Herald and News

Editorial Page

Proposal Demands Study

While we have not had opportunity to study the significance of Gov. Hatfield's sweeping government reorganization programs, they appear to have considerable merit, on the surface, at least.

Weighed against the obvious advantages of tightened control is the disadvantage of concentration of power. Here is the sticker. Our knowledge of Oregon background and history is limited, and it is difficult to determine if Oregon needs, or is ready for the type of change Gov. Hatfield urges.

But, generally, we would favor reorganization of the type proposed. When considering the specific groups, agencies, or committees affected, it is possible that conditions exist that would alter our thinking.

For instance, we note that the shakeup affects such powerful lay agencies as the highway commission, board of education, board of health, public welfare commission, liquor control and racing commissions, and fish and game commissions.

The action would reduce these and other commissions to little more than advisory groups.

Sometimes it is pretty hard to get action from these commissions and from committees that are little more than advisory or appeal groups. Matters that cry for action wallow around in the indecision and pulling and hauling that are characteristic of committees. Sometimes there is just too much divergence of opinion to permit effective work by a committee.

On the other hand, concentration of power in an individual, or a select group of individuals is contrary to the best interests of the political body, whether it be county, state, or nation.

This could be labeled a "nothing" editorial. The only point is that we should not jump on the governor's proposal with band wagon glee; nor should we fail to consider it as an approach to solution of existing state government problems.

Shake Out Boondoggling

Senator Byrd of Virginia, who is chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and a top national authority on fiscal affairs, is "deeply concerned, both as a tax-paying citizen and as a public servant," over the entire $40 billion dollar Federal Interstate Highway Program.

In just five years, he points out, the estimated cost of the program has risen from $23 billion to $39.9 billion—a jump of 73 per cent. The actual cost may exceed $50 billion by 1975. In his view, the program as now constituted has certain built-in defects. These include excess costs, bad planning and crash aspects, gingerbread design and extravagances, loose administrative practices, irregularities and profiteering.

This informed view should certainly be of top interest to the country's 60 million-plus users—who now pay $8.8 billion a year in highway related taxes, including some $5 billion in federal and state gasoline taxes. They just aren't getting their money's worth.

The urgent current need, Senator Byrd emphasizes, is for both state and federal governments to look long and hard at the program, and take the steps that are necessary if each dollar of expenditure is to buy the people a dollar's worth of road. In that, public opinion should be unanimously behind him.

Election Laws Need Revision

Nearly 70 million voters cast ballots in the general election just concluded. What most people do not know is that but for our archaic voting laws the turnout of voters last November could have approached the 80 million mark. Between 5 and 10 million American citizens were forced to stand on the sidelines while their fellow citizens went to the polls. These 5 to 10 million disenfranchised citizens were deprived of the right to vote for president because they had moved recently and could not meet the residency requirements in the states to which they had moved.

We have become a mobile nation, not only for pleasure but of necessity. Countless thousands of persons employed by larger corporations have to change residences as they are transferred or promoted. When this happens shortly before a presidential election under our present laws they automatically lose the right to vote for president.

The irony of the situation is expressed with feeling by one victim of disenfranchisement who was recently promoted and transferred by a major oil company. He writes, "We were being exhorted on all sides to get out and vote. When Arthur Godfrey told my wife 'to get off your duff and vote' she wrote him immediately saying she would be glad to but the states would not let her. She committed a terrible crime – she moved! . . . ."

There should never be another election in which millions of American citizens lose the right to vote for president because they move from one state to another. The first order of business of state legislatures should be to modernize our election registration procedure.

Those Nativity Scenes

We are glad to see state officials take a firm stand supporting the installation of nativity scenes on state property in Portland and Salem.

The protests against the scenes are almost absurd. One has to stretch to infinity the concept that the displays constitute an invasion of individual "rights" — no matter what his religious beliefs, or lack of belief.

The chairman of the so-called Oregon Civil Liberties Union could have picked almost any number of projects to get himself heard and known. By picking on the Christmas scenes, he has made himself an almost unbelievable fool.

THEY SAY . . .

We've had disagreements, but that makes married life more interesting.
—Peter Peterson, 100, of Fairview, Utah, on his 83-year marriage.

The United States has the economy of a garrison state, with the AEC and the Pentagon blocking every move toward disarmament. We're so far committed on this course that, if some miracle happened and disarmament were announced on a Friday . . . the stock market would collapse on Monday.
—Socialist Norman Thomas.

