

LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE

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Elsewhere on this page today, Columnist Frank Jenkins discusses "liberal" and "conservative," as used to describe politics.

The debate over the meaning of the two words is ancient. And, as Jenkins points out, the actual meaning changes according to time and place.

Many people who consider themselves to be conservatives actually are radicals. They do not call for the conservation of the existing order, but for the overthrow of institutions long sanctioned by political usefulness.

FORMER Gov. Charles A. Sprague, writing in the Oregon Statesman of Salem, in the light of the nation's recent tragedy and the reassessment and reexamination which resulted from it, thinks that "This ought to be a good time to relax on our categories of liberal and conservative."

He added: "Too often we have made selections and decisions on how we classified persons. And we have been suspicious of the intelligence or the loyalty of those whom we thought were in the 'wrong' category.

PERHAPS, as Governor Sprague suggests, it is time to "relax" a little on our categorizing. But the words do retain some utility, even if only to describe very general attitudes.

Nor do we find the two categories mutually exclusive. President Johnson has claimed to be both liberal and conservative, and maybe he is.

If we have a sense of history and continuity and tradition, and hold to those things which are good, while at the same time not ruling out change if change is called for, can we not truthfully claim to be both liberal and conservative in outlook?

To be otherwise is to be hidebound, and trapped in a pattern of thought and attitude, and to be unrealistic about the facts of political and social life.—E.A.

Slow Poke Congress

It is becoming increasingly evident that something is going to have to be done about Congress.

And Congress is the only body that can do anything.

Is it too much to ask that the national legislature reform itself? It has on past occasions, but the changes have seldom been radical.

The Sacramento Bee, in summing up the record of the present session, said: "Congress stalled, buck passed, was quick with the promise and miserably slow on performance, and failed by a country mile of meeting the imaginative challenge of the 1960s."

True, it applauded President Johnson more than 30 times during his brief address, but it also applauded President Kennedy liberally during both of his State of the Union messages, then got down to the serious business of obstructing him wherever — it seemed — he wanted to move the nation forward.

THE MOST difficult, and most vicious, of the Congressional maladies is the seniority system, whereby simple old age and a "safe" constituency add up to powerful committee chairmanships.

In what other form of organization would we find a Byrd in command of finances, an Eastland in command of judicial legislation, or a Smith in command of rules?

It's little wonder the Congress is stalled at almost dead center when it permits itself to be ruled by crotchety and prejudiced men, with built-in biases. But it is amazing that the majority either cannot or will not make the necessary changes.

WHILE the changes must come from within, it is possible that two exterior forces will ultimately make the internal changes possible.

One is the reapportionment being imposed on a number of states. This will permit the gradual change in representation in state legislatures, which in turn would permit the redrawing of Congressional district boundaries, and a resulting greater representation of city dwellers.

The other is the movement to get Negroes registered to vote, particularly in the South. In many cases where Negroes are now virtually disfranchised, they will tip the balance of power if and when they are registered in sufficient numbers. And this too will result in some fresh new faces in Congress.

MEANWHILE, Congress has enacted only two or three major bills so far this year. It has not yet even acted on many appropriation measures, forcing federal agencies to operate on a month-by-month basis, thus not allowing planning ahead.

It has stalled on the tax cut bill; it has stalled on Civil Rights; it has stalled on Medicare, and on urban transit aid, and on wilderness legislation, and on the youth conservation corps and on retraining programs.

There is a third external force which could impel Congress to act. It would be an aroused citizenry, telling its Representatives to get cracking or else. But sadly, viewing the usual apathy demonstrated by the average voter, this appears to be a remote possibility. — E. A.



Illustration by [Name] showing a public debate on foreign policy.

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 initials for publication is permissible.

Here We Go Again To the Editor: The Soviet News Agency, Tass, was the first to blame President Kennedy's assassination on the Right Wing.

They clutter the streets — and the mails — with their slanderous obscenities, urging impressionable teen-agers and unstable adults to acts of hate, terror and intimidation.

They have brought forth the bombs and ignited the flames that have killed decent Americans and even innocent children and destroyed churches and other temples of worship.

It must have been quite a shock to learn that the assassin was a Communist, a man who demanded permission to communicate with a New York lawyer (John J. Abt) notorious for defending Communists.

Without losing a single "downbeat" the liberal "song" has changed. It now goes this way. The conservatives (alias "extremists," "ultra-rightists," or "hate groups") are the ones who have created the atmosphere of hate and distrust in America which nourishes violence.

Meaning Altered To the Editor: Thank you for the generous space given my notes on Dr. Waskow's address to the Medford and Ashland Human Rights Councils.

I should like to call attention to two typographical errors in the article in question which change the meaning considerably.

So much so that I'm beginning to do a slow "burn." This is an insult to the intelligence of the average American.

