... 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. 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.

School Drop-Out

To the Editor: As a high-school drop-out, I know better than many the value in Mr. Kennedy's campaign against dropping out of school. True, I am young and have been out of school for a comparatively short time, but I have seen the jobs lost because of the lack of a diploma. I have had the rejected feeling of seeing schoolmates go on while I sit here getting nowhere terribly fast. I have seen the truth in many wise and heartfelt words spoken by advisors, parents, and friends. I have seen all this too late.

A wise statement that I have repeated many times, I take the liberty of using here: "Of all sad words of tongue or pen, saddest are these, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN." I use this in my everyday life to urge me on that I might not be in such sorry shape that I must use those four words.

I have been attempting to make something of my life recently. I am young, I have a long life to live, and I would prefer to live it in a respectable and proud manner. I have no wish to try to raise my future family on the charity of the public in such fields as unemployment checks or in the pride destroying checks from the Welfare department. I want my children to go to school well dressed and with their honor. I want my wife to be proud of me and to have some of the little luxuries in life. I want to retain my own human dignity by being able to support my family and to be able to die saying that I have enjoyed living. Death is so long, I want to make something of my short life.

My wishes have been long in making themselves clear to me. Before I saw them, I was a irresponsible, ignorant and carefree idiot. I was more of an idiot than is allowed of a youth. I am a bit better now. I am not saying that I am incapable of doing stupid things. Far from it, but I do realize that of all the stupid things I have done, the worst was quitting school.

I cannot say that the school board has not given me every chance up to date. They have been understanding and helpful, they have been very patient with me. But on my latest appeal, I was rejected. I am the cause of failure, but I would like to have one last try. I can do it. This is an appeal.

I appeal to the taxpayer to decide if he wants his hard earned money spent on getting me an education. I am willing to be interviewed by him to see if I am worth it. I am a minor taxpayer myself. I have seen some of the products of my and others' money, boys and girls with I.Q.'s of 20, carrying an average of D, with citizenship records of F. But as I was told, there isn't enough room for me in the high school. I am told that because of a fight I was in, which I didn't start, and a single curfew ticket, I would be such a bad risk and a bad influence that I cannot get an education.

I admit that I dropped out three times. I will tell anyone who wants to know why. The reasons are personal, but I feel they were valid. Regardless, I do not feel that it is right to refuse a taxpaying citizen an education. Likewise, I am not too impressed with the reasons for my rejection considering that I can name three students that dropped out the same time I did that were reenrolled this year. Two of these students have police records. Is it fair or just? I really don't think so.

In summation, I will say this: Medford School District 549-C has the monumental task of trying to educate thousands of children and young adults every year. But must they run it without a heart? It took me a lifetime to grow up. All I want is a chance to show the people with faith in me that I am worth it. I want to be a citizen of this great country. I want to be able to enjoy it and I want to be able to add maybe a little something to it. The school board has in its hands the key to the life enlightening education that everyone needs. Can't they open their door for me? Thank you.

Wayne Ken Howard
Route 2, Box 39
Jacksonville, Ore.

Mongrelization

To the Editor: The theme "mongrelization of ethics" appearing on the editorial page of the Sunday, Sept. 29 issue of The Oregonian, (review of book by Margaret Halsey), is apropos. This began of course long before the Second World War, and can be associated with and pretty well attributed to the "mongrelization of races" in this country, just now beginning in earnest. Anyone who dares mention "purity of race" at present, and Caucasian especially, is at once a pariah.

It occurs to me that the present deep sag in morals is not due merely to the acceptance by the Americans of people of the Negro culture and moral influence that began during the lost generation decade following World War One, but to the mongrel breed of men being created by this "Melting Pot": First the culture, then the morals (ethics), then the blood-breed of mongrels. Of course the "culture" of white men was accepted by the Negro and Indian also, else they had had little more than barbarism. The influence of Oriental true-culture in our society is insignificant, unless one acknowledge Christianity as such, which of course was from the Near East.

"Mongrelization" is said to produce a low grade of dog, however hardy, effacing his select and special virtues: Can it be denied that the same is true of men?