BARBS

Young couples soon will turn from roller skating to ice skating and "sit this one out."

Some people are wonders at talking and that's when wonders never cease.

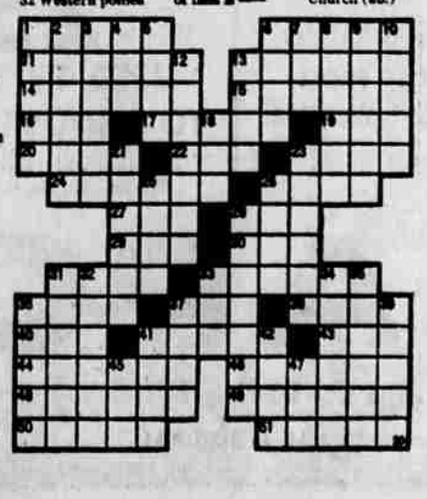
Speaking his piece at home is one sure way for a husband to get himself ignored.

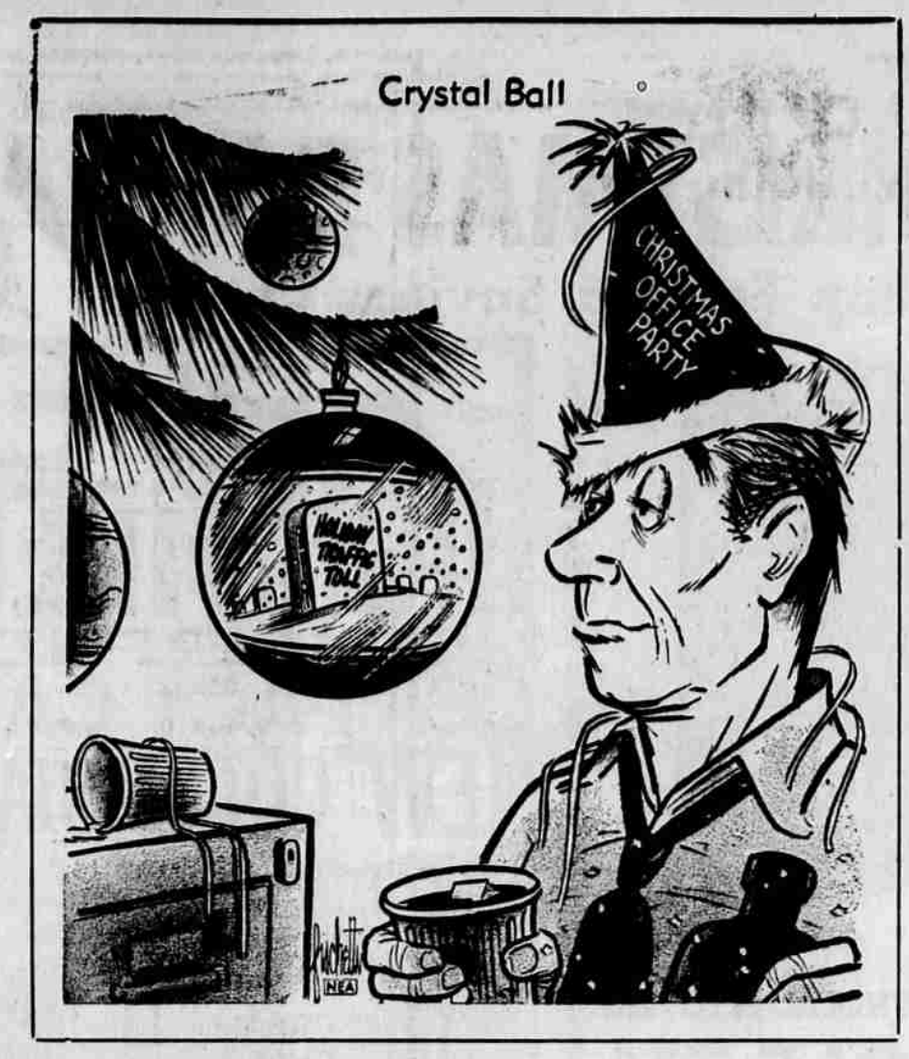
Actor

ACROSS
1 Motion picture actor, Frederic ——
6 He has won two Academy ——s
11 Residences
13 Click beetle
14 Make free from tension
15 Unruffled
16 Scottish cap
17 Mends, as socks
19 Bleat
20 War god
22 Scottish sheepfold
23 Mutilate
24 Herds
26 Large oven
27 Rowing tool
28 Light brown
29 Yugoslav city
30 Goddess
31 Obvious
33 Reluctant
36 Animal's home
37 Open (poet.)
38 He is a well-known screen ——
40 Alder tree
41 Smells
43 Era
44 Withdraw
46 Cuddle
48 Foodstuff dealer
49 Lengthy discourse
50 City in Germany
51 Trials

