



BROADWAY AND MAIN STREET

Handsome Is, Handsome Does: Case of Mind Over Mattress

By BILLY ROSE

At a spaghetti salon, I got to talking with a reformed bootlegger who is currently the Mister Big of a big whiskey company. "What do you hear from the mob?" I asked. "Anything that would fill up three sheets of copy paper?"

The former Man of Extinction thought a minute. "There's one story I don't remember seeing in print," he said. "It's about an old man named Ronowitz who ran a candy store on the East Side around the time Dutch Schultz was buying his first delivery trucks. . . ."



Billy Rose

One night as the storekeeper was about to lock up, a hoodlum stepped into the shop and pressed a gun against the old man's middle. "Hide me somewhere," he said.

The old man knew better than to argue with a revolver. "Who's chasing you?" he asked, as he opened the trap door which led to the cellar.

"Some fellas from Jersey." When they got to the basement, Ronowitz pointed to a couple of old mattresses near the coal bin. "Lay down," he said, "and I'll make a sandwich."

A minute later the storekeeper had rolled man and mattresses into a bundle and tied it up with a piece of old clothline.

AS HE STARTED back up to the store, a couple of men, guns in hand, came down the stairs. "What-cha doin' in the cellar?" asked one. "Bankin' the furnace," said the old man.

The gents from Jersey poked around in the trash barrels, examined the coal bin and then came to the rolled-up mattresses.

"I'll throw a bullet into them for luck," said one of them. "You been seen' too many movies," said the other. "Let's try the roof."

The mobsters went upstairs and Ronowitz heard the door bang. He banked the fire, and waited in his store until he saw the men climb into a car and drive off. Then he went back down and untied the mattresses.

"You done fine, Pop," said the fugitive, taking a wad of bills out of his pocket. "Tell me when to stop countin'."

"Such money I don't take," said the old man. "Ya kin have anything ya

want," said the gangster. "Make a wish. Better yet, make three wishes like in them fairy stories."

"Well," said the storekeeper, "I hear in a couple weeks some guy from the West Side is opening a candy store on the next block."

"He ain't gonna open," said the hoodlum. "Keep talkin'."

"The man who sells me my chocolate syrup, all of a sudden he wants a 15 per cent mark-up." "I'll discuss it with him. Chances are you'll get a reduction. One more wish to go—this time make it good."

"That's all I can think of," said Ronowitz, "excepting maybe you'd like to tell me how it felt when you was in the mattress."

THE GANGSTER'S lips tightened. "You're makin' fun of me, Pop," he said, "and I don't like it. I wanted to pay ya off nice and proper, but since ya don't want it that way, maybe I better try somethin' else."

Ten minutes later, as per phone instructions from the hoodlum, a black car drove up and Ronowitz was pushed into the back seat. The car headed north and kept going until it parked near a wooden bridge somewhere in Westchester.

The driver took some chains from the luggage compartment, put a heavy piece of scrap iron on the old man's middle, and then lashed his legs to his chest so the metal was wedged in between.

"Throw him over when I count three," said the hoodlum.

"One—"

"The old man braced himself and wondered who would mind the store the next day."

Suddenly the gangster grinned. He walked over and began to undo the chains.

"Now you got your answer, Pop," he said. "That's how I felt when I was in the mattress."

Truth

If all the world was rosy, all evil vanquished, and right prevailed, how ideal it would be. Newspapers would proclaim the wonder in step with other public services. But, Alas, it is not so.

Some indeed would ask the press to paint all matters with rose and gold. However truth does not always carry the more pleasant colors for its banners and there is no substitute for truth. Whenever a newspaper forgets its responsibility to report the truth to the community it serves, the rigors of death have already set in. May this never be our fate.

When Emerson stated "There is nothing more terrible than an eloquent man who will not speak the truth", we would add, "nor a penman who scribes untruth".

To be sure evil will be harmed and hypocrisy will cry unjust, but there is no substitute for truth. The people shall be informed.

Why Be Hasty?

Why be hasty in our unionization program? Why rush into something that would better the Canyon's youth? After all a new school would only prepare our youth of today for better citizens tomorrow. Rome wasn't built in a day. Inadequate buildings and limited curriculums are good enough for the juniors in our high school. The students in the sophomore class should not be considered. Why be hasty in our action. Hang the welfare of the students. Rather let us consider our personal prejudices and petty thinking. Let us deliberate, hope for the ideal to come to pass, by some act of magic construct the new building then talk seriously about unionization. No hurry though.

"Caution" must be the keyword. "Mistrust" our motive. "Doubt" our password.

Above all hast must not be included in the vocabulary of our thinking. Unionize? Sure—but, it's later than you think!

The Press and CVA

by RICHARD L. NEUBERGER

Four dailies in small communities are supporting CVA. They are, in order of size, the Wenatchee, Wash. World; the Pendleton, Ore., East Oregonian; the Lewiston, Idaho, Tribune, and the Hood River, Ore., Sun.

Practically all other newspapers in the Northwest are vigorously opposing the CVA. A lone exception among the large dailies is the Oregonian, which declines to endorse the President's bill but believes "some sort of over-all regional agency is necessary."

