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The Drop-Out and the High School

If you who read this happen to be a High School student, particularly one who is thinking about quitting school, please read the first letter in today's Communications column on Page 5.

WE VISITED Medford High School Friday morning. It was a memorable experience. During a one-hour class period we watched a group of alert, intelligent, curious, courteous boys and girls.

MEDFORD High School is jammed to the rafters with young men and women. Not once — not in the crowded halls, not in the well-mannered class, not on the sidewalks outside — did we see anyone behaving in any way except the finest.

Oh, we know there are exceptions, and that not every one of the more than 2,000 students at Medford High is a paragon of all the virtues.

THESE youngsters know what the boy who wrote the letter across the page has found out. Today, a High School diploma is the difference between being able to hold one's head high in our society, and accepting a second-class existence.

But even those for whom higher education is unavailable or for some other reason out of reach, should, at the very least, complete High School.

IT WOULD be our wish that those who deride the educational offerings laid before today's High School student would go back, if only for one hour, to see what it is they denigrate.

We'd wager that mighty few men and women in their 30s and 40s and 50s, college graduates or not, would be able to keep up with what today's bright youngsters are taking for granted.

Maybe education today isn't all we would wish it to be. But it is so much better than most of us realize that it would come as a shock to many people, a salutary shock. — E. A.

Pig in a Poke

R. E. Nealon, in his Tablets column Friday, said that voting against the income tax proposal this month is like buying "a pig in a poke."

No one knows, precisely, all the things that will happen if the tax measure is defeated. We do know what will happen if it is passed.

If it passes, life will go much as it is now, with everyone paying a few more dollars — most of it going for education, but some of it for welfare, institutions, police protection, hospitals, etc.

IF IT IS defeated, the Governor will have to slash spending up to as much as 25 per cent in those departments over which he has fiscal allocation control. He will have to do so, because the Constitution requires the state to live within its means; because spending up to this point in the biennium has been based on the budget which called for the new taxes; because added revenues have been lost because of the tax referral, and because he cannot anticipate added revenues.

From there on out, the course of events is unpredictable. Some say the Governor will have to call a special session of the Legislature — but no one, probably including the Governor, yet knows whether he will or not.

MANY state departments have reported what slashes in their appropriations will mean in the way of curtailed services. Some people interpret these as "threats," "brainwashing," or "blackmail."

This is unfair, unjust, unrealistic, and untrue. These officials have a duty to plan ahead. And if they are forced to cut down drastically on their programs, the public has a right to know where the cuts will come. If they didn't make this information public, they wouldn't be doing their jobs. And if the newspapers didn't report them, they too would be failing in their responsibility.

A pig in a poke is an unknown quantity, but to the extent we can do so, we should be informed as to what the pig looks like. — E. A.

"Harry, I Don't Think You're Going To Like This One Any Better"



Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop (c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

IS THERE ANY WAY OUT? HONG KONG—Much too little attention is paid to the central fact in Communist China's present situation.

THESE new factories were left half finished. Industrial plants were banked all over China. Capital investment was now condemned as a bad thing.

IN any case, there is nothing in the condition of the countryside to encourage any expectation of a gradual improvement of farm output, sufficient to provide the Chinese Communist system with the needed margin for recovery and growth.

THE question is whether the present Chinese leadership can find a way out of their "no exit situation." One way out, obviously, is to change the ratio of population to resources by reducing the population.

BEFORE we are sure, there are good reasons to doubt the wisdom of unthinkingly cranking an annual, automatic Chinese population increase into every calculation concerning China.

THE President made many conservation speeches during his politics-cum-conservation swing, and he talked politics in many private conversations.

HE emphasizes the hard necessity of building in this country an economic, moral and intellectual society strong enough to support American involvements all around the world.

"We must acknowledge the realities of the world." "We cannot remake other nations in our own image, nor can we enact their laws, nor can we operate their governments, nor can we dictate their policies."

"The purpose of foreign policy is not to provide an outlet for our sentiments of hope or indignation; it is to shape real events in a real world."

THE INCOME TAX MEASURE This is one of a series of brief presentations of some little-known aspects of the income tax measure on which Oregon voters will decide at a special election on Oct. 15.

GREAT IDEAS...



From the Great Books By Mortimer J. Adler

Dear Dr. Adler: Many teachers of political science have stated that history repeats itself. Various wars and depressions are typical examples which educators have cited to reinforce this statement.

Dear Mr. Copp: The ancient Greek historian Herodotus tells us at the beginning of his famous "History" that he will pay equal attention to the greater and the lesser city-states.

THESE fluctuations and reversals in human affairs were interpreted by eminent Greek thinkers as evidence of a recurring pattern of birth, growth, decay, and death, analogous to the cyclical changes in the natural world.

ONE cannot tell with certainty, but from such facts as these one would guess that the Chinese population actually fell in the worst years and may now be approximately stable.

THE view that history is working toward a messianic goal, however, is an exception among the pagan writers. It was the Jews who first saw history as working toward a consummation determined by divine will — not as repeating itself in a natural, necessary, and humanly predictable pattern.

THIS view of history, which was eloquently propounded by the great Biblical prophets, is the basis of Augustine's famous work, "The City of God."

IN any case, there is nothing in the condition of the countryside to encourage any expectation of a gradual improvement of farm output, sufficient to provide the Chinese Communist system with the needed margin for recovery and growth.

THE President tells us that NATIONAL lotteries are even worse than reckless private gambling. Because the governments that resort to them need to get every dollar they can lay hands on, they ENCOURAGE their people to gamble.