It isn't the Conservative patriots of America who have created the atmosphere which has created the Castro-loving Marxist and "confessed Communist" assassin grew up in, and flourished in, to finally put his killer sights on our President.

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These questions have apparently been bothering the members of the Portland Junior Chamber of Commerce — as they have most of the rest of us who read the political news.

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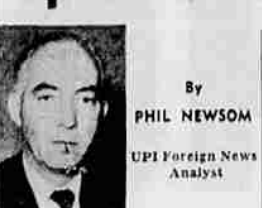
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Khrushchev's Struggle To Bring Russia Up to U.S. Standards Beseet by Problems



By PHIL NEWSOM UPI Foreign News Analyst

Under the leadership of Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Union has had but one standard of comparison, the United States.

For the people of the 15 Soviet republics, living on broken promises, it has been a tragedy. For Khrushchev, first secretary of the Communist party since 1953 and premier since 1958, it has been an example of personal indestructibility.

On July 30, 1961, the Soviet Communist party announced its third program, a milestone in the history of communism.

The first program had been drawn up in 1903 and called for "the overthrow of the Czarist autocracy" and the "establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat."

The second program, drawn up by Lenin in 1919, had for its goal the "building of a Socialist society."

The third, drawn up under Khrushchev, declared: "In the current decade (1961-1970) the Soviet Union will surpass the strongest and richest capitalist country, the United States, in production per head of population; the people's standard of living and their cultural and technical standards will improve substantially... hard physical work will disappear..."

Actually, the Washington Honeymoon bears no resemblance at all to a honeymoon in civilized countries. Indeed, it more closely conforms to The Secret Vestal Virgin Sacrifice & Pig Roast Festival as practiced by the aboriginal Quixiotti Indians of North Ugulap.

The victim of the Washington Honeymoon, however, is a mature adult male. Otherwise the rites are identical. The subject is placed on a high altar. All then dance around him, singing his praises, crying out what a fine man he is, what a pillar of virtue, what a tower of strength.

And each native competes to shout the loudest and most laudatory tributes.

The ritual of the Washington Honeymoon lasts from 30 to 100 days. Then, just as with the Quixiotti, every native draws his knife and they chop the victim into tiny little pieces.

The Quixiotti, of course, have a clear dogma for their Vestal Virgin Sacrifice. They believe it appeases the Great God Mbumu and prevents him from transforming North Ugulap into a mound of iguana guano.

They took a vote, called it a DRAW, and thanked the speakers for a very interesting program. One can't help wondering if, after hearing both sides, they were any clearer in their minds as to the fundamental differences between liberalism and conservatism.

QUESTION: How did it all get started? It's an interesting story.

HISTORICALLY, the terms Liberal and Conservative track back to the Tory and Whig parties in England, which began to fall apart in the mid-1800's.

By 1890, two NEW parties emerged — the Conservatives, led by Benjamin Disraeli, and the Liberals, led by William Gladstone.

The Liberals became stout supporters of "laissez faire" French for "let 'er go, Gallager" They OPPOSED state intervention in the interest of the working class — which more or less beset at the root of modern liberalism.

PROGRESS, Dr. Roberts said in rebuttal, is the credo of liberalism. The mood of liberalism, he contended, is optimism. It thinks of human rights rather than property right as the ends of public policy.

LIBERALISM, he concluded, "is a POINT OF VIEW. Let us be sensitive to the human needs for liberty, justice, individual self-realization, physical security, material necessities and for the greatest opportunity for all to share the blessings of our society."

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He also failed to note that while production was increasing, so was the Soviet population at the rate of 3.5 million per year.

With Soviet space accomplishments in mind, there is no disposition to discount Soviet technical ability. Rather, U.S. experts are inclined to attribute Soviet failures to too much haste and too little planning.

But it is easy to see why Khrushchev, beset by problems on every side, has need for haste.

Strictly Personal

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

IDENTIFICATION If we can understand a saint, then we can understand a man. And if we can understand a man, then we can know how he ought to behave, and how he was meant to behave.

What is the one characteristic that all saints have in common? It is not piety or love of God, as commonly understood, for some saints did not believe in God (as we conceive Him), and many people are pious who are far from saintly.

The quality they all have in common is Identification. Through some mysterious process, only dimly perceived by the rest of us, they are able to identify with the full range of creation.

They identify with the leper and criminal, with the disfigured and the stupid, with the thief and the alien, with the coward and the heretic, with the beast in the field, the bird in the air, and fish in the sea. They comprehend the sharingsness of creation.

A saint is a man (and woman, too, of course) in his fullness, just as an oak tree is an acorn in its fullness. He is what a man is meant to be, a model, an archetype, a goal that is given us.

This is what all religion is about, despite the doctrinal differences. It is about the proper way to be a human being — the first and only lesson worth learning in life, and the ultimate end of all education.

