

Medford Mail Tribune

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Exercise in Perspective

The numbness caused by the wildly conflicting emotions of the terrible four days that shook the world recedes, and the time has come when a more reasonable appraisal is possible.

Such an assessment was made easier, in our case, by the pause for Thanksgiving, a few days away from the bustle of office routine, and a rare long week end for rest, relaxation and thought.

This in turn allowed us to read a large accumulation of daily newspapers from Oregon, published last week, and to ponder on the thoughts and reactions of the editorial writers and columnists.

SEVERAL things are beginning to become clear.

First is the fact that few if any events in the Nation's history have brought the sense of immediate shock and grief and frustration as has the slaughter of its young President. (This was in part due to the role played by the broadcast media, which made it possible for almost everyone to feel a sense of personal participation.)

Second is the fact that President Kennedy's place in history is assured, although it is too soon to assess history's full verdict, whether it be true greatness, or near-greatness cut off before full fruition.

Almost no one, even erstwhile political enemies and opponents, can gainsay the fact that he brought a new style, a new sense of direction and purpose, into our national life.

THIRD, there is widespread agreement that John F. Kennedy was not slain solely by a bullet fired by Lee Harvey Oswald, (if, in fact, it was really him), but that all Americans, to a greater or lesser degree, must bear some measure of guilt for having permitted an increasing climate of hatred, vengeance, violence and extremes of political thought, wholly alien to our tradition, to permeate our national life.

By suffering in silence the ravings of those on the fringes of the American polity, each, in that degree, contributed to that sick climate.

Fourth, the nation is amazingly fortunate, once again, in seeing an orderly succession of governmental leadership — probably the longest tradition of the peaceful and automatic transition of power and authority of any government in the world.

IF THERE can, this soon, to be an emerging consensus in second-thought, these four conclusions must stand out.

What of President Kennedy's actual accomplishments? They were predominantly things of the spirit and the tone of government, rather than actual legislative or executive accomplishments.

There was the gaiety of performance, the courage (as in the Cuban crisis), the sense of moral responsibility too often lacking in high places, the style and wit and intellect which he had himself and which he made a point to seek out and honor, whether it was in a Robert Frost or in a visit to the Mona Lisa.

AND, AS Columnist Allen Haffard wrote from Washington in the Portland Reporter:

"His total commitment was to the cause of human rights, as demonstrated in his firm stands and eloquent appeals when the forces of bigotry and hate threatened to overwhelm both reason and the Constitution."

And Haffard added: "Because his conduct in office so effectively laid to rest one of the outrageous arguments used against him by myopic Protestants in the 1960 campaign, Mr. Kennedy made another contribution to his nation. The so-called 'religious issue' should never again be a part of an American presidential campaign. He proved that when the President takes his solemn oath of office, he means every word of it."

(It should be said, too, that the new direction given the Catholic Church by Pope John XXIII during Mr. Kennedy's incumbency, and also the "education in Catholicism" provided by television coverage of the funeral rites, with which many Americans had no familiarity, also should contribute to this same end.)

FINALLY it can be noted that there is a general consensus that the nation's leadership has fallen into good hands in President Lyndon Johnson. He is skilled in the ways of government and of politics. And this is to say much.

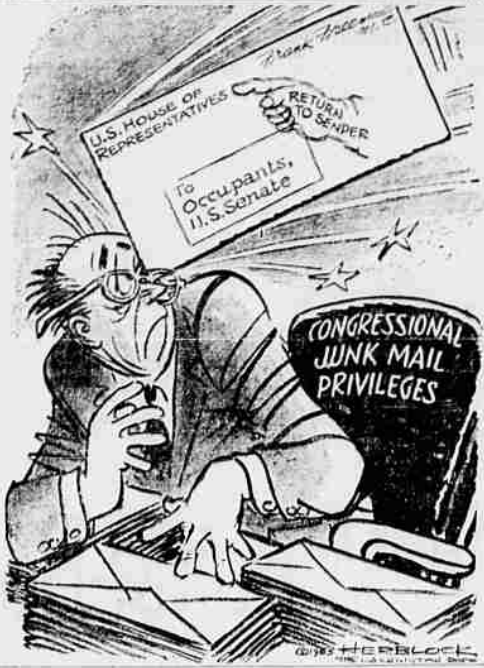
Also he is, according to those who would have an opportunity to know, a man with the qualities of a great human being — courage, loyalty, humanity, humility, pride (no, the two are not necessarily contradictions), patriotism, toughness and determination. Once, when asked to describe himself, President Johnson said:

"I am a free man, an American, a United States Senator and a Democrat, in that order. I am also a liberal, a conservative, a Texan, a rancher, a businessman, a consumer, a parent, a voter, and not as young as I used to be nor as old as I expect to be — and I am all those things in no fixed order."