Ralph McKinnis
P.O. Box 321
Ashland, Ore.

Coverage Liked

To the Editor: Recently our association, the Oregon Veterinary Medical Association, held a convention in your city.

We would like to compliment the staff of your publication for the excellent news coverage of this event.

While many of the activities were of a technical and professional nature, your agricultural editor, Mr. Joe Cowley, did an outstanding job of interpreting and presenting these facts to your readers.

I know that many veterinarians from other parts of the state were impressed with the Medford Mail Tribune's competence in reporting this convention.

Our thanks and congratulations to you and your staff.

O. H. Muth, D.V.M.
Secretary
Oregon Veterinary Medical Assn.
Corvallis, Ore.

Job for Representatives

To the Editor: Why all this hue and cry about our current state income tax bill? Much that has appeared in these columns in opposition to the measure struck me as utterly illusory, inane, or even irresponsible.

Of course, it is not a perfect bill, as the legislators themselves have acknowledged. What tax bill ever is? But this is about as good a bill as we could get and we might as well accept it in good faith and spirit, as responsible citizens — then work and hope for a better one to be produced by the next legislature.

Some of the arguments against the bill are without basis in fact; mere conjecture or wild guesses, at best. Such abuse as has been heaped upon our legislators, governor, heads of state agencies, educators, and other advocates of the bill, is as unwarranted as it is downright indecent.

These armchair critics and would-be tax experts would have us believe they know so much better than the governor and his advisers or the legislature, how to budget and raise the finances needed by the state. They are hardly to be taken seriously. Much of their ill-informed comment appears to be of the "off-the-top-of-the-head" variety; and their invective, from their spleen.

Let us not forget that our representatives and senators are neither fools nor knaves — and that we elected them to do this job, and others, for us. Certainly, ours are about as able, conscientious and dedicated legislators as we are ever likely to get; and it is reasonable to assume that this holds for most of the others as well.

"Politics is the art of the possible" and much legislation necessarily the result of compromise, as in the present case. Committees in both houses worked long and diligently to produce as fair and reasonable a bill as possible, after careful scrutiny of all phases of the budget submitted by the governor and consideration of many proposed alternative methods of raising it. It seems to me very presumptuous, therefore, for any less informed citizen to claim greater knowledge or wisdom in the matter.

Referral to the voters of individual tax proposals, such as a general sales tax or a selective one on cigarets, is quite in order; but the drafting of a general tax measure to finance all operations of the state government and its subsidiary agencies is a job for our elected representatives.

Arnold Eugene Jenny
Rogue Valley Manor
Medford

The Deer Hunt

To the Editor and All Bored Stay-at-Homers:

With a house-trailer, tent and station wagon our party camped on a pumice flat among dead weeds and dust.

We'd several mattresses, but I took my sleeping bag out into the aromatic cedered freshness.

Did ye ever crawfish into a narrow bag and try to zipper up a zipper what won't zip? Ugh! I inched outta there, fussed, then more crawfishing and inching; finally I voiced words that scared all the deer outta their habitats and went to sleep.

Next—while feeling of some lively bugs to ascertain "were they spiders?" I came fully awake to the sound of running water.

"Somebody trying to douse a timber fire," thought I. Then came footsteps in those sands of time. I peeked out; there skulked a ghost in the shaders. Not believing in ghosts, I snickered right out loud. It shouted "What'd you say?" Not wanting to awaken Coxe's Army, I ducked back under that dusty hood. The white-clad figger pussyfooted tentward.

I musta dreamed that 'ere water racket.

We didn't linger to hobnob with them red-lidded dears who milled around. Before starlight quit we broke camp and hied us to a slashing about two thousand feet up the mountain.

I dug out by myself and took a stand where brush would shade my riffles' glitter.

I saw a young buck and he saw me. One second he was outta the jungle and the second second he worn't.

Later, I saw a fox, chipmonks, a small doe and one of our party who decided I was lost, began yelling "Pear-ull?" I let 'im holler for a spell, but to stop the hullabaloo I stuck my hat out and follered it. Shucks! We ate a sandwich and descended.