DOWN
1 Island in the Mediterranean
2 On ahoy
3 Lodger
4 Cards (ab.)
5 Listen to
6 Drinks made with malt
7 Small mass
8 Kettledrum
9 Keep
10 Sleeping vision
12 Trappers
13 Domestic slave
18 Legal point
21 Earlier
23 Coal diggers
25 Futile
26 Brambling
28 Inns
31 Rowers
32 Western ponies
33 GI's address (ab.)
34 Conditions
35 Young bird of prey
36 His following of fans is ——
37 German river
39 Organ parts
41 Biblical name
42 Denomination
45 Frozen water
47 Holy Roman Church (ab.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle





GOALS FOR AMERICANS . . .

Committee Asks 'Talent Salvage' In Education

By JOHN W. GARDNER
President of Carnegie Corporation

One of a series of easy-to-read condensations from chapters written by eminent American authorities for book publication by Prentice-Hall with the Report from President Eisenhower's Commission on National Goals. Edited by Ray Cromley for Newspaper Enterprise Assn. (Copyright 1960, the American Assembly.)

In dealing with students, the first goal is equality of opportunity. By 1970 we should have achieved a deeper understanding of this phrase. We should have become keenly aware of all forces that limit individual growth. We should have learned much about how to cope with these forces.

We are still losing large numbers of talented young people who terminate their education short of their full potentialities. Why do we lose them? Can we prevent the loss? We are just beginning to find answers to these crucial questions.

During the 1960s intensive research should be applied to the problem of "talent salvage."

Our cities will still have slums in 1970. In such neighborhoods the school must be especially good. The child outside of school may be subjected to conditions that do not stimulate his intellectual growth. The school may be the only lifeline for development of his potentialities.

While the proportion of women in the labor force has been increasing rapidly, their rate of entry into the professions has declined.

Women win some 30 per cent of the B.A. degrees. They take only about 10 per cent of the Ph. D.s. Such waste of talent is a relic of the past. We can afford it no longer.

From the earliest years, girls should be actively encouraged in the development of their intellectual capacities. Teachers and parents should recognize that women are capable of advanced education in any field, including mathematics, science, engineering, medicine and law.

Every field requiring advanced training should encourage the entry of women. A woman's family obligations may make it necessary to modify the pattern of graduate and professional training established by and for men. Her professional career may also involve departures from the masculine norm.

Colleges and graduate schools should make it easy for women to continue their education part time, or to interrupt it.

Each child should have the benefit of an educational program designed to suit his capacities and to develop him to the limit of his potentialities—whatever that limit may be. None should be required to fit a pace and pattern of education designed for children of other capacities.

Children of differing potentialities must know how to live and work together. All are worthy of respect as human beings. They should never be handled in a way that some appear to belong to an elite group.

The comprehensive high school works to this end by keeping all students in the same educational community. Students of every level of ability sit in the same homeroom, play on the same teams, act in the same plays. The tradition of the comprehensive high school must be strengthened.

An adequate program for gifted youngsters is not favoritism. They do not need more attention than other children. They need a different kind.

Attempts to identify children of unusual potentialities should begin when schooling begins. If the child's family and neighborhood background are culturally impoverished, the school may be the only channel through which his gifts can be nourished. The sooner they are discovered the better.

Children of high academic talent should be given the opportunity to move more rapidly. There should be various forms of grouping by ability from the earliest years of school.

It is equally important that thoughtful attention be given to the needs of the so-called "slow learners."

Modern life has pressed urgent and sharply-defined tasks on education, tasks of producing certain kinds of educated talent. For the sake of our future we had better succeed in these tasks.

But they cannot crowd out the great basic goals of our educational system: to foster individual fulfillment and to nurture the free, rational and responsible men and women without whom our kind of society cannot endure. Our schools must prepare all young people, whatever their talents, for the serious business of being free men and women.

YOUR POCKETBOOK

Reduce Borrowing, Boost Your Savings

By FAYE HENLE

You and your employer have more of a financial stake in the nation's free enterprise system than at any time since the end of World War II.