THE COMING months will, in the words of Ecclesiastes, be "a time to mourn." But they will also be "a time to heal."

A good man, a man who was more universally loved in death than he was in life, has been ripped out of our national life. Another one, not an unknown quantity, has taken his place.

While giving a sorrowful look back, the time is soon coming when we must all look forward again — look forward, employing the qualities of unity with diversity, good will with controversy, unanimity of purpose with difference of approach — in the style and manner, in short, which made the nation great, and which John Kennedy so well exemplified. — E. A.



Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop

(c) New York Herald Tribune Syndicate

WHO ELSE IS THERE?

AVON, Conn. — Judging by this state, it is far too early to say — as so many are now saying — that the new political situation in the country will block the movement to make Sen. Barry Goldwater the Republican Presidential nominee.

Connecticut makes a particularly good test area, precisely because of the tragic assassination of President Kennedy has revolutionized the entire outlook here. As will be recalled, this state led the election night list for Kennedy in 1960, giving him a majority above 90,000.

Once in the White House, moreover, he had gained even more support here. Hence he was universally expected to carry Connecticut next time by up to 200,000 votes, and perhaps by more.

WHILE President Kennedy lived, therefore, no rational Republican had the smallest hope of beating Connecticut's Democratic Senator, Thomas Dodd, and the five Democratic Representatives who are up for re-election. Indeed, Connecticut's sole Republican member of the House, Abner Sibal, was generally thought to be in grave danger.

Even so, Gov. Nelson Rockefeller seemed almost certain to gather in the Connecticut delegates to the Republican Convention — until he remarried. Thereupon, however, former Sen. Prescott Bush made the public attack on the Governor, calling on him to refrain from seeking the Presidential nomination on moral grounds.

From that day to this, no significant Connecticut Republican has come into the open for Rockefeller, although the Governor's political agent-in-chief, George Hinman, has been in constant touch with various leaders here. Meanwhile, the Goldwater supporters were making hay in Connecticut until President Kennedy was assassinated.

THE HEART of the Goldwater movement is in the rich suburban town of Greenwich, where the leaders are four masters of great fortunes, Gerrish Miliken, Jeremiah Milbank Jr., Lowell Weicker, and J. William Middendorf. Middendorf is also National Finance Chairman of the Goldwaterites, and Weicker has been First Selectman of Greenwich since the Goldwater faction overthrew the town's former progressive Republican leadership.

From this Greenwich base, which assures the most lavish financing, the Goldwater movement has rapidly extended outward, into the rest of the state. The official leader, soon to be announced, is a former aspirant to the Governorship and the current Republican State Finance Chairman, Newman Marsitius.

Support for Goldwater by a substantial majority of township leaders is already being claimed. In each township (the basic political unit in this state) Goldwater organizations are already being formed at the grass-roots level. The object, obviously, is to hog-tie the Connecticut Republican convention long before it convenes, and then to take the whole Connecticut delegation for Goldwater as it was taken for Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1952.

No effective obstacle to this scheme was visible anywhere prior to the loss of President Kennedy. This was the case although the best-eyed Goldwaterites were in a decided minority among Connecticut Republicans, who generally lean to the progressive side.

THE PARTY as a whole was (and still is) split seven ways to Sunday, principally by the feud between the former and present chairman, Edwin May and Searle Pinney. Besides being divided among themselves, even those Republicans who were most certain Goldwater would be poison in Connecticut were also certain no one could beat a Kennedy-led ticket here. Thus no effective opposition to Goldwater coalesced anywhere.

