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"Defiance" in the Schools

Here and there throughout the nation, as youngsters return to school, there have been acts of "defiance" of the U. S. Supreme Court in the form of prayers and Bible reading in classrooms.

No one, one trusts, is going to call out the militia to enforce the Constitution in this instance.

But those who have chosen not to comply with the Supreme Court's ruling are, at worst, guilty of setting an example of lawlessness for the children they are hired to teach and instruct, and, at best, are revealing that they simply do not understand what the decision really said.

THE DECISION did not "take God out of the schools." No mere human agency can do that. And children and teachers are still free to pray anywhere, anytime they wish.

What the decision did do was to prevent an arm of the state from imposing on youngsters, without their desire or consent, a form of religious worship.

If a law were passed which required all citizens to attend a specific church (as has been done in history), there would be an outraged and wholly justified reaction. And is not forcing one form of religious exercise on a non-consenting student simply an example of the same thing? They are different only in degree, not in kind.

MANY OF THOSE who uphold the Court's decision are those whose piety and faith are the strongest.

They object to public school prayers and Bible reading because, they feel, these water down and make insipid the faith which they believe should be strong, meaningful and personal.

Teachers should be free to teach, and they should teach in the areas of their greatest competence. No matter what their background and training, we do not believe that they should be entrusted to give instruction in religion, which is and should be an intensely personal matter, in which only family, church and clergy should be allowed to participate. — E. A.

Behind the Headlines

"News" being what it is, the headlines in recent days have gone to Governor Wallace's storm troopers who have massed to prevent Negro youngsters from entering schools in Alabama.

Behind those headlines, however, is the story of integration of schools throughout the south — saving only Mississippi. Quietly and with little fanfare, Negro children are entering formerly all-white schools in increasing numbers.

These numbers are not yet large. But their significance lies in the fact that they can be reported at all. It is token integration today, but in coming years it will be more than that. It means that Negro children, for the first time in a century, can look forward to an education the equal of that available to their white contemporaries.

ANOTHER FACTOR of considerable significance is that Wallace appears to be losing the support of much of the white community in his last-ditch stand against integration. Not that they like integrated schools; but they are coming to realize that racial strife as fomented by the governor is bad for a community — bad for it economically and in about every other way.

City after city in the south — Oxford, Jackson, New Orleans, Birmingham — and particularly the smaller ones which wish to attract business and industry, have discovered that racial disturbances are the worst possible kind of advertising.

And, when the business community finds something that hits at its pocketbook, it is going to take steps to remove it. For this reason, if for no other, we can expect increased support of law and order — and integration — from southern businessmen. — E. A.

The Style of a Champion

There is something immensely satisfying in watching an expert doing something extremely well.

Though we cannot be classed as a sports fan, we found ourselves in front of the little black box for a couple of hours on Sunday, watching in fascination, first the tennis championship matches at Forest Hills, and next the "World Series of Golf" from Akron, Ohio.

Now tennis and golf are two sports which are vastly dissimilar. But they are similar in that they require a high degree of coordination, timing and endurance, and in that they pit the antagonists directly against each other.

THE LITHE GRACE of the tennis players contrasted sharply with the burly heft of at least a couple of the golfers. And the pace of the two games is sharply in contrast — tennis fast and furious, golf relatively leisurely but with mounting tension and pressure.

In the remote past we have played a duffer's game of both golf and tennis, and thus know that the easy-looking mastery of them is deceptive, and is the result of long hours of practice, combined with a great natural talent.

But knowing this simply adds to the enjoyment one can receive watching champions in action. It is a blend of admiration, esthetic appreciation of a superb performance, a realization of how much is in the balance, and — perhaps — a little envy. — E. A.

"I Don't Want Any Inside Interference!"



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.

Reds and Free Enterprise: To the Editor: Karl Marx, the High Priest of Socialism, stated that "Capitalism in and by itself, contains the seeds of its own destruction."

In England? The conservative government has been badly crippled, girls and cabinet ministers and all that, but what a boon to the present government if they could project the image of "peacemaker in our time."

There has also been a reversal — far more gradual — on the part of the U.S. In the near past we fought a war "to end all wars," and a war "to make the world safe for democracy."

It was impossible, Riemann says, to make an accurate evaluation of Cuba, even in seven weeks, because the group's principal contacts were limited to CASTRO GOVERNMENT LEADERS.

WHAT of young Riemann? He is an unknown. He probably made the trip as an adventure. He isn't a trained intelligence operator.

It should be kept in mind that communist goals have not changed. As late as July 14, 1963, in answering the Chinese Reds, Russia stated: "We fully stand for the destruction of imperialism and capitalism."