As the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank's monthly review points out, the kind of assets you hold tell the story of where you have placed your faith.

When you put your surplus dollars in bank accounts and government securities, you've pledged your faith in the financial system and the federal government.

But when you put those dollars into the securities of private companies, when you borrow from business to make purchases and the business world is awaiting your repayment, you and the business world have pledged your faith in each other.

Obviously there are more risks in the second situation. Now look at what has happened to the public's holdings of various types of assets in the past 15 years:

Consumer holdings of common stock increased from 28 to 45 per cent of the public's total claim to wealth. More than twice as many people own common stock today as did seven years ago.

Currency, bank deposits, savings shares and government securities have shrunk from 50 per cent to 30 per cent of the public's total wealth.

Consumer credit plus business holdings of trade receivables (money owed from other companies) rose from about 30 per cent to almost 50 per cent of business wealth. Liquid assets now represent only about two-fifths of business wealth, as opposed to three-fifths 15 years ago.

What does all this mean for your pocketbook even if you don't own stocks and are not heavily in debt? To find out, we have to look back those 15 years.

As we emerged from World War II, the prediction was for widespread unemployment and hard times for all. That didn't happen because in the immediate postwar years, people held a relatively high amount of liquid assets.

Their debts were relatively low. They wanted many things—homes and cars, refrigerators, washers, radio and TV. As fast as the items became available they were bought, and the biggest danger we faced was runaway inflation.

Today a great many of our needs have been satisfied. We have spent and borrowed to satisfy them. Anxious to increase our wealth, we and our employers have invested money in areas where the hope is high it will grow.

But while our economy is far more secure against financial shocks than it has been in the past, we should not forget that there exist no overall economic policies that insure continued high level of common stock prices or insure the money owed to business by other businesses or by consumers.

A sharper stock market decline than we have already suffered could further cut the level of our spending, make it more difficult for debtors to repay and further weaken prosperity.

Already a great many of us are aware of this. We have cut out borrowing and stepped up our saving. We won't be safe, however, until each one of us understands that as never before, we depend upon each other to maintain prosperity.

Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 20, the 355th day of the year with 11 more in 1960.

The moon is approaching its first quarter.

The morning star is Mars.

The evening stars are Mars, Saturn and Venus.

On this day in history:

In 1860, the state of South Carolina voted unanimously in special convention in Charleston to secede from the United States of America.

In 1880, New York City's Broadway became the "Great White Way" as it was illuminated by electricity for the first time.

Thought for today: English poet Matthew Arnold said: "Conduct is three-fourths of our life and its largest concern."

NOTHING SPECIAL

(W. B. S.)

I suppose you've heard of the electrician who gave all of his friends shorts for Christmas?

We hear much about the alleged efficiency of "big business" as contrasted to the waste of big government. Sometimes, I'm not so sure about big business. For instance, every day we receive pounds and pounds of mail addressed to individuals who have been long long gone from the Herald and News. (Yes, the companies in question have been notified of their departure.) And then, other firms will address three or more pieces of the same literature to one or more individuals here. And another big waste is the junk mail that comes pouring in every day. I know that we are not the only firm that experiences this irritating and unnecessary flow.

And the silly practice of mailing out thousands of silly and insincere "Christmas cards" by large industrial and manufacturing firms hardly bears comment. Mailing Christmas cards on the local level by one business representative or salesman to his accounts is one thing—to send out a nation-wide barrage of cards from and to persons who hardly know each other is something else.

One of the biggest jokes in town is signs in front of the post office that allege to restrict parking to 15 minutes only.

A little while back, there appeared in here some figures relative to illiteracy in the world. Lest we get the wrong notion, we have plenty of it in the United States. According to a 1959 report, 7,800,000 adults are functionally illiterate (with less than five years of schooling). More than two million have had no schooling whatever. These figures pertain to adults over 25 years of age. An estimated 10 million adults of voting age are functionally illiterate.

A husband is an animal who buys his football tickets in June, and his wife's Christmas present Dec. 24.

Don't know if he was pulling my leg or not, but a substantial Rotarian was trying to convince me that the plural of "moose" is "meese." To set him (and a supporter of his) straight, the following ode is offered (and dedicated) to him:

ENGLISH AS SHE IS

We'll begin with box and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox should be oxen not oxes.
The one fowl is goose but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of MOOSE should never be MEESE!
If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of a foot and you show me your feet—
And I give you a boot, would a pair be beet?
We speak of a brother and also brethren,
But, though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, him and his.
But imagine the feminine as she, shim and shis!
So English, I fancy, you will agree,
Is the funniest language you ever did see.
(meese, indeed!)