Now, however, everything has changed, or at least everything ought to change. President Johnson, while not unpopular, has none of the strong, sure support in Connecticut Kennedy had. In the abstract, it appears entirely possible that the loss of Kennedy can swing Connecticut into the Republican column in 1964.

Against Lyndon Johnson, I think we can win here with anyone but Barry Goldwater," says a Republican leader who wishes to remain nameless, because he thinks he may end by having to give formal support to the conservative Republican hero. "And with the right kind of Presidential nominee, we ought then to have a chance to pick up Dodd's Senate seat and several House seats."

IN OTHER words, the Connecticut Republicans now have a powerful incentive to seek a Presidential candidate more attractive than Goldwater. The incentive is a packet of offices which the Democrats seemed sure to hold while Kennedy lived, but which may now be up for grabs.

Most Republicans agree with the man above: quoted, that these offices will not be up for grabs if Goldwater is the Republican nominee. Against Goldwater, it is generally felt, Johnson ought to get something like the Connecticut majority that Kennedy got last time.

Yet the Rockefeller remarriage continues to discourage party support for him, and everyone glumly asks, "Who else is there, except Gov. Scrantom, who won't make a move?" That is why it may be premature to say Goldwater is blocked.

So is this not exactly the way in which the criminal thinks about his life? The fact that others get caught does not concern or bother him; and he remains steadfast in his belief that he will not get caught himself — and if he does, upon release from prison, he promptly resumes his old ways, just as firmly convinced that he will not be caught again.

The ordinary criminal thinks that crime is a good thing to go into, and that the pleasures outweigh the possible pain or penalty — and so does the confirmed smoker. Neither of them is deterred, even by the thought of death. It is a truism among penologists that when pickpockets were publicly hanged on Tyburn Hill, the remaining pickpockets made their biggest hauls among the crowds watching the hangings.

We are not deterred by objective reality, because we are not moved by objective reality. Our penological system, as it exists today, is a gigantic and wastefully expensive joke society plays on itself.



Many Difficult Problems Face Italy's New Split-Coalition 'Hybrid' Government



By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst

Italy's new center-left government is making its bow this week.

It is a hybrid not totally satisfactory to anyone, the result of a marriage of former political enemies with beliefs widely divergent on subjects ranging from wage and price control to NATO.

But, contrarily, its planners hope it will provide a stability generally lacking in 24 previous Italian governments.

At its head is 47-year-old Christian Democrat Aldo Moro who as his party's secretary has been more accustomed to act as king-maker behind the scenes.

At Moro's side as vice premier is 72-year-old Socialist Pietro Nenni, most of whose stormy career has been spent in opposition, much of it in alliance with the Communists.

Their two parties, in coalition with the smaller Social Democrats and Republicans, make up the new government.

It is a government with a comfortable majority in Italy's 630-member chamber of deputies. But it is also a government of many compromises and its existence will depend on the shaky loyalties of the extreme right within the Christian Democrats and of the extreme left within Nenni's badly split Socialists.

Nenni won approval of participation in the new government by a vote of 59-40 within the party central committee.

Strictly Personal

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

I was having lunch with three friends, all of whom are heavy cigar smokers. The conversation turned to crime and punishment, and all three felt quite strongly that what we need is stricter and more severe punishment of criminals in this country.

When asked why, they agreed that it would act as a "deterrent." If criminals knew that they would be subjected to long and harsh punishment, they insisted, such knowledge would deter them from committing or repeating criminal activities.

I laughed loudly and impolitely, and they turned on me with annoyance. I pointed to the cigars we all smoking furiously. "Tell me," I said, "does what we know about cigar smoking deter us?"

The plain fact of the matter is that the need to commit crimes, like the need to sustain oneself on tobacco, is not rational. And it cannot easily be deterred by rational considerations. Every cigar addict knows this.

Over the years, the "punishment" for cigar smoking has become more severe. Where once we only suspected a health menace, now we are practically certain that heavy smoking contributes to heart disease, lung cancer, and other grave illnesses.

Yet at the same time that our knowledge of the penalty has increased, our per capita consumption of cigars has also increased. More people are smoking more cigars now than ever before, despite the severity of the "sentence" handed down by medical authorities.