He realized that a worldwide revolution like that advocated by Marx and Engels in the Communist Manifesto of 1848, was just wishful thinking and he accepted and carried on Lenin's aim to build Socialism in one country.

Disgrace: To the Editor: It is a terrible disgrace to have those so-called classrooms on the front lawn of our high school. Who is responsible for that? I don't know when there has been a school bond issue turned down here, but when the school board does a thing like this, it's time they did turn one down.

Reversal: To the Editor: If indeed, the present nuclear test ban treaty is so important (MT 8-16-63), it should merit sincere study, not the "me too acquiescence" pushed by the educated (?) supporters.

Seaside Control: To the Editor: In 1962 our modern youths put Seaside in headlines. It was repeated again in 1963. Probably it will be repeated again in 1964 if no drastic action is waiting for their welcome.

Throughout our nation. This type of news may spread like measles. Evangelist Billy Graham has recently expressed his views of this incident, part of one paragraph he stated that "they are reaching for someone to challenge them."

Back in the days of our Puritan fathers, they were challenged by disorderly people. This was corrected by installing a whipping post. I'm sure that this method if in use will correct the Seaside days of today.

Howard H. Brown: 907 Gilman rd., Medford.

Signs of Progress Evident in Spain, Though Many Problems Remain Unsolved

By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst

MADRID, Spain (UPI)—On a day early this month, a trim white yacht dropped anchor in the northern Spanish port of La Coruna.

Aboard was Generalissimo Francisco Franco, who was interrupting a fishing vacation to hold his last cabinet meeting of the summer.

Most important of the domestic issues to be discussed was Spain's new \$6 million development program which is to go into effect next Jan. 1.

And for the next 48 flag-decked hours, La Coruna became in effect the working capital of Spain.

By tradition established under the regency of Queen Maria Cristina, the Spanish government in the summer moves to San Sebastian, near the Pyrenees, only 35 miles from Biarritz across the border with France.

Between San Sebastian and La Coruna the mountains hug the coastline and for 500 miles a narrow highway twists and turns its way through and over them, providing at once scenes of awesome beauty and the equally breathtaking prospect of a 1,000-foot plunge into nothingness in the case of driver error or mechanical failure.

In San Sebastian, a cabinet minister threw up his hands in mock horror when he learned that Carlos Mendo, chief UPI correspondent for Spain, and I planned to drive it for the cabinet meeting.

"It is one of the worst roads in Spain," he said, "but at least you will see why we need a development plan."

The road may not be the worst in Spain, but it must rate high among them.

Huge trucks vie with speeding small passenger cars, and both must contend with the ever-present burros. And beyond this is the foot traffic, women headed for the nearest village, carrying upon their heads objects varying from metal containers of milk to heavy bundles of firewood.

But it is a trip worth the effort. Along the way are symbols both of Spain's new and growing prosperity as well as problems it still faces.

There is Bilbao, ranking with Barcelona as one of Spain's principal industrial cities, called the Pittsburgh of Spain. In Bilbao, Santander, Oviedo and even in the meanest village new construction work seems unending.

This also is the region of the Asturias coal mines where today the government regards with a tolerant eye a strike by 16,000 miners even though strikes in Spain are outlawed. The seams of brown coal are running out and many of the mines are uneconomic.

The government is considering a plan of nationalization whereby some of these pits might be closed and the miners either transferred to other diggings or retrained for other jobs.

Here also are the Galician farmers, a taciturn folk unlike the talkative friendliness of the south. They live as their fathers before them on small, uneconomic plots of not much more than an acre, planting their patches of corn high up the steep mountain sides.

For them also the government is seeking a solution. But over all in the four years since stabilization of the currency, Spain's progress has been phenomenal. The growth rate has been more than 7 per cent annually and the government has more than a billion dollars in foreign exchange to work with.

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

There was an interesting story on the wires last week. It comes from Dick Riemann, one of the 59 American students who spent seven weeks in Cuba as guests of the Castro government. They are now back in the United States.

What of the group? Riemann tells the reporters that he and a Barry Hoffman, of Brookline, Mass., were the only two who made the trip with open minds. Hoffman, he says, made the trip as a researcher for an author who has contracted to write an article for an American magazine. He was looking only for facts.

WHY did Riemann go? He says: "I volunteered for the trip because I knew the type of group that was going and I wanted to lend some balance to it. Besides, I felt that the Kennedy administration was down-grading Cuba, which in my opinion is our No. 1 problem. I feel that integration comes AFTER our national security."

"I wanted to see for myself what is really going on down there."

WHAT is going on? Well, Riemann says: "There are Russians all over the place in Cuba. They live in a walled city of their own in Regla, a fishing village across the bay from Havana. This fortified area in which they live is OFF LIMITS to all but a handful of Cubans with special passes."