Soon as we see to things at home we are going back with plenty of salt along to put on them deers' tails. I got my fingers crossed, but iffen the salt idea didn't work, yuh won't hear from me for ages. I don't get lost among trees either; they're only overgrown flowers to shelter my wildlife friends.

Pearl Spackman,
(Formerly from J'ville)
General Delivery,
Rogue River, Ore.

A Worse Mess

To the Editor: In a recent editorial you discounted the possibility of a sales tax being imposed as a result of a No vote in the coming tax referral election. You seem to think that the Granges and Labor will again be able to make their opposition to it effective.

I think that in this opinion you are wrong.

Whether by design or accident, the situation, even though more complicated, is similar to that which was brought about to put Daylight Saving Time over.

Admittedly the present tax setup is a mess (but it is a mess that can be lived with) and quite obviously a No vote in the Oct. 15 election will put us in an even worse mess (one that cannot be lived with).

A Sales Tax will be pushed and touted and clamored for as the solution to our difficulties. Under the extreme emergency conditions that will obtain in the event of a No vote, it will be inevitable.

I do suggest to those who have been planning to vote No in the coming election that they remember the process by which we ended up with DST. A time mess was created and the solution to it was the thing we didn't want. A tax mess exists and a far worse one impends—the solution of course will be a Sales Tax.

Jim Selleck
130 Hargadine, Apt. 4
Ashland, Ore.

Don't Make Sense

To the Editor: For many years the recognized historians have told us that too high taxes were one of the main causes for the fall of the world wide Roman Empire. But now we receive this voters pamphlet listing the terrible results that we may expect, if we vote "No" in the coming tax election.

For instance it states that "A Yes vote will guarantee that social security payments continue not to be subject to any state tax." Just let the Legislature try to pass a law contrary to a U.S. law! Phooey!

The pamphlet also says that this tax law "is to prevent deficit spending." Again just let them try to spend money that they do not have when our own constitution requires that all bonds on which they can borrow money must be voted on by the people. That sounds just as about as sensible as that they could guarantee that Oregon will have some rain this winter.

Their arguments do not make sense to me. We have some splendid safeguards in our basic laws, so I plan to vote "No." I wish to put the affair squarely in the Governor's lap. He is vested with the power to call a special session of the Legislature and to outline a good tax law, telling them clearly that he will promptly veto a bad law. He can "speak softly, but carry a big stick." They will lack the nerve to pass it over his veto. But if they adjourn before making a good law, he can do as able teachers used to do with bad little boys, make them stay after school and do their homework. The Governor has the brains to plan a good law, the good will to wish for one, and I hope the "guts" to veto a bad one.

I feel sure that some economies can be made, such as not sending two voters' pamphlets to one household; that some mere chair warmers can be dispensed with, and that some non-educational activities can be curtailed in the schools. For instance there is so much emphasis put on winning football teams that it rather looks as though the tail wags the dog.

A Legislature should not be too strongly influenced by special interests. If needed, they can put a tax on luxuries and especially on such things as do great harm to people, cigarettes with their product of lung cancer, and whiskey with its products of automobile wrecks and crime. It is only just that they help to bear the terrible costs. But again that takes courage.

It may be necessary slightly to increase the percentage on the old income tax rates, but certainly not to impose a five dollar poll tax on little old ladies who now can barely make ends meet.

Horace W. Thompson
3642 Hilsinger rd.
Medford

Phophesy

To the Editor: The test ban treaty has been signed by so many nations; perhaps a big deal with Russia in wheat; the letter by the late Pope John, "Peace on Earth," and the recent prayer of Pope Paul for peace and understanding between the Catholic and Protestant churches, which no doubt has much to do about allowing the Protestants more liberty and freedom in worshipping God as they choose in Spain.

Judging by these trends and the many inventions in the last 100 years, especially radio and TV, it seems the prediction in Joel 2:28 is literally being fulfilled, where he says in substance, "And afterwards I will pour out my Spirit upon all Flesh. Old men would have dreams. Young men visions. And also upon handmaids and servants in those days will I pour out my Spirit."

The invention of the radio and the TV are a great help to bring to pass the prediction our Savior made in Mat. 24:14, "And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached an all the world, for a witness unto all Nations. Then shall the end come."