The more creatures unlike oneself that one can identify with, the more fully one enters into humanness. This is the whole message of the saints; this is why Jesus moved among the poor, the afflicted, the disreputable, the outcasts, the dregs of society.

At the one end of the human spectrum, we have the pure egotist who cares for no one and nothing but himself; such persons are rare. Then we have the tribal types who are kind and loyal to their own family only. Then those who recognize the claim of the community, beyond the family. And then those who accept a nation composed of many similar communities.

This is as far as man has gone in his spiritual and moral and emotional development. He can identify only with the similar, and not with the unlike. He cannot see the similarities beneath the difference; the differences frighten and anger him. His identification is narrow, partial, and fatally provincial.

The parent who identifies only with his own children is better than the one who does not, but he is still limited — true parenthood means identifying with all children everywhere. Could we move a few steps further in that direction, war would become as inconceivable as fathers slaying their own children.

Today and Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann (C) 1963 The Washington Post

GOVERNMENT UNWORKABLE This session of Congress has a spectacular record of refusing to consider the major proposals of the Chief Executive.

Other than the muffled of representative democracy by coalitions of the mass parties. Austria and Belgium are ruled by coalitions which exclude or compromise the issues between the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats, the two parties to which the great mass of the people belongs.

Italy is now experimenting with such a coalition, and there is reason to think that West Germany will have to come to it, also. Only in Britain, the Scandinavian countries and Switzerland is representative democracy working well.

WHETHER the solution is authoritarian, as under Salazar, Franco and De Gaulle, or is a coalition which suspends party conflict, the common element is the liberation of the Executive from the paralyzing grip of the representative assembly.

This problem, which is the central theme of West European politics, is also our central problem. I do not know what will happen if we cannot remedy the paralysis of the Executive. But I do know that there is no greater necessity for men who live in communities than that they be governed, self-governed if possible, well-governed if they are fortunate, but in any event governed.

If the diagnosis is correct, if the trouble from which we suffer is that the legislature paralyzes the Executive, then the remedy is, I submit, clear. It is also simple.

LET EACH house of the Congress pass a rule that any measure proposed by the President and certified as important must be put to a vote by some specified date or within some specified time.

The rules and practices of the House of Commons make possible the fantastic spectacle of a tax proposal by the President in the summer of 1962 which will not be ready to be voted on at the beginning of 1964. When I was in London recently, I asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what he would do if he had to operate under such conditions. I can only report that he was speechless.

There are a number of other things that ought to be changed in Congress, notably the excessive respect for seniority. But a rule which gives indisputable priority to a request of the President is, I believe, the essential reform to make the congressional system workable.

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. 11, 1953 (Friday) Low bids totalling almost \$1,000,000 on two Jackson County highway projects received in Portland by State Highway Commission.

Dale Smith, a Central Point 4-H club member, has purchased a Galloway bull and two Galloway heifers; the animals are among the first of the breed to be introduced into Jackson County.

20 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1933 (Saturday) Charles B. Warner resigns as executive head of Crater Lake Council, Boy Scouts of America, after serving one year in job.

From Arthur Perry's "Ye Smudge Pot" column: "The hull in Dan Cupid's business has picked up, and Christmas will see many couples looking preachers in the eye."

30 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1903 (Monday) Medford school superintendent reports city schools now have enough money for full school year following passage of sales tax; schools started year with only enough money for 4 1/2 months.

A. E. Reames nominated as director of University of Oregon alumni association for state.

40 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1923 (Tuesday) George Hunt introduced by W. H. Gore as new member of Medford Rotary Club; Mayor George L. Baker of Portland featured speaker.

Joseph M. Schaffner of Hart, Schaffner and Marx clothing company, guest of W. F. Isaacs, Medford.

50 YEARS AGO

Dec. 11, 1913 (Thursday) Many signatures reported for charter amendment halting salaries of mayor and councilmen and for recall of three members of city council.

C. E. Whisler, Medford, elected president of State Horticulture Society; Medford chosen as site of 1914 convention.

What's Your I.Q.?

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

1. Was the mimeograph invented by Thomas A. Edison, Henry Ford, or John Hays Hammond?

2. Do ticks have four, six, or eight legs?

3. How many stars are worn as the insignia of a General of the Army?

4. What country controls the Sea of Azov?

5. In which city was the first United States Government mint established?

6. Was Percy Bysshe Shelley a famous Swedish, English, or French poet?

7. Trees never stop growing as long as they live; true or false?

8. What breed of cat is tailless?

9. Would an invidious remark be most likely to provoke laughter, resentment, or indifference?

10. What state does Henry M. Jackson represent in the U.S. Senate?

Answers: 1. Thomas A. Edison. 2. Eight. 3. Five. 4. Soviet Russia. 5. Philadelphia, Pa. 6. English. 7. True. 8. Manx. 9. Resemtent. 10. Washington.