The argument voiced most frequently is that CVA also is linked

with "socialism" and "statism". The contention is made that the region is getting along splendidly without the CVA. The Democrats also are charged with making a partisan issue of support of CVA, a claim voiced by the Oregonian as well as by dailies fighting CVA.

No corresponding criticism is directed against the Republicans for making a partisan issue of opposition to CVA.

The Pacific Northwest Development Association has been played "straight" by the press of the region. No analysis has been printed of its contributions from private power companies. In fact, power company hostility to CVA rarely receives attention from the press.

Ironically enough, many of the adjectives now used against CVA were employed in 1903 against the proposal of Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot to set aside the upland woodlands in forest reserves. Indeed, the Oregon legislature of that year denounced the Pinchot proposal in much the same language as CVA now is being condemned. One particular phase stands out. The Congress was urged not to turn over the timber to "Theorists."

Although press backing for CVA is slim inside the Northwest, some of the great papers of the nation have

endorsed CVA. Most of these papers are published in the East or Middle West. The influential dailies, unequivocally committed to CVA, are the New York Times, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Washington, D. C. Star, Washington Post, Washington News (Scripps-Howard), Chicago Sun-Times and Milwaukee Journal.

It is not without significance that some of the publications, notably the Washington Star and the Scripps-Howard chain, are conservatively Republican in their editorial sympathies.

(Mr. Neuberger has recently undertaken an analysis of the press and the CVA for the Nieman Journalism Foundation at Harvard University. The publisher of this paper has long been an advocate of CVA and MVA, believing that some long range projects are too big to be set up and operated in any other fashion for the benefit of the people as a whole. The success of the authority plan of control has been proved by the New York Harbor Authority and TVA.)

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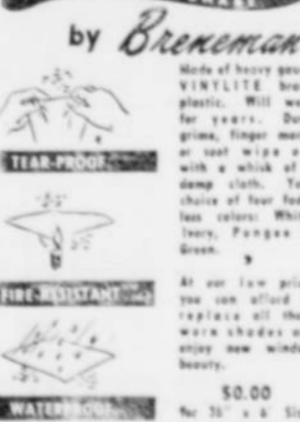
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For the other nine men to buy.  
—George L. Steffy, Chairman  
Industrial Development Com.  
Mill City Chamber of Commerce

REGISTRATION CLOSES APRIL 18



Ramage's

Editor's Letter Box:

SCHOOL BOARDS

To the Editor: A recent article in the National Education Association's Journal stated "that school boards in America must respond to the temper and tensions of the times or they may eventually become extinct."

It would be safe to say that the above statement might apply to any state in the union and Oregon is no exception.

It is time the people realized the importance of voting at school elections whether they have children in school or not, for America's future is built through it's school system.

Over the years there have been, and still are, countless examples where schools have been hampered financially, academically and morally simply because of a leave-it-to-the-other-fellow attitude by the electorate. This situation has caused such things as (1) certain citizens holding the official reins of the school within their immediate families year in and year out; (2) secret board meetings and intrigue; (3) playing politics; (4) unwise spending of taxpayers' money; (5) absorbing petty administrative details and in countless cases causing capable and qualified teachers and administrators to be discharged without any basic reason.

We must realize a school board is elected to represent all the people, so admitting this fact we would also have laws strictly adhered to in their regard. Perhaps the following suggestions would help in some way to alleviate the shortcomings of our present system:

- (1) Make it compulsory that

notices of all school elections be published in local newspapers. (The present posting of notices is not sufficient.)

(2) A code of ethics pertaining to all school-board members.

(3) Polls of public opinion of school issues.

(4) Orientation by the county school superintendent of all new board directors.

(5) A determined interest in school affairs by the people at large.

Fundamentally, Oregon has a very progressive educational system, but in our efforts to make it better with changing times let us not forget we all have a monetary interest in it as well as a social and moral obligation as pertains to our children and ourselves, FRANKLYN E. SMITH, —The Oregonian

REGISTRATION TO VOTE CLOSES APRIL 18—IT IS YOUR PRIVILEGE  
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From where I sit ... by Joe Marsh

"Curfew Shall Not Ring Tonight"

Our ten o'clock curfew lasted for 50 years, but the town council voted it out. I dropped in at the meeting in Town Hall last week just in time to hear Smiley Roberts.

"The curfew is old-fashioned," says Smiley. "We ought to be grown-up enough by now to behave like grownups. Seeing to it that our kids get to bed is the responsibility of each family." Then Judge Cunningham adds, "Most of us are in bed when the curfew horn blows anyway. It wakes me up just when I'm getting to sleep!"

What the Judge said was good

for a laugh, but Smiley just about summed up how folks think in this town. We believe that the democratic tradition of "live and let live" is the only way to live.

From where I sit, it's not the American way to regulate your life by a horn—any more than it's right to criticize my caring for a temperate glass of beer now and then. Think what you wish, say what you wish, but don't ask your neighbor to do exactly as you do!

Joe Marsh

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