He must have meant by that the same everlasting Gospel with its officers and priesthood he established in his Churches and Kindom and that was also connected with his Father's Kingdom in Heaven. (Mat. 16:19). The Apostles Luke and Matthew use almost the same words in declaring, "The law and the prophets were until John, since that time the Kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it."

And Jesus told Nicodemus he had to be born of water and the Spirit (Holy Ghost) to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. And also the Apostle John saw an angel flying through the midst of Heaven bringing the everlasting Gospel to preach to them that dwell upon the Earth. (Rev. 14:6-7). And the Prophet Malachi speaking of the last days says, "I will send my messenger and he shall prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his Temple." That is plain, the Lord will prepare a people to build a Temple and meet Him when He comes to be the King of Kings.

John F. Peterson
611 South Holly st.
Medford.

Important Decision

To the Editor: We Oregon voters are being called upon to make an important decision Oct. 15.

Oregon's constitution requires that expenditures must be balanced by income — therefore a tax program had to be enacted to produce an approximate $60 million to balance a general fund budget of $404 million. The $404 million general fund accounts for approximately one-third of total state expenditures. The two-thirds is spent for highways, game commission, SIAC, etc., and is financed from dedicated funds from which none of the $60 million could be taken.

About 60 per cent of the general fund budget is appropriated for education. State aid to local school districts through the Basic School Support fund and from apropriations for special education programs account for 35 per cent of the state general fund. It is clear that education, because it represents this sizable portion of the general fund budget, has probably the most at stake in the referendum.

State general fund support of elementary and secondary education began in 1942 with edu-recognizing that real property could no longer carry the entire burden of education. It was the people in 1946 who approved the present Basic School Support Fund. The voters in 1950 and the Legislatures since have consistently attempted to lighten the property tax burden and equalize educational opportunity by increasing the size of the fund. It is significant to remember that the fund was increased by $19 million in 1961 and $16 million in 1963, making a total increase of $35 million during the past two sessions. This amount would have been otherwise levied as local property taxes.

A NO vote could be interpreted that the people no longer believe that the state should maintain its present level of support — which is now about 36 per cent of local district operating costs. Actually, many state groups, including education, school boards, Grange, Farm Bureau, PTA and others have positions urging that the state provide 50 per cent of operating costs or more from state revenue sources.

Oregon has had a tradition of stable — even conservative — governmental finance. There has not been a major state tax increase since 1955, although property taxes have increased substantially. Our per capita state tax is ninth out of the eleven Western states.

This pattern of an orderly meeting of the most pressing needs for state funds is the real issue in the Oct. 15 election. Our tax structure is reviewed every two years by the Legislature, or the people may initiate change. A YES vote will indicate that the citizens of Oregon are willing to pay for the services that they have requested and that are necessary in our growing state.

Eugene H. Fisher,
Chairman,
Oregon State Board of Education, and member,
Elkton School Board
Oakland, Ore.

Uncertain Trumpets

To the Editor: It is true that this is an age of tension when it is possible to become overbearing and unbalanced in our observations concerning the trends in our governments, schools, churches, etc. We appreciate those who caution us concerning these possible excesses.

This is no reason, however, for us to feel that we have no further duties to our God, our country or our communities in being alert to the evils as they take root and grow.

God has, in every generation, appointed His prophets and His watchmen to sound the alarm and warn the people, whether they respond or not. "Whether they will hear or whether they will forbear . . . Yet shall they know that there hath been a prophet among them." (Ezek. 2-5).

Just because these prophets and patriots are "contending for the faith once delivered to the Saints" does not indicate fear, hate, suspicion or rebellion. It is love of God, love of country and love of our friends and neighbors which causes us to cry out in protest as we see our freedoms being snatched away, one by one. The Bible says, "Woe unto them that call evil good and good evil, that put darkness for light and light for darkness, that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter." (Isa. 5:20).

Those "Christians" and "Americans" who can lightly stand by and voice no objection when the enemy is at the doorstep should re-examine their responsibilities to God and to our nation. "If the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?" (I Cor. 14:8).