"Under Fidel Castro, Havana has become a fortified city with rapid-fire anti-aircraft batteries dotting the city. They are even installed on the tops of Havana's hotels."

WHAT of the group itself? What will it accomplish? "It was impossible, Riemann says, to make an accurate evaluation of Cuba, even in seven weeks, because the group's principal contacts were limited to CASTRO GOVERNMENT LEADERS."

The group leaders, he adds, "didn't make even half an effort to establish contact with the PEOPLE of Cuba. Their contacts were solely with PICKED Castro leaders."

WHAT of young Riemann? Who is he? He is an unknown. He probably made the trip as an adventure. He isn't a trained intelligence operator. He is on his way to California to be a teacher. He may just have wanted a final fling before settling down to work. But he touches on a question that interests all of us.

It's surprising that nobody recommended a tree surgeon for the injured limb. With this one singular exception, I have been subjected to the most unremitting barrage of self-confident advice that the mind of man could conceive.

Of the 26 persons who, in the space of an hour or two, came up solicitously to inquire about the origin of my limp, not one confessed complete ignorance about its therapy and cure.

Everybody had had the same thing — or something very nearly like it, or a brother who was similarly wounded in sportive action, or a family doctor who was wonderful "at that sort of thing."

I am convinced that every man believes he can do three things superbly well: Run the country better than the President, edit a newspaper better than the editors, and dispense medical advice better than the doctors.

Of course, the doctors themselves sometimes pretend omniscience when they are ignorant. You may have heard of the lady who went to a doctor with a nasty bruise on her thigh. He prescribed hot packs.

She tried them for a day, and nothing happened. Finally, her maid suggested cold packs — two applications, and the bruise was gone. She called the doctor and told him the story. "That's odd," he murmured. "My maid told me hot packs."

Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

HALFWAY TO PEKING RANGOON, Burma — In its present stage, this disordered but lovely small country can best be described as halfway to Peking. Gen. Ne Win, boss of Burma by virtue of an army coup d'etat, started his career as a stout anti-Communist. In principle, he is still anti-Communist, and he is certainly a patriot who wants above all things to insure Burma's independence. Yet the road he has taken nonetheless must finally lead to semi-subordination to Peking unless he changes direction pretty abruptly at some later date.

To be specific, Ne Win's National Revolutionary Council of army officers has now begun negotiations for a peace settlement with the principal faction of the Burmese Communists, the so-called "White Flags" headed by Thakin Tun Tun.

AS FAR as Ne Win is concerned, the object of these negotiations is clearly to end the interminable civil war here. Thus he hopes to get cracking with his "Burmese way to socialism," which chiefly seems to mean national ownership of just about everything in sight, including the stalls of the street peddlers.

The motive of Thakin Tun Tun, meanwhile, is obviously to obtain recognition and standing in Burma, comparable to the recognition and standing accorded to the Cuban Communist party in the early stage of the Castro revolution. As Thun Tun, by general admission, is much the cleverest politician in Burma today, he no doubt hopes to improve his position rather rapidly, once he has been recognized and given an open political role.

No one can of course be sure that the present negotiations will produce a positive result; but most people here expect them to end in a peace agreement between Gen. Ne Win and the majority faction of the Burmese Communists. What makes this prospect so particularly interesting is the recent development of Communism in Burma.

IN BRIEF, peace with the government has already been rejected by the minority Communist group, the "Red Flags," led by Thakin Soe. But this minority is unimportant, being composed of only a few hundred guerrilla fighters. Their political character may be judged by Thakin Soe's current line. That is why halfway to Peking reasonably sums up the present position here.

Strictly Personal

By Sydney J. Harris

EACH AN EXPERT This pot-bellied, middle-aged, once-a-week athlete tripped on the tennis court last Sunday, trying to retrieve a ball your younger sister could have got while eating an ice cream cone with the other hand, and pulled a muscle in his calf. The next day, heroically hobbling to the office with a cane, I learned exactly what to do with an ailment of this sort. So far as I can make out, there are 10 infallible rules to follow. These are:

- 1. Stay off the leg as much as possible.
2. Keep walking — the exercise will bring it back into shape.
3. Apply cold packs.
4. Apply hot packs.
5. Apply cold packs and hot packs alternately.
6. Apply only moist heat — stay away from a heating pad.
7. Sleep all night with a heating pad on the leg.
8. Bandage it tightly to support the muscle.
9. Don't bandage it, or you'll stop the circulation and retard recovery.
10. See a doctor, a chiropractor, a physiotherapist, a Swedish masseur, a baseball trainer and a faith healer.

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