of the mortgages has been paid off. In the meantime, the value of their homes has risen.

So now, instead of paying off the remainder of the mortgages and owning their homes free and clear of debt, thus building up an estate for themselves and their children, people are putting NEW MORTGAGES on their homes and using the ready money thus obtained to "pay for everything from education to travel to pleasure boating."

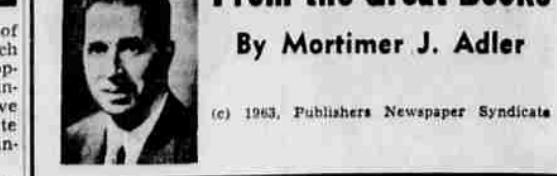
Q. Why do people do things like that? A sufficient answer is that the example was set for them by their government. In 1945, at the end of World War II, the public debt of the United States was \$258.6 billion. Now, 18 years later, it stands at about \$308 billion, and is heading higher.

The present legal debt limit is \$309 billion — only \$3 billion above the present debt. And spending goes on unchecked. So a new debt limit must be provided. Congress is expected to be asked soon to provide it. Presumably, it will do so — as it has done so often before.

WHICH is to say: In these 18 years since the Big War ended the GOVERNMENT of the United States has been doing exactly what the people have been doing. Instead of paying off its debt, it has been spending high, wide and handsome — ADDING TO ITS DEBT instead of paying off on it. The people, you see, have merely been following the example set for them by their government.

GREAT IDEAS...

From the Great Books By Mortimer J. Adler



(c) 1963, Publishers Newspaper Syndicate

CENSORSHIP

Dear Dr. Adler: In recent times, with the flood of printed matter now readily available, the question of literature's influence (generally the bad) on the young and impressionable, has become a public issue. With censorship of works like James Joyce's "Ulysses" and D.H. Lawrence's "Lady Chatterley's Lover" and subsequent reversal, and cries of "pornography" and "justifiable erotic realism!" has come a need to re-examine the rights of the state, the individual, and the artist. What do the great books authors have to say on the subject of censorship?

Leslie H. Palmer, 1830 Highland Ave., Knoxville, Tenn.

Dear Mr. Palmer: Censorship has been advocated since ancient times to protect the moral health of the community. Proponents and opponents of censorship disagree as to the effects of the arts on character and conduct, as to what exactly constitutes "obscenity," and as to whether governmental action or private judgment should decide these matters.

Plato and Tolstoy found some of the greatest works of literature to be morally harmful because they aroused undesirable images and feelings. Aristotle, however, saw therapeutic effects in the emotions released by Greek tragedy. Shelley held that such supposedly immoral literature actually adds to men's moral stature by enlarging and deepening their emotions and imagination. Similarly, D.H. Lawrence believed that a frank portrayal of sexual desire and action has a wholesome effect on human consciousness.

Montaigne once complained that we are not allowed to speak in plain terms about "the act of generation, an act so natural, so necessary, and so just" while we can talk about murder, robbery, and treason, without blushing. Responsible advocates of censorship in the present age agree with Montaigne that the portrayal of sex is not by itself obscene. What they object to is the use of such descriptions or enactments merely to appeal to prurient interest — to stimulate lustful thoughts or desires. Works that have this effect, they hold, tend to deprave or corrupt their readers, auditors,

which is to say: The latter ruling has aroused the vigorous dissent of Justices Douglas and Black, who hold to a strict construction of the Constitution's freedom of speech clause. They believe that the supposed arousing of lascivious thoughts or lustful desires is no grounds for denying a work the right to be published, so long as the arousal cannot be shown to have led to illegal actions. In the absence of such proof, they are for letting such literature be published, leaving it to the individual readers to decide what books are morally harmful, just as they are permitted to accept or reject political and religious views.

You can win a 54-volume set of the Great Books of the Western World by writing a letter, not to exceed 150 words, incorporating a question of general interest for Dr. Adler to consider for inclusion in this column. Each week he will select as first prize winners the writers of the three best letters. He will use ONE of these letters as a basis for a future column and will answer it in terms of the intellectual heritage of the Great Books—443 works by 74 authors, spanning 30 centuries of thought. Address the letters to Dr. Mortimer J. Adler, in care of this newspaper.

CONCLUSION: This is a wonderful world we're living in. We have more of the good things of life than any people ever had before—but instead of paying for it as we go we put it on the cuff and leave it for future generations to pay.

Weapons Now Make Peace Indispensable

By ERIC SEVAREID Colorado Springs — Space may never be "dominated" — to use the President's terminology — by man, but man is cluttering up God's infinitude with chunks of metal from encapulated payloads of nuts, bolts, washers and other "debris," and it won't be too long before any flight by an astronaut will involve a calculated risk of collision, however small a risk.

When this writer walked into the briefing room of the Joint Aerospace Defense Division there were 617 objects in orbit or slipping out of orbit. When I walked out 30 minutes later the number was 620, according to the "Menu Board" hanging on the corridor wall.

By 1967, approximately 3,000 such objects will be circling the globe in the celestial trash bin. All, I have no doubt, will be tagged, tracked and their immediate and future positions plotted within one thousandth of a degree by the highly efficient officers and civilians and their magical instruments working out of the well-ordered Pandora's box located in the shadows of Pikes Peak. There are, after all, 650 American and friendly "sensors" keeping up the inventory all around the world with instantly reported observations every 15 seconds. Little wonder that communications into and out of these air and space defense command posts here run to a "phone bill" or more than a hundred million dollars a year.

Manned bombers are still rated the number one exterior threat to North America and the defenses against them are fantastically complex, remarkably efficient, by all the tests so far conducted, and fantastically expensive. At some point the Pentagon will decide that the intercontinental ballistic missile has taken over the number one priority threat and a deep cutback will be in order.

For this farflung system defense may be cheaper, but since there is absolutely nothing but passive U. S. civil defense against the missile and won't be until the mystical and perhaps mythical day of

or viewers, and hence must be banned to protect the moral state of the community. They have also introduced important qualifications as to what makes a work of art censorable. First, there must be a clearly discernible intention to produce pornography, what Justice Frankfurter has called "dirt for dirt's sake." Secondly, the work must be judged as a whole, not piecemeal, as a reader skimming a book for "sexy" passages would read. Thirdly, the book must be judged for its presumable effect on the average, mature person, not on the immature or abnormal. A fourth qualification has been written into recent English law — that if a work is judged to be a serious contribution to literature or culture, it is to be considered for the public good, no matter what its lascivious effects may be. However, even with all these qualifications, censorship of books, movies, and other arts raises knotty problems without our system of government. For instance, does the banning of works on moral grounds violate the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression? Can we consistently ban books that offend the community's sense of moral propriety, but not books that offend the political or religious beliefs of the majority of our citizens? To this question, the Supreme Court has given several answers. On the one hand, it has held that a motion picture may not be banned simply because it presents sexual immorality as proper and desirable conduct, on the grounds that this would be interference with the expression of a point of view. On the other hand, it has held that obscene literature has no "redeeming social importance" and hence is not entitled to the constitutional protection which is available to writings containing unconventional or unpopular opinions. The latter ruling has aroused the vigorous dissent of Justices Douglas and Black, who hold to a strict construction of the Constitution's freedom of speech clause. They believe that the supposed arousing of lascivious thoughts or lustful desires is no grounds for denying a work the right to be published, so long as the arousal cannot be shown to have led to illegal actions. In the absence of such proof, they are for letting such literature be published, leaving it to the individual readers to decide what books are morally harmful, just as they are permitted to accept or reject political and religious views.