Which brings to mind the story about the teacher pointing out a picture of a deer, and asking little Lester:

"Lester, what animal is that?"

"I don't know."

"What does your mother call your father?"

"Teacher, don't try to tell me that's a louse!"

And, I am again reminded of an essay a little boy delivered in school on the subject of "geese." (Which I should have worked into that poem.)

"Geese is a low, heavyset animal which is mostly meat and feathers. His head sits on one side and he sits on the other. Geese can't sing much on account of dampness of the moisture. He ain't got no between-the-toes, and he's got a little balloon on his stomach to keep him from sinking. Some geese when they get big has big curls on their tails and is called ganders. Ganders don't haff to sit and hatch but just sit and eat and loaf and go swimming. If I was a goose, I'd rather be a gander."

And then, it would be reasonable to ask if the plural of elk is olk?

Outstanding at the Christmas program at Roosevelt School the other night was the manner in which the boys and girls participating in the program conducted themselves. The precision and quietness that accompanied their group movements was a marvel to behold. Their director, Jim Shields, is to be highly commended for the discipline and orderliness he has instilled in the groups. Another interesting bit to the program was provided by Shields himself. He coaxed a couple of beautiful tunes out of a saw. I hadn't seen that done since Dad performed on the saw some 30-35 years back.

Last week we carried an editorial regarding the extent of farmer participation in increases in the cost of living. Recently, there came to my attention, a bit of information revealing a big factor in the price of food. For the wheat in a loaf of bread, the farmer gets 2½ cents. On a loaf of bread costing 24 cents, all costs of handling and processing (including the farmer's 2½ cents) come to 12 cents. Then where does the other 12 cents go? To taxes! That's right. There are 151 separate taxes on a loaf of bread—and you are paying them.

THE DOCTOR SAYS . . .

Just How 'Sick' Is An Alcoholic?

By HAROLD T. HYMAN, M.D.
Written for Newspaper Enterprise Assn.

A recent column I wrote on alcoholism has brought me brickbats and bouquets.

An alcoholic who has been able to arrest the disease through the help of Alcoholics Anonymous objects to my position that "the alcoholic is making the most of a good thing."

I had written that alcoholics drink to get attention and do so as long as it brings them into the focus of others.

On the contrary, my anonymous correspondent writes, "there is general agreement that the alcoholic is a sick person, obsessed of a compulsion that he himself is powerless to stop without outside help."

But Edward J. McGoldrick, director of Bridge House for the New York City Department of Welfare, asserts:

"This careless dogma of sickness is one of the most pernicious and sabotaging concept in the field of rehabilitation when it is used to avoid self-responsibility and self-accountability in conduct. . . .

"Many men, with whom we have been working over the years caught your column . . . and particularly liked your remarks about the 'alcoholic who excuses himself on the grounds that he is sick.' "

Although it may seem presumptuous for me to mediate between experts in a difficult field, I am inclined to believe that the controversy narrows to a definition of the word "sick."

Apparently Mr. McGoldrick and I limit our definition to that given in the Webster Dictionary, "affected with disease of any sort."

Apparently my critic and those who hold to his view have broadened their definition to include such as the currently popular "sick humorists," "sick, sick, sick writers" and any others who are "sick and tired" of the world they live in.

Those of you who are interested in learning more about Mr. McGoldrick's views and the work of rehabilitation that he has been doing at Bridge House, where he has dealt with more than 5,000 alcoholics over a period of 12 years, may obtain additional information by addressing him at 912 Bronx Park South, Bronx 60, New York.

Before leaving the subject, I have been asked by the Public Information Committee of Alcoholics Anonymous to correct the impression I gave that AA employs drugs to control alcoholism.

"We leave the medical treatment of the disease of alcoholism," they write, "to the medical profession . . . AA's suggested program of recovery does not involve the use of any medication."

I am sorry if I gave a wrong impression. What I intended to say was that I have known members of AA to see that their charges, for whom drug like Antabuse were prescribed, took their medication as prescribed.

For a copy of Dr. Hyman's leaflet "Understanding Mental Illness," send 10 cents to Dr. Hyman, care Herald and News, Box 489, Dept. B, Radio City Station, New York 19, N.Y.