Mrs. F. M. Patterson
Route 1, Box 161
Rogue River, Ore.

No Clouds

To the Editor: We saw the Presidential jet returning from the inspection of the Lost Creek Dam-site, and here, eight miles down river, the sun was shining without any cloud cover.

P. H. Karner
Route 1, Box 340
Trail, Ore.

Hard To Believe

To the Editor: It is difficult to believe Congressman Duncan's statement that President Kennedy was unable to see the Preserve the Rogue association's sign, "Another Pork Barrel Dam," if he was shown the exact location of the proposed Lost Creek Dam.

Visibility was unlimited at the time the President's plane flew over with no intervening clouds discernible to ground observers. The lettering was placed directly on the site of part of the proposed dam.

It is entirely possible that neither the President nor Mr. Duncan saw the sign, but, as I said, it is hard to believe if they were looking at the proposed dam site.

Martha P. Brooke
Trail, Ore.

The Choice

To the Editor: The current battle over the Legislature's new tax bill involves much more than the level of taxation for the next two years.

It is well and good — and politic — to be against higher taxes. Most of us are. To sentence the youth of our state to mediocre education and the needy to less subsistence is something else again.

A responsible vote on the tax referendum must consider all of these consequences. I for one would rather pay more taxes than have the expenditures for basic school support, higher education or welfare reduced.

The prize for the most irresponsible statement on this subject should go to Senator Walter Pearson, who distains quality education and better teachers in our colleges and universities.

More young people are going to college than ever before. Other state and private universities are expanding and improving their faculties. Competition for quality professors is greater than ever. If we want to maintain the present quality of our higher education, we probably need to spend more money than the present tax bill provides.

For me the choice is simply between this tax bill and some other tax measure designed to raise the same amount of money. Despite the shortcomings and compromises in the present bill, there is no evidence that the Legislature could do a better job the next time around. And if it did, the new tax bill would probably be referred. By the time we voted on it, fiscal chaos would become a way of life.

T. W. Phillips,
2254 Aloha,
Medford.

Contradiction

To the Editor: In answer to GHB's editorials in Sept. 30—Business and Trade Ethics . . . which presents, among other things, a strange contradiction or dilemma of American Business ethic and American Patriotism. GHB objurates a local merchant for misleading the public for not going out of business as advertised. On the other hand he patriotically lauds the wheat farmer for production of an 'unneeded' surplus.

This editorial reminds me of a recent discussion with a friend, reputed to be somewhat erudite in the area of "Business Ethics." He maintains that since World War Two, business executives feel that many of the ethical problems on the production side of American Business are solved. In his words, "Minimum wages, bargaining right, child labor laws," etc., protect the worker from unethical practices. However, like GHB, many of the problems of distribution still pose ethical questions: "The executive finds that he still rapes the consumer with poor products, high prices, basing point systems," and advertising practices such as the Medford merchant.

The dilemma posed by GHB arises, perhaps, out of the executive's solution to these ethical problems of distribution. My friend went on to point out that from the "marketing concept" developed since WWII, executives have approached the distribution problems by asking, What does the consumer really need? They answer this question before production of a commodity begins. Thus the ethics of it is that to produce something that isn't really needed or which is a waste is highly unethical.

Now to my point: What is more indicative of the failure of "American Capitalism" than the SURPLUS wheat? What is more unethical and more costly to the American consumer than the production of this "unneeded" wheat — grown simply for the purpose of storage and the maintenance of the few farm families engaged for the supporting subsidization? Those families, by the way, are less than 1 per cent of the consuming public.

What could be more indicative of the success of the Russian system than to be able to buy wheat at a price lower than production costs to themselves? And at a price which is a loss to the American consumer?

I would be interested in hearing GHB's answer.

Ray Johnston
1875 Jefferson st.
Eugene, Ore.

Qualified To Vote

To the Editor: From all of the comments that have appeared in the newspapers about the *tax referral, it surely must strike many people that we need a clear, strong voice of wisdom. I may not necessarily qualify,* but I would like to remind the readers that I do have some special qualifications, to-wit:

1. I worked by way through college selling Real Silk hosiery;

2. I killed a quail with one throw of a stone on my seventh birthday;

3. I once went a week early to a wrong wedding;

4. I am the only person who ever ran for Willamette Student Body President after having graduated once; and I hold another record there too—I sang in first place Freshman Glees, in three different classes!