WHAT happens, the nation that has bet its future on a national lottery is a GONER. History is pretty positive on that point.

The President's View of the Real World

By ERIC SEVARIED The President made many conservation speeches during his politics-cum-conservation swing, and he talked politics in many private conversations.

HE emphasizes the hard necessity of building in this country an economic, moral and intellectual society strong enough to support American involvements all around the world.

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"The purpose of foreign policy is not to provide an outlet for our sentiments of hope or indignation; it is to shape real events in a real world."

Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann (c) 1963 The Washington Post

Editor's note: With this column, Walter Lippmann leaves for a six-week fact-finding tour of Europe. It is possible that he will write an occasional column from Europe on important subjects, but no regular columns can be expected during this six-week period.

THIS is one of those moments when there is reason to wonder whether the congressional system as it now operates is not a grave danger to the Republic.

There are two great measures before Congress, and in all probability Senator Goldwater was right when he said the other day that "the President has to make up his mind whether he wants the civil rights bill or a tax cut, because he cannot get them both."

THIS situation is a reflection on the Congress. For the truth is that the two measures are not competitive, but complementary. If the tax bill can do what its advocates believe it can do, that is to say stimulate business and reduce unemployment, it will reduce some of the pressures which are making it so difficult for the leaders of the Negro people to continue to be moderate, non-violent, patient and reasonable.

THE civil rights bill promises Negroes the chance to vote, better schooling and an end to humiliation in public accommodations. But the tax bill promises the Negroes jobs. They need them. The rate of unemployment among Negroes is a little more than twice as great as among the whites.

THE Negroes, therefore, have an acute interest in a measure that promises to overcome the sluggishness of the economy. Today, for example, the Negro rate of unemployment is over 11 per cent; during 1951-53, when the economy was booming, Negro unemployment was less than 5 per cent.

ANYONE who is serious about dealing with the Negroes' grievances must, therefore, be distressed to find that he has to choose between the tax bill and the civil rights bill. A compromise is not possible.

LOUIS XIV of France, one of the great spenders of all time, passed on to France when he died a debt amounting to 300 million pounds of silver. John Law created what amounted to one of the great lotteries of history as a way to pay off the debt. It was called the Mississippi Bubble. It came close to wrecking France and all the people of France.

NO, THANK you, Mr. Fino. History tells us that NATIONAL lotteries are even worse than reckless private gambling. Because the governments that resort to them need to get every dollar they can lay hands on, they ENCOURAGE their people to gamble.

WHAT happens, the nation that has bet its future on a national lottery is a GONER. History is pretty positive on that point.

When the President warned that our policy "seems to have lost the black-and-white clarity of simpler times" he was warning — or he should have been warning — all those, both left and right, who simply cannot bring themselves to accept that the world, in Mr. Kennedy's words, "is full of contradiction and confusion." He was warning not only those on the right who think "the American way of life" is a convertible currency, but those on the left, with equal arrogance, believe all the modern equivalents of Woodrow Wilson's famous remark, "We will teach the Mexicans to elect good men."

In one other phrase, the President expressed what the basic American world posture should be because it must be: "Our interest is best served by preserving and protecting a world of diversity in which no monolithic power can acquire the ability to dominate freedom."

An all-conquering tyranny we shall resist to the end. Petty, local or temporary tyrannies we shall often have to abide.

Winston Churchill, a better phrase-maker than anyone around the President, wrote the recipe in four words: "Tolerance, variety and calm."

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION NATIONAL EDITORIAL 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 Oct. 6, 1953 (Tuesday) A Mail Tribune carrier and his brother reported to Medford police yesterday that two older youths took \$20.50 in subscription receipts from them.

20 YEARS AGO Oct. 6, 1943 (Wednesday) Woman called on federal district court jury for first time. For Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Safety commandments for hunters include: 'Never climb a tree with a loaded gun.' Furthermore, if you do, another will shoot you for a bear."

30 YEARS AGO Oct. 6, 1933 (Friday) Fall flower show of Medford Garden club opens with large and varied displays. George Gates named chairman for handling NRA code.

40 YEARS AGO Oct. 6, 1923 (Saturday) Bobbed hair more popular than ever on Oregon University campus. City council calls off tree trimming campaign as residents protest.

50 YEARS AGO Oct. 6, 1913 (Monday) Mail Tribune windows to show world series results. Judge Withington to read bulletins by megaphone.

What's Your I.Q.? Nine or ten correct is superior; seven or eight is excellent; five or six is good.

- 1. Was the purchase price of the Louisiana Territory 10, 15, or 20 million dollars? 2. What was the Pharos of Alexandria? 3. Railroad mergers are considered by what federal regulatory agency? 4. Before Herbert Hoover entered public life, what was his profession? 5. The solicitor general of the United States is under what cabinet officer? 6. Lead is the heaviest known metal; true or false? 7. What is metaphor? 8. The Big Inch and the Little Inch were built during WW II. What are they? 9. Is Daily Double used in connection with contract bridge, baseball or horseracing? 10. Are there five, six, or seven countries in Central America?

Minor Damage Results From Valley Accident No injuries and only minor damage resulted from a two-car accident on Highway 99 about six miles south of Ashland Friday afternoon, state police said Saturday.

A car driven by Lindsay Waldrop Davis, of Hanford, Calif., spun around on the wet pavement and it and a car driven by James Malcolm McClaren, Corvallis, Ore., collided, state police said.



"If America decides to sell us wheat, it might be the first step toward disarmament — they have the kind that's 'shot from guns!'"