Why should this be so? On the conscious level, at least, there are two reasons: first, we don't care what happens to other people from excessive smoking; and second, we don't think it's going to happen to us.

So is this not exactly the way in which the criminal thinks about his life? The fact that others get caught does not concern or bother him; and he remains steadfast in his belief that he will not get caught himself — and if he does, upon release from prison, he promptly resumes his old ways, just as firmly convinced that he will not be caught again.

The ordinary criminal thinks that crime is a good thing to go into, and that the pleasures outweigh the possible pain or penalty — and so does the confirmed smoker. Neither of them is deterred, even by the thought of death. It is a truism among penologists that when pickpockets were publicly hanged on Tyburn Hill, the remaining pickpockets made their biggest hauls among the crowds watching the hangings.

We are not deterred by objective reality, because we are not moved by objective reality. Our penological system, as it exists today, is a gigantic and wastefully expensive joke society plays on itself.

... 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.

Sorrow in England
To the Editor: As an ex-Medfordite now living back in England, I feel I must write and tell you how grieved we all are at the death of President Kennedy.

Myself, I regard it as a deep and personal loss. I remember how I sat up all night on election night praying he would win, even though I could not vote. The people of England, or should I say Britain, are numb with shock and sorrow. Everywhere I go I am met with comments on the sheer senselessness of it. We can't help thinking that all was not done as it should have been to protect the President.

The melodramatic has invaded the tragedy and we have witnessed the shooting of the "alleged" murderer. It seems unreal, as though we are watching a stark Hollywood drama.

Even Mrs. Kennedy is not allowed to grieve her beloved husband in peace. Instead she is barraged by TV cameras and photographers' flash bulbs. Here, I think restraint should have been exercised and the poor, dear woman allowed the privacy she needs at such a time.

How are the "John Birchers" going to react to all this? We suspect that as soon as the first pains are easing they will jump in and make a hey day of the fact that the President was killed by a Communist. Will people listen to them and let themselves be fanned by their hate and venom? Or will they realize that President Kennedy was respected and trusted by the Russians and was looked upon as someone who really did want to end the never ending cold war?

Oh! I could write hundreds and hundreds of words because my heart is full and I feel so helpless. Before closing I will say that the British are trying to learn all they can about President Johnson and are hopeful that he will be running his country on the same lines as President Kennedy.

I am yours sincerely,
Elizabeth A. Claypool
50 Station Rd.
Manchester, England.

Apology
To the Editor: In my communication of last Friday I stated that it was impossible for a Comet automobile to go 100,000 miles in two months and that anyone could figure this out. Well, it is not only possible, but after a telephone call from a sharp-eyed man in Central Point who showed me the error in my calculations, I have no doubt that it was done.

I am compelled to apologize for my mistake. I dislike carelessness in others and cannot stand it in myself. Although I did not feel it necessary to sign my name in the letter of last Friday, I must to this one.

Earl T. Johnson
1412 Crown Ave.
Medford

Court Courtesy
To the Editor: I would like to express my appreciation to the city of Medford and the municipal court in refunding bail for a citation the night of the football game.

I was cited for leaving my car in a driveway. I sent the bail and explained that my car was not where I left it. It may have been easy for the authorities to have ignored my statement. They returned the bail and wrote me a very nice letter. I appreciated their action.

L. F. Buchanan
Wilderville, Ore.
PS: As to the game, the Cavemen were the best team of course. The Tornado group was just plain lucky.

Our Own Destruction
To the Editor: Often in our society we are accustomed to visualizing hatred in various degrees. The one most recognized in recent days was the assassination of our President, the leader of the entire free world. President Kennedy was a dynamic person, chosen by the peoples' majority, and should have been highly respected for the simple fact that he was the President of the United States.

It is even more evident that our religion is being cast far into the background. One should

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

In Caracas, Nicaragua's President Belandier urges American nations to join in "definitive action to END Cuba's communist regime." That, Venezuelan foreign minister told reporters, means ARMED INTERVENTION, if necessary.

That could lead to WAR in the Western Hemisphere. It could lead to WORLD WAR. When war starts, nobody knows how far it may spread. The shooting of an Austrian archduke down in the Balkans started World War I.