5. I have had political careers in both major political parties, and have only been defeated for public office four times;

6. I am a Unitarian—my wife is a Lutheran—one of my secretaries is a Mormon and the other a Seventh Day Adventist;

7. I drink lots of Papaya juice.

And, I defy any of the others who have ventured their opinions on the crucial issues to show such qualifications.

Now, having qualified, I venture my opinion:

1. I think it is far too early to complain about the legislative pay raise. Let us have at least one or two elections to see if the pay raise brings out some better candidates;

2. Let us remember that even in government cool and advised action is to be preferred to impetuous and unreflective impulses;

3. That knocking out the tax proposal does not automatically recall the Governor or the legislators or stop petty finagling, or reduce property taxes or stop the demands of a growing population for public services;

4. That should a sales tax be substituted, the economic burden would then fall even more heavily on a large percentage of those who are frustrated and displeased with things as they are, and

5. That those of us who are really going to take the whack, and I'm one of them, on this income tax raise, are the ones who can best afford to pay a tax increase.

I trust the reader will re-read my qualifications, and being duly impressed, cast a wise "YES" vote on the referral measure.

Steve Anderson
541 Court st., N.E.
Salem, Ore.

Rampart Project Report Studied

PORTLAND (UPI)—Army engineers said today they expect to have a feasibility and design report for the proposed Rampart Hydroelectric Project on Alaska's Yukon river by early next year.

Maj. Gen. W. W. Lapsley, North Pacific Division engineer, said a report by Alaska District Engineer, Col. Kenneth T. Sawyer, had arrived at his office.

Before Gen. Lapsley prepares his report, statments from Interior Department agencies such as Bureau of Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service will be received.

Rampart dam would be the largest of its type in the world, costing $1.3 billion.

Poets' Corner

Conducted by

Arnold Eugene Jenny

All Men Are Poets

The poet appears as one who is able to experience consistently and in a marked manner those responses to life which all normal people desire to experience and do experience to a more limited degree. Hence . . . there is no actual inconsistency in saying that all men are potentially poets.

—Bonaro Wilkinson, in "The Poetic Way of Release."

Homeland Pride

Man, through all ages of revolving time,
Unchanging man, in every varying clime,
Deems his own land of every land the pride,
Beloved by Heaven o'er all the world beside,
His home the spot of earth supremely blest,
A dearer, sweeter spot than all the rest.

—James Montgomery

Autumn

Just yesterday the hills were clothed
With purple, gold and yellow,
A flaming sheen from out the store
Of Autumn, rich and mellow

Last night when slumber fled my couch
And the sullen northwind muttered,
A countless throng of pattering feet
Across my doorstep fluttered

Today beneath an ashen sky
The wooded hills are lonely;
Their princely garments plundered, gone,
All shorn, bereft, uncomely.

—Frank Roberts
Medford

This Is True

I sat beneath a shady pine
Where a creek ran free and wild,
And dreamed of golden days gone by
When I was just a child.
The pine seemed so much taller then
And the creek seemed so much wider,
When I sat and watched a silver web
Being spun by a busy spider.

The narrow trail that I see now,
That leads to this wonderland,
Had once seemed oh! so different,
So wide and steep and grand!
It's hard to believe that it's the same,
This place that once I loved so;
I doubt if I'd believe it,
But my feet know where to go.

It seems, somehow, so very odd
How dreams appear to change,
For when, some day, one comes again
Remembered things seem strange.
But really nothing's different,
All things are still the same;
The only difference is the date
On which, both times, one came.

—Wilma May Hulse
Medford
(Composed by the author at age 17.)

The Line

I draw a line on a piece of paper
And it narrows and grows fainter.
I etch it in darker still
And yet, it narrows and grows fainter.
The line stretches further and further,
Yet no one can see the end
Because there is no end.

—Teresa Diederich
'63 graduate of Phoenix High School,
Talent, Ore.

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Illustration enlarged to show detail

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