But, President Belandier pointed out, Castro's Cuba is a base from which it is designed to spread communism throughout the Western Hemisphere. That, he adds, mustn't be permitted.

Christmas Lighting
To the Editor: On the eve of a gay holiday season we regret to make this announcement to all of our friends and neighbors. The Medford Junior Chamber of Commerce will not be able to coordinate the Christmas lighting this year for the city of Medford.

We have in the past coordinated the lighting contest which was sponsored by a local utility corporation. Word has just been received that due to a budget revision they have been forced to drop the lighting project throughout their system. Without the funds normally supplied for the procuring advertising, printing and other expenses we will be unable to carry out the project as planned. Due to the late date in receiving the information of their withdrawal from the project, we have not been able to find another sponsor.

We wish to urge all of our friends who have participated in the past to once again make our city one of the brightest and most colorful in the state. After coordinating the Medford lighting for years we feel a responsibility to the people of the city of Medford. With the cooperation of the Mail Tribune, the Jaycees will provide a list of the more spectacular displays to visit during your holiday tour of our city.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.
Medford Junior Chamber of Commerce
By W. E. Medford,
External Vice President

Technocracy
To the Editor: America is in the midst of a struggle to fulfill its social destiny — a destiny made possible by its wealth of resources and technology. We are in the midst of a battle between the old and the new — scarcity vs. plenty; hand tools vs. technology; the status quo vs. social change. Political bungling must be replaced by flow-line social control. Confronted by this battle, every American sooner or later must make the choice of either futile apathy or active assistance — or America will go under.

Only Americans under American leadership can build the New America. No importations of European social philosophy — communism, socialism, fascism, clericalism, or any other "ism" — can be permitted to retard America's progress. A new technique of social operation is required. North America alone has the tools and the trained men for this technique. Technocracy lays the issue squarely upon the American people. No one of us can escape the responsibility.

Walter J. Stach
215 N.W. "E" St.
Grants Pass, Ore.

Counted funds are already over the \$50,000 mark. In reply to questions, the Internal Revenue Service says outright gifts are NOT TAXED according to their value. So, presumably, she will be able to keep the bulk of the gifts that are pouring in to her.

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

Dec. 3, 1953 (Thursday)
Sharlene Hopper, 15, Jacksonville, is national first prize winner of a contest recently conducted by Western Union.

20 YEARS AGO

Dec. 3, 1943 (Friday)
Coach Ray Parr issues a challenge to any other six-man football team in Oregon after Talent defeats Rogue River 26-19 to end unbeaten season.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "Everybody now has \$140, according to the treasury department report — a great or take."

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 3, 1933 (Sunday)
Mabel Mack, Jackson County extension agent, and Mrs. Sara Watt Prentiss to speak at Medford "parents school."

"Prink" Callison, former Medford High School coach, invited by University of Texas to discuss head football coaching job there.

40 YEARS AGO

Dec. 3, 1923 (Monday)
Mrs. Loise Nichols, 74, pioneer resident of Jackson County, dies at her home at Eagle Point.

50 YEARS AGO

Dec. 3, 1913 (Wednesday)
Local men's clothing store offers shoes for \$2.95 a pair, hats for \$2.45, shirts for 95 cents, and suits for \$8.90.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. What island in the Arctic region is famous for its hot springs?
2. Who is the dictator of Yugoslavia?
3. Who succeeded Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States?
4. If you are served cafe noir, what do you get?
5. Would a disciple of Izaak Walton be a billiard player, fisherman, racketeer, or a boxer?
6. A person suffering from anthropophobia has a morbid dread of what?
7. During the Crimean War, what English woman became famous as a nurse?
8. Edgar Allen Poe attended what well-known Academy?
9. Name the treaty which officially ended World War I.
10. Complete the saying: "Familiarity breeds"

Answers: 1. Iceland. 2. Marshal Tito. 3. Andrew Johnson. 4. Black Coffee. 5. Fisherman. 6. Of meeting people. 7. Florence Nightingale. 8. West Point. 9. Treaty of Versailles. 10. . . . contempt."

OPEN AIRLINE TALKS
ALGIERS (UPI) — Negotiations opened here today on the establishment of a commercial airline agreement between Algeria and the Soviet Union.